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**5 ● 2009**



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References to other parts of the same issue of the Bulletin are given in parentheses in text, thus (→ point 2.1.53).

### Abbreviations

#### *Publications cited in this Bulletin*

Bull.	Bulletin of the European Union
Supplement — Bull.	Supplement to the Bulletin of the European Union
General Report	General Report on the Activities of the European Union

# Summary

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# ACTIVITIES IN MAY 2009

# News in brief

- **Financial assistance for balances of payments:** regulation establishing a facility providing medium-term financial assistance for Member States' balances of payments (→ point 1.7.6).
- **Financial crisis:** communication on European financial supervision (→ point 1.7.7).
- **Enterprise:** Council conclusions on 'Industrial policy: a sustainable integrated approach' (→ point 1.13.1).
- **Agricultural product quality policy:** communication on agricultural product quality policy (→ point 1.19.4).
- **Fisheries and maritime affairs:** communication on fishing opportunities for 2010 (→ point 1.20.6).
- **Common foreign and security policy:** Council conclusions on the European security and defence policy (ESDP) (→ point 1.28.1).
- **Sustainable development:** communication on contributing to sustainable development: The role of fair trade and non-governmental trade-related sustainability assurance schemes (→ point 1.30.1).



# Main reports

## **Commission**

- Report on the operation of the early warning and response system (EWRS) of the Community network for the epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases during 2006 and 2007 (Decision 2000/57/EC) (→ point 1.26.5).
- Annual Report for Sapard for the year 2007 (→ point 1.27.1).

# 1. Institutional questions

## Treaty of Lisbon

*1.1.1.* European Parliament resolution requesting the Commission to submit a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the implementation of the citizens' initiative.

### References:

Signing of the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community: OJ C 306, 17.12.2007; Bull. 12-2007, point 1.1.1

European Parliament resolution on the Treaty of Lisbon: Bull. 1/2-2008, point 1.1.5

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 7 May.*

***To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:***

— ***the complete text:***

— ***the text summary:***

*1.1.2.* European Parliament resolution on Parliament's new role and responsibilities in implementing the Treaty of Lisbon.

### References:

European Parliament resolution on the roadmap for the European Union's constitutional process: OJ C 125 E, 22.5.2008; Bull. 6-2007, point 1.1.3

Signing of the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community: OJ C 306, 17.12.2007; Bull. 12-2007, point 1.1.1

European Parliament resolution on the Treaty of Lisbon: Bull. 1/2-2008, point 1.1.5

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 7 May.*

***To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:***

— ***the complete text:***

— ***the text summary:***

*1.1.3.* European Parliament resolution on the financial aspects of the Lisbon Treaty.

### References:

Parliament resolution on reform of the budgetary procedure: possible options in view of the revision of the Treaties: OJ C 61 E, 10.3.2004; Bull. 3-2003, point 1.7.2

European Parliament resolution on policy challenges and budgetary means of the enlarged Union 2007–13: OJ C 124 E, 25.5.2006; Bull. 6-2005, point 1.7.2

Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary discipline and sound financial management: OJ C 139, 14.6.2006; Bull. 5-2006, point 1.34.29

European Parliament resolution on the future of the European Union's own resources: OJ C 27 E, 31.1.2008; Bull. 3-2007, point 1.35.1

Signing of the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community: OJ C 306, 17.12.2007; Bull. 12-2007, point 1.1.1

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 7 May.*

***To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:***

— ***the complete text:***

— ***the text summary:***

*1.1.4.* European Parliament resolution on the impact of the Treaty of Lisbon on the development of the institutional balance of the European Union.

### References:

Signing of the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community: OJ C 306, 17.12.2007; Bull. 12-2007, point 1.1.1

European Parliament resolution on the Treaty of Lisbon: Bull. 1/2-2008, point 1.1.5

European Council conclusions: Bull. 12-2008, point 1.4

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 7 May.*

***To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:***

— ***the complete text:***

— ***the text summary:***

*1.1.5.* European Parliament resolution on the development of the relations between the

European Parliament and national parliaments under the Treaty of Lisbon.

**References:**

Parliament resolution on relations between the European Parliament and the national parliaments in European integration: OJ C 284 E, 21.11.2002; Bull. 1/2-2002, point 1.1.4

Signing of the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community: OJ C 306, 17.12.2007; Bull. 12-2007, point 1.1.1

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 7 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

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— *the text summary:*

## Implementing powers conferred on the Commission

1.1.6. Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council adapting a number

of instruments subject to the procedure referred to in Article 251 of the EC Treaty to Council Decision 1999/468/EC, as amended by Decision 2006/512/EC, with regard to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny; adaptation to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny (part four).

**Reference:** Council Decision 1999/468/EC laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission: OJ L 184, 17.7.1999; Bull. 6-1999, point 1.8.3, as amended by Council Decision 2006/512/EC: OJ L 200, 22.7.2006; Bull. 7/8-2006, point 1.1.2

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 207, 14.8.2008; COM(2008) 71; Bull. 1/2-2008, point 1.1.12

**European Central Bank opinion:** OJ C 117, 14.5.2008

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** OJ C 224, 30.8.2008; Bull. 5-2008, point 1.1.9

**European Parliament opinion:** Bull. 12-2008, point 1.1.3

*Approved by the Council on 28 May.*

## 2. Better lawmaking

### Improvement of the regulation

#### 1.2.1. Council conclusions on ‘better regulation’.

**Reference:** Commission communication — ‘Third strategic review of better regulation in the European Union’: COM(2009) 15; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.2.1

*Adopted by the Council at its session of 28 and 29 May.* The Council stressed that, since the EU is facing important challenges in the current economic and financial situation, ‘better regulation’ principles must remain an essential component of the European response, regulating where necessary and in a manner that is as straightforward and transparent as possible and which keeps burdens on citizens, businesses and public authorities to the level necessary for meeting the objectives of new policy initiatives. Concerning the next steps to promote better regulation principles, the Council made several commitments and invited the Commission and Member States to take specific measures.

### Simplification

#### 1.2.2. Council conclusions on Commission communication ‘A simplified CAP for Europe — A success for all’.

**Principal reference:** Commission communication — ‘A simplified CAP for Europe — A success for all’: COM(2009) 128; Bull. 3-2009, point 1.2.2

#### References:

Council conclusions on the ‘better regulation’ initiative: Bull. 9-2009, point 1.2.1

Council conclusions on reducing the administrative burdens: Bull. 3-2009, point 1.2.1

*Adopted by the Council on 25 May.* The Council welcomed the Commission communication and the achievements on simplification of the CAP since 2005. It declared its ambition to bring about further practical benefits for farmers and national administrations in particular on direct payments, while maintaining the role of the CAP for European agriculture. The Council reaffirmed, in the framework of the CAP health check, its commitment to continue working towards the objective of obtaining further simplification for farmers, as well as national administrations, regarding the application of the requirements on cross-compliance. It also reiterated that the Commission should take work forward in a coordinated way and that work at national and/or regional level should be in line with progress at EU level. Finally, the Council emphasised the important role of information technology in reducing the administrative burden for farmers. Moreover, it underlined the importance of sharing best practices and encouraged the Commission in its efforts to ensure that EU legislation is based on good legislative practice.

## 3. Sustainable development

*1.3.1.* There is no selected information under this heading of the current Bulletin.

## 4. Lisbon strategy

*1.4.1.* There is no selected information under this heading of the current Bulletin.

## 5. Information and communication

*1.5.1.* There is no selected information under this heading of the current Bulletin.

## 6. Human rights and democracy

### General

1.6.1. European Parliament resolution on the Annual Report on Human Rights 2008 and the European Union's policy on the matter.

**Reference:** 10th EU Annual Report on Human Rights: Bull. 10-2008, point 1.6.2

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 7 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*



# 7. Economic and monetary policy

## Economic and monetary union

### *Coordination of economic policies*

#### Broad economic policy guidelines

##### 1.7.1. Council conclusions on quality and sustainability of public finances.

###### References:

Council conclusions on the implications of ageing populations for public finances: Bull. 1/2-2006, point 1.7.4

Commission communication — ‘Dealing with the impact of an ageing population in the EU (2009 Ageing Report)’: COM(2009) 180; Bull. 4-2009, point 1.9.6

*Adopted by the Council on 5 May.* According to the Council, the current economic and financial crisis has put a significant burden on public finances and has led to rising deficits and debt levels. It is therefore particularly important to ensure the long-term sustainability and quality of public finances. The Council stressed the urgency for further implementation of structural reforms. The improvement of the long-term sustainability and quality of public finances as well as a strong governance framework are crucial elements which respond to the recession, underpin credible strategies concerning overcoming the crisis and fiscal consolidation and support long-term growth potential on which the current crisis may have a prolonged negative impact.

#### Stability and Growth Pact

##### *Excessive deficit procedure*

###### Lithuania

1.7.2. Commission report on Lithuania, prepared in accordance with Article 104(3) of the EC Treaty.

**Reference:** Council Regulation (EC) No 1467/97 on speeding up and clarifying the implementation of the excessive deficit procedure (Article 104c, paragraph 14, of the EC Treaty): OJ L 209, 2.8.1997; Bull. 7/8-1997, point 1.3.17

*Adopted by the Commission on 13 May.* The general government deficit in Lithuania reached 3.2 % of GDP in 2008, above, but close to the 3 % of GDP reference value. However, given the deficits projected in the Commission services’ spring forecast for 2009 and 2010, the excess in 2008 over the 3 % of GDP reference value cannot be regarded as temporary in the sense of the Treaty and the Stability and Growth Pact. Indeed, despite the consolidation measures taken, the general government deficit in Lithuania is still projected by the Commission services’ to increase to above 5 % in 2009 and around 8 % of GDP in 2010. This suggests that the deficit criterion in the Treaty is not fulfilled.

SEC(2009) 647; IP/2009/752

###### Malta

1.7.3. Commission report on Malta, prepared in accordance with Article 104(3) of the EC Treaty.

**Reference:** Council Regulation (EC) No 1467/97 on speeding up and clarifying the implementation of the excessive deficit procedure (Article 104c, paragraph 14, of the EC Treaty): OJ L 209, 2.8.1997; Bull. 7/8-1997, point 1.3.17

*Adopted by the Commission on 13 May.* The general government deficit in Malta reached 4.7 % of GDP in 2008. The excess over the reference value cannot be qualified as exceptional nor considered temporary within the meaning of the Treaty and the Stability and Growth Pact. General government gross debt has been above the 60 % of GDP reference value since 2001 and stood at 64.1 % of GDP in 2008. The debt ratio cannot be considered as diminishing sufficiently and approaching the reference value at a satisfactory pace within the meaning of the Treaty and the Stability and Growth Pact. This suggests that the debt criterion in the Treaty is not fulfilled.

SEC(2009) 650; IP/2009/752

## Poland

1.7.4. Commission report on Poland, prepared in accordance with Article 104(3) of the EC Treaty.

**Reference:** Council Regulation (EC) No 1467/97 on speeding up and clarifying the implementation of the excessive deficit procedure (Article 104c, paragraph 14, of the EC Treaty): OJ L 209, 2.8.1997; Bull. 7/8-1997, point 1.3.17

*Adopted by the Commission on 13 May.* The general government deficit in Poland reached 3.9 % of GDP in 2008, above and not close to the 3 % of GDP reference value. The excess over the reference value cannot be qualified as exceptional, nor considered temporary within the meaning of the Treaty and the Stability and Growth Pact. This suggests that the deficit criterion in the Treaty is not fulfilled. General government gross debt, however, remains below the 60 % of GDP reference value.

SEC(2009) 651; IP/2009/752

## Romania

1.7.5. Commission report on Romania, prepared in accordance with Article 104(3) of the EC Treaty.

**Reference:** Council Regulation (EC) No 1467/97 on speeding up and clarifying the implementation of the excessive deficit procedure (Article 104c, paragraph 14, of the EC Treaty): OJ L 209, 2.8.1997; Bull. 7/8-1997, point 1.3.17

*Adopted by the Commission on 13 May.* The general government deficit in Romania reached 5.4 % of GDP in 2008 and the Commission services' forecasted government deficit to reach 5.1 % of GDP in 2009 and 5.6 % in 2010. The excess over the reference value cannot thus be qualified as exceptional within the meaning of the Treaty and the Stability and Growth Pact neither can it be considered temporary. This suggests that the deficit criterion in the Treaty is not fulfilled.

SEC(2009) 647; IP/2009/752

## Medium-term financial assistance for balance of payments

1.7.6. Council Regulation (EC) No 431/2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 332/2002 establishing a facility providing medium-term financial assistance for Member States' balances of payments.

**Regulation to be amended:** Council Regulation (EC) No 332/2002: OJ L 53, 23.2.2002; Bull. 1/2-2002, point 1.3.24

**Commission proposal and European Parliament opinion:** COM(2009) 169; Bull. 4-2009, point 1.7.8

*Formally adopted by the Council on 18 May.* The Council adopted a regulation raising the ceiling for lending under the EU's support facility for non euro-area Member States in financial difficulty, from EUR 25 to 50 billion.

OJ L 128, 27.5.2009

## International economic, monetary and financial matters

### International financial crisis

1.7.7. Communication from the Commission on European financial supervision.

#### References:

Commission communication on a European economic recovery plan: COM(2008) 800; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.7.6

Communication for the spring European Council — 'Driving European recovery': COM(2009) 114; Bull. 3-2009, point 1.7.31

*Adopted by the Commission on 27 May.* This communication sets out the basic architecture for a new European financial supervisory framework. The Commission thus proposed that an enhanced European financial supervisory framework should be composed of two new pillars:

- a European systemic risk council: to monitor and assess potential threats to financial stability that arise from macroeconomic developments and from developments within the financial system as a whole;
- a European system of financial supervisors: consisting of a robust network of national financial supervisors working in tandem with new European supervisory authorities to safeguard financial soundness at the level of individual financial firms and protect consumers of financial services.

The Commission invited the European Council to endorse this architecture in order for the renewed supervisory framework to be up and running during 2010.

COM(2009) 252

# 8. Statistical system

## Legislation

*1.8.1.* To find out more about the whole of **Community legislation** on European statistics, click here (Eurostat)

## Results

*1.8.2.* To consult the **results** by statistical domains, click here (Eurostat)

To reach the **calendar** on the publication of statistics, click here (Eurostat). For the **press releases**, click here

# 9. Employment and social policy

## Social policy agenda follow-up

1.9.1. European Parliament resolution on the renewed social agenda.

**Principal reference:** Commission communication — ‘Renewed social agenda: Opportunities, access and solidarity in 21st century Europe’: COM(2008) 412; Bull. 7/8-2008, point 1.9.1

### References:

Green Paper — ‘Modernising labour law to meet the challenges of the 21st century’: OJ C 78, 11.4.2007; COM(2006) 708; Bull. 11-2006, point 1.8.5

Commission communication — ‘A renewed commitment to social Europe: Reinforcing the open method of coordination for social protection and social inclusion’: COM(2008) 418; Bull. 7/8-2009, point 1.9.10

European Parliament resolution on promoting social inclusion and combating poverty, including child poverty, in the EU: Bull. 10-2008, point 1.9.11

Commission communication — ‘A European economic recovery plan’: COM(2008) 800; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.7.6

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 6 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

## Employment

1.9.2. Decision 2009/408/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, in accordance with point 28 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management.

### References:

Interinstitutional Agreement: OJ C 139, 14.6.2006; Bull. 5-2006, point 1.34.29

Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: OJ L 406, 30.12.2006; Bull. 12-2006, point 1.8.5

**Commission proposal:** COM(2009) 150; Bull. 3-2009, point 1.9.5

**Council approval:** Bull. 4-2009, point 1.9.4

*Approved by the European Parliament on 5 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

*Signed by the European Parliament and the Council on 6 May.*

OJ L 132, 29.5.2009

1.9.3. Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006 on establishing the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund.

**Regulation to be amended:** Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006: OJ L 406, 30.12.2006; Bull. 12-2006, point 1.8.5

### References:

Commission communication — ‘Solidarity in the face of change: The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) in 2007 — Review and prospects’: COM(2008) 421; Bull. 7/8-2008, point 1.9.3

Commission communication on a European economic recovery plan: COM(2008) 800; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.7.6

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 867; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.9.2

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** Bull. 3-2009, point 1.9.6

**Committee of the Regions opinion:** Bull. 4-2009, point 1.9.2

*Endorsed by the European Parliament opinion (first reading) on 6 May, subject to certain amendments.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

1.9.4. Proposal for a Council decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States.

**References:**

Council Decision 2008/618/EC on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States: OJ L 198, 26.7.2008; Bull. 7/8-2008, point 1.9.2

Commission communication on a European economic recovery plan: COM(2008) 800; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.7.6

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 869; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.9.3

**European Parliament opinion:** Bull. 3-2009, point 1.9.3

*Adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee on 13 May.* The Committee endorsed the proposal that the validity of the employment guidelines for 2008-2010 be confirmed for 2009. In light of the economic crisis, it stressed the necessity for Member States to give priority to the guidelines which are crucial to employment and growth, namely:

□ implementing employment policies aimed at achieving full employment, improving quality and productivity at work, and strengthening social and territorial cohesion;

□ ensuring inclusive labour markets, enhancing work attractiveness, and making work financially more appealing for job seekers, including disadvantaged people and the inactive;

□ expanding and improving investment in human capital.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to the **complete text**:*

## Measures to promote social inclusion

1.9.5. European Parliament resolution on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market.

**Principal reference:** Commission communication on a recommendation on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market: COM(2008) 639; Bull. 10-2008, point 1.9.10

**References:**

Parliament resolution on the situation of people with disabilities in the enlarged European Union: the European action plan 2006–07: OJ C 316 E, 22.12.2006; Bull. 11-2006, point 1.8.3

Commission communication — ‘Social reality stocktaking: Interim report to the 2007 spring European Council’: OJ C 138, 22.6.2007; COM(2007) 63; Bull. 1/2-2007, point 1.1.2

European Parliament resolution on promoting decent work for all: OJ C 102 E, 24.4.2008; Bull. 5-2007, point 1.8.5

Commission communication — ‘Renewed social agenda: Opportunities, access and solidarity in 21st century Europe’: COM(2008) 412; Bull. 7/8-2008, point 1.9.1

Commission communication — ‘Proposal for the Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2009’: COM(2009) 58; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.9.7

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 6 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

## Health and safety work

1.9.6. Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 92/85/EEC on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding.

**Directive to be amended:** Council Directive 92/85/EEC: OJ L 348, 28.11.1992; Bull. 10-1992, point 1.3.77

**References:**

European Council conclusions: Bull. 3-2006, point 1.6

Commission communication — ‘A roadmap for equality between women and men 2006–10’: OJ C 104, 3.5.2006; COM(2006) 92; Bull. 3-2006, point 1.9.2

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 637; Bull. 10-2008, point 1.9.16

*Adopted by European Economic and Social Committee on 13 May.* The Committee supported the Commission’s legislative proposal and made some recommendations.

- It considers that unsafe working conditions during pregnancy and breastfeeding are unacceptable.
- It pleads for extra support for mothers and infants with special needs or who find themselves in special circumstances.
- It considers that women should have the flexibility to choose when they will take their maternity leave but the Committee recommended that at least six weeks of it be taken after giving birth.
- It insisted on giving women returning from maternity leave the right to request a flexible working-time arrangement.

- It agreed that women have the right to return to employment, to the same or an equivalent post retaining the same terms and conditions. Moreover, according to the Committee, payment during maternity leave should be equal to the previous salary.
- It believes that social partners and civil society organisations have an active part to play in helping to implement the new directive.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to the **complete text**:*

# 10. Equal opportunities for women and men

*1.10.1.* Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity and repealing Directive 86/613/EEC.

