The Committee will meet at 1.30 pm in Committee Room 3.

1. **Convener’s Report:** The Convener will update the Committee on the—

   - Letter received from the First Minister on the Regions with Legislative Power Group (Regleg)
   - Monthly report on the external relations activities in the Scottish Parliament
   - Proposal for an Away-day in summer/autumn 2004 to review the first year of the new parliamentary session and discuss possible options for a revised work programme
   - Proposal for an informal meeting to “take stock” on the progress of the Promotion of Scotland Inquiry

2. **Pre- and post-EU Council scrutiny:** The Committee will discuss the agendas and information received from the Scottish Executive on the following meetings of the Council of the EU—

   **Forthcoming Councils**
   
   Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 24-25 May  
   Education, Youth and Culture Council, 26-28 May  
   Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council, 1-2 June  
   ECOFIN Council, 2 June  
   Justice and Home Affairs Council, 8 June  
   Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, 10-11 June
Previous Councils

General Affairs and External Relations Council, 26-27 April
Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 26-27 April
Justice and Home Affairs Council, 29 April

3. Sift of EC/EU documents and draft legislation: The Committee will consider the latest list of EC/EU documents and draft legislative proposals received for this meeting.

4. Repatriation of European regional development funds and the UK Government’s proposals - an Inquiry into the impact in Scotland (in private): The Committee will discuss its draft Report.

Stephen Imrie
Clerk to the Committee
Tel: 0131 348 5234
Email: europe@scottish.parliament.uk

The following papers are attached for this meeting:

Agenda Item 1
Convener’s Report

Agenda Item 2
BRIEFING PAPER: “Pre- and post-Council of the EU analysis and scrutiny”
BRIEFING PAPER: “Correspondence received from Scottish Executive on pre- and post-Council scrutiny”

Agenda Item 3
Sift of EC/EU documents and draft legislation

Agenda Item 4
PRIVATE PAPER: Draft Inquiry Report into Regional Development Funds
CONVENER’S REPORT

1. *Letter received from the First Minister on the Regions with Legislative Power group (Regleg).* A response has now been received from the Executive ([Annex A](#)) regarding the Committee’s requests for further information on the work of Regleg and the standing invitation extended to the First Minister to meet with the Committee and brief Members on the work of this group. The Convener now recommends that:

   Members welcome the response from the Executive but note that the First Minister has declined the invitation to address the Committee on Regleg despite the role and post that he personally holds as President of the Regleg group. As an alternative, Members may wish to consider whether to ask the Minister for Finance and Public Services to appear at the earliest opportunity to provide an update on the work of Regleg, given that May 2004 represents the halfway mark in the Executive’s 12-month presidency. In addition, Members may wish to write to the Bureau (under Rule 6.8.2) to request that the Executive makes a statement to Parliament on the work of Regleg. Finally, Members should note that the Clerk will be contacting Executive officials to enquire as to whether the First Minister’s letter addresses only the issue of the invitation and whether the Executive intends to send subsequent information covering the Committee’s additional queries (see Annex A for a copy of the Committee’s most recent correspondence).

2. *Monthly report on the external relations activities in the Scottish Parliament.* The Committee has received the latest update from the Clerk/Chief Executive and External Liaison Unit ([Annex B](#)). The Convener now recommends that:

   Members welcome the information provided and note that the Committee has now received a copy of the written report produced by the delegation that attended Tartan Week 2004.

3. *Proposal for an away-day in summer/autumn 2004 to review the first year of the new parliamentary session and discuss possible options for a revised work programme.* Members will recall that at the start of the new parliamentary session the Committee held an informal away-day. Feedback from Members who participated indicated that this was a success and a useful venture. The Convener now recommends that:
Members agree that, in principle, the Committee should organise a follow-up away-day with a view to reviewing the first year of the new Committee and discussing possible options for a revised work programme covering September 2004 to June 2005. The appropriate Minister could be invited along for part of the away-day, therefore offering the opportunity for informal discussions, as could a series of external contacts.

4. Proposal for an informal meeting to “take stock” on the progress of the Promotion of Scotland Inquiry. Various Members of the Committee have suggested that an informal meeting be organised as soon as possible to “take stock” of the progress of the Promotion of Scotland Inquiry and discuss plans/schedules for its completion. The Convener now recommends that:

Members agree that such a meeting should be arranged and agree the date/time/format of the meeting. If necessary, the Clerk can be asked to provide in advance an “emerging issues” paper that can be published after the meeting has been held. This would inform the wider public of the progress of the Inquiry.

Richard Lochhead MSP
Convener
17 May 2004
ANNEX A

LETTER FROM THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ON REGLEG (Regions with Legislative Power)

Committee’s Letter (7 May)

Dear First Minister,

Re. Regleg

I write following our consideration of the briefing material received from the Scottish Executive on the progress of your involvement in Regleg. We were grateful for the briefing sent so far, but agreed at our meeting of the 27 April to write and request some additional information from you. We also agreed to remind you of our letter of the 18 November 2003 and the reminder sent on 25 February 2004 where we have invited you to speak to the Committee on your plans and priorities for Regleg in your personally-held capacity as President of Regleg. I would be grateful for a reply to these letters.

In doing so, I would also be grateful if you could elaborate on the briefing material sent previously. The points raised at our meeting were as follows:

1. Do you have any further information on the planned events and publications of Regleg between now and November 2004?

2. Can you give us some more information on the planned conference in November 2004 (including draft programmes, invitees, objectives and planned outputs/declarations etc)? Would there be a role for a joint event with the Committee (perhaps a reception) and could Members of the Committee be involved in the conference itself?

3. Can you give us some more information on the meetings of the Regleg troika and co-ordination committee (including details of when they met and the minutes of these meetings, and when they plan to meet in the future)?

4. How do you plan to represent the views of the regions with legislative power in relation to relevant Commission initiatives and how is that process undertaken? We know that you have visited a number of regions, but how do you gather the work and views together and thus represent the views of Regleg to the Commission? In responding, can you give us specific examples of how the views of Regleg have been fed into a Commission legislative proposal, which regions provided information to you and what did the Commission do in response?

5. In due course, can you provide us with details of your discussions with President Prodi and other EU Commissioners which we believe will take place in mid May? In particular, we would be interested to know how
President Prodi responds to your call on behalf of Regleg for direct consultation rights; something on which you have my personal support.

I very much look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Executive’s Response

Thank you for your letters of 18 November and 25 February inviting me to address the Committee on REGLEG’s work programme for the coming year. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you. The failure of the Intergovernmental Conference to reach agreement last December on a new Treaty and subsequent reopening of the process following March’s European Council have meant that we have, with our partners in REGLEG, been tailoring our work to an often shifting agenda. Now that it has been agreed by the EU’s Member States to finalise a text for consideration in June, the opportunity to address the Committee about the work of REGLEG that is already underway is timely.

Although you are right in asserting that the Chair of REGLEG is a role I fulfil as First Minister, I do so, of course, in light of Scotland’s participation in the Group. As you are aware, the Minister for Finance and Public Services, Andy Kerr, has portfolio responsibility for external relations and is therefore well placed to address the Committee on the work of REGLEG under the Scottish Presidency, during one of his regular appearances at the Committee.
ANNEX B

Inward/Outward Visits and Events organised on behalf of the Scottish Parliament by External Liaison Unit

INWARD VISITS FOR APRIL

**Tuesday 13 April** - Principal Clerk from the Journals Branch, Page Programme and Private Members' Business Office within the Canadian House of Commons visited the Parliament to discuss e-petitions and the electronic voting systems

**Thursday 15 April** - The Namibian High Commissioner and advisor visited the Scottish Parliament and had lunch with Roy Devon and Margaret Neal, Secretary and Assistant Secretary to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Afterwards they met with the Lord Provost of Edinburgh

**Tuesday 20 April - Wednesday 21 April** - The Clerk, Paul Silk and the Deputy Clerk, Dianne Bevan, visited the Scottish Parliament to be briefed on the working practices of the Parliament, its management structure and how it operates. The programme included meetings with a number of Directors/Heads of Office to discuss the work of their Directorates/Departments, as well as attendance at Committee meetings and Plenary

**Thursday 22 April** - Mr Masaki Orita, Ambassador of Japan to the UK paid a courtesy call to the Presiding Officer, observed First Minister's Questions Time and had lunch with a cross section of Members

**Thursday 22 April** - Press councillor to the Embassy of Finland visited to familiarise himself with the Scottish Parliament. He also met with the Scottish Executive media team

**Monday 26 April - Thursday 29 April** - Visit by delegation of Czech Parliamentarians organised by the Europe and External Relations Committee.

**Wednesday 28 April** - A delegation of Parliamentarians and Officials from Georgia visited the Scottish Parliament. The NGO Conciliation Resources requested the visit as part of their programme in the Caucasus which focuses on the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict and peace process. The programme is funded by the UK government’s Global Conflict Prevention Pool (jointly administered by FCO, DfID and MoD). This visit is one amongst a number of their visits designed to provide opportunity for dialogue and analysis within communities and across the conflict divide. Included within the programme were meetings with the Local Government and Transport and Public Petitions Committee as well as a meeting with the Gaelic Officer, Members of the Education Committee and CPG Gaelic to discuss the promotion of Gaelic.

APRIL OUTWARD VISITS

**Saturday 03 April - Saturday 10 April** - The Presiding Officer led a delegation of MSPs: David McLetchie, Michael McMahon, Donald Gorrie, and Kenny MacAskill, to undertake meetings in New York, Washington DC, Ottawa and Québec as part of the
Tartan Day 2004 celebrations. Delegation met with a wide range of officials and government representatives to promote Scotland and build political, cultural and economic relations

**Friday 09 April - Saturday 10 April** - The Presiding Officer paid a courtesy call and had lunch with the Speaker of the Icelandic Parliament, Mr Halldór Blöndal, en route from USA

**Sunday 18 April - Tuesday 20 April** - Murray Tosh MSP, David McLetchie MSP, Iain Smith MSP, Margaret Ewing MSP and Helen Eadie MSP travelled out to Cork for the Plenary Session of the British-Irish Interparliamentary Body. Business included debates on the current situation in Northern Ireland, EU Enlargement and the Nordic Council.

