

EUROPEAN PROPOSALS OF PARTICULAR RELEVANCE TO THE EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, DEPOSITED 19/3/04 – 15/4/04

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Where a document is a proposal for legislation this will be indicated at the beginning of the summary. The summary will also indicate whether the document has been, or may be, considered by other Committees.

Of particular significance

Date of deposit	Title	Summary
05/05/04	COM (2004) 200 final – Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Reinforcing the Civil Protection Capacity of the European Union.	<p>This Communication aims to address the need to improve the European capacities to be able to offer immediate assistance in case of disaster (such as floods, fires or terrorist attacks), both within the EU and in external countries. The Commission hopes that this will also give "a tangible sign of European solidarity".</p> <p>The Commission considers that the existing 'Community Mechanism' has worked well, but could be complemented by proposing ways of dealing with the main problems encountered to date. In particular, the Commission proposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reviewing the way in which Community funding is provided for transport costs linked to providing assistance outside the EU. An additional instrument to complement the Solidarity Fund (the fund for providing external assistance) may be necessary. 2. Considering providing immediate funding in certain cases to Member States to pay for additional measures to deal with emergencies which overwhelm their immediate financial capacities. 3. To require Member States to inform the Monitoring and Information Centre when a major disaster occurs. 4. To provide EU co-ordinated rescue teams with common insignia and equipment, for easy identification. 5. Procedures for co-ordination between teams from different countries will be examined to ensure that they are clear, known in advance to all participants and can be activated rapidly.

		<p>6. A programme of training and joint exercises will be developed to ensure that teams and experts from different countries can work together efficiently.</p> <p>7. To overcome information gaps and upgrade the database by working with participating countries to define the available response capabilities (personnel and equipment). This will be done by defining the types of emergencies which are most likely to trigger the Community Mechanism.</p>
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Date of deposit	Title	Summary
05/04/04	SEC (2004) 332 – European Security Strategy – Fight against terrorism.	<p>This is a Commission Staff Working Paper, which could lead to, or influence, future legislative proposals.</p> <p>In December 2003, the European Council asked the Presidency and SG/HR, in co-ordination with the Commission to present concrete proposals for the implementation of the European security strategy in four areas including the fight against terrorism (para. 85). This document outlines the Commission's proposals.</p> <p>The Commission's overall objective is to ensure a high level of security within the EU while at the same time promoting security, stability and prosperity in third countries. It states that the challenge is to benefit from the advantages of free movement, whilst minimising the security threats and handling the fight against terrorism within a wider framework of action.</p> <p>This document outlines current and ongoing action, and goes on to identify the following as priorities for action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Justice and Home Affairs (JHA): need to take advantage of future policy and operational developments already envisaged in a number of JHA fields. 2. The need to fight against terrorism financing. 3. Customs - need to address high risk areas, improve information sharing and enhance security arrangements and crisis planning. 4. Enhancing the Health Security strategy. 5. Transport and energy security. 6. Use of passenger travel data (the Commission hopes to make a first proposal by the middle of 2004 outlining an EU approach to the use of travellers' data for border

		<p>and aviation security and other law enforcement purposes).</p> <p>7. Civil Protection.</p> <p>8. Need to aim for excellence in research and technological development.</p> <p>9. More effective engagement with third countries and more, and better, targeted assistance. Also need better co-operation on Member States' assistance policies, and greater inter-cultural understanding.</p> <p>10. Safeguarding individual rights and freedoms and combating racism.</p>
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Date of deposit	Title	Summary
14/04/04	COM (2004) 221 final – Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on measures to be taken to combat terrorism and other forms of serious crime, in particular to improve exchanges of information: - Proposal for a Council Decision on the exchange of information and co-operation concerning terrorist offences.	<p>This Communication contains a proposal for legislation, in the form of a Council Decision. Its purpose is to strike a balance between a higher level of security, and respect for fundamental rights - in particular the right to privacy and to protection of personal data. It may also be considered by the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee.</p> <p>In particular, the point is to broaden the exchanges of information on convictions for terrorist offences. The main proposals are:</p> <p>1. Exchange of information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each Member State shall designate a specialised service within its police services; - Each Member State shall designate a Eurojust national correspondent for terrorism matters. - Each Member State shall take the necessary measures to ensure that at least the information referred to in paragraph 4 concerning criminal investigations, prosecutions and convictions for terrorist offences, is transmitted to Europol and Eurojust. <p>2. Joint Investigation Teams are to be set up in each Member State to conduct criminal investigations into terrorist offences.</p> <p>3. Each Member State shall ensure that requests from other Member States for mutual legal assistance and recognition and enforcement of judgements in connection with terrorist offences are dealt with as a matter of urgency.</p>