**Directive to be repealed:** Council Directive 86/613/EEC on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity, including agriculture, in a self-employed capacity, and on the protection of self-employed women during pregnancy and motherhood: OJ L 359, 19.12.1986; Bull. 12-1986, point 2.1.152

#### References:

Council Directive 79/7/EEC on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security: OJ L 6, 10.1.1979

Council Directive 2004/113/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment between men and women in the access to and supply of goods and services: OJ L 373, 21.12.2004; Bull. 12-2004, point 1.3.33

Commission communication — ‘A roadmap for equality between women and men 2006–10’: OJ C 104, 3.5.2006; COM(2006) 92; Bull. 3-2006, point 1.9.2

Directive 2006/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation: OJ L 204, 26.7.2006; Bull. 7/8-2006, point 1.9.1

European Parliament resolution on the situation of women in rural areas of the EU: OJ C 113 E, 8.5.2008; Bull. 3-2008, point 1.10.1

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 636; Bull. 10-2008, point 1.10.1

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** Bull. 3-2009, point 1.10.2

*Endorsed by the European Parliament (first reading) on 6 May, subject to certain amendments.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

*1.10.2.* European Parliament resolution on gender mainstreaming in EU external relations and peace-building/nation-building.

#### References:

Council conclusions on European security and defence policy (ESDP): Bull. 5-2005, point 1.6.4

Council conclusions on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in crisis management: Bull. 11-2006, point 1.26.11

European Parliament resolution on gender equality and women’s empowerment in development cooperation: Bull. 3-2008, point 1.31.2

European Council conclusions: Bull. 6-2008, point I.20

European Parliament resolution on development perspectives for peace-building and nation-building in post-conflict situations: Bull. 12-2008, point 1.31.1

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 7 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

# 11. The internal market

## General strategy

*1.11.1.* European Economic and Social Committee opinion on legislative barriers to EU competitiveness.

*Adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee on 14 May.* This exploratory opinion focuses on achieving an internal market free of administrative obstacles and excessive regulation. As the question of competitiveness is extremely broad, this opinion focuses on a selection of topics that are particularly pressing in the current situation. According to the Committee, lack of desirable harmonisation or governments' actions often affect the European business environment negatively. It creates obstacles to Europe-wide investments of small and medium-sized companies that accordingly are hampered in their expansion and in the reinforcement of their economic base. The Committee has decided to consult a great number of actors, sectors and organisations in order to obtain concrete information on factors which can be held responsible for restraints to further development across Europe.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to **the complete text**:*

## Freedom to provide services and freedom of establishment

### *Financial services*

*1.11.2.* Directive 2009/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 98/26/EC on settlement finality in payment and securities settlement systems and Directive 2002/47/EC on financial collateral arrangements as regards linked systems and credit claims.

#### **Amended directives:**

Directive 98/26/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council: OJ L 166, 11.6.1998; Bull. 5-1998, point 1.2.41

Directive 2002/47/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council: OJ L 168, 27.6.2002; Bull. 6-2002, point 1.3.32

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 202, 8.8.2008; COM(2008) 213; Bull. 4-2008, point 1.11.2

**European Central Bank opinion:** OJ C 216, 23.8.2008

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** Bull. 12-2008, point 1.11.7

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 12-2008, point 1.11.7

*Signed by the European Parliament and the Council on 6 May.*

OJ L 146, 10.6.2009

*1.11.3.* Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community programme to support specific activities in the field of financial services, financial reporting and auditing.

#### **References:**

European Council conclusions: Bull. 10-2008, point 1.4

Commission communication — 'From financial crisis to recovery: a European framework for action': COM(2008) 706; Bull. 10-2008, point 1.7.8

**Commission proposal:** COM(2009) 14; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.11.6

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** Bull. 3-2009, point 1.11.15

*Endorsed by the European Parliament (first reading) on 6 May, subject to certain amendments.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— **the complete text:**

— **the text summary:**

*1.11.4.* Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on credit rating agencies.



**References:**

Directive 2003/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on insider dealing and market manipulation (market abuse): OJ L 96, 12.4.2003; Bull. 12-2002, point 1.3.42

Commission communication on credit rating agencies: OJ C 59, 11.3.2006; COM(2008) 704; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.11.5

Directive 2006/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions: OJ L 177, 30.6.2006; Bull. 6-2006, point 1.10.2

Council conclusions for financial stability: Bull. 10-2007, point 1.10.4

European Parliament resolution on the role and methods of rating agencies: Bull. 1/2-2004, point 1.3.50

European Council conclusions: Bull. 3-2008, point 1.19

Code of conduct fundamentals for CRAs (revised in May 2008)

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 704; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.11.5

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 4-2009, point 1.11.1

*European Economic and Social Committee opinion on 13 May.* According to the Committee, the role of the credit rating agencies is central to the functioning of the financial system and, as such, cannot be left unsupervised. Self-regulation has failed dramatically and the performance of the credit rating industry has been disgraceful. For this reason, the Committee fully supported the plan to regulate and register credit rating agencies.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to the complete text:*

**Taxation***Direct taxation*

*1.11.5.* Proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 2003/48/EC on taxation of savings income in the form of interest payments.

**Directive to be amended:** Council Directive 2003/48/EC: OJ L 157, 26.6.2003; Bull. 6-2003, point 1.3.36

**References:**

Feira European Council conclusions: Bull. 6-2000, point 1.34

Council conclusions on taxation of savings: Bull. 5-2008, point 1.11.10

Commission report on taxation of savings income in the form of interest payments: COM(2008) 552; Bull. 9-2008, point 1.11.9

Council conclusions on taxation of savings: Bull. 12-2008, point 1.11.10

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 727; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.11.9

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 4-2009, point 1.11.17

*European Economic and Social Committee opinion on 13 May.* The Committee fully endorsed the initiative, but has concerns about certain administrative and legal complications created by the new rules.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to the complete text:*

*Indirect taxation*

*1.11.6.* Council Directive 2009/47/EC amending Directive 2006/112/EC as regards reduced rates of value added tax.

**Directive to be amended:** Council Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax: OJ L 347, 11.12.2006; Bull. 11-2006, point 1.10.23

**References:**

Commission communication on VAT rates other than standard VAT rates: OJ C 191, 17.7.2007; COM(2007) 380; Bull. 7/8-2007, point 1.10.10

Commission communication — ‘Think small first — A small business act for Europe’: COM(2008) 394; Bull. 6-2008, point 1.13.2

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 428; Bull. 7/8-2008, point 1.11.13

**European Parliament opinion:** Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.11.15

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.11.15

*Adopted by the Council on 5 May.* The Council adopted a directive allowing — on a permanent basis — the optional use of VAT for certain labour-intensive local services, including restaurant services, for which there is no risk of unfair competition between service providers in different Member States.

OJ L 116, 9.5.2009

*1.11.7.* Proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax as regards tax evasion

linked to import and other cross-border transactions.

**Directive to be amended:** Council Directive 2006/112/EC: OJ L 347, 11.12.2006; Bull. 11-2006, point 1.10.23

**References:**

Commission communication — ‘Implementation of the Community Lisbon programme: The contribution of taxation and customs policies to the Lisbon strategy’: OJ C 70, 22.3.2006; COM(2005) 532; Bull. 10-2005, point 1.6.19

Commission communication concerning the need to develop a coordinated strategy to improve the fight against fiscal fraud: OJ C 184, 8.8.2006; COM(2006) 254; Bull. 5-2006, point 1.10.7

Council conclusions on combating tax fraud: Bull. 11-2006, point 1.10.18

Commission communication — ‘On a coordinated strategy to improve the fight against VAT fraud in the European Union’: COM(2008) 807; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.11.13

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 805; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.11.12

**European Parliament opinion:** Bull. 4-2009, point 1.11.10

*European Economic and Social Committee opinion on 13 May.* The Committee fully endorsed these rules, along with the rules on joint and several liabilities of buyers and sellers established in different countries in cases where one of the two does not meet their VAT obligations. According to the Committee, this is not a new or innovative rule: it already exists and is implemented rigorously within Member States, but is almost always overlooked. Its application

implies cooperation between administrations of different Member States.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to **the complete text**:*

## Accountancy and auditing

*1.11.8.* Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directives 78/660/EEC and 83/349/EEC as regards certain disclosure requirements for medium-sized companies and the obligation to draw up consolidated accounts.

**Directives to be amended:**

Fourth Council Directive 78/660/EEC, based on Article 54(3)(g) of the Treaty, on the annual accounts of certain types of companies: OJ L 222, 14.8.1978

Council Directive 83/349/EEC, based on Article 54(3)(g) of the Treaty, on consolidated accounts: OJ L 193, 18.7.1983

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 195; Bull. 4-2008, point 1.11.7

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** OJ C 77, 31.3.2009; Bull. 9-2008, point 1.11.16

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 12-2008, point 1.11.20

*Approved by the Council on 12 May.* Now approved by both institutions, the proposed directive aims to relieve the reporting charges imposed on small and medium-sized companies.

# 12. Competition

## **Merger control**

### *Individual cases*

1.12.1. All Commission decisions on merger control are available on DG Competition website

## **Respective practices and abuses of dominant positions; Articles 81 and 82 of the EC Treaty**

### *Individual cases*

1.12.2. All Commission decisions on respective practices and abuses of dominant positions are available on the Competition DG website

## **State system aid schemes**

### *Individual cases*

1.12.3. All Commission decisions on state aid are available on the Competition DG website

# 13. Enterprise

## Industrial policies

*1.13.1.* Council conclusions on ‘Industrial policy: a sustainable integrated approach’.

### References:

Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on services in the internal market: OJ L 376, 27.12.2006; Bull. 12-2006, point 1.10.3

Commission communication on the European Competitiveness Report 2008: COM(2008) 774; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.13.1

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council — ‘The raw materials initiative — Meeting our critical needs for growth and jobs in Europe’: COM(2008) 699; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.13.3

Commission communication — ‘A European economic recovery plan’: COM(2008) 800; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.7.6

Commission communication on responding to the crisis in the European automotive sector: COM(2009) 104; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.13.13

*Adopted by the Council at its session of 28 and 29 May.* The Council stressed that maintaining a competitive and strong industrial base in Europe requires favourable, stable and predictable framework conditions that promote excellence, innovation and sustainability conditions in which businesses can operate and invest. It encouraged the work aimed at simplifying legislation and reducing administrative burdens for industry and businesses and believes that the full and timely implementation of the services directive is crucial for industry. The Council also emphasised that the economic downturn should also be seen as an opportunity for early global leadership in new innovative solutions and for investing in the competitiveness of the European economy. It stressed that restructuring should be facilitated, while encouraging industry to approach this task in a socially responsible way. It reaffirmed that protectionist measures will only exacerbate the economic crisis and endanger future prosperity and that, by consequence, the EU gives a high priority to avoiding such measures. Finally, the Council talked in more detail about raw materials, chemicals, and the electronic and automotive industries.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

*the complete text:*

## Industry and services

### Primary industries

*1.13.2.* Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: The raw materials initiative — Meeting our critical needs for growth and jobs in Europe.

**Principal reference:** Commission communication on the raw materials initiative — Meeting our critical needs for growth and jobs in Europe: COM(2008) 699; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.13.3

*Adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee on 13 May.* The Committee stressed that the EU should prepare a review of the national analyses of strategic and critical raw materials and establish an overview of the EU situation. It recommended that the Commission enhance its efforts in support of effective negotiations at international level and activate the necessary mechanisms for action in case of infringements of the WTO rules by non-EU countries. The Commission should also continue its support for the European technology platform on sustainable mineral resources and foster an objective methodology based on a full life cycle analysis to assess the validity of resource efficiency measures and of any ‘material substitution policy’.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

*the complete text:*

## Capital goods industry

### Aerospace

*1.13.3.* Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Earth observation programme (GMES) and its initial operations (2011–13).

#### References:

Commission communication — ‘Global monitoring for environment and security (GMES): From concept to reality’: COM(2005) 565; Bull. 11-2005, point 1.3.51

Decision No 1982/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the seventh framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007–13): OJ L 412, 30.12.2006; Bull. 12-2006, point 1.13.1

Commission communication — ‘Global monitoring for environment and security (GMES): we care for a safer planet’: COM(2008) 748; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.13.4

*Adopted by the Commission on 20 May.* This proposal recalls that Europe has decided to develop its operational Earth observation capacity. It aims to establish a legal basis for the GMES programme and EC funding of GMES initial operations (2011–13). The Commission stressed that it is of key importance to ensure complementarity with the seventh research framework programme in terms of both funding and organisational arrangements. The specific objectives of the future regulation are to: enable the provision of emergency response services to civil protection authorities; enable the provision of land monitoring services to public authorities; contribute to the production and public access to environmental information; and, finally, stimulate the growth of the downstream Earth observation sector in terms of jobs, innovation and international competitiveness.

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### Defence

*1.13.4.* Directive 2009/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on simplifying terms and conditions of transfers of defence-related products within the Community.

**Reference:** Commission communication — ‘European defence — Industrial and market issues: Towards an EU defence equipment policy’: OJ C 76, 25.3.2004; COM(2003) 113; Bull. 3-2003, point 1.6.7

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 106, 26.4.2008; COM(2007) 765; Bull. 12-2007, point 1.12.5

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** Bull. 10-2008, point 1.13.9

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 12-2008, point 1.13.12

**Council approval:** Bull. 4-2009, point 1.13.2

*Signed by the European Parliament and the Council on 4 May.*

OJ L 146, 10.6.2009

### Metrology

*1.13.5.* Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council repealing Council Directives 71/317/EEC, 71/347/EEC, 71/349/EEC, 74/148/EEC, 75/33/EEC, 76/765/EEC, 76/766/EEC and 86/217/EEC regarding metrology.

#### Directives to be repealed:

Council Directive 71/317/EEC: OJ L 202, 6.9.1971

Council Directive 71/347/EEC: OJ L 239, 25.10.1971

Council Directive 71/349/EEC: OJ L 239, 25.10.1971

Council Directive 74/148/EEC: OJ L 84, 28.3.1974

Council Directive 75/33/EEC: OJ L 14, 20.1.1975

Council Directive 76/765/EEC: OJ L 262, 27.9.1976

Council Directive 76/766/EEC: OJ L 262, 27.9.1976

Council Directive 86/217/EEC: OJ L 152, 6.6.1986

#### References:

Council Directive 71/316/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to common provisions for both measuring instruments and methods of metrological control: OJ L 202, 6.9.1971

Commission communication — ‘European governance: Better lawmaking’: COM(2002) 275; Bull. 6-2002, point 1.1.6

Directive 2004/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on measuring instruments: OJ L 135, 30.4.2004; Bull. 1/2-2004, point 1.3.93

Commission communication — ‘Implementing the Community Lisbon programme: A strategy for the simplification of the regulatory environment’: OJ C 49, 28.2.2006; COM(2005) 535; Bull. 10-2005, point 1.1.13

Commission communication — ‘Commission legislative and work programme 2008’: OJ C 55, 28.2.2008; COM(2007) 640; Bull. 10-2007, point 1.37.9

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 801; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.13.13

*European Economic and Social Committee opinion on 14 May.* The Committee endorsed the Commission’s proposal concerning the metrology sector and the grounds it gives for doing so. The directives to be repealed can now be deemed obsolete and no longer effective for realising the goal for which they were intended — the harmonisation of national legislation on the various types of measuring instruments. Given that national rules in this sector are able to ensure the absence of barriers to trade irrespective of whether the directives in question are applied, the Committee calls on Member States not to make changes to their current rules once the directives have been repealed.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

*the complete text:*

*Consumer goods industry*

## Pharmaceuticals

*1.13.6. Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2001/82/EC and 2001/83/EC as regards variations to the terms of marketing authorisations for medicinal products.*

### Directives to be amended:

Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products: OJ L 311, 28.11.2001; Bull. 11-2001, point 1.3.37

Directive 2001/83/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use: OJ L 311, 28.11.2001; Bull. 11-2001, point 1.3.36, as amended by Directive 2004/27/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council: OJ L 136, 30.4.2004; Bull. 3-2004, point 1.3.89

### References:

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1084/2003 concerning the examination of variations to the terms of a marketing authorisation for medicinal products for human use and veterinary medicinal products granted by a competent authority of a Member State: OJ L 159, 27.6.2003

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1085/2003 concerning the examination of variations to the terms of a marketing authorisation for medicinal products for human use and veterinary medicinal products falling within the scope of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2309/93: OJ L 159, 27.6.2003

Interinstitutional agreement on better lawmaking: OJ C 321, 31.12.2003

Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down Community procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary use and establishing a European Medicines Agency: OJ L 136, 30.4.2004; Bull. 3-2004, point 1.3.89

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 202, 8.8.2008; COM(2008) 123; Bull. 3-2008, point 1.13.5

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** OJ C 27, 3.2.2009; Bull. 7/8-2008, point 1.13.18

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 10-2008, point 1.13.14

*Approved by the Council on 28 May.* Now approved by both institutions, the new directive aims to ensure that all medicinal products are subject to the same criteria for the evaluation, approval and administrative treatment of variations in the production process, as well as in the packaging or in the address of the manufacturer.

## Motor vehicles

*1.13.7. Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the communication from the Commission on responding to the crisis in the European automotive industry.*

**Principal reference:** Commission communication: COM(2009) 104; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.13.13

### References:

European Economic and Social Committee information report on the automotive sector in Europe: current situation and prospects: Bull. 12-2007, point 1.12.12

Council conclusions on the automotive industry: Bull. 3-2009, point 1.13.7

*Adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee on 13 May.* The Committee welcomed the Commission’s communication, which highlights the need for a coherent and coordinated framework to ward off any drift towards protectionism and establishes common goals. It stressed that incentives to boost demand are also needed. In addition, the Committee called on

Member States, the Commission, the ECB and social partners to provide the overall macro-economic environment necessary to safeguard incomes and so fuel domestic demand. If the sector is to emerge from the crisis stronger than before, now is the time to put greater effort into research, development, innovation and the training of the workforce. The Committee called for a high-level group to be set up that capitalises on the CARS 21 experience and gets to grips with the specific challenges facing players in the downstream sector.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

*the complete text:*

### Dangerous substances

1.13.8. Decision No 455/2009/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 76/769/EEC as regards restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (dichloromethane).

**Amended directive:** Council Directive 76/769/EEC: OJ L 262, 27.9.1976

**Reference:** Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency: OJ L 396, 30.12.2006; Bull. 12-2006, point 1.12.17

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 207, 14.8.2008; COM(2008) 80; Bull. 1/2-2008, point 1.13.21

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** OJ C 77, 31.3.2009; Bull. 9-2008, point 1.13.10

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.13.14

**Council approval:** Bull. 4-2009, point 1.13.5

*Signed by the European Parliament and the Council on 4 May.*

OJ L 137, 3.6.2009

### Chemicals

1.13.9. Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council pursuant to Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31

March 2004 on detergents, concerning the biodegradation of main non-surfactant organic detergent ingredients.

#### References:

Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on detergents: OJ L 104, 8.4.2004; Bull. 3-2004, point 1.3.92

Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency: OJ L 396, 30.12.2006; Bull. 12-2006, point 1.12.17

*Adopted by the Commission on 4 May.* This report describes the actions taken by the Commission to establish an adequate knowledge base to decide whether a legislative proposal relating to the biodegradability of main non-surfactant organic ingredients in detergents would be justified. No significant risks to the environment have been identified for any of the non-surfactant organic detergent ingredients. Nevertheless, some uncertainties remain concerning the environmental fate of some detergent ingredients. The information to be submitted for registration in the framework of the REACH regulation by December 2010 for most of these detergent organic ingredients should be sufficient to clarify these uncertainties. The report stressed that the concept of using biodegradability as an acceptance criterion for detergent ingredients is not justified and that the Commission, consequently, does not intend to propose legislation at this point concerning requirements for the biodegradability of non-surfactant organic ingredients.

COM(2009) 208

1.13.10. Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council pursuant to Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on detergents, concerning anaerobic biodegradation.

#### References:

Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council: OJ L 104, 8.4.2004; Bull. 3-2004, point 1.3.92

Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency: OJ L 396, 30.12.2006; Bull. 12-2006, point 1.12.17

*Adopted by the Commission on 26 May.* This report describes the actions taken by the

Commission to establish an adequate knowledge base to decide whether a legislative proposal relating to the anaerobic biodegradability of surfactants would be justified. The report stressed that the lack of anaerobic biodegradation does not seem to pose risks to anaerobic environmental compartments. There are some remaining uncertainties, however, concerning the soil toxicity of some surfactants. At present, however, there is no evidence that would justify legislative

measures at EU level. The registration information of the REACH regulation to be submitted in December 2010 should be sufficient to decide whether restrictions on surfactants in detergents' formulations are needed on environmental grounds. The report concluded that the Commission does not intend to propose legislation at this point concerning the anaerobic biodegradation of surfactants.

