The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 5.

1. **Item in Private:** The Committee will consider whether to take item 7 in private.

2. **Promoting Scotland worldwide - an Inquiry into the external relations policy, strategy and activities of the Scottish Executive:** The Committee will hear from the Rt Hon Henry McLeish.

3. **Reporter’s Report into the remit and functions of the EU’s Fisheries Control Agency:** The Committee will consider a report from its Reporter, Alasdair Morrison MSP.

4. **Convener’s Report:** The Convener will update the Committee on the—
   
   Letter received from the Scottish Executive on the proposals of the Food Standards Agency to implement EC Regulation 178/2002 (concerning food law and establishing an EU Food Safety Agency)
   
   Plans for a Committee Away Day, January 2005
   
   Possible visit to Scotland by the European Parliament’s Committee on Regional Development.

5. **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**
   Justice and Home Affairs Council, 2 December
   General Affairs and External Relations Council, 13 December
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council, 6 December  
ECOFIN, 7 December  
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, 9 December  

Previous Councils  
ECOFIN, 21 October  
Justice and Home Affairs Council, 25 October  
General Affairs and External Relations Council, 2 November  

6. **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.  

7. **Witness Expenses:** The Committee will consider a claim under the witness expenses scheme.  

**Alasdair Rankin**  
Clerk to the Committee  
Tel: 0131 348 5212  
Email: europe@scottish.parliament.uk
The following papers are attached for this meeting:

**Agenda Item 1**

There are no papers for this Item

**Agenda Item 2**

BRIEFING PAPER: “Written submission of evidence for today’s meeting – Promotion of Scotland Worldwide Inquiry”

**Agenda Item 3**

BRIEFING PAPER: “Reporter’s Report into the remit and functions of the EU’s Fisheries Control Agency” paper to follow

**Agenda Item 4**

Convener’s Report

Letter from the Scottish Executive on the proposals of the Food Standards Agency to implement EC Regulation 178/2002 (hard copy only)

**Agenda Item 5**

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 6**

Sift of EC/EU documents and draft legislation

**Agenda Item 7**

There are no papers for this Item
I attach at Annex, the written submission of evidence from today’s witness, the Rt Hon Henry McLeish. Most submissions received so far for this inquiry can be seen on the Committee’s homepage within the Parliament’s website:

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/european/index.htm

Alasdair Rankin
Clerk to the European and External Relations Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Tel: 0131 348 5212
Email: europe@scottish.parliament.uk

Topics for discussion:

Devolution provides, for the first time, the opportunity for Scotland to look at itself in wider contexts – Scotland in the UK, Scotland in Europe and Scotland globally. It can also provide a new way of looking at the challenges and opportunities, which existed pre-devolution but can now be tackled in a uniquely Scottish way.

Our history shows that innovation and internationalism have played an important role in the world and the Scottish ‘diaspora’ around the globe reinforces this.

We should now be more acutely aware than ever of our assets, resources and talents as a nation. We also need to be aware of the needs of our country; economic, industrial and in terms of learning and education.

These require a sharper focus and clearer thinking about our international relations and marketing efforts than appears to be the case at present. For what is, in fact, a small nation on the periphery of Europe to become a nation with a leading place in the world requires an ambition for Scotland, which I tried to instil as First Minister.

Initially, attempts to increase Scotland’s role in Europe met with difficulties at Westminster and Whitehall where it was regarded as ‘forbidden territory’. That is an attitude which must be met with spirited resistance from Holyrood and St Andrews House.

Foreign affairs and Europe are reserved matters but, in a truly devolved United Kingdom, there must be more freedom in the years ahead for the Scottish government to shape external affairs in areas vital to Scotland.

1. EUROPE

Representing Scotland in Europe is a continuing dilemma …

Who should lead United Kingdom delegations on agriculture and fishing? How should our Parliament participate in and scrutinise legislation emanating from Europe? How can Scotland build closer links with regions, autonomous provinces and states in an increasingly integrated Europe?

We need to be acutely aware of Globalisation, Supranationalism and the new regionalism in Europe and the impact all of this could have on the Nation State.

Scotland now has to fit into the newly-expanded Europe and the concept of a ‘Europe of the regions’. I regarded my signing on Scotland’s behalf of the ‘Flanders Agreement’ in 2001 as the opening of a new chapter for Scotland in Europe without undermining the United
Kingdom. It recognised that the regions of Europe have a practical role in building economic, social and cultural links. It also illustrated that we could push out the boundaries of devolution and need not be constrained in developing our European thinking.