**MAY INWARD VISITS**

**Monday 10 May - Friday 14 May** - Members from the Ekiti State House of Assembly will visit Westminster, National Assembly for Wales and the Scottish Parliament. Will meet with MSPs to learn and engage about the workings of the Parliament. TO BE CONFIRMED

**Wednesday 12 May - Thursday 13 May** - As part of Scotland's programme of events to mark Entente Cordiale, a delegaton of French Senators will visit the Scottish Parliament. Their visit will include meetings on the Scottish Parliament and devolution, a courtesy call with the PO, a presentation on Holyrood and meetings with the Enterprise and Culture and European and External Relations Committees. Whilst visiting Scotland, they will also meet with the Scottish Executive and COSLA.

**Thursday 13 May** - At the request of the Swiss Consul General in Edinburgh, the Ambassador of Switzerland to the UK, Mr Bruno Spinner, will meet with the Presiding Officer for a courtesy call.

**Thursday 13 May** - Members of the Nepalese Congress Party will visit the parliament and meet with Members from the Human Rights Cross Party Group as well as observe parliamentary proceedings and tour new building. Further details to follow

**Monday 17 May - Wednesday 19 May** - Director of Security Planning, Australian Parliament will with various Parliament directors to discuss security and other areas of mutual interests

**Tuesday 18 May** - The Westminster Health Select Committee will visit the Parliament's Health Committee over lunch. They are in Edinburgh in connection with their inquiry into palliative care and have requested a meeting with their counterparts in the Scottish Parliament

**Wednesday 19 May - Thursday 20 May** - The Civil Service Senior Professional Administrative Training Scheme (SPATS) will visit the Scottish Parliament to learn how devolution works and the differences with other Parliaments looking at their strengths and weaknesses. The programme includes a wide variety of meetings with
various Directors and a question and answer session with the Chief Executive, Paul Grice.

**Thursday 20 May - Friday 21 May** - Wilhelm Molterer, Member of the Austrian Parliament and Chief Whip of the Austrian People's Party (Christian Democrats) will visit the Scottish Parliament with a delegation from the Whips office. The programme will include meetings on devolution and the Scottish Parliament, especially Parliamentary procedures and working practices, as well as attendance at Plenary and a tour of the Holyrood site.

**MAY OUTWARD VISITS**

**Sunday 16 May - Sunday 23 May** - Sarah Boyack MSP will represent the Scotland Branch during the 16th CPA Seminar in Malaysia to discuss Commonwealth, Parliamentary and democratic issues.

**16 to 18 May and 31 May to 1 June** - Members of the European and External Relations Committee and a clerk will have meetings in Brussels (Phil Gallie MSP, John Home Robertson MSP, Irene Oldfather MSP), Paris (Richard Lochhead MSP, Alasdair Morrison MSP, Keith Raffan MSP) and Dublin (Dennis Canavan MSP, Gordon Jackson MSP Richard Lochhead MSP) in connection with the committee’s inquiry into the Promotion of Scotland. (Some dates to be confirmed.)

**NB:** Information about the work of the External Liaison Unit and full ELU-organised visits programme and reports of outward delegations are available on

- SPEIR at [http://intranet/speir/services/elu/elu.html](http://intranet/speir/services/elu/elu.html)

Further background notes on international issues are available on

- SCAN at [http://intranet/speir/services/scan/sub-in.htm#cm](http://intranet/speir/services/scan/sub-in.htm#cm)

Status of outward visit reports this session:

- March 2004: Encounter Round Table – Helen Eadie MSP’s report at [http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/sp/elu/elu-pub.htm#del](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/sp/elu/elu-pub.htm#del)
- April 2004: Meeting with Icelandic Speaker to be posted shortly.
EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE

BRIEFING PAPER

“Pre- and post-Council of the EU analysis and scrutiny”

Introduction

1 One of the core scrutiny tasks that the European and External Relations Committee conducts is the analysis of information received from the Scottish Executive on meetings of the various Council of the EU formations (formerly known as the Council of Ministers).

2 Two types of information are shared with the Committee under the agreement between the previous Committee and the Executive. First, a few weeks in advance of a Council meeting, the Committee is provided with an annotated agenda of the Council. This sets out the nature of the agenda and the Executive’s views on the items in question where it has a competence. The Executive’s views tend to be italicised so as to stand out for the reader. Members should be aware that often the agenda is a ‘best guess’ and second, the views provided are designed not to prejudice the UK’s negotiating position whilst still providing sufficient information for Members to have an understanding of the subject.

3 Second, following the meeting of the Council, within a few weeks, the Executive provides the Committee with a post-Council report, detailing attendance and the discussions that took place.

4 These two types of information give rise to the shorthand terminology of ‘pre- and post-Council scrutiny’ for this particular task of the Committee. In scrutinising the material, the Committee has a range of options:

   - note the material having placed it into the public domain for others to use
   - ask for more written information from the Executive
   - invite the relevant minister to attend the next committee meeting for further discussions

5 The nature of the scrutiny to be undertaken by Members should be focusing on two distinct areas. As a first priority, the Committee should aim to focus on the Council agenda items that make reference to early,
formative discussions (e.g. on Green Papers, White Papers, Commission Communications, orientation debates etc.) in the Council. This is an indication that the decision-making process for these agenda items in the Council is at an early stage. It is here that the Committee might best influence the minister’s thinking early on.

6 As a second priority, to be used perhaps only occasionally, the Committee may choose to focus upon agenda items nearing final decisions.

7 In a new development for session two of the Parliament, the relevant sectoral information is being sent directly by the relevant minister to other subject committees. This means, for example, that in addition to this Committee receiving fisheries information, the Environment and Rural Development Committee is simultaneously in receipt of the same information.

8 What this means for this Committee is that any further dialogue with the Executive is best done in co-ordination and co-operation with the dialogue that another committee may choose to undertake. Members should note that such as system does not preclude the European and External Relations Committee from engaging with all the material and information received. On occasions, it may be that an issue is pressing, but a subject committee has no time in which to deal with it and therefore this Committee may tackle the issue. This system requires good communication between conveners and between clerks, and close co-operation between the clerks and officials in the Executive.

This paper

9 Based on experience from session one of the Parliament, these papers are best sub-divided into two sections. Annex A contains a summary table, with the Convener’s recommendation(s) for each Council agenda/report. Annex B contains the full information provided by the Executive for each of the Councils being considered at today’s meeting.

Action requested

10 Members are requested to consider the recommendations set out in the table in Annex A in light of the information provided by the Executive, set out in Annex B.

Richard Lochhead MSP
Convener
Tel: 0131 348 5234
Email: europe@scottish.parliament.uk
## ANNEX A

### SUMMARY TABLE OF CONVENER’S RECOMMENDATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Did Executive meet deadline for sending information?</th>
<th>Notes and recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-Council scrutiny</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 24-25 May</td>
<td>Yes†</td>
<td>To note the information provided. The Committee may like to ask the Executive to keep it informed about the progress of Regional Advisory Councils and how they may develop (particularly delegated decision-making powers), given the link to broader issues of EU governance and subsidiarity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, Youth and Culture Council, 26-28 May</td>
<td>Yes†</td>
<td>To note the information provided and further note the ongoing discussions on the establishment and possible location of the EU-level <em>Europass</em> agency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council, 1-2 June</td>
<td>Yes†</td>
<td>To note the information provided and thank the official in charge for the level of detail provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOFIN Council, 2 June</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>To note the information provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice and Home Affairs Council, 8 June</td>
<td>Due 18.5.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, 10-11 June</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>To note the information provided and thank the official in charge for the level of detail provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post-Council scrutiny</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Affairs and External Relations Council, 26-27 April</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>To note the information provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 26-27 April</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>To note the information provided, but remind the Executive that in such reports it is supposed to provide an indication of ministerial attendance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice and Home Affairs Council, 29 April</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>To note the information provided.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† Please note that the Executive provided this information in early May but, due to other business, the Committee was not able to discuss this material until today’s meeting.
Pre-Council Report – Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 24-25 May

NB – The agenda for this Council is not yet available. The following has been prepared on the basis of what we consider might feature on the agenda.

Fisheries

Commission to bring forward a regulation establishing Regional Advisory Councils (RACs).

_The Executive has been fully supportive of the establishment of RACs as a means of increasing stakeholder participation in EU fisheries policy and as a first step towards effective regional management. A final draft of the regulation is not yet agreed, but the UK is likely to support its adoption._

Possible agreement on a regulation fixing annual fishing effort in Western waters.

_This regulation aims to enable the implementation of the improved effort regime for Western Waters negotiated in 2003, by setting effort ceilings. The final text and technical details are yet to be agreed but the UK is likely to support its adoption._

Commission to bring forward a regulation amending the rules and arrangements for the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG).

_The proposed amendment of FIFG arrangements, including aquaculture provisions, is intended to reflect the thrust of the ongoing reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. A final text is not yet available, substantial working group discussions are still required and the UK’s position on adoption is still to be decided._

Agriculture

All current indications are that the Agriculture agenda for this Council will be very light or even non-existent.