COM(2009) 230



# 14. Research and technology

## European research area

1.14.1. Draft agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community of the one part and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan of the other part.

### References:

Commission communication — ‘The international dimension of the European research area’: COM(2001) 346; Bull. 6-2001, point 1.3.80

Green Paper — ‘The European research area: new perspectives’: OJ C 181, 3.8.2007; COM(2007) 161; Bull. 4-2007, point 1.13.1

Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament — ‘A strategic European framework for international science and technology cooperation’: COM(2008) 588; Bull. 9-2008, point 1.14.3

**Negotiating directives:** 7 April 2008

**Initialled:** 28 January 2009

*Proposal for a Council decision on the signature and on the conclusion, adopted by the Commission on 13 May.* In the context of the implementation of an ambitious international dimension of the European research area, the Commission has underlined the need to strengthen relations with the Mediterranean partner countries in the fields of science, technology and innovation in order to promote the socioeconomic progress of the whole Euro-Mediterranean area. This agreement is consistent with this principle: it is based on the principles of mutual benefit, reciprocal opportunities for access to each other’s programmes and activities

relevant to the purpose of the agreement, non-discrimination, the effective protection of intellectual property and equitable sharing of intellectual property rights.

COM(2009) 221

## Joint Research Centre

1.14.2. Council Decision 2009/410/Euratom on the adoption of a supplementary research programme to be implemented by the Joint Research Centre for the European Atomic Energy Community.

**Reference:** Council Decision 2007/773/Euratom on a one-year extension of the supplementary research programme to be implemented by the Joint Research Centre for the European Atomic Energy Community: OJ L 312, 30.11.2007; Bull. 11-2007, point 1.13.3

**Commission proposal:** COM(2009) 198

*Adopted by the Council on 25 May.* The Council adopted a decision on a supplementary research programme to be implemented by the Joint Research Centre for the European Atomic Energy Community (high flux reactor). The main objectives of the programme are to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the high flux reactor at Petten, in order to guarantee the availability of the neutron flux for experimental purposes, and to allow an efficient use of the high flux reactor by research institutes in a broad range of disciplines.

OJ L 132, 29.5.2009

# 15. Information society and the media

## Electronic communications policy and network security

### *Regulatory framework*

*1.15.1.* Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2002/21/EC on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services, Directive 2002/19/EC on access to, and interconnection of, electronic communications networks and services, and Directive 2002/20/EC on the authorisation of electronic communications networks and services.

#### **Directives to be amended:**

Directive 2002/19/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on access to and interconnection of electronic communications networks and associated facilities (access directive): OJ L 108, 24.4.2002; Bull. 1/2-2002, point 1.3.140

Directive 2002/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the authorisation of electronic communications networks and services (authorisation directive): OJ L 108, 24.4.2002; Bull. 1/2-2002, point 1.3.141

Council Directive 2002/21/EC on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services (framework directive): OJ L 108, 24.4.2002; Bull. 1/2-2002, point 1.3.139

#### **References:**

Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2002/22/EC on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks, Directive 2002/58/EC concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector, and Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 on consumer protection cooperation: Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.15.6

Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Electronic Communications Market Authority: Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.15.7

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 55, 28.2.2008; COM(2007) 697; Bull. 11-2007, point 1.14.2

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** OJ C 224, 30.8.2008; Bull. 5-2008, point 1.15.3

**Committee of the Regions opinion:** OJ C 257, 9.10.2008; Bull. 6-2008, point 1.15.3

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 9-2008, point 1.15.4

**Amended Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 724; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.15.1

**Council political agreement:** Bull. 11-2008, point 1.15.1

**Common position:** Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.15.5

**Communication on the Council common position:** Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.15.5

*Approved by the European Parliament on 6 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

*1.15.2.* Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2002/22/EC on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks, Directive 2002/58/EC concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector, and Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 on consumer protection cooperation.

#### **Directives to be amended:**

Directive 2002/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications (universal service directive): OJ L 108, 24.4.2002; Bull. 1/2-2002, point 1.3.142

Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector (directive on privacy and electronic communications): OJ L 201, 31.7.2002; Bull. 7/8-2002, point 1.3.90

**Regulation to be amended:** Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws (the regulation on consumer protection cooperation): OJ L 364, 9.12.2004; Bull. 10-2004, point 1.4.62

**References:**

Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2002/21/EC on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services, 2002/19/EC on access to, and interconnection of, electronic communications networks and services, and 2002/20/EC on the authorisation of electronic communications networks and services: Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.15.5

Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Electronic Communications Market Authority: Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.15.7

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 55, 28.2.2008; COM(2007) 698; Bull. 11-2007, point 1.14.3

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** OJ C 224, 30.8.2008; Bull. 5-2008, point 1.15.4

**Committee of the Regions opinion:** OJ C 257, 9.10.2008; Bull. 6-2008, point 1.15.4

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 9-2008, point 1.15.5

**Amended Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 723; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.15.2

**Council political agreement:** Bull. 11-2008, point 1.15.2

**Common position:** Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.15.6

**Communication on the Council common position:** Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.15.6

*Approved by the European Parliament on 6 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

1.15.3. Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Electronic Communications Market Authority.

**References:**

Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives

2002/21/EC on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services, 2002/19/EC on access to, and interconnection of, electronic communications networks and services, and 2002/20/EC on the authorisation of electronic communications networks and services: OJ C 55, 28.2.2008; COM(2007) 697; Bull. 11-2007, point 1.14.2

Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2002/22/EC on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks, Directive 2002/58/EC concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector, and Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 on consumer protection cooperation: OJ C 55, 28.2.2008; COM(2007) 698; Bull. 11-2007, point 1.14.3

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 55, 28.2.2008; COM(2007) 699; Bull. 11-2007, point 1.14.4

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** OJ C 224, 30.8.2008; Bull. 5-2008, point 1.15.5

**Committee of the Regions opinion:** OJ C 257, 9.10.2008; Bull. 6-2008, point 1.15.5

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 9-2008, point 1.15.6

**Amended Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 720; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.15.3

**Council political agreement:** Bull. 11-2008, point 1.15.3

**Common position:** Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.15.7

**Communication on the Council common position:** Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.15.7

*Approved by the European Parliament on 6 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

1.15.4. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions — 'Re-use of public sector information — Review of Directive 2003/98/EC'.

**Reference:** Directive 2003/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council: OJ L 345, 31.12.2003; Bull. 10-2003, point 1.3.85

*Adopted by the Commission on 7 May. Public authorities produce, collect and hold vast*

amounts of public sector information (PSI). This communication highlights that the re-use of PSI in the digital age in Europe is growing and is a driver of innovation and growth. The Commission asks Member States to take measures to maximise the economic potential of PSI re-use. Legislative changes are not foreseen at this stage. The full impact of the directive has not been achieved yet, since in many Member States the directive was implemented subsequent to long delays. The Commission will carry out a further review in 2012 when more evidence on the impact, effects and application of the directive will be available and will consider legislative amendments at that stage, taking into consideration the progress that has been made in Member States in the meantime.

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### *Radio spectrum policy*

*1.15.5.* Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 87/372/EEC on the frequency bands to be reserved for the coordinated introduction of public pan-European cellular digital land-based mobile communications in the Community.

**Directive to be amended:** Council Directive 87/372/EEC (GSM): OJ L 196, 17.7.1987; Bull. 6-1987, point 2.1.53

**References:**

Directive 2002/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the authorisation of electronic communications networks and services: OJ L 108, 24.4.2002; Bull. 1/2-2002, point 1.3.141

Commission communication — ‘i2010 — A European information society for growth and employment’: OJ C 236, 24.9.2005; COM(2005) 229; Bull. 6-2005, point 1.3.74

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 762; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.15.4

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.15.8

*Endorsed by the European Parliament (first reading) on 6 May, subject to certain amendments.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

## **Audiovisual policy and MEDIA programme**

### *MEDIA programme*

*1.15.6.* Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an audiovisual cooperation programme with professionals from third countries (MEDIA Mundus).

**References:**

European Council conclusions: Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.9

Commission communication on impact assessment: COM(2002) 276; Bull. 6-2002, point 1.1.8

Decision No 1718/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the implementation of a programme of support for the European audiovisual sector (MEDIA 2007): OJ L 327, 24.11.2006; Bull. 11-2006, point 1.14.6

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 892; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.15.13

**Committee of the Regions opinion:** Bull. 4-2009, point ...

*Endorsed by the European Parliament (first reading) on 7 May, subject to certain amendments.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

## **Information and communication technologies (ICT) use**

### *Coordination of the i2010 strategic initiative*

*1.15.7.* Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council — ‘Final evaluation of the implementation of the IDABC programme’.

**References:**

Decision 2004/387/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the interoperable delivery of pan-European e-government services to public administrations, businesses and citizens (IDABC): OJ L 181, 18.5.2004; Bull. 3-2004, point 1.3.84

Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on interoperability solutions for European public administrations (ISA): COM(2008) 583; Bull. 9-2008, point 1.15.15

*Adopted by the Commission on 29 May.* This communication is to present the findings and recommendations of the final evaluation of the implementation of the IDABC programme. It clearly supports the directions taken by the Commission for the ISA programme. This concerns notably the recommendations on the higher-level engagement of Member States' representatives in the management of the

programme and on the elaboration of a strategic framework, which are fully integrated in the Commission's proposal for the ISA programme. Other recommendations are considered by the Commission as pre-requisites for a successful implementation of the ISA programme. Finally, the Commission will take all recommendations into consideration in the implementation of the ISA programme, as well as for actions still to be implemented in the remaining period of the IDABC programme, to the extent this is possible in the current time frame.

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# 16. Economic and social cohesion

*1.16.1.* Regulation (EC) No 396/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 on the European Social Fund to extend the types of costs eligible for a contribution from the ESF.

**Amended regulation:** Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council: OJ L 210, 31.7.2006; Bull. 7/8-2006, point 1.15.8

**References:**

Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund: OJ L 210, 31.7.2006; Bull. 7/8-2006, 1.15.5

Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund: OJ L 210, 31.7.2006; Bull. 7/8-2006, 1.15.6

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 813; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.16.5

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** 25 February 2009

**European Parliament opinion:** 2 April 2009

*Approved by the Council on 5 May.* Now approved by both institutions, the main objective of this new regulation is to simplify the management, administration and control of ESF operations by simplifying the justification of indirect costs (costs which are not directly linked to the project, but which are necessary for its implementation, such as phone or electricity charges) and reducing the workload and quantity of supporting documents required to justify expenditure.

*Signed by the European Parliament and the Council on 6 May.*

OJ L 126, 21.5.2009

*1.16.2.* European Economic and Social Committee opinion on ‘The Baltic Sea region: the role of organised civil society in improving regional cooperation and identifying a regional strategy’.

**References:**

European Parliament resolution on a Baltic Sea region strategy for the Northern Dimension: Bull. 11-2006, point 1.33.31

Committee of the Regions opinion on the role of local and regional authorities within the new Baltic Sea strategy: Bull. 4-2009, point 1.16.2

*Adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee on 13 May.* The Committee underlined the vital role of organised civil society in implementing the Baltic Sea strategy. It thus recommended the Commission to set up a consultative Baltic Sea Civil Society Forum in order to ensure organised civil society’s involvement in this strategy. Indeed, it believes that citizens’ active participation will take on increasing importance in the future, even in those sectors and areas which have traditionally been managed by the public sector. Finally, the Committee believes that the implementation of the Baltic Sea strategy will require the establishment of its own separate budget, otherwise the strategy risks remaining merely a political statement and will not achieve its aims.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

## 17. Outermost regions

*1.17.1.* There is no selected information under this heading of the current Bulletin.

# 18. Trans-European networks

*1.18.1.* There is no selected information under this heading of the current Bulletin.



# 19. Agriculture and rural development

## Content of the common agricultural policy (CAP)

*1.19.1.* Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 814/2000 on information measures relating to the common agricultural policy.

### References:

Council Regulation (EC) No 814/2000 on information measures relating to the common agricultural policy: OJ L 100, 20.4.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.79

Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 on the financing of the common agricultural policy: OJ L 209, 11.8.2005; Bull. 6-2005, point 1.3.82

Commission communication on preparing for the 'health check' of the CAP reform: OJ C 106, 26.4.2008; COM(2007) 722; Bull. 11-2007, point 1.18.5

**Previous report:** OJ C 246, 20.10.2007; COM(2007) 324; Bull. 6-2007, point 1.18.2

*Adopted by the Commission on 20 May.* This report concerns the implementation of the Council regulation on information measures relating to the CAP for the years 2007–08. It describes the information measures carried out under the regulation both at the initiative of third parties (grants) and by the Commission on its own initiative, over this period. Finally, it notes how efforts were intensified to increase the understanding of the CAP among the general public, and also among stakeholders in agriculture and rural areas.

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*1.19.2.* Council conclusions on Commission communication 'A simplified CAP for Europe — a success for all' (→ point 1.2.2).

## Rural development

*1.19.3.* Council Regulation (EC) No 473/2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD); Council Decision 2009/434/EC

amending Decision 2006/493/EC laying down the amount of Community support for rural development for the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013, its annual breakdown and the minimum amount to be concentrated in regions eligible under the convergence objective.

**Amended regulation:** Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005: OJ L 277, 21.10.2005; Bull. 9-2005, point 1.3.62

**Amended decision:** Council Decision 2006/493/EC: OJ L 195, 15.7.2006; Bull. 6-2006, point 1.17.6

### References:

Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 on the financing of the common agricultural policy: OJ L 209, 11.8.2005; Bull. 6-2005, point 1.3.82

Commission communication on preparing for the 'health check' of the common agricultural policy (CAP) reform: OJ C 106, 26.4.2008; COM(2007) 722; Bull. 11-2007, point 1.18.5

Commission communication — 'A European economic recovery plan': COM(2008) 800; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.7.6

European Council conclusions: Bull. 12-2008, point 1.6

**Commission proposal:** COM(2009) 38; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.19.4

*Endorsed by the European Parliament on 6 May,* subject to certain amendments.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

*Formal adoption by the Council on 25 May.* The Council adopted a regulation and a decision which transposed the agreement on the rural development part of the European economic recovery plan into EU law. More specifically, the two legislative acts make further EU funds available for the development of broadband Internet infrastructure in rural areas and for strengthening Member States' efforts to address new challenges as defined in the health check of the CAP. An additional EUR 600 million will be

available for broadband Internet and the CAP health check in the framework of rural development in 2009, while EUR 420 million will be secured through a compensation mechanism during the 2010 EU budgetary conciliation procedure.

OJ L 144, 9.6.2009

## Quality of agricultural products

*1.19.4. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on agricultural product quality policy.*

### References:

Green Paper on agricultural product quality: product standards, farming requirements and quality schemes: COM(2008) 641; Bull. 10-2008, point 1.19.7

Commission communication — ‘Commission legislative and work programme 2009 — Acting now for a better Europe’: COM(2008) 712; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.38.12

*Adopted by the Commission on 28 May.* This communication is based on stakeholder submissions to the Green Paper consultation. Its main objective is to set out strategic policy orientations and options in the field of agricultural product quality policy, which will serve as a basis for further discussion with the institutions and stakeholders. The communication proposes a structured approach, notably through the definition of guidelines for certification schemes. It is also necessary to ensure coherence for the new EU agricultural product quality schemes and development of EU marketing standards within the single CMO. In addition, preparatory work is needed for legislative initiatives to update, simplify and improve the geographical indication schemes. Finally, for the traditional specialties scheme, the communication foresees the possibility of replacing the current system with a specific designated term for traditional product.

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## Market organisations

### General

*1.19.5. Council Regulation (EC) No 491/2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural*

*markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (single CMO regulation).*

**Amended regulation:** Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007: OJ L 299, 16.11.2007; Bull. 10-2007, point 1.18.7

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 489; Bull. 7/8-2008, point 1.19.8

**European Parliament opinion:** Bull. 11-2008, point 1.19.5

*Formally adopted by the Council on 25 May.* The new regulation amends Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 which replaced the different regulations on common market organisations with a single common organisation for all agricultural markets.

OJ L 154, 17.6.2009

### Poultry meat

*1.19.6. Proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets as regards the marketing standards for poultry meat.*

**Regulation to be amended:** Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (single CMO regulation): OJ L 299, 16.11.2007; Bull. 10-2007, point 1.18.7

### References:

Directive 89/108/EEC relating to quick-frozen foodstuffs for human consumption: OJ L 40, 11.2.1989

Council Regulation (EEC) No 1906/90 on certain marketing standards for poultry meat: OJ L 173, 6.7.1990

Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin: OJ L 139, 30.4.2004; Bull. 4-2004, point 1.4.114

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 10, 15.1.2009; COM(2008) 336; Bull. 5-2008, point 1.19.11

*Endorsed by the European Parliament on 5 May, subject to certain amendments.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

## Cotton

1.19.7. Council Regulation (EC) No 472/2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 637/2008 as regards the national restructuring programmes for the cotton sector.

**Amended regulation:** Council Regulation (EC) No 637/2008: OJ L 178, 5.7.2008; Bull. 6-2008, point 1.19.8

**Commission proposal:** COM(2009) 37; Bull. 1/2-2009 point 1.19.9

**European Parliament opinion:** Bull. 4-2009, point 1.19.2

*Formally adopted by the Council on 25 May.* The Council adopted a regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 637/2008 with a view to extending the programming period of national restructuring programmes in the cotton sector from four to eight years.

OJ L 144, 9.6.2009

## External aspects

1.19.8. Council Decision 2009/393/EC establishing the position to be adopted, on behalf of the Community, within the International Grains Council as regards the extension of the Grains Trade Convention 1995.

### References:

Council Decision 96/88/EC concerning the approval by the European Community of the Grains Trade Convention and the Food Aid Convention, constituting the International Grains Agreement 1995: OJ L 21, 27.1.1996; Bull. 12-1995, point 1.3.160

Council Decision 2007/317/EC establishing the position to be adopted, on behalf of the Community, within the International Grains Council with respect to the extension of the Grains Trade

Convention, 1995: OJ L 119, 9.5.2007; Bull. 4-2007, point 1.18.1

**Commission proposal:** COM(2009) 132; Bull. 3-2009, point 1.19.6

*Formally adopted by the Council on 18 May.* The Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to vote at the International Grains Council in favour of an extension of the Grains Trade Convention for a further period of up to two years. Without this prolongation, the Grains Trade Convention would expire on 30 June 2009.  
OJ L 124, 20.5.2009

1.19.9. Council Decision 2009/394/EC establishing the position to be adopted, on behalf of the Community, within the International Sugar Council as regards the extension of the International Sugar Agreement 1992.

### References:

Council Decision 92/580/EEC on the signing and conclusion of the International Sugar Agreement 1992: OJ L 379, 23.12.1992

Council Decision 2007/316/EC establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the Community within the International Sugar Council as regards the extension of the International Sugar Agreement 1992: OJ L 119, 9.5.2007; Bull. 4-2007, point 1.18.3

**Commission proposal:** COM(2009) 134; Bull. 3-2009, point 1.19.7

*Formally adopted by the Council on 18 May.* The Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to vote within the International Sugar Council in favour of an extension of the international sugar agreement for a further period of up to two years. Without this prolongation, the International Sugar Agreement would expire on 31 December 2009.

OJ L 124, 20.5.2009

# 20. Fisheries and maritime affairs

## Content of the fisheries policy

*1.20.1.* Council Decision 2009/447/EC repealing Directive 83/515/EEC and 11 obsolete decisions in the field of the common fisheries policy; Council Regulation (EC) No 492/2009 repealing 14 obsolete regulations in the field of the common fisheries policy.