Scotland can learn from Europe about the idea of the competitive region within a larger framework; what constitutional safeguards for devolution are needed; whether Scotland should have a more direct view on issues such as increased regulation and regional policy.

I would say we need a much more positive and pro-active embrace of Europe. The Scottish Parliament and Executive should play a positive pro-Europe role in the referendum on the European constitution and, eventually, the common currency. We are currently in danger of losing the EU argument to the anti-European coalition!

2. UNITED KINGDOM

Our status as a devolved nation may change our perspective of the UK and our relationship with other regions of the UK, Wales, Northern Ireland and the regions of England – with or without regional assemblies.

The Scotland-UK relationship also raises the question of the effectiveness of such agencies as the British Tourist Authority, the British Council, the DTI and the Foreign Office in representing Scotland’s particular interests abroad.

3. SCOTLAND IN THE WORLD

In the United States, we have the open doorway to America provided by Tartan Day and this should be developed into a major initiative for industry, tourism, education.

Ireland has had remarkable success in mobilising its diaspora of second- third- and fourth-generation Irish-Americans to present a traditional Irish image, combined with the impression of a modern, progressive and economically successful nation. The Scottish-American community is a sleeping giant which could similarly supply the basis of goodwill and support for the promotion of Scotland.

As in the US, we should build on the creation of First secretaries in major embassies such as Tokyo, Beijing and other capitals, each with a senior civil servant to help boost tourism, inward investment and educational links.

World-wide contacts by the Executive and the Parliament should be encouraged – as long as they are properly focused and effective.

There is a pressing need for a Department of External Affairs, properly resourced and staffed, with a designated Cabinet Minister to rationalise the international aspects of other departments. Until now, this portfolio has been combined with other important responsibilities but we should no longer have a part-time approach to Scotland’s place in the world.

This Scottish Department of External Affairs could also provide a focal point and resource for all those other organisations in Scotland with international contacts and aspirations.

The Scottish Parliament’s European and External Relations Committee should have an expanded role in the analysis and oversight of this role and working out the strategy for the Department of External Relations.
It is vitally important that the Parliament, as well as the Executive, should take a global view, gaining first-hand on-the-spot experience of potential partner-nations and play a leading role in creating dialogue with them.

To achieve some or all of this we will need patience, planning and perseverance and a well thought vision for the medium to long term future of our country. We should also look at how other small nations and regions in Europe deal with these issues.

There is much to build on- immigration policy—events strategy—Flanders initiative—expansion of Scotland’s interests in embassies overseas.
CONVENER’S REPORT

1. Letter received from the Scottish Executive on the proposals of the Food Standards Agency to implement EC Regulation 178/200 (concerning food law and establishing an EU Food Safety Agency)

   Members are asked to note the information contained in the letter from the Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care (attached in hard copy only. Copy available from Clerks on request).


   Members are asked to agree a date for a Committee Away Day in January 2005. The two options suggested are either Friday 14th January 2005 or Monday 24th January 2005. The proposed venue for the Away Day is Glasgow City Chambers who have kindly agreed to host the event. The purpose of the Away Day is to discuss the Committee’s forward Work Programme for 2005.

3. Possible visit to Scotland by the European Parliament’s Committee on Regional Development.

   The European Parliament’s Committee on Regional Development intend to visit Scotland in spring 2005. Members are asked to agree to invite the Committee to meet with the European and External Relations Committee as part of their visit, to discuss matters of mutual interest such as Structural Funds.

John Swinney MSP
Convener
18 November 2004
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 a 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.

John Swinney MSP
Convener
### 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>Justice and Home Affairs Council, 2 December</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>To thank the department for the information provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Affairs and External Relations Council, 13 December</td>
<td>Due 22.11.04</td>
<td>Awaiting information from the Scottish Executive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council, 6 December</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>To note the contents of this briefing and to welcome the comprehensive level of information in this pre-Council briefing. The Committee may also wish to reconsider whether to commence again with its idea of commissioning research from an external provider into Scotland’s performance relative to the Lisbon targets. ¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOFIN, 7 December</td>
<td>Due 16.11.04</td>
<td>Awaiting information from the Scottish Executive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, 9 December</td>
<td>Due 18.11.04</td>
<td>Awaiting information from the Scottish Executive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post-Council Scrutiny</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOFIN, 21 October</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>To thank the department for the information provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice and Home Affairs Council, 25 October</td>
<td>Due 15.11.04</td>
<td>To note the continuing delay to this report, express concern at such delays and bring this matter to the attention of the Minister, particularly given her attendance at this Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Affairs and External Relations Council, 2 November</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>To thank the department for the information provided.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ A research proposal was prepared for the Conveners’ Group earlier in the year. It was agreed not to proceed pending clarification on whether the Scottish Executive had such information already prepared. It was confirmed recently that this was not the case. The Committee may be minded to press ahead at the Conveners’ Group with its research bid.
Pre-Council Report - Justice and Home Affairs Council, 2 December