There is a possibility that a proposal concerning the import and processing of a form of genetically modified maize may be discussed but that could equally well be delayed until June or July.
Pre-Council Report – Education, Youth and Culture Council, 26-28 May

EDUCATION

1. Objectives Report Process
   – Joint interim report on the implementation of the work programme on the follow-up of the objectives of education and training systems in Europe
     = Exchange of views
     = Adoption

   – Exchange of views

3. Proposal for a Decision on the new operational rules for the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training (ACVT)
   – Adoption

EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CULTURE COUNCIL

27–28 MAY 2004

EDUCATION

   – General approach/Political agreement

The Irish Presidency will seek agreement on the ‘Europass’ proposal for a decision to establish a single framework for the transparency of qualifications and competencies across Member States. Europass emerged at the beginning of January 2004 and an exchange of views took place at the February Council. The Decision will bring together a number of existing instruments into a coherent framework enabling qualifications and competencies gained in one country to be recognised and understood in another country. The decision also requires Member States to establish Europass National Agencies.

Europass documents will comprise:

- Europass CV
- Europass Mobility (records periods of learning in countries other than your own)
- Europass Diploma Supplement (provides information on holder’s educational achievement at higher education level)
- Europass Language Portfolio (provides citizens with opportunity to present language competences)
- Europass Certificate Supplement (shall describe competences and qualifications corresponding to a vocational training certificate)
2. **Lifelong Guidance & Counselling**
   – *Council Resolution*

The final text of the Resolution was agreed following the Education Committee of 26 and 27 April and the Resolution will be adopted at the May Council. It provides a framework for policy and practice in the provision of Lifelong Guidance & Counselling.

The Resolution will aim to ensure that Guidance across the Member States helps transitions between levels and sectors of education and training and from school to adult working life, or on re-entering education or training after leaving school early or after a period of unemployment. Guidance provision has a key role to play in promoting social inclusion, social equity, gender equality and supporting individuals’ participation in education and training and their choice of realistic and meaningful careers.

3. **Quality Assurance in Vocational Education & Training**
   – *Council conclusions*

The Copenhagen Declaration (November 2002) and the Council Resolution in December 2002 on Enhanced Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training (VET) gave priority to

> “Promoting cooperation in quality assurance with particular focus on exchange of models and methods, as well as common criteria and principles for quality in vocational education and training”

A Common Quality Assurance Framework (CQAF) in VET has been developed by the Committee Technical Working Group as a concrete action point of the Copenhagen Declaration. After detailed negotiations, Member States delegations agreed to the Council’s Conclusions on Quality Assurance in VET at the Education Committee on 26 and 27 April. Negotiations focussed on achieving a balance between a robust European Quality Improvement tool which was sufficiently flexible to foster national good practice and diversity. Existing national and regional systems and approaches to quality assurance will be referenced to the CQAF with a view to improving the overall performance and attractiveness of VET and to foster mobility amongst the Member States.

4. **Validation of non-formal and informal learning**
   – *Council conclusions*

Validation and recognition of non formal and informal learning is another important aspect of the Lisbon goal of being the most dynamic, knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010. The European Employment Strategy (22 July 2003) further encourages Member States to implement comprehensive lifelong learning strategies in order to equip all individuals with the skills required for a modern workforce.

Priority has been given to developing this set of common principles which were agreed at the Education Committee on 4 May. The Conclusions aim to ensure greater comparability between approaches in different countries and at different levels. Although such common references do not create obligations for Member States they can contribute to developing mutual trust between key players, exchanges of best practice (such as the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) and encouraging reform.
The Commission White Paper entitled “A new impetus for European Youth” (21 November 2001) which sets out a new framework for European Cooperation on youth affairs, stressed the importance on non-formal learning and education. It recognises its contribution to personal fulfilment, active citizenship, social inclusion and employability.

5. Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 337/75 establishing a European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)
   – Political agreement/Adoption

Amendments to the legal base for the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training will be discussed and adopted. The amendments are the result of an external evaluation of CEDEFOP that took place in 2000. The evaluation made five main recommendations to improve CEDEFOP’s organisation, taking account of EU enlargement. General agreement has been achieved on the nature of the amendments although discussions continue over whether Article 150 is the correct legal base for the Regulation.

6. European Year of Education through Sport
   – Council conclusions

Discussions will take place on successful activity taking place to celebrate 2004 as the European Year of Education through Sport (EYES) which was launched on 29th January in Dublin. Improving the partnership between the worlds of education and sport, making greater use of sporting values in education and integration, and increasing voluntary work in sport are just some of the objectives of the EYES 2004.

   – Presentation
   – Exchange of views

Discussions will take place on proposals for two new Programmes: an integrated programme for mobility and cooperation in lifelong learning and a new Tempus programme (Tempus Plus). These Programmes will run for the period of the next Financial Perspective, 2007 to 2013.

The integrated programme will retain the key elements of the SOCRATES and LEONARDO da VINCI programmes and subsume the Jean Monnet Action and support for European level institutions such as the College of Europe in Bruges. Like the new Youth programme, the new generation of Community education and training programmes are simplified, less bureaucratic and operated via decentralised decision making.

The Commission proposes extending the scope of the current TEMPUS programme beyond higher education to the full spectrum of lifelong learning. This would include school reform, vocational education and training and adult education as well as higher education. Tempus Plus measures would support the modernisation of education systems, mobility of individuals and multilateral projects.
YOUTH

8. Social Inclusion in a Youth context
   – Council Resolution

The draft resolution on social integration with regard to young people has been discussed amongst Member States, including at the latest Youth Working Party on 7 May 2004. The intention is for the text to be finalised at the Youth Working Party meeting so that it can be adopted by Ministers at the May Education Council.

9. Commission White Paper on Youth
   – Exchange of views

Draft common objectives on Volunteering and Research, based on the analysis of the questionnaires that were carried out in the Member States, will be discussed. The aim is for these common objectives to be agreed at the November Council in the Netherlands.

   – Presentation
   – Exchange of views

Proposals for a future Community Youth Programme (2007-2013) will be discussed. The aim is to replace the current programme with a restructured programme that is clearer to the citizens of an enlarged European Union.

The new Programme will promote the active participation of young persons in civic society, promote the values of tolerance and solidarity amongst young people and promote intercultural dialogue. A mid-term report of the current programme also recommended that the Programme should improve access for countries outside the European Union (third countries) and extend the age range for participation to 13 to 30.

The Presidency’s proposal would support five measures of which the main activities are:
   • Youth for Europe allowing young people to discover social and cultural differences;
   • European Voluntary Service allowing young people to undertake voluntary activity which contributes to the local community and provides the participant with social and personal abilities and skills;
   • Youth Initiatives supporting projects in which young people participate in schemes which focus on social commitment at local, regional, national and European levels.
Council, 1-2 June

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY

1. Employment Package 2004
   - Employment Guidelines
     Political agreement/General approach
   - Recommendations to Member States
     Political agreement

The Commission has published as a package the Employment Guidelines, the Employment Recommendations and the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines for the coming year. As agreed in last year's revision of the Employment Strategy, the 10 Employment Guidelines and related targets adopted on 22 July 2003 are retained for the coming year. The Guidelines will apply to the new Member States from 1 May and National Action Plans due on 1 October 2004 will continue to report on progress.

The Commission’s recommendations provide Member States with guidance for implementation of the guidelines and highlight where to focus their policy action. The recommendations draw on the findings of the 2004 Joint Employment Report and the Kok Employment Taskforce report.

The Commission make 4 common recommendations to all Member States:

i) to increase the adaptability of workers and enterprises
ii) to attract more people to enter and remain on the labour market
iii) to invest more and more effectively in human capital and lifelong learning
iv) to ensure effective implementation of reforms through better governance

These correspond to the key messages from the Employment Taskforce report.

The section on the UK acknowledges that the UK exceeds all the employment rate targets and has weathered the global economic slowdown well.

Whilst the lead in Employment and Industrial Relations is reserved, we will continue to work with Whitehall colleagues and contribute on any Scottish interests arising.

2. (poss.) Draft Council Resolution on the social integration of migrants
   - Adoption

We have had no sight of any material on this item to date.

3. (poss.) Draft Council Resolution on family change and social policy in Europe
   - Adoption

Likely to be based on the outcomes of the Presidency’s conference on family policy “Families, Change and Social Policy in Europe”, 13-14 May 2004, prior to the 10th Anniversary of the UN International Day of the Family, 15 May. In February, the Presidency signalled their intention to call for

- a renewed recognition of the role of families in all their forms, and their contribution to overall societal development;
- a clear focus on how families, in all their forms, have been affected by the profound social, political, economic, demographic, cultural and other changes taking place at global, regional and national levels;
an exchange of views and a comprehensive research-based analysis of whether and how policies need to be adapted and developed to meet these challenges;

- the continuation of determined efforts on the part of the State and society generally to implement necessary policy changes and other initiatives required to support families and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by all their individual members;

The Communities portfolio will have an interest in any recommendations that affect excluded families, particularly where related to child poverty issues.

4. Proposal for a Directive to Combat Discrimination on the grounds of sex in areas outside Employment
   - Policy debate
   -(poss.)General approach/Political agreement

We expect this to be an orientation debate. Progress of the Working Group negotiations over the draft Directive on **Equality of Access to Goods and Services** on the grounds of gender has been slow because of controversy over the insurance provisions of the draft Directive. The majority of the discriminatory activities covered in the draft Directive are already unlawful in Great Britain under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, but the Directive as drafted would have a potentially significant impact on the insurance industry because it would stop the widespread practice of calculating premiums based on gender. Legislating about equal opportunities is reserved; the Scottish Executive’s interest is to contribute to the process of ensuring that the Directive will contribute to gender equality without having any unintended consequences, particularly for the Scottish financial services sector.

5. Proposal for a Directive consolidating and revising existing Directives in the area of Equal Treatment between Men and Women
   - Progress report

Predominantly a technical matter. The Commission is working to produce a draft Directive to consolidate and revise all existing Directives in this area. Legislating about equal opportunities is reserved. The UK broadly welcomes the Commission’s intention to simplify the legislative environment for gender equality but has not yet taken a formal position towards it as at early May, we have only seen an unofficial draft of the Directive. **Unlikely to have any particular Scottish dimension.**

6. Amended Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (Optical Radiation)
   - Progress report

Its aim is the protection of workers against risks to their health and safety arising from exposure to physical agents.