### Repealed regulations:

Council Regulation (EEC) No 31/83 on an interim common measure for restructuring the inshore fishing industry and aquaculture: OJ L 5, 7.1.1983

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3117/85 laying down general rules on the granting of compensatory indemnities in respect of sardines: OJ L 297, 9.11.1985

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3781/85 laying down the measures to be taken in respect of operators who do not comply with certain provisions relating to fishing contained in the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal: OJ L 363, 31.12.1985

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3252/87 on the coordination and promotion of research in the fisheries sector: OJ L 314, 4.11.1987

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3571/90 introducing various measures concerning the implementation of the common fisheries policy in the former German Democratic Republic: OJ L 353, 17.12.1990

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3499/91 providing a Community framework for studies and pilot projects relating to the conservation and management of fishery resources in the Mediterranean: OJ L 331, 3.12.1991

Council Regulation (EC) No 1275/94 on adjustments to the arrangements in the fisheries chapters of the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal: OJ L 140, 3.6.1994; Bull. 5-1994, point 1.2.109

Council Regulation (EC) No 1448/1999 introducing transitional measures for the management of certain Mediterranean fisheries: OJ L 167, 2.7.1999; Bull. 6-1999, point 1.2.132

Council Regulation (EC) No 300/2001 establishing measures to be applied in 2001 for the recovery of the stock of cod in the Irish Sea (ICES division VIIa): OJ L 44, 15.2.2001; Bull. 1/2-2001, point 1.3.182

Council Regulation (EC) No 2561/2001 aiming to promote the conversion of fishing vessels and of fishermen that were, up to 1999, dependent on the fishing agreement with Morocco: OJ L 344, 28.12.2001; Bull. 12-2001, point 1.3.155

Council Regulation (EC) No 2341/2002 fixing for 2003 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Community waters and, for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required: OJ L 356, 31.12.2002; Bull. 12-2002, point 1.3.115

Council Regulation (EC) No 2372/2002 instituting specific measures to compensate the Spanish fisheries, shellfish industry and aquaculture, affected by the oil spills from the *Prestige*: OJ L 358, 31.12.2002; Bull. 12-2002, point 1.3.131

Council Regulation (EC) No 2287/2003 fixing for 2004 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Community waters and, for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required: OJ L 344, 31.12.2003; Bull. 12-2003, point 1.3.144

Council Regulation (EC) No 52/2006 fixing the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea for 2006: OJ L 16, 20.1.2006; Bull. 12-2005, point 1.3.133

**Repealed directive:** Council Directive 83/515/EEC concerning certain measures to adjust capacity in the fisheries sector: OJ L 290, 22.10.1983

### Repealed decisions:

Council Decision 89/631/EEC on a Community financial contribution towards expenditure incurred by Member States for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources: OJ L 364, 14.12.1989; Bull. 11-1989, point 2.1.166

Council Decision 94/117/EC laying down the minimum requirements as regards structure and equipment to be met by certain small establishments ensuring the distribution of fishery products in Greece: OJ L 54, 25.2.1994; Bull. 1/2-1994, point 1.2.23

Council Decision 94/317/EC authorising the Kingdom of Spain to extend until 7 March 1995 the agreement on mutual fishery relations with the Republic of South Africa: OJ L 142, 7.6.1994

Council Decision 94/318/EC authorising the Portuguese Republic to extend until 7 March 1995 the agreement on mutual fishery relations with the Republic of South Africa: OJ L 142, 7.6.1994

Council Decision 1999/386/EC on the provisional application by the European Community of the agreement on the international dolphin conservation programme: OJ L 147, 12.6.1999

Council Decision 2001/179/EC setting the terms for financial support to Guinea-Bissau in the fisheries sector: OJ L 66, 8.3.2001; Bull. 1/2-2001, point 1.3.187

Council Decision 2001/382/EC on a Community financial contribution towards certain expenditure to implement certain management measures on highly migratory fish: OJ L 137, 19.5.2001

Council Decision 2001/431/EC on a financial contribution by the Community to certain expenditure incurred by the Member States in implementing the control, inspection and surveillance systems applicable to the common fisheries policy: OJ L 154, 9.6.2001; Bull. 5-2001, point 1.3.89

Council Decision 2004/662/EC authorising the Kingdom of Spain to extend until 7 March 2005 the agreement on mutual fishery relations with the Republic of South Africa: OJ L 302, 29.9.2004; Bull. 9-2004, point 1.3.46

Council Decision 2004/890/EC on the withdrawal by the European Community from the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources in the Baltic Sea and Belts: OJ L 375, 23.12.2004; Bull. 12-2004, point 1.3.102

Council Decision 2005/76/EC on the signing, on behalf of the European Community, and provisional application of the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application of the protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Federal Republic of The Comoros on fishing off The Comoros for the period from 28 February 2004 to 31 December 2004: OJ L 29, 2.2.2005; Bull. 11-2004, point 1.3.51

#### References:

Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the common fisheries policy: OJ L 358, 31.12.2002; Bull. 12-2002, point 1.3.111

Council Decision 2004/465/EC on a Community financial contribution towards Member States' fisheries control programmes: OJ L 157, 30.4.2004; Bull. 4-2004, point 1.3.102

Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund: OJ L 223, 15.8.2006; Bull. 7/8-2006, point 1.18.3

Council Regulation (EC) No 1967/2006 concerning management measures for the sustainable exploitation of fishery resources in the Mediterra-

nean Sea: OJ L 409, 30.12.2006; Bull. 12-2006, point 1.18.2

Council Regulation (EC) No 199/2008 concerning the establishment of a Community framework for the collection, management and use of data in the fisheries sector and support for scientific advice regarding the common fisheries policy: OJ L 60, 5.3.2008; Bull. 1/2-2008, point 1.20.4

Commission communication — 'Commission legislative and work programme 2009 — Acting now for a better Europe': COM(2008) 712; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.38.12

**Commission proposals:** COM(2009) 88; COM(2009) 89; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.20.3

*Endorsed by the European Parliament on 6 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete texts:*

*of the decision*

*of the regulation*

— *the text summaries:*

*of the decision*

*of the regulation*

*Adopted by the Council on 25 May.* The Council adopted a regulation and a decision repealing 14 regulations, 1 directive and 11 decisions in the field of the CFP. These legal acts have become obsolete even though formally they are still in force. This removal from active legislation of acts which no longer have real effect is in line with the better-lawmaking strategy of the EU institutions.

OJ L 149, 12.6.2009

*1.20.2. Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on expenditure incurred by Member States and co-financed by the Community implementing monitoring and control systems applicable to the common fisheries policy for the period 2001–06.*

#### References:

Council Decision 2001/431/EC on a financial contribution by the Community to certain expenditure incurred by the Member States in implementing the control, inspection and surveillance systems applicable to the common fisheries policy: OJ L 154, 9.6.2001; Bull. 5-2001, point 1.3.89

Council Decision 2006/2/EC amending Decision 2004/465/EC on a Community financial contribution towards Member States' fisheries control

programmes: OJ L 2, 5.1.2006; Bull. 12-2005, point 1.3.127

*Adopted by the Commission on 7 May.* This report is written on the basis of the annual intermediate assessment reports for the years 2001–06 that describe the execution of the national control programme of the preceding year as well as the final assessment report of the period 2001–06, all of which each Member State had to provide. It sets out maximum contributions granted under Commission financing decisions as well as the reasons for the non-execution of Community funds.

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*1.20.3.* Proposal for a Council regulation establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy.

**References:**

Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the common fisheries policy: OJ L 358, 31.12.2002; Bull. 12-2002, point 1.3.111

Commission communication — ‘Implementing the Community Lisbon programme: a strategy for the simplification of the regulatory environment’: OJ C 49, 28.2.2006; COM(2005) 535; Bull. 10-2005, point 1.1.13

Commission report on the monitoring of the Member States’ implementation of the common fisheries policy 2003-05: OJ C 181, 3.8.2007; COM(2007) 167; Bull. 4-2007, point 1.19.1

Court of Auditors Special Report No 7/2007: OJ C 317, 28.12.2007; Bull. 10-2007, point 1.37.11

Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing: OJ L 286, 29.10.2008; Bull. 9-2008, point 1.20.3

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 721; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.20.3

**European Parliament opinion:** Bull. 4-2009, point 1.20.3

*European Economic and Social Committee opinion on 13 May.* The Committee supported the Commission’s proposal. It believes the current fisheries control system in the EU suffers from substantial shortcomings. It is inefficient, expensive and complex and does not produce results. This failure has significant consequences for the sustainability of fisheries resources, the fishing industry, the regions dependent on fishing and the environment. The Committee believes that in particular the CFP has generated an

attitude of delay, prevarication, reluctant implementation or non-compliance by certain stakeholders. It considers that the Commission has fulfilled its consultation responsibilities with key stakeholders, has produced a well-researched impact assessment and is right to press for immediate reform and not to defer action until the future of the CFP post-2012 is determined.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

## **Conservation and management of resources**

### *Internal aspects*

*1.20.4.* Council decision on the establishment of the Community position to be adopted in the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation.

**Legal basis:** Article 300(2) of the EC Treaty

*Proposal adopted by the Commission on 5 May.* The purpose of this proposal is to establish the Community positions in the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation when it is called upon to adopt measures having legal effect for the Community. This proposal follows the same approach as for other regional fisheries management organisations so as to ensure consistency.

COM(2009) 216

*Formally adopted by the Council on 28 May.*

*1.20.5.* Proposal for a Council decision on the establishment of the Community position to be adopted in the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission.

**Legal basis:** Article 300(2) of the EC Treaty

*Adopted by the Commission on 5 May.* The purpose of this proposal is to establish the Community positions in the Inter American Tropical Tuna Commission when it is called upon to adopt measures having legal effect for the Community. This proposal follows the same approach as for other regional fisheries management organisations so as to ensure consistency.

COM(2009) 218

*Formally adopted by the Council on 28 May.*

1.20.6. Communication from the Commission — ‘Consultation on fishing opportunities for 2010’.

**References:**

Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the common fisheries policy: OJ L 358, 31.12.2002; Bull. 12-2002, point 1.3.111

Commission communication — ‘Implementing sustainability in EU fisheries through maximum sustainable yield’: COM(2006) 360; Bull. 7/8-2006, point 1.18.1

*Adopted by the Commission on 12 May.* This communication sets out the Commission’s intentions regarding the preparation of its proposals for total allowable catches and fishing

effort for 2009. This exercise continues to take place against a background of urgent challenges facing the CFP. Despite several years of implementation of the CFP, the state of fisheries resources remains worrying. Several stocks are still exploited beyond sustainability. Fishing opportunities have been set at levels too high for stocks to be sustainable. Nevertheless, several long-term plans have been implemented successfully, generating signs of stock recovery. The Commission seeks the views of stakeholders on the rules set out in this paper and invites Member States and the industry to suggest improvements.

COM(2009) 224

# 21. Area of freedom, security and justice

## Asylum and immigration

*1.21.1.* Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 573/2007/EC establishing the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008–13 by removing funding for certain Community actions and altering the limit for funding such actions.

**Decision to be amended:** Decision No 573/2007/EC: OJ L 144, 6.6.2007; Bull. 5-2007, point 1.20.4

### References:

Green Paper on the future common European asylum system: OJ C 191, 17.8.2007; COM(2007) 301; Bull. 6-2007, point 1.20.21

Commission communication — ‘European agencies — The way forward’: OJ C 202, 8.8.2008; COM(2008) 135; Bull. 3-2008, point 1.1.4

Commission communication — ‘Policy plan on asylum: an integrated approach to protection across the EU’: OJ C 10, 15.1.2009; COM(2008) 360; Bull. 6-2008, point 1.21.19

European Council conclusions: Bull. 10-2008, point I.14

Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Asylum Support Office: COM(2009) 66; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.21.15

**Commission proposal:** COM(2009) 67; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.21.16

*Endorsed by the European Parliament (first reading) on 7 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

*1.21.2.* Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Asylum Support Office.

### References:

Decision No 573/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008–13 as

part of the general programme ‘Solidarity and management of migration flows’: OJ L 144, 6.6.2007; Bull. 5-2007, point 1.20.4

Green Paper on the future common European asylum system: OJ C 191, 17.8.2007; COM(2007) 301; Bull. 6-2007, point 1.20.21

Commission communication — ‘European agencies — The way forward’: OJ C 202, 8.8.2008; COM(2008) 135; Bull. 3-2008, point 1.1.4

European Council conclusions: Bull. 10-2008, point I.14

Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 573/2007/EC establishing the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008–13 by removing funding for certain Community actions and altering the limit for funding such actions: COM(2009) 67; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.21.16

**Commission proposal:** COM(2009) 66; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.21.15

*Endorsed by the European Parliament (first reading) on 7 May, subject to certain amendments.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

*1.21.3.* Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council providing for sanctions against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals.

**Reference:** Commission communication on future priorities to fight illegal immigration of third-country nationals: OJ C 78, 11.4.2007; COM(2006) 402; Bull. 7/8-2006, point 1.19.16

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 191, 17.8.2007; COM(2007) 249; Bull. 5-2007, point 1.20.8

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** OJ C 204, 9.8.2008; Bull. 3-2008, point 1.21.4

**Committee of the Regions opinion:** OJ C 257, 9.10.2008; Bull. 6-2008, point 1.21.21



**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.21.13

*Approved by the Council on 25 May.* Now approved by both institutions, this directive aims at fighting illegal immigration by prohibiting the employment of illegally staying third-country nationals and laying down minimum common standards on sanctions and measures to be applied in Member States against employers who infringe that prohibition. Under the directive, employers in the EU will have the obligation to:

- require that a third-country national, before taking up the employment, holds a valid residence permit or other authorisation for his or her stay;
- keep for at least the duration of the employment a copy or record of the residence permit or authorisation for stay available for inspection by the competent authorities of Member States;
- notify the competent authorities designated by Member States of the start of employment of third-country nationals within a period laid down by each Member State.

*1.21.4. Council Directive 2009/50/EC on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment.*

**References:**

Tampere European Council: Bull. 10-1999, point I.4-I.5

Proposal for a Council directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of paid employment and self-employed economic activities: OJ C 332 E, 27.11.2001; COM(2001) 386; Bull. 7/8-2001, point 1.4.3

European Economic and Social Committee own-initiative opinion on immigration in the European Union and integration policies: cooperation between regional and local governments and civil society organisations: OJ C 318, 23.12.2006; Bull. 9-2006, point 1.19.4

Proposal for a Council directive on a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State: OJ C 55, 28.2.2008; COM(2007) 638; Bull. 10-2007, point 1.20.19

Council conclusions on mobility partnerships and circular migration: Bull. 12-2007, point 1.20.7

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 106, 26.4.2008; COM(2007) 637; Bull. 10-2007, point 1.20.18

**Committee of the Regions opinion:** OJ C 257, 9.10.2008; Bull. 6-2008, point 1.21.21

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** OJ C 27, 3.2.2009; Bull. 7/8-2008, point 1.21.11

**European Parliament opinion:** Bull. 11-2008, point 1.21.12

*Formally adopted by the Council on 25 May.* The Council adopted a directive aimed at facilitating conditions of entry and residence in the EU of third-country citizens for the purpose of highly qualified employment. The directive establishes more attractive conditions for third-country workers to take up highly qualified employment in Member States by creating a fast-track procedure for issuing a special residence and work permit called the 'EU blue card'.

OJ L 155, 18.6.2009

## Judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters

*1.21.5. Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a procedure for the negotiation and conclusion of bilateral agreements between Member States and third countries concerning sectoral matters and covering applicable law in contractual and non-contractual obligations.*

**Legal basis:** Article 65 of Title IV of the EC Treaty

**Reference:** Court of Justice: Opinion A-1/03 on exclusive or shared powers of the Community: new Lugano Convention: Bull. 3-2006, point 1.35.52

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 893; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.21.20

*Endorsed by the European Parliament (first reading) on 7 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

*1.21.6. Proposal for a Council regulation establishing a procedure for the negotiation and conclusion of bilateral agreements between Member States and third countries concerning sectoral matters and covering jurisdiction, recognition and enforcement of judgments and decisions in matrimonial matters, parental responsibility and maintenance obligations, and*

applicable law in matters relating to maintenance obligations.

**Legal basis:** Article 65 of Title IV of the EC Treaty

**Reference:** Court of Justice: Opinion A-1/03 on exclusive or shared powers of the Community; new Lugano Convention: Bull. 3-2006, point 1.35.52

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 894; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.21.19

*Endorsed by the European Parliament on 7 May, subject to certain amendments.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

## 22. Education and culture

### Education and vocational training

#### *Policy objectives*

1.22.1. Council conclusions on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ('ET 2020').

#### **References:**

Barcelona European Council conclusions: Bull. 3-2002, point I.29

Commission communication — 'An updated strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training': COM(2008) 865; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.22.2

*Adopted by the Council on 12 May.* The Council adopted a new strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training until 2020.

**To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to *the complete text*:**

#### *'Education' programmes*

1.22.2. Proposal for a recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of the European credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET).

#### **References:**

Recommendation 2001/613/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on mobility within the Community for students, persons undergoing training, volunteers, teachers and trainers: OJ L 215, 9.8.2001; Bull. 7/8-2001, point 1.4.13

Decision No 2241/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on a single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass): OJ L 390, 31.12.2004; Bull. 12-2004, point 1.4.39

Commission communication — 'Towards common principles of flexicurity: More and better jobs through flexibility and security': OJ C 246, 20.10.2007; COM(2007) 359; Bull. 6-2007, point 1.8.7

Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of the European qualifications framework for lifelong

learning: OJ C 111, 6.5.2008; Bull. 1/2-2008, point 1.22.7

Proposal for a recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a European quality assurance reference framework for vocational education and training: OJ C 202, 8.8.2008; COM(2008) 179; Bull. 4-2008, point 1.22.1

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 202, 8.8.2008; COM(2008) 180; Bull. 4-2008, point 1.22.2

**Committee of the Regions opinion:** OJ C 325, 19.12.2008; Bull. 10-2008, point 1.22.2

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** OJ C 100, 30.4.2009; Bull. 10-2008, point 1.22.2

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 12-2008, point 1.22.4

*Approved by the Council on 11 May.* Now approved by both institutions, the proposed recommendation aims to eliminate obstacles hindering the identification, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired during a stay in another country. This instrument will thus make it easier for people to move from one country or region to another because they can be sure that their learning achievements are adequately appreciated.

1.22.3. Proposal for a recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a European quality assurance reference framework for vocational education and training (EQARF).

#### **References:**

Council conclusions on quality assurance in vocational education and training: Bull. 5-2004, point 1.4.9

Recommendation 2006/961/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on transnational mobility within the Community for education and training purposes: European quality charter for mobility: OJ L 394, 30.12.2006; Bull. 12-2006, point 1.20.4

Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of the European qualifications framework for lifelong learning: OJ C 111, 6.5.2008; Bull. 1/2-2008, point 1.22.7

Proposal for a recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of the European credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET): OJ C 202, 8.8.2008; COM(2008) 180; Bull. 4-2008, point 1.22.2

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 202, 8.8.2008; COM(2008) 179; Bull. 4-2008, point 1.22.1

**Committee of the Regions opinion:** OJ C 325, 19.12.2008; Bull. 10-2008, point 1.22.1

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** OJ C 100, 30.4.2009; Bull. 10-2008, point 1.22.1

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 12-2008, point 1.22.3

*Approved by the Council on 11 May.* Now approved by both institutions, the proposed recommendation aims to help Member States promote and monitor the continuous improvement of their vocational education and training systems, based on common European standards. This instrument thus constitutes a quality assurance tool that can be used to systematically modernise education systems by improving the effectiveness of training.

## Youth and sport

### *Youth*

#### Policy objectives

1.22.4. Council conclusions and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on the evaluation of the current framework for European cooperation in the youth field and on future perspectives for the renewed framework.