Provisional Agenda
Justice and Home Affairs Council
Brussels– 2/3 December 04

Please note that this Pre Council Report is based on a provisional agenda set in July and will be subject to substantial change.

Asylum and Immigration

Community Readmission agreements – political agreement – It is highly unlikely that this will be on the final agenda

Introduction of the common application of biometrics in visa and in residence permits – political agreement – It is highly unlikely that this will be on the final agenda

Conclusions on “Access to durable solutions for refugees – political agreement- It is highly unlikely that this will be on the final agenda

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the establishment of a regime of local border traffic at the external borders of the Member States and proposal for a Council Regulation on the establishment of a regime of local border traffic at the temporary external land borders between Member States – political agreement –It is highly unlikely that this will be on the final agenda

(poss) Common Principles of integration + handbook on integration – orientation – It is highly unlikely that this will be on the final agenda

Draft Council Directive on minimum standards for return procedures and mutual recognition of expulsion decisions – orientation – It is highly unlikely that this will be on the final agenda

(poss) Evaluation of joint flights for the removal of third country nationals illegally present in the territory of two or more Member States- It is highly unlikely that this will be on the final agenda.

(poss) Draft Regulation on the establishment and operation of VIS- It is highly unlikely that this will be on the final agenda.

(poss) Annual report on illegal immigration – It is highly unlikely that this will be in on the final agenda.

(poss) Conclusions on links between the legal and illegal immigration – It is highly unlikely that this will be on the final agenda
(poss) Council Regulation establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (recast of common manual) – orientation – It is highly unlikely that this will be on the final agenda.

(poss) First report on the monitoring and evaluation of co-operation with third countries in the area of illegal immigration – orientation – It is highly unlikely that this will be on the final agenda.

(Poss) Amended proposal for a Council Directive on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status – It is highly unlikely that this will be on the final agenda.

The Executive has a co-ordination role with regard to the provision of services for asylum seekers and refugees. Any changes to operations in Scotland will be for the Home Office to implement.

GENERAL

Evaluation of EU Drugs/Action Plan 2000-2004 – It is highly unlikely that this item will be on the final agenda

Key findings of the evaluation is that there is no evidence to suggest that over the last four years the prevalence of drug use has reduced, or that the availability of illicit drugs has reduced. The UK supports the evaluations conclusions that the plan should be focused on delivering concrete and measurable action. The Commission is in the process of drawing up a new action plan.

Strategy on Drugs 2005-2012 – political agreement

The Strategy on Drugs for 2005-2012 will set out the EU’s twin aims of reducing supply and demand.

Draft Framework Decision on the Retention of data (LA) – It is highly unlikely that this item will be on the final agenda

There has been difficulty in determining the objective of this draft Framework Decision whether it is to cause the extended retention of data ordinarily retained for business purposes or is it to cause the extended retention of data, or date of a type, not ordinarily retained for business purposes. This has, to date, not been resolved in Working Group

CRIMINAL AND JUDICIAL CO-OPERATION

Terrorism

The EU Anti-Terrorism Co-ordinator will give his regular briefing to the Council.

Draft Council Framework Decision on procedural rights in criminal proceedings – progress report

This measure proposes certain minimum standards in criminal proceedings throughout the EU. A Scottish Executive official is attending Working Group meeting in Brussels as part of
the UK delegation. There are implications for Scots law in a range of areas arising from these particular proposals.

(poss) Council Framework Decision on the European Evidence Warrant – orientation

This proposal relates to the provision of mutual legal assistance in criminal proceedings. The Evidence Warrant is an order which would be issued by a judicial authority in one Member State to obtain evidence in another Member State, based on the principal of mutual recognition, and would have repercussions for the way in which mutual legal assistance is provided within the EU. Executive Officials have been involved in the formulation of the UK negotiating line on this dossier and have attended Working Group meetings in Brussels as part of the UK delegation.