   - (poss.) Political agreement

Mostly reserved. This will improve protection of the Social Security rights of EU nationals living/working abroad. **The Minister for Health has an interest due to proposals to introduce Health Cards to replace the E111 paper based system, and some changes to Health Insurance.**
HEALTH

8. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on nutrition and health claims made on foods

- General approach/Political agreement

The proposed Regulation aims to harmonise Community rules on the use of nutrition and health claims made on food (including food supplements) in order to protect consumers from false and misleading claims and to enable free movement of goods within the Community.

It intends to meet shortcomings in the existing EU rules, which do not define:

- conditions for nutritional claims and, or allow health claims to be made. [Note: In the UK, through the work of the Joint Health Claims Initiative, a small number of health claims have been permitted through a formal validation process].
- defines a positive list of permitted nutrition claims (claims on nutrient content of foods, such as 'low fat' 'fat free' 'source of') and the conditions under which they may be made;
- establishes procedures for pre-market authorisation of health claims (claims as to the effect of the food on health, such as 'helps maintain', 'Good for you',)
- sets nutrient profiles for foods which carry claims, based on criteria for fat, sugar and salt content;
- prohibits some specific categories of health claims; and
- lays down certain labelling information on foods carrying health claims, including on nutrient content.

The proposal will permit only health claims that can be substantiated after evaluation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Article 4; covers nutrient profiling. Consumer concerns mean there is a need to prevent food sending “mixed messages” e.g. a ‘low fat’ claim on a food high in salt. Industry concerns that the proposal contains minimal detail about how profiling will work in practice. Article 11; covers prohibited health claims. Concerns here include potential to stifle innovation in the food industry. Currently prohibits claims linked to charities and health professionals - FSA working to make text less restrictive while still fully protecting consumer interests. Article 26; FSA working to increase transition period. No wish to see “Healthy eating” banned as stated in some press articles. Any product making a health or nutrition claim would be subject to relevant controls.

The proposed Regulation will impact equally across all parts of the UK. Therefore the implications on Scottish businesses will be the same as those for the rest of the UK.

9. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to food

- Policy debate

The objective of the proposed Regulation is to harmonise rules within the Community concerning the voluntary addition of vitamins and minerals, and of certain other substances to foods. It aims to ensure a high level of consumer protection, and to enable free movement of goods within the Community.

In relation to vitamins and minerals added to foods, the proposed Regulation: defines the purposes for which additions are allowed; lists those vitamins and minerals, and vitamin and mineral sources (e.g. L-ascorbic acid for vitamin C or ferrous ammonium citrate for iron) which may be used; sets criteria for establishing, in due course, maximum levels (none are set in this proposal) and provides for the setting of minimum levels; prohibits the addition of vitamins and minerals to fresh produce and
The proposed Regulation will impact equally across all parts of the UK. Therefore the implications on Scottish businesses will be the same as those for the rest of the UK.

10. Patient mobility and healthcare developments in the European Union
    - Council conclusions

The High Level Process of Reflection published its report at the beginning of December 2003. It contained 19 recommendations, principally for the Commission to consider looking at information sharing, surveying, mapping or evaluating existing projects. The recommendations are divided into 5 main sections on: European Cooperation; Information; Access and Quality; Reconciling National Objectives with European Obligations; Health related issues and the Union’s Cohesion and Structural Funds. The Commission responded to the report in April 2004 with a number of proposals including the creation of a permanent mechanism at EU level, called the High Level Group on Health Services and Medical Care. This communication will be discussed during the course of the Irish Presidency.

UK interests are represented by the Department of Health and there is regular contact with the Executive.

11. Prevention of cardiovascular disease
    - Information from the Presidency
    - Council conclusions

The following is some detail of what action is being taken in Scotland in relation to this issue:

The Scottish Executive is committed to the prevention of cardiovascular disease. It has set targets for a 50% reduction in the number of deaths from CHD and stroke in those aged under 75 by 2010, taking 1995 as the baseline. If current trends continue, those targets should be met. Prevention, both primary and secondary, is a key part of the CHD & Stroke Strategy for Scotland. In addition, the Executive as a whole is committed to improving the health of Scotland, although it recognises that it is likely to take a generation to achieve that aim. To that end, the Executive is investing in a series of initiatives designed to encourage Scots to stop smoking, eat more healthily and take more physical exercise. Smoking, poor diet and lack of exercise are of course the main risk factors for cardiovascular disease. The Executive has also invested some £6m in a national demonstration project, ‘Have a Heart Paisley’, which encourages community-based health promotion activities. The lessons from the project are being disseminated across Scotland by the Heart Health Network.

    - Adoption

Tobacco control is a key priority for the Irish Government. They are expected to drive forward implementation of the first international, legal instrument designed to counter the effects of tobacco consumption, the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), during their presidency. Commissioner Byrne, the Greek Presidency and the UK were among the first to sign the Convention when it opened to signatories on 16 June 2003. All member states have now signed the Convention, which needs to be ratified both by Member States and by the
EU. Ratification of the Convention by the EU is being sought at the June Council. A Conference on tobacco control will be held in Cork in June.

FCTC is significant also because it is the first ever treaty devoted to health adopted by almost all the countries of the world (all 192 WHO Member States). It covers a whole range of issues such as a comprehensive ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship, controls on labelling of products, education about the health affects of tobacco, tackling smuggling, protection of the public from the effects of second-hand smoke and measures to reduce the availability of tobacco to young people. The measures contained in the FCTC are very much in line with our own domestic policies. The new Tobacco Control Action “A Breath of Fresh Air for Scotland” welcomes UK support for the Convention and commits the Executive to continuing to work closely with the UK Government to promote tobacco control at UK and international level.

Commissioner Byrne is an outspoken supporter of statutory controls on smoking in public places and we can expect a particular focus on that issue may arise during the Irish presidency. The Irish Government recently introduced a ban through Health and Safety at Work regulation on smoking in all enclosed places of work, with certain exceptions (e.g. prisons, hotel bedrooms, residential care homes etc). Plans to conduct a public debate in Scotland later this year on the issue of smoking in public places were announced in the Tobacco Control Action Plan.

13. e-Health
- Council conclusions

The eEurope Action Plan was endorsed by the European Council in Seville, Spain in June 2002. It has set the objective for Europe to have, by 2005 « modern, online public services ». One of the proposed actions is to promote ehealth services. Specific plans are:

**Electronic health cards.** Building on the agreement at the Barcelona European Council that a European health insurance card will replace paper based forms needed for health treatment in another Member State, the Commission will make a proposal in 2003. The Commission intends to support a common approach to patient identifiers and electronic health record architecture through standardisation and will support the exchange of good practices on possible additional functionalities, such as medical emergency data and secure access to personal health information.

**Health information networks.** By end 2005, Member States should develop health information networks between points of care (hospitals, laboratories and homes) with broadband connectivity where relevant. In parallel, the Commission intends to set up European-wide information networks of public health data and co-ordinate actions for Europe-wide rapid reactions to health threats.

**Online health services.** By end 2005, Commission and Member States will ensure that online health services are provided to citizens (e.g. information on healthy living and illness prevention, electronic health records, teleconsultation, e-reimbursement). Some of the health and related preventative services (e.g. air and water quality online information) could be expanded to a trans-European level through the eTEN programme. The Commission will monitor actions taken by Member States to make health information as accessible as possible to citizens as well as initiatives to implement quality criteria for web sites.

14. Childhood Asthma
- Council conclusions

The following is some detail of what action is being taken in Scotland in relation to this issue:

*After discussion between the SEHD, CHSG and QIS a steering group has been established to identify a work programme for children’s services in Scotland. The main role of the group will be to:*
- To determine options and make recommendations for the development of a NHS QIS programme of work for Children’s Services.
- To provide expert advice and support to NHS QIS.
- To inform the drafting of the work programme, including options and recommendations.
- Scope NHS QIS Quality Assurance activity for children’s services within NHS Scotland.
- Identify NHS QIS Products to support this work.

As part of this programme it has been agreed that Asthma should be used as a pilot, using the patient pathway, as the basis for developing a quality based approach to the delivery of services to this group.

Other Actions taking place in Relation to Asthma

- Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN), which is funded by the Executive, published good practice guidelines on management of asthma jointly with British Thoracic Society in February 2003.
- At UK level new GP contract includes asthma as a condition which will attract extra remuneration for doctors if they meet set standards of care. All are required to provide essential services including management of chronic disease in the manner determined by the practice in discussion with the patient.
- Some personal medical pilots, which are another form of GP contract, have also been funded to develop improved chronic disease management in asthma.
- Practice Accreditation procedures look into the management of chronic diseases, including asthma. This involves following protocols and guidelines. The intention is that all practices should be accredited by the end of 2004.
- NACS receives grant funding for the support they give to people with asthma.
- Number of Executive initiatives will benefit people with asthma: e.g. efforts to reduce smoking in public places.
- Yearly influenza vaccination for high risk groups including asthma is encouraged.
- Several nurses in primary care have extra qualifications in the management of asthma.
- The pharmacy strategy “The Right Medicine” is developing the role of community pharmacists through model schemes. This includes pharmacists taking part in the chronic disease management of asthma.
- Chief Scientist’s Office of SEHD is currently funding 9 research projects on asthma at a cost of £672,361.
- The proposed Community Health Partnerships (which were signalled in the White Paper, Partnership for Care) will have a particular focus on delivering improvements in the management of chronic conditions. They will have a critical role as the main focus for service integration for local communities with a particular emphasis on closing the health gap and delivering improvements particularly in relation to the management of chronic diseases for adults and children. One of their strengths will be their ability to provide a holistic approach to care.