#### References:

European Council conclusions: Bull. 3-2005, point I.7

Conclusions of the Council on future perspectives for European cooperation in the field of youth policy: Bull. 5-2007, point 1.21.3

Commission communication — ‘An EU strategy for youth — Investing and empowering a renewed open method of coordination to address youth challenges and opportunities’: COM(2009) 200; Bull. 4-2009, point 1.22.5

*Adopted by the Council on 12 May.* According to the Council, the current framework for European cooperation in the youth field has proved to be a valuable platform for Member States to address youth-related issues. The open method of coordination (OMC), the mainstreaming of youth issues into other policy areas and the European Youth Pact have facilitated a flexible approach in a manner suited to the youth field, with due regard for the competencies of the Member States and the principle of subsidiarity. In light of the overall objective of promoting active participation of young people in society and their social and professional integration, this form of cooperation has produced a wide range of concrete results.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to **the complete text**:*

## Culture

### *Policy objectives*

1.22.5. Council Decision 2009/400/EC on the European Capital of Culture event for the year 2012.

**Reference:** Decision No 1622/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community action for the European Capital of Culture event for the years 2007 to 2019; OJ L 304, 3.11.2006

**Commission proposal:** COM(2009) 167; Bull. 4-2009, point 1.22.7

*Adopted by the Council on 12 May.* This decision supported the jury’s proposal to designate Guimarães (Portugal) and Maribor (Slovenia) as European Capitals of Culture 2012.

OJ L 127, 26.5.2009

## 23. Environment

### Quality of the environment and management of resources

#### *Protection of water and coastal zones*

1.23.1. Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2005/35/EC on ship source pollution and on the introduction of penalties for infringements.

**Directive to be amended:** Directive 2005/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council: OJ L 255, 30.9.2005; Bull. 9-2005, point 1.4.32

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 202, 8.8.2008; COM(2008) 134; Bull. 3-2008, point 1.24.9

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** OJ C 77, 31.3.2009; Bull. 9-2008, point 1.24.8

*Endorsed by the European Parliament (first reading) on 5 May, subject to certain amendments.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

#### *Protection of nature and biodiversity, forests*

1.23.2. Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning trade in seal products.

##### **References:**

Council Directive 83/129/EEC concerning the importation into Member States of skins of certain seal pups and products derived there from: OJ L 91, 9.4.1983

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora: OJ L 206, 22.7.1992

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 469; Bull. 7/8- 2008, point 1.23.21

*Endorsed by the European Parliament (first reading) on 5 May, subject to certain amendments.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

1.23.3. Council conclusions on participation in the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

##### **References:**

Council conclusions in view of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Poznań from 1 to 12 December 2008: Bull. 10-2008, point 1.23.16

Council conclusions on deforestation and forest degradation to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss: Bull. 12-2008, point 1.23.12

*Adopted by the Council on 12 May.* The Council highlighted the following points concerning the sustainable management of forests:

□ the importance of the forum for strengthening the integration of environmental aspects into forest policy dialogue and sustainable forest management at all levels;

□ the knowledge of specific contributions which sustainable forest management (SFM) can make to internationally agreed goals;

□ the important role that the SFM plays in combating desertification, soil conservation and water resources management;

□ the need to encourage UNFF member countries to actively share information on issues related to forests and SFM, climate change, biodiversity, desertification and poverty eradication;

□ the need to decide on the future voluntary financing arrangements for the sustainable management of forests;

□ the contribution that public policy can make for the improvement of the environment of private investments in the sustainable management of forests, for example in filling the gaps in terms of information, training and institutional capacity.

### *Sustainable use of resources*

1.23.4. European Economic and Social Committee opinion on the Commission communication — ‘An EU strategy for better ship dismantling’.

#### **References:**

Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on shipments of waste: OJ L 190, 12.7.2006; Bull. 5-2006, point 1.21.5

Green Paper on better ship dismantling: OJ C 191, 17.8.2007; COM(2007) 269; Bull. 5-2007, point 1.23.15

European Parliament resolution on the Green Paper on better ship dismantling: Bull. 5-2008, point 1.24.8

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 767; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.23.9

*Adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee on 13 May.* The Committee:

□ supports the swift ratification and implementation of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) ship recycling convention (2009);

□ supports the inclusion of rules on the clean dismantling of warships and other government vessels in the measures on ship dismantling;

□ deems it important to take actions to redress the appalling environmental and social conditions in many of the south Asian recycling facilities;

□ believes that developing a way to cover the substantially higher labour costs of dismantling in European yards can be achieved through a combination of regulatory action and industry initiatives;

□ recognises that the establishment of ship recycling yards in the EU may be objected to by local communities, but notes that if existing yards are utilised which meet EU, international and national standards, their operation may be acceptable as they will provide significant job opportunities.

## **Global environment and international scale**

### *Protection of the ozone layer*

1.23.5. Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Stage II petrol vapour recovery during refuelling of passenger cars at service stations

#### **References:**

Commission communication — ‘Thematic strategy on air pollution’: OJ C 49, 28.2.2006; COM(2005) 446; Bull. 9-2005, point 1.4.25

Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 98/70/EC as regards the specification of petrol, diesel and gas oil and introducing a mechanism to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the use of road transport fuels and amending Council Directive 1999/32/EC, as regards the specification of fuel used by inland waterway vessels and repealing Directive 93/12/EEC: Bull. 12-2008, point 1.23.22

Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe: OJ L 152, 11.6.2008; Bull. 4-2008, point 1.23.10

**Commission communication:** COM(2008) 812; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.23.21

*Endorsed by the European Parliament (first reading) on 5 May,* subject to certain amendments.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

### *International cooperation and governance*

1.23.6. Communication from the Commission to the Council concerning the negotiations on a Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.

#### **References:**

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: OJ L 33, 7.2.1994; Bull. 12-1993, point 1.2.183

Kyoto Protocol on climate change: Bull. 4-1998, point 1.2.114

Commission communication — ‘Towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen’: COM(2009) 39; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.23.9

*Adopted by the Commission on 20 May.* To ensure that the adoption of a wide-ranging amendment to the protocol remains possible, the Commission proposes that in the absence of adequate proposals from other parties:

□ the Community and Member States put forward a wide-ranging amendment to the Kyoto Protocol for adoption in Copenhagen;

□ the content of the proposed amendment could be a combination of the latest negotiating texts presented by the Kyoto Protocol working group and the latest submissions sent by the Community and Member States to the UNFCCC secretariat;

□ the Community and Member States state that this proposal is made in order to fulfil the procedural requirements for a new protocol and amendment to be adopted in Copenhagen.  
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# 24. Transport

## Internal transport market

### *Opening up air transport*

*1.24.1.* Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EEC) No 95/93 on common rules for the allocation of slots at Community airports.

**Regulation to be amended:** Council Regulation (EEC) No 95/93: OJ L 14, 22.1.1993; Bull. 1/2-1993, point 1.2.108

**Commission proposal:** COM(2009) 121; Bull. 3-2009, point 1.24.6

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** Bull. 3-2009, point 1.24.6

*Endorsed by the European Parliament (first reading) on 7 May, subject to certain amendments.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

*1.24.2.* Proposal for a decision of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting within the Council, on the conclusion of the Air Transport Agreement between the United States of America, for the one part, the European Community and its Member States, for the second part, Iceland, for the third part, and the Kingdom of Norway, for the fourth part; and on the conclusion of the Ancillary Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the first part, Iceland, on the second part, and the Kingdom of Norway, of the third part, regarding the application of the Air Transport Agreement between the United States of America, of the first part, the European Community and its Member States, of the second part, Iceland, of the third part, and the Kingdom of Norway, of the fourth part.

**Reference:** Air Transport Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, on the one hand, and the United States of America, on the other hand: OJ L 134, 25.5.2007; Bull. 4-2007, point 1.23.23

*Adopted by the Commission on 15 May.* This agreement extends the scope of the EU–US Air Transport Agreement signed on 30 April 2007 to Iceland and Norway. It will establish a harmonised framework for flights between the USA and the single European aviation market, including Iceland and Norway. It will enable EU airlines to use rights granted by the USA to operate flights between the USA and countries of the European common aviation area, such as Iceland and Norway.

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## Major networks

### *Galileo and intelligent transport*

*1.24.3.* Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the framework for the deployment of intelligent transport systems in the field of road transport and for interfaces with other transport modes.

#### **References:**

Commission White Paper — ‘European transport policy for 2010: time to decide’: COM(2001) 370; Bull. 9-2001, point 1.4.43

Commission communication on greening transport: COM(2008) 433; Bull. 7/8-2008, point 1.24.4

Commission communication — ‘Strategy for the internalisation of external costs’: COM(2008) 435; Bull. 7/8-2008, point 1.24.6

Communication from the Commission — ‘Action plan for the deployment of intelligent transport systems in Europe’: COM(2008) 886; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.24.7

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 887; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.24.7

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 4-2009, point 1.24.8

*Adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee on 13 May.*



*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

## **The external component of transport**

*Relations with third countries and international organisations in the field of transport*

1.24.4. European Economic and Social Committee exploratory opinion on road transport in 2020: organised civil society's expectations.

### **References:**

Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 98/70/EC as regards the specification of petrol, diesel and gas oil and introducing a mechanism to monitor and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the use of road transport fuels and amending Council Directive 1999/32/EC, as regards the specification of fuel used by inland waterway vessels and repealing Directive 93/12/EEC:

OJ C 181, 3.8.2007; COM(2007) 18; Bull. 1/2-2007, point 1.22.18

Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control): OJ C 194, 31.7.2008; COM(2007) 844; Bull. 12-2007, point 1.22.22

*Adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee on 13 May.* According to the Committee, all forecasts indicate that there will be a sharp increase in goods transport by road from now until 2020. The expected growth brings with it a range of difficulties. To address these, the Committee feels it is vital to generate a sense of urgency among all concerned, thereby securing the support that is so essential. The Committee feels that more needs to be done to tackle CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at source, among other things by the implementation of a series of essential measures. In addition, swift action is needed to expand the requisite infrastructure to handle the expected growth. Finally, the Committee feels that monitoring of the social legislation covering this sector should also be harmonised at a high level across the EU.

# 25. Energy

## General policy

### *Energy policy for Europe*

*1.25.1.* Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a programme to aid economic recovery by granting Community financial assistance to projects in the field of energy.

#### **References:**

Commission communication concerning the revision of the multiannual financial framework (2007–13): COM(2008) 859; Bull. 10-2008, point 1.36.3.

European economic recovery plan: COM(2008) 800; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.7.6

European Council conclusions: Bull. 12-2008, point I.6

**Commission proposal:** COM(2009) 35; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.25.1

*Endorsed by the European Parliament (first reading) on 6 May, subject to certain amendments.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

*European Economic and Social Committee opinion on 13 May.* The Committee welcomed the idea of allocating unused budgetary resources from 2008 to projects aimed at kick-starting the European economy, which has been plunged into stagnation by the systemic crisis. The Committee believes that, in the current circumstances, it is essential to act as quickly as possible, whilst prioritising specific projects that fit in with the medium- to long-term aims of sustainable development, such as renewable energy and the rollout of broadband networks to areas that are

not yet connected to the world wide web by appropriately efficient technologies. Accordingly, the Committee supports the general approach of the draft regulation, but understands that the expression of different national interests and concerns relating to climate change may lead to some variations on the initial proposal.

## Sustainable energy policies

### *Energy efficiency*

*1.25.2.* European Parliament resolution on the draft Commission directive implementing and amending Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of televisions.

#### **References:**

Council Directive 92/75/EEC on the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by household appliances: OJ L 297, 13.10.1992

Commission communication — ‘Action plan for energy efficiency: realising the potential’: COM(2006) 545; Bull. 10-2006, point 1.23.5

Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by energy-related products (recast): COM(2008) 778; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.25.11

*Rejected by the European Parliament on 6 May.* The draft Commission directive introduced a change by adding new A classes. Parliament recalled that this could create more confusion for consumers, damaging their understanding of energy labelling and limiting their capacity to choose more efficient products. Accordingly, Parliament opposed the adoption of the draft Commission directive, believing that the new plan is not compatible with the principal act’s purpose.

## 26. Health and consumer protection

### Food safety, animal health and welfare, plant health

#### *Food safety*

1.26.1. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and to the Council with regard to the state of play on the control of food-borne salmonella in the EU.

#### **References:**

Decision No 2119/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council setting up a network for the epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases in the Community: OJ L 268, 3.10.1998; Bull. 9-1998, point 1.2.166

Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption: OJ L 273, 10.10.2002; Bull. 10-2002, point 1.4.64

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents: OJ L 325, 12.12.2003; Bull. 9-2003, point 1.4.51

Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents: OJ L 325, 12.12.2003; Bull. 6-2003, point 1.4.89

Regulation (EC) No 1831/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down requirements for feed hygiene: OJ L 35, 8.2.2005; Bull. 1/2-2005, point 1.4.63

*Adopted by the Commission on 29 May.* The purpose of this communication is to provide an update on implementation of Directive 2003/99/EC and Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003. The analysis included aspects such as:

- harmonising monitoring of zoonoses and resistance to antibiotics;
- setting reduction targets for salmonella in breeding hens, laying hens, broilers and turkeys;
- prospects for setting reduction targets for salmonella in breeding and slaughter pigs.

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#### *Animal health*

1.26.2. Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions — ‘Action plan for the implementation of the EU animal health strategy’.

**Principal reference:** COM(2008) 545; Bull. 9-2008, point 1.26.6

#### **References:**

Commission communication — ‘Action plan — Simplifying and improving the regulatory environment’: COM(2002) 278; Bull. 6-2002, point 1.1.7

Commission communication on a new animal health strategy for the European Union (2007–13) where ‘prevention is better than cure’: OJ C 4, 9.1.2008; COM(2007) 539; Bull. 9-2007, point 1.25.4

Council conclusions on the new animal health strategy for the EU (2007–13): Bull. 12-2007, point 1.25.13

European Economic and Social Committee opinion on the Commission communication on a new animal health strategy for the European Union (2007–13): OJ C 151, 17.6.2008; Bull. 1/2-2008, point 1.26.12

European Parliament resolution on a new animal health strategy for the European Union (2007–13): OJ C 180 E, 17.7.2008; Bull. 5-2008, point 1.26.6

*Adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee on 13 May.* The Committee supports the Commission proposal on animal strategy and is pleased that the Commission had broadly taken on board the Committee’s comments made at the time the suggested new strategy was put forward. It reiterated its call for the EU to step up its efforts to prevent, supervise and control serious, contagious livestock diseases, a large number of which continue to present a global risk. The Committee therefore continues to hope that the EU’s future rules will have a far-reaching knock-on effect on the rest of the world. It also considers that efforts should be stepped up vis-à-vis developing countries, and top priority should be given to putting indicators in place. Finally, the Committee also believes it is important to preserve the veterinary fund and harmonise

Member States' co-financing in order to avoid distortions of competition.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

## *Animal welfare*

1.26.3. Council Decision 2009/436/EC correcting Directive 2008/73/EC simplifying procedures of listing and publishing information in the veterinary and zootechnical fields.

**Corrected directive:** Council Directive 2008/73/EC: OJ L 219, 14.8.2008; Bull. 7/8-2008, point 1.26.7

### **Amended directives:**

Council Directive 64/432/EEC on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine: OJ L 121, 29.7.1964

Council Directive 77/504/EEC on pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species: OJ L 206, 12.8.1977

Council Directive 88/407/EEC laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the bovine species: OJ L 194, 22.7.1988

Council Directive 88/661/EEC laying down the zootechnical standards applicable to breeding animals of the porcine species: OJ L 382, 31.12.1988

Council Directive 89/361/EEC on pure-bred breeding sheep and goats: OJ L 153, 6.6.1989

Council Directive 89/556/EEC on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in and importation from third countries of embryos of domestic animals of the bovine species: OJ L 302, 19.10.1989

Council Directive 90/426/EEC on animal health conditions governing the movement of and import from third countries of Equidae: OJ L 296, 27.10.1990

Council Directive 90/427/EEC laying down the zootechnical and genealogical conditions governing intra-Community trade in Equidae: OJ L 224, 18.8.1990

Council Directive 90/428/EEC on trade in Equidae intended for competitions and conditions for participation therein: OJ L 224, 18.8.1990

Council Directive 90/429/EEC laying down the animal health requirements applicable to intra-Community trade in and imports of semen of domestic animals of the porcine species: OJ L 224, 18.8.1990

Council Directive 90/539/EEC on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in,

and imports from third countries of, poultry and hatching eggs: OJ L 303, 31.10.1990

Council Directive 91/68/EEC on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in ovine and caprine animals: OJ L 46, 19.2.1991; Bull. 1/2-1991, point 1.2.143

Council Directive 91/496/EEC laying down the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on animals entering the Community from third countries: OJ L 268, 24.9.1991

Council Directive 92/35/EEC laying down control rules and measures to combat African horse sickness: OJ L 157, 10.6.1992

Council Directive 92/65/EEC laying down animal health requirements governing trade in and imports into the Community of animals, semen, ova and embryos not subject to animal health requirements laid down in specific Community rules referred to in Annex A(I) to Directive 90/425/EEC: OJ L 268, 14.9.1992

Council Directive 92/66/EEC introducing Community measures for the control of Newcastle disease: OJ L 260, 5.9.1992; Bull. 7/8-1992, point 1.3.178

Council Directive 92/119/EEC introducing general Community measures for the control of certain animal diseases and specific measures relating to swine vesicular disease: OJ L 62, 15.3.1993; Bull. 12-1992, point 1.3.205

Council Directive 94/28/EC on principles relating to the zootechnical and genealogical conditions applicable to imports from third countries of animals, their semen, ova and embryos: OJ L 178, 12.7.1994; Bull. 6-1994, point 1.2.32

Council Directive 2000/75/EC laying down specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue: OJ L 327, 22.12.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.65

Council Directive 2001/89/EC on Community measures for the control of classical swine fever: OJ L 316, 1.12.2001; Bull. 10-2001, point 1.4.80

Council Directive 2002/60/EC laying down specific provisions for the control of African swine fever: OJ L 192, 20.7.2002; Bull. 6-2002, point 1.4.66

Council Directive 2005/94/EC on Community measures for the control of avian influenza: OJ L 10, 14.1.2006; Bull. 12-2005, point 1.4.84

**Amended decision:** Council Decision 2000/258/EC designating a specific institute responsible for establishing the criteria necessary for standardising the serological tests to monitor the effectiveness of rabies vaccines: OJ L 79, 30.3.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.63

**Reference:** Council Decision 1999/468/EC laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission: OJ L 184, 17.7.1999; Bull. 6-1999, point 1.8.3

**Commission proposal:** COM(2009) 45; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.26.4

**European Parliament opinion:** Bull. 4-2009, point 1.26.2

*Formally adopted by the Council on 5 May.* The Council adopted a decision concerning the simplification of procedures for listing and publishing information in the veterinary and zootechnical fields.

OJ L 145, 10.6.2009

**1.26.4.** Proposal for a Council regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing.

**Directive to be repealed:** Council Directive 93/119/EC on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing; OJ L 340, 31.12.1993; Bull. 12-1993, point 1.2.19

#### References:

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety; OJ L 31, 1.2.2002; Bull. 1/2-2002, point 1.4.106

Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs; Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin; Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption; OJ L 139, 30.4.2004; Bull. 4-2004, point 1.4.114

Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules; OJ L 165, 30.4.2004; Bull. 4-2004, point 1.4.115

**Commission proposal:** COM(2008) 553; Bull. 9-2008, point 1.26.9

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.26.5

*Endorsed by the European Parliament on 6 May,* subject to certain amendments.

**To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:**

— **the complete text:**

— **the text summary:**

## Public health

### General

**1.26.5.** Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the operation of the early warning and response system (EWRS) of the Community network for the epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases during 2006 and 2007 (Decision 2000/57/EC).

#### References:

Decision No 2119/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council setting up a network for the epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases in the European Community; OJ L 268, 3.10.1998; Bull. 9-1998, point 1.2.166

Commission Decision 2000/57/EC on the early warning and response system for the prevention and control of communicable diseases; OJ L 21, 26.1.2000; Bull. 12-1999, point 1.2.206

**Previous report:** COM(2007) 121; Bull. 3-2007, point 1.25.2

*Adopted by the Commission on 15 May.* This report concludes that analysis of the EWRS operations demonstrates that the system is used by Member States in an efficient and appropriate way. All the main events which required a more complex response and coordination of measures were notified without delay. The system fulfilled its institutional role by circulating messages among the EWRS contact points in Member States efficiently, by providing shared positions among the national public health authorities, and by facilitating the exchange of information, as well as scientific advice provided in particular by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), on specific events. A specific mechanism to allow communication with the WHO was put in place and it is currently used in the appropriate way. The ECDC took over the operation of the informatics application rapidly and assisted Member States and the Commission in the response to the main events.