POLICE AND JUDICIAL CO-OPERATION

Exchange of information and intelligence between intelligence authorities and police (including contra strategy recruitment) – It is highly unlikely that this item will be on the final agenda.

No particularly Scottish issues.

Decision on Cross Border Police Co-operation – political agreement – It is highly unlikely that this item will be on the final agenda.

No particularly Scottish issues.

Future of CEPOL – It is highly unlikely that this item will be on the final agenda

This relates to a proposal for a Council Decision establishing CEPOL as a body of the European Union. The UK is broadly supportive of this proposal.

CIVIL AND JUDICIAL CO-OPERATION

(poss) Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on the law applicable to non-contractual obligations (Rome II) – It is highly unlikely that this item will be on the final agenda

This Regulation will decide which country’s law would apply to resolve an international dispute concerning a non-contractual obligation – anything from a negligence action arising from a road traffic accident to defamation to a claim based on environmental pollution. A final set of discussions will take place during November and the Working Group is still considering the revised provision on defamation. Scottish Executive official is attending Working Group meetings as part of the UK delegation.

(poss) European Payment Order – It is highly unlikely that this item will be on the final agenda

This is a proposal for a simplified procedure for obtaining and enforcing a judgement in uncontested claims. The UK is seeking to restrict the proposal to cross-border cases. Still
being discussed in Working Group where Executive Officials have been attending meetings
and working closely with DCA on UK negotiating line.

JD: EU JHA STRATEGY UNIT
17 November 04
Pre-Council Report - General Affairs and External Relations Council, 13 December

Awaiting information from the Scottish Executive.
EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY

Social Policy Agenda

- Presidency report

The EU is currently preparing for its formal mid term review of the Social Policy Agenda in Spring 2005. The Presidency held the “A Social Europe: Let’s Deliver!” conference on 8/9 November 2004 to discuss the finding of the Kok Report and other preliminary evidence.

A Social Inclusion Division official from the Executive attended on behalf of the Minister for Communities. The Presidency report will summarise the activities underway for the review to date.


- Presentation and Exchange of views

The Kok Report “Facing the Challenge: The Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Employment” was published on 3 November. The report will be used to inform the mid term review of the social policy agenda. In particular it notes that the EU requires extra effort to meet its target of 70% employment by 2010. The report’s recommendations on an inclusive labour market for stronger social cohesion are aligned with the Executive’s current Closing the Opportunity Gap employability objectives, and will be supported by the UK at the Spring Council in 2005.

Best practices in Employment

- Exchange of views


- Political agreement

The proposal seeks to revise the opt out clause which allows workers to voluntarily extend their working hours. This could have a detrimental effect on the income of low skilled workers working extended hours at a low rate. The UK seeks to retain the opt out clause.

Two recent ECJ cases (SiMAP/Jaeger) affect residential on-call working time and compensatory rest and have direct consequences for the provision of health care and public services in a number of Member States and could potentially affect other sectors that use on-call working or compensatory rest. DTI lead and the Executive is fully engaged with them on this issue. Health colleagues are also in constant contact with Dept. of Health officials in Whitehall.


- (poss.) Political agreement

This agreement relates to mobile railway workers assigned to interoperable cross-border services carried out by railway undertakings. The Commission has not yet adopted a proposal.

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)
its aim is the protection of workers against risks to their health and safety arising from exposure to physical agents. Health and Safety policy is reserved. No peculiarly Scottish aspects


This is a reserved matter.

Social Protection Committee Report on special studies regarding pensions systems

Although Pensions are a reserved matter, the Executive maintains an interest in activities for their impact on pensioner poverty. The special studies were commissioned in 2003 on: the interaction of older workers and social protection policy; second and third tier pension schemes; choice of defined contribution or defined benefit systems; mechanisms for increasing pensions awareness; and gender dimensions of pension systems. The UK government will receive recommendations from the Pensions Commission on these topics in Autumn 2005.

Annual Commission Report on Immigration and Integration

Immigration matters are reserved to Westminster. In Scotland, implementation of the Scottish Refugee Integration Forum’s Action Plan provides the focus for integration of asylum seekers and refugees. A progress report on the Action Plan will be published in March 2005.


Legislation about equal opportunities is reserved. Unlikely to have any particular Scottish dimension.