15. (poss.) A European Environment and Health Strategy
- Exchange of views

The Commission published its European Environment and Health Strategy in June 2003, which aims to reduce diseases caused by environmental factors. It flows from a recognition that, hitherto, environmental and health policy has been insufficiently integrated, with the consequence that cause
and effect relationships between environmental threats and adverse health effects had been inadequately addressed. The proposed strategy therefore seeks to improve the integration of information and research on the state of the environment, ecosystem and human health in order to achieve a better understanding of the environmental threats to human health.

The strategy relies on 5 key elements: science to broaden our perspective of the complex link between environment and health; children because they are particularly vulnerable to environmental hazards; raising awareness of environmental health problems and how they can be solved; using EU legislation to complement national and international initiatives; and continuous evaluation.

The strategy will be implemented in cycles, with the first stretching from 2004 to 2010, and focusing on childhood respiratory diseases, asthma and allergies; neurodevelopmental disorders; childhood cancer; and endocrine disrupting effects. An Action Plan is proposed to cover this first cycle period and will be developed over the next 6 months with broad stakeholder involvement. The Action Plan will form the Commission’s contribution to a forthcoming European Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Budapest next June on the theme of “The future for our children”.

The broad thrust of the European Environment and Health Strategy is consistent with the Executive’s agenda for public health protection and we recognise the importance of strengthening links between the environment and health and the need to gain a better understanding of the health impacts of environmental exposures and stresses. We also support the need to protect particularly vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, the elderly, and the socio-economically disadvantaged; and agree the importance that the Environment and Health Strategy is mutually supportive of other community work programmes but does not duplicate effort.

16. (poss.) International Health Regulations - Progress report/(poss.) Exchange of views

The World Health Organisation (WHO) intends to revise its International Health Regulations. These mainly deal with notification of disease outbreaks and other events that might have health implications beyond the national boundaries of the state where the outbreak originates. The SARS and avian influenza outbreaks over the past year or so have raised the profile of this subject. Member States, through the Council of Ministers, have indicated that they would be content for the European Commission to negotiate on its behalf on this context. A good deal of detailed consideration of the specific negotiating mandate has been given in the Council of Ministers’ Working Group on Public Health and this is continuing. The main points under consideration are what the scope of the Regulations should be – for example, would only disease outbreaks be covered or might other events be covered (eg the Chernobyl disaster, were something similar to happen again) – and how to avoid requirements to report outbreaks/events more than once.

17. (poss.) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on medicinal products for paediatric use - Policy debate

The aim of the draft regulation is to improve the health of the children of Europe by: increasing the development of medicines for use in children, ensuring that medicines used to treat children are subject to high quality research and are appropriately authorised for use in children and, improving the information available on the use of medicines in the various paediatric populations.

The proposal has been circulated for comments prior to being adopted and the Scottish Executive had the opportunity to feed into to the UK’s response. The proposal is long awaited and it is considered that a Regulation on medicines for paediatric use is key to addressing the lack of suitably labelled, suitably formulated medicines for use in children.
As medicines legislation is reserved the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency will be representing UK interests.

18. (poss.) Commission Communication on the health policy of the European Community
   - Exchange of views /Council conclusions

The Executive understands that the Commission is preparing a further Communication on health policy although at this stage it is unclear what this will cover. The fact that it still appears to be at an early stage suggests that it may fall off this agenda or, if it does stay on, that this would at most be for an exchange of views rather than seeking to reach Council Conclusions.

19. AOB
   - Report on Gender Mainstreaming
     Presidency information
   - Indicators on sexual harassment in the workplace
     Presidency progress report

Updates on these areas of work for information; not expected to be controversial.
Pre-Council Report – ECOFIN Council, 2 June

Provisional Agenda includes:


The Broad Economic Policy Guidelines (BEPRs) are a key economic policy annual document in the EU. They provide guidance on policies and instruments for the coordination of economic policies. They are adopted by ECOFIN Council on the basis of a Commission recommendation.

ECOFIN identified the following policy priorities to reach the Lisbon goals in line with the BEPGs:

- promoting growth through investment, innovation and competition;
- increasing labour market flexibility;
- ensuring the sustainability of public finances.

2. Stability and Growth Pact:
   - Examination of convergence programmes of new Member States
   - Excessive deficit procedure. At its meeting on 11th May ECOFIN was expected to abrogate a Decision on the existence of an excessive budget deficit in Portugal, and to consider whether to adopt a Recommendation to issue a early warning to prevent an excessive deficit occurring in Italy.


4. Financial Services:
   - Commission report on Financial Services Action Plan;
   - Financial Services Committee report on financial integration;
   - Commission report on financial indicators;
   - Report on sectoral expert groups.

5. Taxation issues.

At its meeting on 11th May ECOFIN took stock of progress in negotiations about the EU’s savings tax directive with certain European third countries (Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino and Switzerland) and with 10 United Kingdom and Netherlands dependent and associated territories. The directive is due to be applied in the EU from 1st January 2005 provided that equivalent measures apply from the same date in these other countries/territories. ECOFIN must decide by the end of June, by unanimity, whether these conditions will be met.
Pre-Council Report – Justice and Home Affairs Council, 8 June

Awaiting information from the Executive
Pre-Council Report – Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, 10-11 June

AVIATION

The issues on the June Council agenda relate to reserved policy areas but are important to the general direction of EU aviation

1. (poss.) Proposed negotiating mandates for air transport agreements with further third countries
   - Political agreement

On 26 February 2004, the Council of Ministers adopted a Regulation which gives the EC clear and effective jurisdiction to review airline transactions, such as alliances, which have an impact on routes between the EU and third countries. This ends a long-standing anomaly whereby the Commission has full powers to review alliances between EU airlines and all mergers regardless of a carrier’s country of origin but not an alliance between, for example, an EU airline and a US counterpart.

Until 30 April 2004 the Commission had only limited powers to enforce the EC competition rules in respect of air services between EU airports and those of third countries. In particular, it did not have the full range of investigative tools and lacked the powers to enforce decisions. The new Regulation, which came into force on 1 May 2004, will give the Commission powers to examine, in particular, alliances between EU and non-EU carriers and to deal with the competition problems they might pose. It will allow the Commission to review and, if necessary, take enforcement actions to preserve competition with respect to, for example, airline cooperation agreements, particularly alliances such as Star, Skyteam and Oneworld, which are global in nature and which effects on competition cannot be properly assessed without looking at the intercontinental routes, such as transatlantic routes.

The UK Government supported the proposals because they:

- Simplify existing competition law in this area;
- Provide more consistency in the application of the community competition rules in this sector; and
- Provide greater legal certainty to Community airlines.

All of these are becoming increasingly important given the increasing pace of structural change in the airline industry. The UK airlines that responded to the consultation were keen to see the proposal adopted. The Regulation has no direct implications for Scotland.

2. Community negotiation on an EU/US air transport agreement
   - Progress report

At the EU Transport Council on 8 March 2004, the Council took note of information from the Commission regarding the third round of EU/US negotiations on an Air Transport Agreement which took place in Washington from 17-19 February. The Presidency concluded that it would not be possible to conclude an agreement with the US this year that would deliver the full objectives of an Open Aviation Area, as set out in the negotiating mandate. The proposals for an initial agreement this year would in principle be acceptable only if a tangible
improvement could be made to bring about a better balance of the interests between the EU and the US, and if both sides were committed to further negotiations within a specified timeframe on achieving the full Open Aviation Area concept. The Council invited the Commission to continue the negotiations and to come back to this issue at its meeting in June 2004.

LAND TRANSPORT

3. **Third rail package**  
   - *Policy debate*

The proposals in the ‘Third Railway Package’ are the latest in a series designed to revitalise the railways and take forward the creation of an integrated European railway area. The particular objectives of this package are:

- To revitalise the international rail passenger market through extending competition in that market and establishing a harmonised system of minimum passenger rights, addressing also the particular needs of persons with reduced mobility (PRM);
- To contribute to the interoperability of the European rail system by facilitating the movement of train drivers between undertakings and across national borders;
- To enhance the performance and size of the EC rail freight market in advance of the development of effective competition in the entire market, through mandatory requirements for performance elements in contracts with freight customers.

4. *(poss.*) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on action by Member States concerning public service requirements and the award of public service contracts in passenger transport by rail, road and inland waterways**  
   - *Political agreement*

We understand that this item will not appear on the final agenda, and that it is unlikely that anything significant will emerge before the new Commission is in place.

   - *Political agreement*

*This is a reserved matter.* Existing Regulation No. 3820/85 aims to harmonise conditions of competition and to improve drivers’ working conditions and road safety. It sets maximum limits on driving time and minimum requirements for breaks and rest periods for most HGV drivers and about half the bus and coach drivers operating in the UK. Enforcement derives from the requirements laid down in Council Regulation (EEC) 3821/85 for most drivers to use a tachograph to record their daily activities.

The Commission’s amended proposal incorporates some of the First Reading amendments to the original proposal made by the European Parliament, and other changes aimed at addressing some of the issues raised by Member States at the Transport Working Group. It
would also amend Council Regulation (EEC) 3821/85 on tachographs to rectify missing elements important to the enforcement of drivers’ hours with digital tachographs.

The June Transport Council will be aiming for Political Agreement. The UK view on this is that, subject to agreement on certain issues (such as the weekly rest requirements and national derogations), this proposal would be an acceptable balance between more enforceable rules, now made compatible with the Working Time Directive, and placing undue burdens upon the industry.

MARITIME TRANSPORT

6. “Erika III” package on maritime safety
   - (poss.) Presentation of proposals/Exchange of views

This is a range of measures that could be taken together, but are loosely linked. It covers Accident Investigation, Vessel Traffic Monitoring, Flag State Control, Port State Control and the Athens Protocol relating to the carriage of passengers and their luggage by sea. Work is scheduled for completion in November with the package expected to be presented to the December Transport Council.