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## Consumer policy

### *Safety of products and services*

1.26.6. Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the safety of toys.

#### **References:**

Council Directive 88/378/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the safety of toys: OJ L 187, 16.7.1988; Bull. 5-1988, point 2.1.115

Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations: OJ L 204, 21.7.1998; Bull. 6-1998, point 1.3.22

Directive 2001/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on general product safety: OJ L 11, 15.1.2002; Bull. 12-2001, point 1.4.87

Commission communication on updating and simplifying the Community *acquis*: OJ C 76, 25.3.2004; COM(2003) 71; Bull. 1/2-2003, point 1.1.14

Directive 2006/66/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on batteries and

accumulators and spent batteries and accumulators: OJ L 266, 26.9.2006; Bull. 9-2006, point 1.21.8

Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products: OJ L 218, 13.8.2008; Bull. 7/8-2008, point 1.11.5

**Commission proposal:** OJ C 207, 14.8.2008; COM(2008) 9; Bull. 1/2-2008, point 1.26.23

**European Economic and Social Committee opinion:** OJ C 77, 31.3.2009; Bull. 9-2008, point 1.26.17

**European Parliament opinion (first reading):** Bull. 12-2008, point 1.26.22

*Approved by the Council on 11 May.* Now approved by both institutions, the proposed new directive replaces Directive 88/378/EEC. It updates and completes current Community rules, taking account of technological developments of toys and new scientific knowledge, in particular as concerns safety issues that were unknown when the original toys safety directive was adopted.

## 27. Enlargement

### **Pre-accession strategy and stabilisation and association process**

#### *Financial and technical assistance*

1.27.1. Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions — ‘Sapard Annual Report — year 2007’.

**Previous report:** OJ C 9, 15.1.2008; COM(2007) 692; Bull. 11-2007, point 1.26.15

**Main reference:** Council Regulation (EC) No 1268/1999 on Community support for pre-accession measures for agriculture and rural development in the applicant countries of central and eastern Europe in the pre-accession period (Sapard): OJ L 161, 26.6.1999; Bull. 6-1999, point II.8

*Adopted by the Commission on 26 May.* As regards the new Member States eligible for support under Sapard, the report focuses on the implementation as compared to the Sapard objectives. It assesses the state of Sapard implementation, since it ends for these new Member States and the main investment measures which contribute, in particular, to the attainment of *acquis* standards. As regards Bulgaria and Romania, it focuses on the progress made throughout 2007. As in the previous year, this report does not contain contributions from the Sapard countries which were previously invited by the Commission. Instead, it is accompanied by a set of annexes designed to provide information on the implementation of Sapard for new Member States eligible for support.

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## 28. Common foreign and security policy

### **European security and defence policy (ESPD)**

*1.28.1.* Council conclusions on the European security and defence policy (ESDP).

*Adopted at its session on 18 and 19 May.* The Council held its biannual review of developments under the ESDP, which mainly covered the following issues:

- ESDP operations and missions (military operation EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina; naval operation against piracy EUNAVFOR Atalanta Somalia; military operation EUFOR Chad/RCA in eastern Chad and in the north-east of the Central African Republic);
- human rights; equality between men and women; gender equality and children affected by armed conflict;

- civilian and military crisis management capabilities;
- the European Defence Agency;
- the European Security and Defence College.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to **the complete text**:*

### **European Union statements and Presidency statements on behalf of the European Union**

*1.28.2.* The following Presidency statements on behalf of the European Union were published in Brussels and in Prague (see Table 1 ).



Table 1 — *Declarations by the Presidency*

Country code	Country/region	Date	Subject	Reference — Source
BI	Burundi	11.5.2009	Abolition of the death penalty and criminalisation of homosexuality	9724/09 (Presse 125)
BO	Bolivia	25.5.2009	25 May Anniversary	10269/09 (Presse 152)
GE	Georgia	25.5.2009	Joint US–EU statement on Georgia	10284/09 (Presse 154)
GT	Guatemala	18.5.2009	Declaration by the EU and Canada on Guatemala	10080/09 (Presse 141)
IR	Iran	25.5.2009	Violation of religious freedom	10241/09 (Presse 149)
KP	North Korea	25.5.2009	Nuclear test	10271/1/09 REV 1 (Presse 153)
MM	Myanmar (Burma)	13.5.2009	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi	9110/1/09 REV 1 (Presse 100)
		15.5.2009	Arrest of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi	9869/1/09 REV 1 (Presse 133)
SA	Saudi Arabia	20.5.2009	Execution of seven offenders, including two juveniles	10189/09 (Presse 144)
SY	Syria	14.5.2009	Sentence of Mr Meshal Tammo by the Damascus Criminal Court	9884/09 (Presse 131)
TW	Taiwan	8.5.2009	Participation of Taiwan as an observer in the 62nd session of the World Health Assembly	9486/09 (Presse 123)
US	United States	18.5.2009	Death penalty of Mr Troy Davis	10007/09 (Presse 135)
YE	Yemen	15.5.2009	Political violence	10021/09 (Presse 138)
		17.5.2009	International Day against Homophobia	9823/09 (Presse 126)

## 29. International organisations and conferences

### **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**

<http://www.ebrd.com/projects/signed/approved.htm>.

*1.29.1.* The latest financing operations approved by the Bank are listed in the following table:

# 30. Common commercial policy

## General

*1.30.1.* Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee — ‘Contributing to sustainable development: The role of fair trade and non-governmental trade-related sustainability assurance schemes’.

### References:

Commission communication on fair trade: COM(1999) 619; Bull. 11-1999, point 1.5.41

European Economic and Social Committee exploratory opinion on ethical trade: OJ C 28, 3.2.2006; Bull. 10-2005, point 1.4.78

European Parliament resolution on fair trade and development: OJ C 303 E, 13.12.2006; Bull. 7/8-2006, point 1.29.1

*Adopted by the Commission on 5 May.* This communication describes political and public interest developments in the past decade. In this context, the communication clarifies policy considerations and stance as regards government procurement as well as fair and sustainable trade. It provides examples of sustainability criteria applied by fair trade and other sustainability schemes, noting a high degree of convergence among various schemes but also recognising the specificities of fair trade. Finally, it outlines the main policy recommendations in relation to fair trade and other sustainability schemes. The issues addressed were the contribution of fair trade and other schemes to sustainable development objectives, their relation to WTO rules, public procurement and current EU support for fair trade and sustainability assurance schemes.

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## Generalised scheme of preferences

*1.30.2.* Proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2505/96 opening and providing for the administration of auto-

nous Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products.

**Regulation to be amended:** Council Regulation (EC) No 2505/96: OJ L 345, 31.12.1996

*Adopted by the Commission on 19 May.* This proposal aims to add certain products to the list given in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2505/96 and to increase other quotas for products listed within it. This comes in response to requests from various Member States.

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## Commercial policy instruments

### *Council and Commission anti-dumping activities*

*1.30.3.* Council and Commission anti-dumping activities.

**Basic reference:** Council Regulation (EC) No 384/96 on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Community: OJ L 56, 6.3.1996; Bull. 12-1995, point 1.4.23, as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 2117/2005: OJ L 340, 23.12.2005; Bull. 12-2005, point 1.6.31

To consult the **detailed list** of the anti-dumping measures, click here (DG Trade)

*1.30.4.* Council and Commission anti-subsidy activities.

**Basic reference:** Council Regulation (EC) No 2026/97 on protection against subsidised imports from countries not members of the European Community: OJ L 288, 21.10.1997; Bull. 10-1997, point 1.3.17, as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 461/2004: OJ L 77, 13.3.2004; Bull. 3-2004, point 1.6.25

To consult the **detailed list** of the anti-subsidy measures, click here (DG Trade)

# 31. Development cooperation

## General policy

1.31.1. European Parliament resolution on the draft Commission decision establishing the 2009 ‘Annual action programme for non-state actors and local authorities in development’ (Part II: Targeted projects).

### References:

Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation: OJ L 378, 27.12.2006; Bull. 12-2006, point 1.29.1

European Parliament resolution on the challenge of EU development cooperation policy for the new Member States: Bull. 3-2008, point 1.31.1

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 6 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text*

— *the text summary:*

1.31.2. Council conclusions on supporting developing countries in coping with the global crisis.

*Adopted by the Council during its session of 18 and 19 May.* The Council recognised that, while no region in the world is spared by the current downturn, developing countries are particularly affected: the attainment of the millennium development goals (MDGs) is at risk, tens of millions of people are falling into poverty and significant development gains are being reversed. The Council thus clearly reaffirmed the EU’s commitment to achieving the MDGs and meeting its official development assistance targets as well as ensuring the optimal spending of this assistance.

1.31.3. Council conclusions on an EU strategy for supporting disaster risk reduction in developing countries.

**Reference:** Commission communication on an EU strategy for supporting disaster risk reduction in developing countries: COM(2009) 84; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.31.1

*Adopted by the Council on 18 May.* The Council recognised the importance of effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) in saving lives and protecting livelihoods. It endorsed the proposed overall objective for the strategy which is, thanks to DRR, contributing to saving lives and reducing human suffering and participating in sustainable development and poverty eradication by reducing the burden of disasters on the poorest and most vulnerable countries and population groups. The strategy should support the following areas:

□ the integration of DRR into partner countries’ development policies, strategies and sectoral plans, particularly in coherence with integration of adaptation to climate change;

□ specific targeted action on disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

The strategy covers all developing countries and overseas countries and territories but particular attention will be given to disaster-prone regions, the least developed and most vulnerable countries and areas, as well as the most vulnerable groups of people. With regard to scope, the Council wished to target disasters that are caused by natural and technological hazards.

## Sustainable development

### Energy initiative

1.31.4. Council conclusions on access to sustainable energy sources at the local level in developing countries.

**Reference:** Commission staff working paper on access to sustainable energy sources at the local level in developing countries: SEC(2009) 534

*Adopted by the Council on 18 May.* According to the Council, access to sustainable energy sources and modern energy services is a prerequisite for economic growth and social development, as well as for the achievement of the millennium development goals. It also reaffirmed that the EU is ready to address this situation by promoting and supporting access to sustainable energy

sources at the local level in developing countries. The Council therefore welcomed the Commission's initiative in this regard, which focuses on the following key areas of action:

supporting local solutions and engaging local actors;

promoting decentralised solutions based on renewable energies;

improving energy efficiency;

setting up the appropriate frameworks and financing models.

## 32. Humanitarian aid

### **Humanitarian aid operations**

*1.32.1.* To consult the **detailed list** of the Commission financing decisions, [click here](#) (Humanitarian Aid DG — ECHO).

# 33. European neighbourhood policy

## **Assistance for the countries of eastern Europe, the Caucasus and central Asia**

*1.33.1.* European Economic and Social Committee exploratory opinion on involvement of civil society in the ‘Eastern partnership’.

**Reference:** Commission communication to the European Parliament and the Council — ‘Eastern partnership’: COM(2008) 823; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.33.1

*Adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee on 13 May.* The Committee welcomed and supported the proposal to create an ‘Eastern partnership’ as an upgraded form of collaboration with the countries of the European neighbourhood policy to the east. According to it, the partnership must be based on shared common democratic values and respect for human rights. The programme of cooperation within the ‘Eastern partnership’ must provide tangible help to the partner countries, particularly at the present time, when their economies are being hard hit by the global economic crisis, with grave social consequences. The ‘Eastern partnership’ should also help strengthen the institutions and lead to the peaceful resolution of existing conflicts.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

*1.33.2.* Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on civil society involvement in implementing the ENP action plans in the countries of the southern Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

*Adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee on 14 May.* According to the Committee, the implementation of the European neighbourhood policy action plans represents a hitherto unused opportunity to strengthen social and civil dialogue in terms of European cooperation with the countries of the southern Caucasus. It believes that the Commission should encourage governments of countries in the southern Caucasus to consult with social partners and other civil society organisations on the action plans and include them in joint efforts to implement, monitor and evaluate the plans. At the same time, the European institutions should stress that human rights and democratic standards, as well as principles of social dialogue and those of civil dialogue, be respected in the action plan negotiations.

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

## 34. European Economic Area (EEA), European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

*1.34.1.* There is no selected information under this heading of the current Bulletin.



# 35. Relations with third countries and regional groupings

## Southern Mediterranean

1.35.1. The latest news on southern Mediterranean countries is available on the External Relations DG website

## Gulf countries

## Middle East

### Iran

1.35.2. European Parliament resolution on Iran: the case of Roxana Saberi.

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 7 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

## Eastern Europe

## Bilateral relations

### Moldova

1.35.3. European Parliament resolution on the situation in the Republic of Moldova.

#### References:

European Parliament resolution on the parliamentary elections in Moldova: OJ C 304 E, 1.12.2005; Bull. 1/2-2005, point 1.6.80

Commission communication — ‘Eastern partnership’: COM(2008) 823; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.33.1

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 7 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

## Latin America

## Bilateral relations

### Argentina

1.35.4. Political declaration European Union–Argentina.

#### References:

Council Decision 90/530/EEC concerning the conclusion of the framework agreement for trade and economic cooperation between the European Economic Community and the Argentine Republic: OJ L 295, 26.10.1990

Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and Argentina: OJ L 6, 11.1.2000; Bull. 12-1999, point 1.2.77

*Adopted by the Council during its session of 11 and 12 May.* Having noted that their bilateral relationship has developed considerably, Argentina and the EU have decided to relaunch their relationship in order to strengthen and expand it to take in new sectors of common interest. This declaration highlighted values shared both by Argentina and the EU, set out the priority objectives of the bilateral agenda and presented a common programme and dialogue mechanism.

## Venezuela

1.35.5. European Parliament resolution on the case of Manuel Rosales in Venezuela.

### References:

European Parliament resolution on the Radio Caracas TV channel case in Venezuela: OJ C 102 E, 24.4.2008; Bull. 5-2007, point 1.34.27

European Parliament resolution on political disqualifications in Venezuela: Bull. 10-2008, point 1.35.42

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 7 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

## African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states and overseas countries and territories (OCTs)

### Relations with ACP countries

#### General

1.35.6. Council conclusions on support to democratic governance — ‘Towards an enhanced EU framework’.

*Adopted by the Council during its session of 18 and 19 May.* The Council renewed its support to the governance initiative, a mechanism to back ACP partner countries’ efforts in strengthening democratic governance based on dialogue and incentives. It also invited the Commission to consider using the experience and lessons learned with the governance initiative in addressing democratic governance processes in other regions.

## Relations with regional groupings

### Guinea-Bissau

1.35.7. Council Joint Action 2009/405/CFSP amending Joint Action 2008/112/CFSP on the European Union mission in support of security sector reform in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau (EU SSR Guinea-Bissau).

**Amended joint action:** OJ L 40, 14.2.2008; Bull. 1/2-2008, point 1.35.101

*Adopted by the Council on 18 May.* The Council adopted a joint action extending for six months, until 30 November, Joint Action 2008/112/CFSP on the EU mission in support of security sector reform in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. The aim of the mission is to provide advice and assistance to the local authorities on reform of the security sector in Guinea-Bissau.

OJ L 128, 27.5.2009

### Madagascar

1.35.8. European Parliament resolution on the situation in Madagascar.

**Reference:** Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on recent developments in Madagascar: Bull. 3-2009, point 1.28.3

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 7 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

### Somalia

1.35.9. Council conclusions on Somalia.

**Reference:** Council Decision 2008/918/CFSP on the launch of a European Union military operation to contribute to the deterrence, prevention and

repression of acts of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast (Atalanta): OJ L 330, 9.12.2008; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.35.41

*Adopted by the Council during its session of 18 and 19 May.* The Council condemned the recent fighting in Mogadishu, targeting the transitional federal institutions and the Djibouti peace process. It called for an immediate cessation of hostilities to avoid further civilian casualties and deplored the humanitarian consequences of recent attacks. Recalling the EU's contribution to international efforts against piracy through EUNAVFOR Atalanta, the Council also stressed the continued engagement of the EU, including in the delivery of humanitarian aid as well as for reconstruction and development.

## Diplomatic relations

1.35.10. The following ambassador, whose appointment took effect on the date shown, presented his letters of credence to the President of the Council and the President of the Commission:

□ on 19 May 2009: H.E. Mr Alhadi Ahmed Hadeiba, head of mission of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the European Community (EC).

# 36. Financing Community activities, resource management, protection of financial interests

## Budgets

### General budget

#### *Budgetary procedures*

#### 2010 financial year

1.36.1. European Parliament resolution on the estimates of revenue and expenditure of Parliament for the financial year 2010.

##### References:

Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities: OJ L 248, 16.9.2002; Bull. 6-2002, point 1.7.2

Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary discipline and sound financial management: OJ C 139, 14.6.2006; Bull. 5-2006, point 1.34.29

European Parliament resolution on the guidelines for the 2010 budget procedure: Bull. 3-2009, point 1.36.4

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 5 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

#### 2009 financial year

1.36.2. Amending budget No 4 to the general budget 2009 — Statement of expenditure by section — Section III — Commission.

##### References:

Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the European

Communities: OJ L 248, 16.9.2002; Bull. 6-2002, point 1.7.2

Commission communication — ‘A European economic recovery plan’: COM(2008) 800; Bull. 11-2008, point 1.7.6

Commission communication — ‘Investing today for tomorrow’s Europe’: COM(2009) 36; Bull. 1/2-2009, point 1.7.34

**Budget for 2009:** OJ L 69, 13.3.2009; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.36.4

**Preliminary draft and draft amending budget:** SEC(2009) 496; Bull. 4-2009, point 1.36.5

*Declared adopted by the European Parliament on 6 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

1.36.3. Amending budget No 5 to the general budget 2009 — Statement of expenditure by section — Section III — Commission.

**Reference:** Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities: OJ L 248, 16.9.2002; Bull. 6-2002, point 1.7.2

**Budget for 2009:** OJ L 69, 13.3.2009; Bull. 12-2008, point 1.36.4

**Preliminary draft and draft amending budget:** COM(2009) 177; Bull. 4-2009, point 1.36.6

*Declared adopted by the European Parliament  
on 6 May.*

— ***the complete text:***

***To find out more*** about this document, the reader  
can refer to:

— ***the text summary:***

## 37. Community law

### Monitoring the application of Community law

*1.37.1.* Information on progress in proceedings initiated by the Commission for infringements of Community law is regularly updated by the Commission's Secretariat-General and can be consulted free of charge on its infringements website on Europa

### Decisions by the Court of Justice and other Courts

*1.37.2.* The detail of the cases of this month is under:

Decisions

# 38. Community institutions

## European Parliament

### Rules of procedure

1.38.1. European Parliament decision on the general revision of Parliament's rules of procedure.

**Reference:** Rules of procedure of the European Parliament: OJ L 44, 15.2.2005

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 6 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

1.38.2. European Parliament decision on the powers and responsibilities of the standing committees.

**Reference:** Rules of procedure of the European Parliament: OJ L 44, 15.2.2005

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 6 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

1.38.3. European Parliament decision on the number of interparliamentary delegations, delegations to joint parliamentary committees, delegations to parliamentary cooperation committees and multilateral parliamentary assemblies.

**Reference:** Rules of procedure of the European Parliament: OJ L 44, 15.2.2005

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 6 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

1.38.4. European Parliament decision on revision of the rules of procedure with regard to the petition process.

**Reference:** Rules of procedure of the European Parliament: OJ L 44, 15.2.2005

*Adopted by the European Parliament on 6 May.*

*To find out more about this document, the reader can refer to:*

— *the complete text:*

— *the text summary:*

### Plenary session in Strasbourg, 4–7 May

1.38.5. It was the last plenary part-session of this legislature.

President Pöttering addressed the House to make a *bilan* of his term of office. He highlighted certain achievements of the Parliament during the current mandate (REACH, services directive, financial perspectives) where Parliament played a key role, but also emphasised that Parliament was a driving force in requesting legislative initiatives on the regulation of financial markets since 2002. Furthermore, he underlined Parliament's role as a motor of European integration and hoped that the Lisbon Treaty, which contains the essential elements to reinforce Parliament's role and make the Union more democratic and transparent, would enter into force soon. He stressed the increased role of Parliament's President in European Council meetings, notably on institutional issues, as well as in international parliamentary forums and welcomed the successful conclusion of parliamentary reform, which allowed the EP to work more efficiently in the future. Equally, he underlined the finalisation of the statutes for MEPs and their assistants, the promotion of intercultural dialogue, the contribution to the Middle East peace process and his personal project of the creation of a House of European History.