To note for information

Date of deposit	Title	Summary
24/3/04	SEC (2004) 321 final – Preliminary draft amending budget no.6 to the budget for 2004	The purpose of this draft is to create a new budget line, (06 01 04 30 "Executive Agency for Intelligent Energy") to receive the operating subsidy for this agency. This new budget line will receive appropriations from the other budget lines for the programme.
29/03/04	Council Opinion on the Updated Stability Programme of Belgium	This is the Council's opinion, of 9 March 2004, on the economic stability programme (GDP, inflation figures etc) presented by Belgium.
29/03/04	Council Opinion on the Updated Stability Programme of Spain	As above, for Spain.
30/03/04	Council Opinion on the updated Stability Programme of Germany	As above, for Germany.
30/03/04	Council Opinion on the updated Stability Programme of Portugal	As above, for Portugal.

Date of deposit	Title	Summary
05/04/04	COM (2004) 209 final – Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 2003/231/EC concerning the accession of the European Community to the Protocol of amendment to the International Convention on the simplification and harmonisation of customs procedures (Kyoto Convention).	<p>This is draft legislation and may also be considered by the Economic Development and Transport Committee.</p> <p>The Community must deposit its instrument of accession to the Protocol of Amendment to the International Convention on the simplification and harmonisation of customs procedures before 1 May 2004. If it does not, a legal situation incompatible with the division of competences between the Community and its Member States will arise, as some Member States of the Community will be members of a convention to which the Community has not yet acceded.</p> <p>The Council is therefore asked to adopt the annexed proposal for a Council Decision on this issue.</p>
05/04/04	Amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States.	This piece of draft legislation relates to a new way of collecting and analysing statistics on trading of goods between Member States. The new system proposed here will come into force in 2005.

Date of deposit	Title	Summary
08/04/04	COM (2004) 243 final – Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 2003/49/EC as regards the possibility for certain Member States to apply transitional periods for the application of a common system of taxation applicable to interest and royalty payments made between associated companies of different Member States.	<p>This is draft legislation, to amend Directive 2003/49/EC (dealing with common taxation systems in specific areas) in order to allow some Member States a period of transition.</p> <p>This may also be considered by the Economic Development and Transport Committee.</p>
22/03/04	SEC(2004) 326 - Commission Staff Working Paper: Report on the public consultation on the Green Paper on services of general interest.	<p>This Report may also be considered by other Assembly Committees.</p> <p>On 21 May 2003, the Commission adopted a Green Paper on services of general interest, with the aim of stimulating a discussion on the promotion of the provision of high-quality public services in the European Union. The Green Paper launched a broad public consultation on the overall role of the Union in defining the objectives of general interest, and on the way they are organised, financed and evaluated.</p> <p>This report describes the consultation procedure and analyses the 281 contributions received in the public consultation.</p>

Date of deposit	Title	Summary
31/03/04	COM (2004) 187 final – Proposal for a Council Regulation adapting Regulation (EC) No 685/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, in the field of transport, by reason of the accession of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia.	<p>This is draft legislation and may also be considered by the Economic Development and Transport Committee.</p> <p>The proposal relates to adaptations to legislation that need to be made, affecting the transport systems across the EU and the 10 new states, in order to prepare for accession.</p>
31/03/04	COM (2004) 182 final – Proposal for a Council Regulation adapting Regulation (EC) No 2888/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council, in the field of transport, by reason of the accession of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia.	<p>This is draft legislation and may also be considered by the Economic Development and Transport Committee.</p> <p>The proposal relates to adaptations to legislation that need to be made, affecting the transport systems across the EU and the 10 new states, in order to prepare for accession.</p>

05/04/04	COM (2004) 184 final – LAND TRANSPORT – Proposal for a Council Regulation adapting Regulation (EC) No 2327/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council, in the field of transport, by reason of the accession of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia.	<p>This is draft legislation and may also be considered by the Economic Development and Transport Committee.</p> <p>The proposal relates to adaptations to legislation that need to be made, affecting the transport systems across the EU and the 10 new states, in order to prepare for accession.</p>
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Date of deposit	Title	Summary
14/04/04	<p>COM (2004) 239 final – Communication from the Commission: Strengthening the implementation of the European Employment Strategy.</p> <p>-Proposal for a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States.</p> <p>-Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the implementation of Member States' employment policies.</p>	<p>This is a proposal for legislation. It may also be considered by Members of the Economic Development and Transport Committee.</p> <p>The Communication states that the existing Employment Strategy is inadequate. The proposals for a Council Decision and Recommendation relate to the following areas that have been highlighted as priorities for action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasing adaptability of workers and enterprises; - attracting more people to the labour market and making work a real option for all; - investing more and more effectively in human capital; - ensuring effective implementation of reforms through better governance.