   - Policy debate
   - (poss.) General approach

The Directive would extend security to ports as a whole, based on the International Maritime Organisation regime mandated by a closely associated EU Ship and Port Facility Security Regulation. The Department for Transport is currently consulting on the Directive. The UK Government has a number of concerns relating to competence and trespass into adjacent areas. The Directive is expected to be controversial and unlikely to be agreed in 2004.

8. Proposal for a Directive on mutual recognition of seafarers’ certificates
   - General approach

The Directive aims to require Member States to recognise automatically the certificates of competence issued to seafarers by other Member States provided they meet the international standards. This will deal with the anomaly whereby a seafarer holding a certificate issued by a Member State faces more demanding criteria to have it recognised in another Member State than a seafarer whose certificate was issued outside the EU. It will also introduce the international requirements on language standards for seafarers into Community law; require Member States to prevent and penalise fraudulent practices associated with seafarer certificates; and assess Member States’ compliance with the requirements of Directive 2001/25/EC on the minimum level of training for seafarers.

This is expected to be an uncontroversial measure and the Commission passed the proposal to the European Parliament and the Council on 26 April. It has not yet been discussed in Council Working Groups and the Department for Transport is unaware of the timetable for First Reading in the Parliament.
9. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multiannual Community programme to make digital content more accessible, usable and exploitable (e-Content plus)
   General approach

DTI is taking the lead on this proposal for a follow-on programme to e-Content scheme. The UK government is content with the funding for the programme in 2005 and 2006, but are concerned with post 2006 commitments and the substantial increase in funding proposed for 2007 and 2008. The UK government believes that the programme should be limited to a two-year duration, or to allow further deliberation over the post 2006 commitments.

10. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on promoting safer use of the Internet and new online technologies (Safer Internet plus)
    General approach

Safer Internet Plus aims to combat illegal and harmful content on the internet. The programme also encompasses the scourge of unsolicited commercial e-mails.

11. Commission Communication: eEurope – Next Steps
    Council conclusions

eEurope covers a range of areas including e-government, e-learning, e-health, e-business, security, and e-inclusion that are dealt with by various sections within the Executive. With regard to support for e-business, this is implemented by the enterprise agencies in Scotland, who have developed strategies to address this within the Smart, Successful Scotland agenda.

The 21st Century Government Unit has lead responsibility for promotion of e-government in the Scottish public sector. The Minister will wish to note:

1 The Executive, its Agencies and NDPBs have identified nearly 600 public services for which we are responsible. Of these 87% are available on line to some degree as at March 2004.
2 In March 2004, Local Authorities reported that 82% of their services were online to some degree.
3 Both are measured using the eEurope 4-stage classification (information available online, 1-way interaction, 2-way interaction, full transaction)
4 The Executive, through its Modernising Government Fund, is supporting the public sector to modernise its services. Projects include the Citizen’s Account and smartcard, eCare and National Land & Property project.
5 The 21st Century Government Unit is also funding a short pilot study to assess the value of interactive Digital TV as a medium for delivering public services. This is running in partnership with West Lothian and Dumfries & Galloway Councils, NHS Health Scotland, YoungScot and StartHere. The pilot went live on Sky on 12 May 2004.
12. Communication from the Commission on Member States National Broadband Strategies
   - Exchange of views
   - Council conclusions

DTI is taking the lead on this issue for the UK. Executive officials in the telecoms policy team are in regular contact with their counterparts in DTI on this and related issues. The 15 Member States have now submitted their National Broadband Strategies and the 10 new members are expected to submit theirs by the end of 2004. A comprehensive review of the strategies is expected by the end of 2005.

13. Communication from the Commission to the Council and European Parliament on the activities developed, measures adopted and future actions envisaged pursuant to the radio spectrum decision
   - Council conclusions

The regulation of radio spectrum is a reserved matter. The UK-wide regulator, OFCOM, replaced the Radiocommunications Agency (and 4 other regulators) at the end of December 2003 and now discharges functions in this area. The Executive liaises with OFCOM to ensure any Scottish-specific issues on regulation, including on spectrum, are addressed.

ENERGY

   - Political agreement

The Directive aims to reduce the overall environmental impact of products throughout their whole life cycle by systematically integrating environmental aspects into product design. It would make the design of energy using products such as computers, hairdryers and refrigerators more environmentally friendly. DEFRA are taking the lead on this issue for the UK.

15. Energy Infrastructure and Security of Supply
   a) Proposal for a Regulation on conditions for access to the gas transmission networks
      - General approach

DTI are taking the lead on this reserved matter. The proposal provides for the adoption of binding guidelines on Third Party Access services to be offered by the system operators, capacity allocation & congestion management, transparency requirements and tariff structures.
b) Proposal for a Decision laying down a series of guidelines for Trans-European energy networks and repealing Decisions No 96/391/EC and No 1229/2003/EC
   – (poss.) General approach

This is a reserved matter, DTI are taking the lead.

c) Proposal for a Directive concerning measures to safeguard security of electricity supply and infrastructure investment
   – (poss.) General approach

This is a reserved matter, DTI are taking the lead.

d) Proposal for a Directive on energy end-use efficiency and energy services
   – (poss.) General approach

The proposed directive aims to ensure a more efficient end-use of energy, through the use of energy services and the adoption of general national targets for annual savings. The UK government is taking the lead on this. The promotion of energy efficiency is a devolved matter.

16. AOB
   – Revision of Directive 96/67 on access to the ground-handling market
     • Written presentation by the Commission
   – Regulation adapting the Regulation on Computer Reservation Systems
     • Written presentation by the Commission
Post-Council Report – General Affairs and External Relations Council, 26-27 April

The Foreign Secretary and the Minister for Europe represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Luxembourg on 26 April. Conclusions were agreed on the Middle East Peace Process, Western Balkans, Cyprus and Africa.

General Affairs Session

Progress of work in other Council configurations

The Council took note of a progress report from the Presidency on work under way in the Council’s other configurations (the Justice and Home Affairs Council and the Agricultural and Fisheries Council.)

Follow-up to the spring European Council: Intergovernmental Conference

The Council discussed the Presidency’s plans for resuming negotiations in the Intergovernmental Conference on the draft EU Constitutional Treaty, with a view to reaching agreement no later than the 17-18 June European Council.

Enlargement

Commissioner Verheugen gave a presentation on the preparedness of the 10 Accession States (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) for membership of the European Union from 1 May.

He acknowledged their efforts to address the remaining areas of concern. He confirmed that implementation of the EU’s rules and policies have been satisfactory and that no safeguard measure would be necessary at this stage, pending a definitive assessment once they had joined.

External Relations Session

This section relates to reserved issues.

WTO/Doha Development Agenda (DDA)

Commissioner Lamy briefed on recent developments in the Doha Development Agenda (the negotiation agenda launched by the World Trade Organisation I November 2001 on Doha). The Council supported the Commission in its efforts and hoped to see progress by the end of July.

Western Balkans

Conclusions were agreed on Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia and the ESDP mission to Bosnia. There was a separate discussion on the planning and preparation for the Bosnia ESDP mission. The Council requested the Presidency and Secretary General/High representative Solana to take forward the remaining strategic planning steps before the Istanbul NATO Summit in June.
EU-Africa

The Council agreed Conclusions on Africa. The Presidency debriefed on the recent EU Africa Trioka meeting, highlighting the African peace and security agenda, development, governance and multilateralism. There was also Conclusions on Sudan, which expressed concern about humanitarian situation in Darfur region.

China arms embargo

The Council exchanged views on the arms embargo against China. The Council agreed that the issue required further discussion and asked the Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) and the Political and Security Committee to take this forward.

Cyprus

Ministers discussed the situation in Cyprus following the 24 April referendum on the United Nations settlement plan. The Council also adopted Conclusions.

Middle East Peace Process

The Council discussed the Gaza disengagement proposals ahead of the forthcoming Ministerial Quartet meeting. The Council adopted Conclusions based on the Presidency statement made at the 16-16 April informal Foreign Ministers’ meeting.

EU – Russia

The Council briefly discussed preparations for the 21 May EU/Russia summit in Moscow. The summit is expected to address progress achieved in the creation of the four ‘common spaces’ (economic; freedom, security and justice; research, education and culture; and external security).

AOB: EU – Canada – seal hunting

The Netherlands raised its concern about an increase in Canada’s seal hunting quota. They were most concerned about the effect of hunting on the seal population and an absence of humane killing methods.
Post-Council Report – Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 26-27 April

On agriculture, after several hours of talks, the Irish Presidency concluded that it was not possible to identify a compromise proposal on the welfare of animals during transport which would command the support of a qualified majority of member states, and so the meeting concluded without agreement on that dossier. There are no plans to resume discussion of it. This outcome was disappointing for the UK Government, which had supported the Presidency’s efforts to find a compromise which represented a genuine improvement in animal welfare over the current rules.

On the approvals process for genetically modified organisms, there was no qualified majority of member states, either in favour of or against, the approval of sweetcorn from Bt11 maize for consumption in the EU. Under the rules of procedure for such approvals, the Commission is now able to take a decision under its own responsibility from 1 May.

Denmark reported on measures it has taken in response to dioxin levels in salmon fished in the Baltic Sea. Slovakia and Poland raised concerns about the rules on the carry-over of agricultural stocks on enlargement, which are designed to prevent speculation but which they consider to be over-bureaucratic. In response to a request from Denmark and Austria, the Commission indicated that it would bring forward a proposal within the next few weeks on thresholds for the adventitious presence of genetically modified material in seeds.