The chairs of all political groups as well as Minister Kohout for the Czech Presidency and Vice-President Wallström for the Commission thanked the outgoing President. Speaking in German, Vice-President Wallström welcomed the positive development of relations between the Parliament and the Commission during his term of office and recognised his personal merit in avoiding interinstitutional conflict in the difficult time of the election campaign.

As far as the key debates are concerned, Parliament held a debate on the preparations of the June European Council. The debate focused on institutional issues, with special regard to the nomination of the new Commission and to the management of the economic and financial crisis.

Vice-Prime-Minister Vondra, on behalf of the Czech Presidency, outlined four major areas to be touched upon by the June European Council. First of all, in line with the conclusions of last December, arrangements have to be found to give legal assurances to the Irish in response to their efforts to seek replies to the concerns expressed by the Irish voters. He also indicated that the Czech Senate was to vote on the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty the following day. He recalled that the process of nominating the next Commission President and the Commissioners will be initiated right after the European Parliament elections. The European Council is also due to discuss the economic and financial crisis (financial supervision, boosting real economy and employment), climate change (stock-taking of global and internal EU measures with a view to ensuring continuous EU leadership), as well as some topical issues of external relations (to be defined).

President Barroso stressed the importance of the forthcoming European elections, which will take place against the backdrop of the crisis, and called on all convinced Europeans to mobilise and explain the importance of Europe, as well as the importance of voting in the European elections. The crisis was an opportunity to renew Europe's model of an ecological and value-based social economy. Ahead of the European Council meeting, the Commission will focus its work on two areas: rebuilding a regulatory and supervisory regime, and employment. President Barroso also praised Parliament, stating that the sixth directly elected legislature can boast a remarkable balance sheet and that some 50 files in co-decision have been adopted during the Czech Presidency alone, including some key areas such as financial supervision, the 5 billion package for recovery, maritime safety and the

internal energy market. 'This Europe of results has to be shown to the voters in a clear and determined fashion to give Europe a new momentum,' said the President.

In the subsequent debate, Members focused mainly on the new Commission and the tackling of the economic and financial crisis. As regards the first issue, Mr Daul (EPP-ED) insisted that the nomination of the new Commission President is a top priority for June. He also stated that the new Commission also has to be nominated on the basis of the current Treaty. Mr Watson (ALDE) went further, calling for nomination of the Commission President and all Members of the College on the same Treaty basis, be it Nice or Lisbon. Mr Watson warned against the risk of sending out an uncertain/confusing message that could be easily turned against the EU institutions and called on the Council to come forward with a clear procedure. This stance was supported by Ms Frassoni (Greens/EFA) who also argued against any 'split'. On the Lisbon Treaty, Ms Frassoni reiterated that the idea of ratification by unanimity was erroneous and future Treaty reforms should take a different form. Mr Leinen (PES) wondered whether consultations are under way among the Member States to find a common agreement on how to accommodate Irish concerns. Approaching the institutional questions from a slightly different angle, Ms Bobosikova (NI) called on the Czech government not to insist that the Lisbon Treaty was the only way forward. A number of Members challenged President Barroso on the issue of a second term at the top of the Commission.

As regards the second central issue, the ongoing crisis, Mr Rasmussen (PES) came up with a concrete suggestion: he proposed to President Barroso to prepare the June European Council via a series of well-targeted mini-summits, which would aim at formulating a new recovery plan. Mr Rasmussen called on the Commission President to change the approach and start showing leadership by proposing a bold initiative, even if it may not fit in 'everyone's shoes'. As regards other speakers, most of them stressed that in the current situation people tend to give more weight to their own future than to the future of Europe, thus relegating institutional questions to the background, and therefore concrete measures were more important than ever.

Several Members stressed that the perception of the Commission being paralysed was not correct and welcomed the recent proposal on hedge funds and private equities (Mr Daul, Mr Watson).



Ms Beres (PES), on the other hand, did not agree, finding that the new proposal was not at all what was needed, as it did not address the right issues.

Closing the debate, Mr Vondra made important reassurances to Parliament, reconfirming that it will be consulted by the Council right after the elections, 'in the spirit of the Lisbon Treaty'.

President Barroso said that, while taking note of the challenging questions put to him today, this was not the time yet to answer in detail on the programme of the next Commission, which will have to be elaborated at the right time by the incoming College. Regarding the crisis he reiterated his vision according to which leadership meant showing responsibility, i.e. taking a consistent line and not coming up with new ideas every day just for the sake of projecting a good European image. Mr Barroso concluded by making a passionate plea for maintaining the momentum of European efforts, asking not to blame European institutions for failing to act in cases when it is just a translation of the lack of national ambitions.

In a joint debate on the employment summit and social agenda, including statements by the Commission and the Council as well as the examination of three reports, the Presidency, President Barroso and Commissioner Špidla stressed the importance of maintaining and creating jobs, providing direct support to the unemployed and promoting mobility. The Commission announced that it will make proposals on the concrete actions identified by the summit later this week in time for the June European Council, including on the best ways to mobilise Community instruments, particularly the European Social Fund. The Commission and the Council Presidency also welcomed the three reports.

Among the political groups there was broad support for the content of the three reports, some criticism of the perceived lack of ambition on the Council's side (no full EU summit on unemployment) and broad recognition of the importance of employment and education. In particular, while the PES called on the Commission to develop a more ambitious social policy agenda, the EPP-ED and ALDE warned that no any political party can claim ownership and monopoly on the social agenda.

Parliament finally adopted all three reports with an overwhelming majority the report of Ms Stauer (EPP-ED, co-decision first reading) on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (538

votes in favour and 35 votes against), thus making a first-reading agreement with Council possible, the report of Mr Silva Peneda (EPP-ED, own-initiative report) on the renewed social agenda (403 votes in favour and 51 votes against) and the report of Ms Lambert (Greens/EFA, own-initiative report) on active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market (256 votes in favour and 19 votes against).

Parliament also debated the failure to find a compromise on the working time directive in conciliation. The President of the EP's delegation to the Conciliation Committee (Ms Rothe, PES) stated that Parliament had made several proposals but that Council was just not willing to compromise on the opt-out and therefore the Council was clearly to be blamed for the failure. The Presidency (Mr Sedlacek, Deputy Minister for Labour and Social Affairs) insisted, however, that the Council made several important concessions like accepting on-call time as working time, setting conditions for the use of the opt-out, reducing working time from 78 hours to 65/60 hours when the opt-out is applied and better monitoring of proper use of the opt-out. However, Parliament did not agree to these concessions but had taken an ideological position, disregarding the reality that 15 Member States currently use the opt-out. Commissioner Špidla expressed his disappointment over the failure to reach an agreement. The Commission had done its utmost to find a compromise but the debate was too much focused on 'on-call time' and the opt-out and not on other important elements like compensatory rest, multiple contracts and nights shifts. The failure was a setback for the rights of workers, it limits the possibilities to find a solution in the near future and the likely outcome is that more — not less — Member States will start using the opt-out. The Commissioner, however, refrained from indicating whether or not the Commission will soon come up with a new proposal.

Parliament adopted by very large majorities five own-initiative reports related to the Lisbon Treaty and its implementation: reports of Mr Dehaene (EPP-ED) on the institutional balance, Mr Leinen (PES) on Parliament's new role and competences, Ms Kaufmann (GUE/NGL) on the citizens' initiative, Mr Brok (EPP-ED) on national parliaments and Ms Guy-Quint (PES) on the budget. These reports were finally put on the plenary agenda after a long period of hesitation by Parliament.

On the substance, the debate was positive, but was rather a repetition of previous committee

debates, without any unexpected or remarkable positions expressed. Many Members welcomed the ratification of the Treaty by the Czech Senate by a clear majority and hoped that a positive second referendum in Ireland would allow for the entry into force of the Treaty before the end of this year. The debate was also marked by the end of legislature spirit, with a considerable amount of time spent on recognising the achievements of Members leaving after the upcoming elections and thanking each other for the good cooperation throughout the years, including thanks to Vice-President Wallström for her good cooperation.

Vice-President Wallström responded to the five reports without going into detail, indicating that the Commission largely shared the views expressed in them and recognising that they will help to ensure that the implementation of the Treaty, once in force, would be swifter and smoother. She stressed that good cooperation between the institutions would be critical to secure the Treaty's maximum benefits and confirmed the Commission's commitment to working in partnership with the European Parliament and the other institutions. She welcomed that the Dehaene Report presented a model for the transitional period, which would help the institutions to find a pragmatic and flexible way forward.

Most Members, and particularly the Members from Ireland taking the floor, welcomed the fact that these reports were finally put on the agenda of the plenary. Members underlined the various progresses achieved, notably for Parliament, under the Lisbon Treaty.

Mr Dehaene insisted on an agreement between the European Council and Parliament before the elections on how to proceed during the transitional period between the two Treaties, notably concerning the appointment of the next Commission. Mr Leinen emphasised that the spirit of the Lisbon Treaty had to be applied during the process of appointing the next Commission President, reiterating the need for two votes due to the transitional period. Ms Kaufmann, supported by Mr Leinen, expected the Commission to come forward with a proposal on the citizens' initiative soon after the entry into force of the Treaty, and Vice-President Wallström confirmed to do so on the basis of a consultation.

In her closing remarks, Vice-President Wallström indicated the Commission's willingness to follow up and work on the details mentioned in the reports and to implement the Treaty swiftly once it is in force. She also expressed her confidence

that the Council will come up with the necessary legal guarantees requested by Ireland and confirmed that the Commission would give the necessary input to this.

In a statement on the flu epidemic, Commissioner Vassiliou provided Parliament with the latest information on the situation and gave a detailed overview of the action taken at EU level, inter alia the conclusions of the extraordinary meeting of health ministers requested by the Commission. She underlined that antivirals and vaccines were at the heart of the EU strategy and insisted that only measures justified by evidence should be taken. While she acknowledged that the situation was serious, she stressed that the EU was prepared and had a system in place which was able to respond efficiently. During the relatively short debate Members criticised the insufficient or inaccurate information available to citizens, which might lead to panic. Ms Vassiliou reiterated that all tools had been used and have worked well and reassured Members that the Commission was in contact with all Member States on a daily basis.

The plenary held a short debate based on an oral question which inquires on how the Commission intends to clarify the practical impact of the proposed consumer rights directive on national legislation, its linkages with other pieces of legislation regarding contract law, and the overall benefits of the proposal through a better impact assessment. In the debate Mr Harbour (EPP-ED) indicated that in his view a strategic vision was also missing from the proposal. Ms McCarthy (PES) made a pledge that Parliament will bring the issue forward with a view to voting through a new consumer rights directive at a certain point in time. Commissioner Kuneva made a number of clarifications in reply, indicating inter alia that the Commission will present by the end of May a table on the impact of individual provisions on the level of consumer protection offered in the various Member States. She concluded by stating that she will not compromise on the issue of full harmonisation.

The five authors of the oral question on wine-making practices with regard to rosé wines set a very critical tone from the start of the debate and asked for explanations of this measure and why the Commission had proposed it despite the opposition of the sector. In her reply, Commissioner Fischer Boel informed Parliament that during the detailed discussions with Member States and stakeholders, no opposition concerning the approach proposed by the Commission services to allow blending of white and red wines

into rosé wines arose. Nevertheless the Commission decided to postpone the formal vote on this measure in the regulatory committee until June in order for it to be voted at the same time as the labelling proposal. The debate, dominated by French and Italian Members, got at times quite emotional and showed unanimous opposition from Members to this implementing measure which was considered as endangering the traditional production methods and putting at risk a considerable part of the wine sector in a number of European regions.

Parliament adopted the report of Mr Manka (PES) on Parliament's estimation of its revenues and expenditures for 2010. An increase of 2.72 % in comparison to the budget of 2009 is foreseen. This increase is needed according to the Members in order to leave a better margin of manoeuvre for the new Parliament and to maintain the contingency reserve at the same level as in 2009. The rapporteur stressed the importance of the multiannual character of most of Parliament's expenditure items. There was broad support for the rapporteur across the different political groups. Main concerns were on the need for more efficiency in the use of funds, sufficient funds for web TV, buildings, security, information technologies and multilingualism.

In the institutional field, Parliament adopted a general revision of its rules of procedure. A motion tabled by the Greens/EFA to refer the report back to committee was clearly rejected (→ point 1.38.1). This decision was completed by:

- a specific modification of the powers and responsibilities of the standing committees (to be noted that, apart from some smaller changes, the overall structure remained unchanged despite the recommendations of the EP Reform Group and discussions within Parliament in recent months) (→ point 1.38.2);
- revised rules on the internal procedures concerning petitions (→ point 1.38.4);
- and a decision on the number of interparliamentary delegations, delegations to joint parliamentary committees, delegations to parliamentary cooperation committees and multilateral parliamentary assemblies (→ point 1.38.3).

The only report discussed in the framework of the short presentation procedure concerned the Special Report by the European Ombudsman to the European Parliament following his draft recommendation to the Commission in a complaint dealing with the issue of non-employ-

ment by the Commission of freelance interpreters above the age limit of 65. Ms Kuneva, Member of the Commission, explained that the Commission has always acted in good faith and has simply applied the relevant Council regulation. However, the rapporteur, Mr Martínez Martínez (PES), insisted that the Commission should still explain why it has 'ignored' the recommendations of the Ombudsman in the matter. Ms Kuneva pledged to report back to Commissioner Orban whose services will provide further clarification.

As far as external policies are concerned, during the plenary debate on the democratic process in Turkey, all Members called for an immediate political solution of the Kurdish issue in Turkey. Moreover, Mr Seeber (EPP-ED) underlined that human rights in Turkey have not reached the EU standards yet, and a constitutional reform is needed which would allow a control of military spending. Mr Lambsdorff (ALDE) deplored the restrictions to freedom of the press and condemned the Turkish Prime Minister who proclaimed the boycott of the press groups. He also drew attention to the fact that the rights of religious minorities and women are limited. Mr Matsakis (ALDE) called on the Commission to switch from 'carrot' to 'stick' in EU relations with Turkey. Despite the negative statements, however, some Members drew attention to positive aspects. Mr Öger (PES) pointed out that progress has been made on minorities and called on the Members not to over-politicise the issue. Moreover, he stressed that Turkey's full EU membership should remain the target as it is both in the interest of the EU and of the Kurds. Mr Kazak (ALDE) emphasised that a clear EU message about Turkey's EU membership would certainly speed up reforms. Mr Rehn, Member of the Commission, concluded that the EU should be fair and firm vis-à-vis Turkey. The Commission is carefully monitoring the situation in Turkey and will deal with these issues in its regular report in autumn in 2009. The pace of negotiations will depend on the progress of reforms.

Parliament held a debate on the outcome of the Durban review conference (held in Geneva on 20–24 April) on tackling racism and xenophobia. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Mr Kohout, announced that not all EU Member States took part in the conference: Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland boycotted the conference from the start, and the Czech Republic's delegate walked out of the conference following the remarks by the

Iranian President about Israel. Mr Tannock (EPP-ED) condemned the Iranian position on Israel and said it was shameful for the EU to send a delegation there. The Members of major political groups criticised the EU of being weak, divided and without a common strategy. Vice-President Barrot underlined that the Commission's line was preserved in the document adopted at the conference. He also emphasised that further to this framework document, he would closely follow the implementation of commitments at national level.

Parliament adopted with an overwhelming majority the report of Mr Obiols I Germa (PES) on *Human rights in the world 2008*. The rapporteur emphasised that the gradual retreat of the death penalty around the world and the progress made on women's and children's rights are among the positive developments noted in the report. However, there was still room for improvement. Furthermore, the rapporteur called for more unity of the EU Member States in mainstreaming human rights throughout the world. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Mr Kohout, welcomed the report and the achievements in the human rights field, in particular highlighting the active role of Parliament. Mr Kohout outlined that major successes were achieved in the fields of the abolition of the death penalty, women's rights and freedom of expression. On behalf of the Commission, Vice-President Barrot also welcomed the report and recognised Parliament's substantial role in promoting human rights all over the world. Furthermore, he also underlined that the EU had always been involved in fighting breaches of human rights. Mr Barrot particularly highlighted women's and children's rights as being among the priorities in the area of human rights. All major political groups expressed favourable opinions about the report. They called for more visibility of human rights issues, by putting them at the top of the EU agenda. A few Members were concerned about the human rights situation in Russia. They called on the EU to pursue a stronger position towards Russia, and insisted on the inclusion of a human rights clause in the EU–Russia partnership agreement. The vote on the report was 'coloured' by the rejection of an amendment condemning recent statements of Pope Benedict XVI, after vigorous protest by the EPP-ED.

Debates also took place on different cases of breaches of human rights.

□ Parliament adopted a joint resolution calling on the immediate release of Roxana Saberi who

was sentenced in jail for alleged espionage for the United States by the Court of Teheran. Furthermore, the resolution calls on the EU Member States to take urgent concerted action with regard to this case. In the debate Members deplored the fact that Ms Saberi was not granted the right of fair trial. They also very strongly condemned the fact the Iran uses massively the practice of public executions.

□ Parliament adopted, almost unanimously, a joint resolution that calls for the immediate restoration of the constitutional order in Madagascar and draws the attention to the worsening humanitarian situation in this country, which has been exacerbated by the current political developments (a forced removal of President Ravalomanana on 17 March). In the debate Members all condemned any attempt of seizing power in a non-democratic way. Commissioner Orban underlined that there was a flagrant violation of essential elements of the Cotonou Agreement, including violation of human rights and the rule of law.

□ Parliament adopted a EPP–UEN–ALDE joint resolution on the case of Manuel Rosales in Venezuela, with the PES Group withdrawing its support. Mr Rosales, an opposition leader, was repeatedly and publicly threatened by the President. The resolution urges the Venezuelan government to pursue the dialogue inside the country and, furthermore, to comply with the international agreements with regard to the rule of law, respect of human rights and tolerance of political opponents. In the discussion preceding the vote, Members all deplored the dictatorial behaviour of the Venezuelan regime. Commissioner Orban said that the Commission was conscious of the facts and was closely following the situation in Venezuela.

As far as legislative issues are concerned, the workload was substantial: in total, 31 legislative reports were put to the vote.

□ Under co-decision, at the second reading, three Council common positions relating to the 'telecoms package' (electronic communications) were declared approved as amended by the Parliament. They concern the following proposals:

- a directive on electronic communications networks, personal data and the protection of privacy;
- a directive on electronic networks and services;

- a directive on the European Electronic Communications Market Authority.

In the same field, Parliament also adopted (at first reading) a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for a directive on the frequency bands to be reserved for the coordinated introduction of public pan-European cellular digital land-based mobile communications in the Community. It rubberstamped the compromise pre-agreed with the Council.

During the previous joint debate on the package, all main groups supported the compromise reached on frequency bands for mobile communications. As regards the reports forming the telecoms package, the results of recent trilogues were supported without reserve by the EPP-ED, PES and ALDE Groups, who all defended the compromise reached with Council. UEN did not take part in the discussion at all. Criticism and opposition to the agreed measures was expressed by GUE/NGL and IND/DEM as well as many Greens/EFA Members. The spotlight was on a possibility for operators to impose restrictions on Internet end-users — an issue in the draft directive on electronic communications networks and services. Certain Members voiced their dissatisfaction with the absence of the Council Presidency during the debate. Finally, the compromise package pre-agreed with Council in second reading on electronic communications networks and services (2007/0247(COD), Trautmann Report) was not fully endorsed by the House. In a surprise vote, an ALDE, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL and IND/DEM amendment, concerning the condition of a prior ruling by the judicial authorities for restrictions imposed on the fundamental rights and freedoms of Internet end-users, was easily passed (by 407/57/171) with a vast majority of PES Members joining this camp. Since this amendment runs counter to the text agreed with the Council, the rapporteur explained that conciliation had become inevitable.