No items of fisheries business were discussed.
Post-Council Report – Justice and Home Affairs Council, 29 April

Comments by the Executive

The UK was represented by the Home Office Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Caroline Flint MP. A number of outstanding issues were resolved with regard to the Framework Decision on mutual recognition of confiscation orders, and an agreement on the Asylum Procedures Directive was reached. The UK’s initiative for a Framework Decision on retention of communications traffic data found support during a discussion on counter-terrorism measures. However, the Council was unable to arrive at a consensus with regard to the new Director of Europol; an issue which will be considered again at the June Council.

Agenda Items

DRAFT FRAMEWORK DECISION ON THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL RECOGNITION TO CONFISCATION ORDERS

Mutual recognition allows individual legal systems to be preserved and respected (rather than the alternative of their harmonisation into a single “EU code”), but requires instead that member states recognise as valid certain pre and post conviction decisions of other member states’ judicial authorities with the minimum of formality. In Scotland, criminal confiscation and civil recovery are dealt with by two separate units operating from within the Crown Office. A general consensus was reached on the Framework Decision, after The Netherlands, Italy and Austria lifted their reservations, in response to a Presidency proposal dealing with the application of the territoriality principle. The Netherlands and Sweden also withdrew their reserves relating to fundamental legal principles.

ASYLUM PROCEDURES DIRECTIVE

Following lengthy negotiations, a general approach on the draft directive was agreed. The UK was able to maintain the key elements of its domestic asylum procedures.

The UK and Belgium disagreed over a Presidency compromise on safe third countries. Eventually a compromise between the two nations was reached, which strengthened the wording on individual consideration (Belgium) and guaranteed as a minimum that the applicant could bring a challenge on the ECHR side of his claim (UK).

However, Luxembourg stated that this issue may require further consideration during the second stage of the EU’s common asylum agenda. Under pressure from the Presidency and Commission, Sweden reluctantly accepted Article 15 (3), allowing Germany not to appoint legal representatives for minors over 16 years old.

A Minutes Statement which placed Bulgaria and Romania on a common minimum EU list of safe countries of origin was also agreed, and the Council is to finalise a definitive list prior to the submission of the draft directive to the European Parliament.
REPORT OF EUROJUST FOR 2003

The second annual report was presented by the Eurojust President, Mike Kennedy, who highlighted that there had been a 50% increase in Eurojust cases from the previous year, but also recommended that Member States take full advantage of the Eurojust service, and that they provide national members with the powers they require to fulfil their roles. The Commission plans to publish its report on the establishment of Eurojust by late June, and it was requested that the Presidency develop further ways of enhancing the role of Eurojust.

FOLLOW UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECLARATION ON TERRORISM

Progress has been made with regard to European Council conclusions on counter terrorism, although much still needs to be done. The Presidency will produce a comprehensive guide on the implementation of the counter terrorism strategy, which will indicate the group responsible for each area and the deadline for when action must be completed.

The Commission is in the process of drafting Communications on the exchange of information and the interoperability of data on visas and border management. It also aims to step up its bid to allow Europol access to Schengen Information System data on lost and stolen passports, and it is recommended that the Council Decision establishing the Visa Information System be accepted, so that the tender could begin in September.

The UK and other Member States have put forward a proposal on the retention of communications traffic data, which seeks a common EU approach. The Omagh bombing investigation depended upon such information to establish the link between suspects and offences.

In an attempt to deal with terrorist funds, France wants increased transparency of financial institutions, and a centralised system for registering bank accounts. Austria suggested various measures aimed at improved police information sharing, such as for Eurodac to be more available, an EU DNA database to be created, and better links between national databases on stolen vehicles.

This progress was welcomed by EU counter terrorism co-ordinator, de Vries, although he highlighted the need for implementation of agreed legislation. Member States should aim to have implemented their bilateral instruments with the US on mutual recognition and extradition by June.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF EUROPOL

Council was unable to reach a unanimous decision in favour of any of the three candidates, and so will reconsider this issue in June. Interim arrangements may be made by the Europol Management Board.
EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE

BRIEFING PAPER

“Correspondence received from Scottish Executive on
pre- and post-Council scrutiny”

Introduction

1 At various meetings held previously, the Committee asked for further
information on a variety of subjects following its analysis of material on pre-
Council of the EU annotated agendas. On behalf of the Committee, the
Convener sent letters to various ministers in the Scottish Executive seeking
more information. Copies of these letters for which replies were outstanding
are attached as Annex A. Where replies have now been received, these are
set out next to the appropriate letter from the Committee.

Action requested

2 Members are requested to consider the letters and the responses set out in
Annex A.

Richard Lochhead MSP
Convener
Tel: 0131 348 5234
Email: europe@scottish.parliament.uk
LETTER SENT TO THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE BY THE CONVENOR (DATED 31 MARCH)

TO ANDY KERR, MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Thank you for your letter of 29 March 2004. This was considered by the Committee at our meeting of 30 March. Whilst the Members welcomed the information provided, we did not think it addressed all of the original questions.

In my letter of the 3 March, the Committee asked for details of EU agencies, or even potential proposals for such bodies, that are still “in the pipeline” and for which we could still bid for a location in Scotland if they become established. We also asked for information on the Executive’s strategy, priorities and activities in this area. This was not provided in your letter of 29 March. Therefore, the Committee agreed to ask you for further information on agencies not yet established and for whom the issue of location has not yet been agreed. We would like to receive material on forthcoming EU agencies, even if the creation of these is not yet a formality, whether the Executive plans to bid for any of these, what its priorities are and how you plan to go about that.

In a related issue, the Committee agreed to ask about the proposed Community Fisheries Control Agency. Clearly this has great significance for Scotland. My understanding is that the location of this Agency is to be Galicia (Spain) following a decision of the European Council. I would be grateful if you could confirm that this is the case. I would also be grateful if you could outline whether the Executive was aware of the creation of this Agency, whether efforts were made to secure the location of the Agency for Scotland, what the efforts were and how any bid developed. For example, did the UK Delegation offer Scotland as an appropriate location at the relevant Council or preparatory working group.

I would be grateful if this information could be provided to us by 4 May as this would enable us to consider it at our meeting of 11 May. I thank you in advance for this information.

NB. The delivery date was rescheduled to today’s meeting (25/5/04)

EXECUTIVE’S RESPONSE

Awaiting response of the Executive
Background
This document contains the list of EC/EU documents received by the European and External Relations Committee for this meeting, classified according to which committee(s) the particular document is most relevant to. The document is sent by the European and External Relations Committee to each of the Scottish Parliament’s committees for their attention.

Table of Contents

Note
As a new feature, this list of recent legislative proposals and developments in the EU contains a preface to the Committee Relevancy lists. This preface highlights certain documents considered of ‘Special Importance’ by the European and External Relations Committee, along with a short explanatory note of why they have been highlighted as such.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communities</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise and Culture</td>
<td>2-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment and Rural Development</td>
<td>5-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equal Opportunities</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>11-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government and Transport</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sift of EC/EU legislative proposals and other documents

Other 15-26
## Documents of Special Importance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
<th>Explanatory Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European and External Relations Committee</td>
<td>1054</td>
<td>COM (2004) 256</td>
<td>State Aid Scoreboard – spring 2004 update</td>
<td>This document is relevant to this Committee and its Inquiry into Structural Funds post 2006. The Committee may be interested in the situation with regards to the on-going reform to State Aids. UK Government Explanatory Memorandum available on request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Communities</td>
<td>1119</td>
<td>COM (2004) 337</td>
<td>Communication from the Commission to the Council: Follow-up to the White Paper on a New Impetus for European Youth. Proposed common objectives for voluntary activities among young people in response to the Council Resolution of 27 June 2002 regarding the framework of European cooperation in the youth field</td>
<td>These documents may be of interest to these Committees in light of the recent announcement of ‘Project Scotland’, an initiative between the Scottish Executive and both private and voluntary sectors, aimed at providing voluntary opportunities for young people. UK Government Explanatory Memorandum available on request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise and Culture</td>
<td>1004</td>
<td>COM (2004) 239</td>
<td>Communication from the Commission on strengthening the implementation of the European Employment Strategy: Proposal for a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States. Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the implementation of Member States’ employment policies.</td>
<td>This document may be of interest to this Committee as it is part of the annual cycle and policy formation of the European Employment Strategy. The European Council of March 2004 focussed on the urgency for Europe to take effective action at creating “more and better jobs”, in line with the Lisbon strategy of achieving set employment objectives by 2010. This document seeks to heighten the political debate through more focussed and forceful EU recommendations to the Member States. The document makes a series of recommendations, and has a list of country specific priorities. UK Government Explanatory Memorandum available on request.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise and Culture</td>
<td>1116</td>
<td>COM (2004) 327</td>
<td>Green paper on public-private partnerships and Community law on public contracts and concessions</td>
<td>This may be of interest to this Committee as the document in a Green Paper, giving an opportunity for early consultation and input. The aim of the Green Paper is to launch a debate on the application of Community law on public contracts and concessions to the PPP phenomenon. Once underway such a debate will concentrate on the rules that should be applied when taking a decision to entrust a mission or task to a third party. The Green Paper aims to show the extent to which Community rules apply to the phase of selection of the private partner and to the subsequent phase, with a view to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Identifying any uncertainties, and to analyse the extent to which the Community framework is suited to the imperatives and specific characteristics of PPPs. Avenues of consideration for possible Community intervention will be outlined. Since the aim of the Green Paper is to launch a consultation, no option for Community intervention has been decided on in advance. **Consultation procedures are outlined and the deadline for replies is given as 31 July 2004.** UK Government Explanatory Memorandum available on request.

| Justice | 1047 | COM (2004) 254 | Green Paper on Maintenance obligations | May be of interest to the Justice Committees as this document is a Green Paper giving an opportunity for early consultation and input. The purpose of the Green paper is to launch a wide-ranging consultation of organisations interested in the legal and practical questions arising in situations with an international element in matters of maintenance obligations. It sets out the various aspects where there is an apparent need for Community rules, or new conventions in cases transcending the borders of the European Union, and suggests avenues to be explored. **Consultation procedures are outlined and the deadline for replies is given as 30 September 2004.** UK Government Explanatory Memorandum available on request. |

| Justice | 1125 | COM (2004) 334 | Green paper on the approximation, mutual recognition and enforcement of | May be of interest to the Justice Committees as this document is a Green Paper giving an opportunity for early consultation and input. |
| | | criminal sanctions in the European Union | line with the EU’s objectives with regard to freedom, security and justice, this Green Paper analyses whether national differences regarding criminal penalties are an obstacle to attaining those objectives. This Green Paper is a preliminary reflection instrument so that at a second stage a better informed opinion can be reached. Consultation procedures are outlined and the deadline for replies is given as 31 July 2004. UK Government Explanatory Memorandum available on request. |
Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise and Culture (to include Lifelong Learning, Tourism)</td>
<td>996</td>
<td>COM(2004)253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>25-May-2004</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1012</td>
<td>COM(2004)243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1015</td>
<td>COM(2004)238</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Document Title

- **Proposals for Council Regulations**
  - Determining the rates and conditions of the special allowances provided for in Article 56c of the Staff Regulations which may be granted to compensate for particularly arduous working conditions
  - Amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 495/77 determining the categories of officials entitled to, and the conditions for and rates of, allowances for regular standby duty
  - Amending Regulation (ECSC, EEC, Euratom) No 300/76 determining the categories of officials entitled to allowances for shift work, and the rates and conditions thereof

- **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.**

## Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1045</td>
<td>COM(2004)274</td>
<td>Communication from the Commission - Fostering structural change: an industrial policy for an enlarged Europe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1053</td>
<td>COM(2004)293</td>
<td>Communication from the Commission - A pro-active Competition Policy for a Competitive Europe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1101</td>
<td>COM(2004) 323</td>
<td>Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Community activities concerning analysis, research and cooperation in the field of employment-Final report.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
## Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1002</td>
<td>8118/04</td>
<td>Proposal for a Framework decision to strengthen the criminal law framework for the enforcement of the law against ship-source pollution - Harmonisation of financial penalties with regard to legal persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>SP Ref</td>
<td>EU Ref</td>
<td>Document Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>SP Ref</td>
<td>EU Ref</td>
<td>Document Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>SP Ref</td>
<td>EU Ref</td>
<td>Document Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>SP Ref</td>
<td>EU Ref</td>
<td>Document Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health (to include Community Care)</td>
<td>1035</td>
<td>COM(2004)301</td>
<td>Communication from the Commission on the follow-up to the high-level reflection process on patient mobility and healthcare developments in the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1040</td>
<td>COM(2004)304</td>
<td>Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Modernising social protection for the development of high-quality, accessible and sustainable health and long-term care: support for the national strategies using the &quot;open method of coordination&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1114</td>
<td>SEC(2004) 539</td>
<td>Commission Staff Working Paper - Communication from the Commission to the Council, European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on e-Health - making healthcare better for European citizens: An action plan for a European e-Health Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1121</td>
<td>COM(2004) 356</td>
<td>Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions e-Health - making health care better for European citizens: An action plan for a European e-Health area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>995</td>
<td>8255/04</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Directive relating to compensation to crime victims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>997</td>
<td>COM(2004)244</td>
<td></td>
<td>Council Regulation laying down rules for the monitoring of trade in certain substances used for the illicit manufacturing of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1001</td>
<td>8225/04</td>
<td></td>
<td>Draft Framework Decision on the application of mutual recognition to confiscation orders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1002</td>
<td>8118/04</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proposal for a Framework decision to strengthen the criminal law framework for the enforcement of the law against ship-source pollution - Harmonisation of financial penalties with regard to legal persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1005</td>
<td>COM(2004)221</td>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1068</td>
<td>1068</td>
<td>8958/04</td>
<td>Draft Framework Decision on the retention of data processed and stored in connection with the provision of publicly available electronic communications services or data on public communications networks for the purpose of prevention, investigation, detection and prosecution of crime and criminal offences including terrorism.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Decision of 28 May 2001 combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>SP Ref</td>
<td>EU Ref</td>
<td>Document Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1110</td>
<td>COM(2004) 331</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken by the Community concerning the proposal to amend the TIR Convention 1975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>COM(2004)228</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Regulation suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain fishery products originating in Ceuta and Melilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>8039/04</td>
<td>Opinion of the Governing Council of the European Central Bank of 1 April 2004 on a recommendation from the Council of the European Union on the appointment of a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1006</td>
<td>COM(2004)234</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council decision authorising the Portuguese Republic to extend until 9 April 2005 the Agreement on mutual fishery relations with the Republic of South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1011</td>
<td>COM(2004)241</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted by the Community within the ACP-EC Council of Ministers regarding a decision on the use of the reserve of the long-term development envelope as well as resources from the Investment Facility of the ninth European Development Fund for the establishment of an ACP-EU Water Facility.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1016</td>
<td>SEC(2004)411</td>
<td>Proposal for a Community rule laying down the procedure for a transfer of part of an official's emoluments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1019</td>
<td>COM(2004)270</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the signature and provisional application of an Additional Protocol to the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the United Mexican States, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia, and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of an Additional Protocol to the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the United Mexican States, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia, and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1030</td>
<td></td>
<td>COM(2004)257</td>
<td>Opinion on Croatia’s Application for Membership of the European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1034</td>
<td></td>
<td>COM(2004)205</td>
<td>Council Decision on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1037</td>
<td></td>
<td>COM(2004)296</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision authorising the Czech Republic and Poland to apply a reduced rate of VAT on certain labour-intensive services in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 28(6) and (7) of Directive 77/388/EEC.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1042      | 8595/04 ADD 1 | Special Report No 1/2004 on the management of indirect RTD actions under the 5th Framework Programme (FP5) for Research and Technological Development (1998 to 2002):  
 Figure 1 (to be inserted after paragraph 10 of Special Report No.1/2004)  
 Figure 2 (to be inserted after paragraph 13 of Special Report No.1/2004)  
 Figure 3 (to be inserted after paragraph 52 of Special Report No.1/2004)  
 Figure 4 (to be inserted after paragraph 58 of Special Report No.1/2004)  
 Figure 5 (to be inserted after paragraph 59 of Special Report No.1/2004)  
 Figure 6 (to be inserted after paragraph 61 of Special Report No.1/2004)  
 Figure 7 (to be inserted after paragraph 68 of Special Report No.1/2004)  
 Figure 8 (to be inserted after paragraph 74 of Special Report No.1/2004)  |
| 1043      | 8595/04 ADD 2 | Special Report No 1/2004 on the management of indirect RTD actions under the 5th Framework Programme (FP5) for Research and Technological Development (1998 to 2002):  
 Annex 2A - FP5 commitment appropriations and outturn (1999 to 2002)  
 Annex 2B - FP5 payment appropriations and outturn (1999 to 2002)  
 Annex 3A - FP5 contracts for indirect RTD actions (1999 to 2003) - by type of action  
 Annex 3B - FR5 contracts for indirect RTD actions (1999 to 2003) - by Directorate-General |
| 1044      | 8595/04 ADD 3 | Special Report No 1/2004 on the management of indirect RTD actions under the 5th Framework Programme (FP5) for Research and Technological Development (1998 to 2002):  
 Replies of the Commission |

17 May 2004
## Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1049</td>
<td>8528/04</td>
<td></td>
<td>Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union - Common Guidelines - Consultation deadline: 21.4.2004.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1060</td>
<td>COM(2004)266</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1061</td>
<td>COM(2004)268</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council and Commission Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1062</td>
<td>COM(2004)269</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1063</td>
<td>COM(2004)272</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council and Commission Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1064</td>
<td>COM(2004)271</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>SP Ref</td>
<td>EU Ref</td>
<td>Document Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1065</td>
<td>COM(2004)291</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1066</td>
<td>COM(2004)292</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council and Commission Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1067</td>
<td>COM(2004)258</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, of a Protocol to the Agreement on Cooperation and Customs Union between the European Economic Community and the Republic of San Marino, regarding the participation, as contracting parties, of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic, pursuant to their accession to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1073</td>
<td>COM(2004) 305</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council and Commission Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1074</td>
<td>COM(2004) 306</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Kazakhstan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1075</td>
<td>COM(2004) 307</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council and Commission Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Kazakhstan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1076</td>
<td>COM(2004) 267</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council and Commission decision on the conclusion of the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1078</td>
<td></td>
<td>COM(2004) 303</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1083</td>
<td></td>
<td>COM(2004) 205</td>
<td>Council Decision on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1085</td>
<td></td>
<td>COM(2004) 204</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
##Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1096</td>
<td></td>
<td>COM(2004) 252</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1097</td>
<td></td>
<td>COM(2004) 251</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council and Commission Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1098</td>
<td></td>
<td>COM(2004) 300</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>SP Ref</td>
<td>EU Ref</td>
<td>Document Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1103</td>
<td>COM(2004) 291</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of a Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1104</td>
<td>COM(2004) 302</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council and Commission Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Committee Relevancy: Next Meeting 25-May-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
<th>EU Ref</th>
<th>Document Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1112</td>
<td>COM(2004) 335</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken by the Community in the Association Council established by the Europe Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Poland, of the other part, concerning a dispute on the interpretation of the application of Articles 10(4) and 25 of the Europe Agreement with regard to Polish legislation concerning the price fixing of pharmaceutical products (Regulation from the Minister of Finance on the introduction of the obligation to apply official margins and the principles for setting prices in the sales of imported ready medicaments, serums, vaccines and contraceptives of 31 March 2000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1113</td>
<td>8208/04</td>
<td>Council Regulation on a regime under Article 2 of Protocol 10 to the 2003 Act of Accession</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1131</td>
<td>COM(2004) 355</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of a Protocol to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>