Commissioner Reding stated that the legislative texts represented a real step towards the completion of the single market. They would contribute to the improvement of the quality and choice of electronic communications services and provide for a stable legal framework. Ms Reding referred to Commission declarations on universal service and on data breach notifications. She asked the Council to act rapidly so as to ensure that the agreed compromise is fully endorsed.

Parliament adopted a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for a directive on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men

and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity. No first-reading agreement could be achieved on this file.

The House referred back to the Committee the report on the proposal for a directive amending Directive 92/85/EEC on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding, with PES, Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL opposing this motion of referral presented by Ms Lulling (EPP-ED). This means that the Parliament will not have completed its first reading under the current legislature.

During the joint debate on these two files Members mostly welcomed with satisfaction the revisions of these directives and supported the rapporteurs' views. The interventions on the Lulling Report were rather consensual, asking for an obligatory system for the social security of assisting spouses, whereas the Commission had proposed a voluntary scheme. Opinions diverged on the issue of paternity leave, which a number of Members, notably from the EPP-ED, did not want to be included in the present proposal. Commissioner Špidla acknowledged the difficulty of striking the right balance between enhancing the protection of women and making the extra burden economically acceptable to employers and Member States. He hoped to be able to present a formal proposal before the summer break making the social partners' agreement on paternity leave binding. He insisted on the voluntary approach defended by the Commission concerning the social security coverage of assisting spouses.

Concerning the joint debate on the '5 billion package', Parliament adopted a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation establishing a programme to aid economic recovery by granting Community financial assistance to projects in the field of energy. The first-reading agreement would be achieved. In this package, the House also endorsed a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council regulation amending the regulation on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). During the joint debate Commissioner Piebalgs said he welcomed the agreement between Parliament and Council on the package: thanks to this package, energy security, efficiency, interconnectivity and solidarity in the EU would be strengthened. He also underlined the political impact of the package. Finally he said he was confident that the projects would be

implemented as scheduled. Commissioner Fischer Boel mentioned the importance of the package for the use of broadband Internet in rural areas. Furthermore she stressed that enough money would be available if new animal diseases broke out in future.

Among Members of the three biggest political groups there was broad support for the compromise, which would have a positive effect on energy efficiency and diversity as well as on the use of broadband Internet, and measures related to reform of the CAP were also welcomed. However, there was some concern among certain Members over the scope of the package, funding guarantees for 2010 and the tight identification and implementation planning. Greens/EFA was the only political group to express clear dissatisfaction with the EU economic recovery plan package. Members of GUE/NGL expressed their concern that the majority of the funds would be benefiting mainly large companies. Critical remarks of certain ALDE Members were mainly concentrated on the need for more attention to new technologies and job creation.

Parliament also adopted a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for a directive amending Directives 2006/48/EC and 2006/49/EC as regards banks affiliated to central institutions, certain own funds items, large exposures, supervisory arrangements and crisis management. A pre-negotiated first-reading agreement was secured.

The House endorsed a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for a decision establishing a Community programme to support specific activities in the field of financial services, financial reporting and auditing. It rubber-stamped the compromise reached at recent intensive trilogue negotiations with Council.

In the preceding joint debate on the two reports Members underlined that there were some elements that needed further improvement but overall they stressed that the global compromise was satisfactory and that it was only a first step in a longer process, since review clauses were built into both legislations. Commissioner McCreevy welcomed the prospect of a first-reading agreement and the fact that these pieces of legislation would contribute to both short-term recovery efforts and to longer-term financial stability.

A first-reading agreement on the package on asylum could not be reached as discussions in the Council were difficult and did not advance

enough. As regards this issue, Parliament adopted draft legislative resolutions on the proposals for:

- a decision amending Decision No 573/2007/EC establishing the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008 to 2013;
- a directive laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers;
- a regulation establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (recast);
- a regulation concerning the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of the future regulation mentioned above;
- a regulation establishing a European Asylum Support Office.

During the joint debate Members in general supported the position proposed by the LIBE Committee. They underlined in particular the need for solidarity between Member States on the issue of reception of asylum seekers. Vice-President Barrot welcomed the reports and stressed that it was the first time Parliament acted as a co-legislator on asylum issues.

Parliament held a joint debate on three 'justice' files, including two legislative reports (Zwiefka and Deprez) concerning bilateral agreements between Member States and third countries in the fields of civil law (co-decision) and of family law (consultation). Members, and most notably Mr Deprez (ALDE), stressed that this derogation from Community law should by no means lead to further attempts of re-appropriation of areas of exclusive Community competence by the Member States. Vice-President Barrot on behalf of the Commission and Minister Kohout on behalf of the Czech Presidency shared this view and emphasised the fact that these bilateral agreements could only be concluded in very well-defined, specific circumstances, under strict control, and during a limited period of time.

The plenary adopted a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation concerning trade in seal products. By approving only the package of compromise amendments pre-negotiated with Council, it endorsed a first-reading agreement on the issue. The preceding debate brought to the fore once again the doubts and concerns that accompanied this file, especially as regards its

impact on some highly affected local communities and the compliance of the new rules with international trade rules. Commissioner Dimas welcomed the first-reading agreement, underlying that it was the result of a real political will of all sides.

Parliament voted on the report concerning the revised directive on the organisation of the working time of persons performing mobile road transport activities. An amendment aiming at the rejection of the Commission's proposal was adopted. The report was therefore sent back to the Committee. The debate focused mainly on the issue of inclusion of self-employed drivers in the revised directive, which was demanded by PES, Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL. Most Members of EPP-ED, IND/DEM and some ALDE Members supported, however, the Commission's proposal to exclude self-employed persons from the scope of the directive. Vice-President Tajani stated that the Commission would take into account the position of Parliament and would draw appropriate conclusions. It would aim at achieving a balanced solution — ensuring social protection of workers and road safety without putting too much burden on the transport sector.

Parliament adopted a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for a directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, with the Greens/EFA Group voting against. During the debate EPP-ED and PES supported the necessity of continuing animal testing until viable alternatives existed as human health should be at the centre of preoccupations. Mr Chatzimarkakis speaking on behalf of ALDE was more supportive towards the original Commission proposal. GUE/NGL was in favour of improving animal welfare and not increasing profits of companies. Commissioner Dimas stressed the need to limit the number of experiments and ensure more humane treatment of animals.

The House adopted a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for a directive amending Directive 2005/35/EC on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties for infringements, with GUE/NGL voting against. It thus rubberstamped a first-reading agreement with the Council, which was sponsored by EPP-ED, PES, ALDE and Greens/EFA. The debate was very much consensual. Vice-President Tajani was pleased with the compromise, which was an important contribution to the third maritime package.

Parliament adopted a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for the recast of a directive on the

indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by energy-related products. In Council, formal discussions on the proposal had not started yet. There were no chances for an agreement under this legislature. During the preceding debate the rapporteur stressed the importance of keeping the current classification scales. There was a broad support for the report in the House. Commissioner Piebalgs welcomed in general the report. He was, however, concerned about certain amendments, in particular those which were very prescriptive or tried to change the scope and spirit of the directive. He assured that the Commission would do its utmost to facilitate an agreement between the co-legislators.

The House adopted a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006 on establishing the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund.

Parliament adopted a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for a decision establishing an audiovisual cooperation programme with professionals from third countries, MEDIA Mundus. It rubberstamped a first-reading agreement with Council. All major political groups welcomed the programme which would open new opportunities both for European and for third countries' audiovisual industries and professionals. Commissioner Reding welcomed the amendments, which clarified and simplified the Commission proposal. She pointed out that the programme would provide its participants with training opportunities, improve film distribution, increase public demand, create business opportunities and encourage sharing of knowledge between the EU and third-country producers.

Parliament adopted a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 95/93 on common rules for the allocation of slots at Community airports. It confirmed a first-reading agreement with Council. Among the Members of political groups there was broad support for this proposal and to suspend the 'use it or lose it' rule. Members emphasised, however, that the suspension should be temporary and that a review was necessary before the Commission would come up with new proposals and that the 'slots market' had to be further opened. Vice-President Tajani welcomed the compromise between Council and Parliament. He emphasised that the suspension would be temporary and that the Commission would review the regulation before making new proposals. He promised that the Commission

would keep a close eye on developments in the aviation sector and would endeavour to strengthen further passengers' rights.

Following up on its position taken on 11 March 2009, Parliament decided by a very large majority to postpone to the next legislature the vote on the legislative resolution on the revision of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 on access to documents, following a request by the rapporteur. The rapporteur expressed his disappointment that the other institutions were not cooperating sufficiently with a view to concluding this file in first reading and hoped that the new Parliament could deal with this file on the basis of a revised Commission proposal. In reaction, Commissioner Piebalgs read out a statement underlining that the Commission would reconsider its proposal after the two branches of the legislative authority have adopted their positions. However, the Commission intended to continue to pursue a constructive dialogue with both institutions and confirmed its willingness to seek a compromise with Parliament and Council.

□ Under the consultation procedure, Parliament adopted a draft legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing. The debate prior to the vote was mainly focused on an amendment, which would allow for a derogation from stunning for ritual slaughter. EPP-ED, PES, UEN, Greens and GUE/NGL underlined the importance of the exemption of prior stunning with regard to religious traditions, however leaving a right for the Member States to decide whether to apply or not this derogation. Commissioner Vassiliou in general welcomed the report. As regards the killing practices related to religion, the Commissioner was supportive of these amendments and underlined that indeed the subsidiary principle should be applied. However, Ms Vassiliou did not agree with the proposed possibility for derogation from the stunning, thus insisting on stunning for every case.

Finally, Parliament adopted a resolution on the draft Commission regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH), as regards Annex XVII. The House refrained from opposing the adoption of the draft regulation. It urged, however, the Commission to make a legislative proposal by the end of 2009 on the controlled disposal of asbestos fibres and the decontamination or disposal of equipment containing asbestos fibres in order to eliminate them completely. Vice-President Tajani stressed that asbestos fibres were

well regulated in the EU and that it was moving towards a total ban. The recent review of existing derogations in four Member States showed that there were no alternatives to them at the moment. The Commission would examine if there was a possibility of introducing new legislation on the issue.

Finally, it is to be noted that Parliament adopted a series of non-legislative documents addressing specific legislative and political issues. Firstly, the House adopted a written declaration on the support for Special Olympics in the EU. Secondly, a resolution was adopted on the situation in Moldova. Thirdly, a resolution was adopted on energy labelling of televisions. In the latter text Parliament opposed the adoption of the draft Commission directive implementing and amending Council Directive 92/75/EEC with regard to energy labelling of televisions, considering that the draft Commission directive is not compatible with the aim of the basic instrument. To be noted that a similar draft resolution on the energy consumption of household equipment refrigerators was not endorsed, failing to secure the threshold of qualified majority.

## Council

*1.38.6.* This month, the Council held six meetings in Brussels.

- 5 May Economic and Financial Affairs
- 11 and 12 May Education, Youth and Culture
- 18 May General Affairs
- 18 and 19 May External Relations
- 25 May Agriculture and Fisheries
- 28 and 29 May Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry and Research)

## Court of Auditors

*1.38.7.* At its 864th meeting on 14 May 2009, the Court adopted the report on the annual accounts of the joint venture Galileo in liquidation for the financial year closed on 31 December 2007 and two special reports: Nos 6 and 7/2009.



The detail of these reports will be published on the European Court of Auditors website

## European Investment Bank

### Loans

1.38.8. The detail of the loans granted for this month is available under:

BEI

## European Economic and Social Committee

### 453rd plenary session

1.38.9. The European Economic and Social Committee held its 453rd session plenary on 13 and 14 May, under the Presidency of Mr Sepi.

This session was marked by the presence of Mr Diamandouros, European Ombudsman, who intervened on the expectations of European citizens relating to the work of the institutions and in particular to the transparency of their procedures. Mr Sepi was pleased to be able to give the opportunity to the European Ombudsman to present the results of his actions.

Mr Diamandouros underlined immediately that he was entitled to treat the complaints not only of citizens but also of NGOs, companies or interest groups. In practice, the codes of good administrative conduct adopted by the institutions and agencies at the instigation of the European Ombudsman mark out the instances of good as well as maladministration. He referred to the major principles which underline administrative action: legality, non-discrimination, proportionality, motivation and the respect of the rights of defence. He then dwelled on the principle of transparency, in defining the contours and specifically its development: the opening request for deliberations from the Council, the Kallas initiative to the Commission and more openness on the statute of the delegates and of their assistants in particular in Parliament. Mr Diamandouros then turned to the question of the public's access to documents as stipulated by Regulation

(EC) No 1049/2001. He regretted that the revision of the aforementioned regulation, proposed by the Commission, is likely to reduce transparency rather than increase it but he had confidence in Parliament and the next Swedish Presidency of the Council to correct the imbalance. He concluded by stressing that it was a question of credibility in the institutions. He then answered the questions of the members of the Committee: concerning transparency, in particular in situations of social conflict; on payment delays and the Ombudsman's obligation to move citizens towards the correct counter in the event of inadmissibility of complaints; on the role of lobbies; on the manner of making public opinion aware of the Ombudsman's action; on the Ombudsman's real powers; on the importance of the national ombudsmans' network; and in particular on the advisability of setting up a similar institution in Turkey.

Mr Sepi came back to the declarations he made on the gravity of the economic crisis and tried to assuage ministers for finance in relation to the evaluation of the recession over the next two years. In addition, he underlined the success of the employment pre-summit in Prague on 6 May this year, which brought together the members of the Committee and the presidents of the national committees in the presence of Mr Barroso, President of the Commission, and of Mr Špidla, Member of the Commission.

Several opinions were the subject of charged debates. Thus, the opinion on the regulation of control of the common fisheries policy (CFP) was rejected in favour of a counter-opinion, definitely more favourable towards the Commission proposals. The opinion supported by the advisers of the 'Employers' group and by the Members of the southern EU countries, considered that it is not convenient to carry out this reform at a time when the debate on the future of the CFP begins after 2012 and recommended carrying out as a pre-cursor a rigorous study of the basic elements of this policy and of the various applicable management models to then base the new control measures on. The counter-opinion, on the other hand, supports the reform of the control system of the CFP by the Commission and recognises that its restructuring is very relevant and one of the most urgently needed because it will improve the effectiveness of this policy before even the proposed major reform.

The opinion on the improvement of health and of pregnant workers' safety was the subject of a fierce opposition on the part of the 'Employers'

group. The Committee asked that the Commission proposal be changed to 18 weeks paid maternity leave and recommends seeking additional solutions of a legal and practical nature, which could facilitate, in terms of time and of space, breastfeeding after this period. It supported unreservedly the principle according to which the amount paid during maternity leave has to be identical to that of previous wages. The amendments of the 'Employers' group — all rejected — asked for concrete statistics to support the statement given by the Commission that a 14-week duration would be insufficient from the point of view of health and safety and drew attention to the high costs resulting from equality of the amount paid during maternity leave with that of previous wages.

The opinion on the expectations of civil society concerning road transport in 2020 collected 50 non-favourable votes; this tendency came primarily from Members more sensitive to ecological arguments, which would have preferred that the rapporteur propose an in-depth reform of the transport policy (and not only of the technical measures) which are not visible in the thus presented 'expectations of civil society'. Not having proposed amendments, they could only vote against the opinion or abstain. Finally, the opinion of the Committee was that it is essential to intensify the efforts to combat CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by a series of measures such as the more rapid development of new generations of energy-efficient engines; the creation of a research and development programme, endowed with sufficient financial resources and aimed at the use of sustainable energy in the transport sector as well as promotion, by means of tax measures, by means of products and/or by means of measures centred on the alternative means of propulsion and the reduction of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The Committee adopted the opinion on the topic 'Responding to the crisis in the European automotive industry'. It welcomed the Commission communication in question favourably, supported the principle of a concerted coherent framework between Member States and rejected any protectionism. The Committee stressed the need for this sector to have rapid access to financial resources and stressed that the European Adjustment Fund for Globalisation should be doubled. The rapporteur-general's representative underlined the difficulties of access to the aforementioned fund. He also pointed out the difficulties encountered in the negotiation of a free trade agreement between the EU and South Korea. The Committee would like the auto-

motive industry to be directed more towards ecologically sustainable production while continuing to fight against nationalist tendencies in this sector.

The Committee adopted the opinion on credit rating agencies by a vast majority. Generally, the Committee approved the Commission proposals. It encouraged the Commission to use the new recording process to open the activity of credit rating to new credit rating agencies. The Committee also asked the Commission to treat the question of the clauses of non-responsibility for the credit rating agencies. It does not rule out a priori the idea of the creation of a new authority of supervision at the level of the EU; it noted with satisfaction that the proposed regulation possesses the means of application (control measures) and is pleased with the provisions proposed as regards publication of the methods and of supervision of the link between the activity of credit rating and shareholders' expectations.

The opinion on the programme of aid for the economic recovery by the granting of Community financial assistance to projects in the field of energy is completely positive. It considered the destination of the funds suitable to fight against the consequences of the crisis in the long run. The opinion was therefore adopted by a very large majority.

Concerning the Commission proposal on the energy performance of buildings, the Committee specified that it was simply a recasting; the previous directive had very positive repercussions. No debate followed this statement. The opinion was adopted quasi-unanimously with two amendments.

Two exploratory opinions were examined at the request of the Czech Presidency. The first concerned the impact of legislative barriers of Member States for the competitiveness of the EU and was the subject of lengthy but homogeneous debate. In the opinion of all, access to the internal market, one of the major conquests of the EU, has to be better regulated with the aim of suppressing the obstacles and barriers created by Member States which encroach on free competition and which are at the root of inequalities between companies and employees of the various countries. The opinion was adopted by 196 votes for, 4 against and 10 abstentions.

The second exploratory opinion on research and development with a view to promoting competitiveness resulted in a general consensus on the

need to coordinate research and innovation in the EU. It improves investment in training, relations between companies and universities and creates favourable conditions for research workers and other innovators. The Committee worries about the number of young research workers who leave the EU to settle in the United States. Another opinion on the repeal of eight directives on Metrology was also voted unanimously.

In addition, the Committee examined several opinions on foreign affairs and the neighbourhood policy. The first concerns the role of civil society in the region of the Baltic, as a prelude to a future opinion on the 'Baltic strategy'. The Committee supports the objectives of the strategy, namely: make the region sustainable environmentally, prosperous, interesting, accessible and safe. It considers moreover that the setting up of the Baltic strategy will require the creation of a separate budget for this purpose; otherwise the strategy is likely to remain a purely political statement and will not achieve its objectives. Several amendments, approved after compromises, underline the environmental problems resulting in particular from the burial in the soil of war chemicals in the Baltic, at confidential locations, making the setting up of the 'Nord Stream' gas pipeline perilous.

During the drawing up of its opinion on the participation of civil society in the setting up of the action plans under the European neighbourhood policy in the southern Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), the Committee took account of the particularly difficult circumstances of this region liable to multiple disparities and to relentless territorial conflicts. The evaluation of the role of civil society organised in the setting up of the action plans is therefore particularly

difficult. The objective of the action plan remains nevertheless to find a peaceful exit to the rivalries. To this end, the Commission must work more towards the strengthening of the rule of law, to the respect of human rights, to the independence of the media and to the continuation of social cohesion. The opinion was adopted almost by unanimity subject to two amendments.

The opinion on the participation of civil society in the 'eastern partnership' was accepted with amendments. The Committee underlined the need to involve civil society organisations of the EU and the partner countries in the setting up of the eastern partnership initiative. The Committee favourably welcomed and supports the proposal aiming at creating the eastern partnership as an improved form of collaboration with the countries of the eastern neighbourhood policy and added that the partnership has to be based on the sharing of democratic common values and on the respect of human rights, which includes the social dialogue and civil society.

The opinion on the Commission communication on the fight against deforestation and the deterioration of forests to combat climate change and the reduction in biodiversity considers that the advocated objectives are only a first step in the right direction. The Committee stressed that further efforts will be necessary, as a proof that states benefiting from financial instruments will encourage sustainable solutions or a mid-term review to determine the effectiveness of the measures taken on a voluntary basis. During the debate, all the participants agreed on the opinion, except a Member who questioned the reliability of the data. A large majority, however, emerged at the time of the vote.

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