Annual follow-up to the Beijing Platform: indicators on sexual harassment in the workplace

Proposal for a Decision establishing a European Gender Institute

Health Care
a) Health services and medical care

HEALTH
b) Health care in an ageing society
   – Council conclusions
The High Level Group on health services and medical care was established as a means of taking forward the recommendations made by the reflection process. The report sets out progress at this stage and orientations for future work in 2005 and thereafter. Work has been taken forward in the following areas - cross-border healthcare purchasing and provision, health professionals, centres of reference, information and e-health, health impact assessments and health systems, patient safety.

No particular Scottish angle but there is regular communication with DH, who lead on behalf of the UK. The general view is that UK welcomes the ongoing work that has taken place on this report. However, the report refers to the need for a significant investment of time and resources and the UK feels that it will be important to take stock to ensure that this work is taken forward in the most efficient and cost effective manner. It is clear from the report that there is a particularly strong push for the health technology assessment work. While the UK supports the building of an EU network on this, it would be opposed to an EU agency setting priorities for health technology assessments.

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on medicinal products for paediatric use
   – Exchange of views
On September 2004, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation on medicines for paediatric use. The proposal was developed in response to a Council Resolution which called on the Commission to develop proposals in the form of incentives, regulatory measures or other supporting measures in respect of clinical research and development to ensure that new medicines for children and medicines already on the market are fully adapted to the specific needs of the paediatric population.

The lack of paediatric medicines which have been evaluated to the same standards of safety, quality and efficacy as those for adults has been a serious concern in the UK and the rest of Europe for a number of years. It is estimated that over 50% of medicines currently used to treat children are not licensed for use in children. Medicines regulation in the UK (reserved legislation) derives largely from Europe, therefore the UK has been supportive of the Commission’s efforts to develop a legislative proposal. Achieving progress on the Regulation will be a priority of the UK Presidency of the EU in the second half of 2005. It is likely that the Regulation will not be finalised before 2006.

The UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is responsible for the safety, quality and efficacy of all medicines available on the UK market. The Agency will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure the best outcome for children, carers and health professionals.

Proposal for a Regulation on fees to be paid to the European Medicines Agency
   – Political agreement
The European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMEA) was established in 1993 and has had its headquarters in London since January 1995. Its main responsibility is the protection and promotion of public and animal health, through the evaluation and supervision of medicines for human and veterinary use. The EMEA works as a network, bringing together the
scientific resources of the Member States to ensure the highest level of evaluation and supervision of medicines in Europe. The Agency cooperates closely with international partners on a wide range of regulatory issues. There is a reserved issue.

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

- **Political agreement**

The proposed Regulation aims to harmonise Community rules on the use of nutrition and health claims 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. The main provisions of the Regulation would be: Statutory controls on nutrition claims (like low fat); a prior approval system for health claims based on an assessment of substantiating evidence by European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) with a fast track procedure for claims based on well established science and prohibitions on four classes of claims regardless of whether they can be substantiated. Introduction of a prior approval system would bring arrangements for food supplements into line with those for claims on medicinal supplements, including traditional herbals; a framework for introduction of nutrient profiles, which would prevent claims from being made on, high in fat, sugar and salt. The details would be agreed in due course based on advice from EFSA. The proposed Regulation will impact equally across all parts of the UK. *Implications on Scottish businesses will be the same as those for the rest of the UK.*

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

- **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. *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.*

Proposal for a Directive amending Directive 90/496/EC on nutrition labelling

- **Exchange of views**

The European Council Directive on nutrition labelling establishes criteria for the labelling of pre-packaged foods with nutrition information. Nutrition labelling may be provided voluntarily, but is mandatory only when a nutrition claim e.g ‘low fat’ is made. The Commission has indicated its intention to make a proposal to amend the nutrition labelling Directive. Consultation has been held with stakeholders and the final proposal is awaited. Initial indications from the Commission suggest that it is seriously considering making nutrition labelling mandatory on all pre-packaged foods subject to appropriate transition periods for implementation and derogations.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is developing industry guidance on the use of ‘high’, ‘medium’ and ‘low’ descriptors for key nutrients (fat, salt and sugar) as part of the nutrition label to help consumers place the information into the context of their daily diet. It also recommends that full nutrition labelling be given on all pre-packaged foods to help consumers make informed choices about the foods they buy. Agency commissioned consumer research to determine the ideal content and format of nutrition labelling showed that consumers wanted improved labelling and preferred a format that relates nutrient values
to their daily diet, such as use of descriptors ‘high’, ‘medium’ and ‘low’ (HML). As part of the Action Plan on Food Promotions and Children’s Diets the Agency is committed to producing industry guidance on the use of these descriptors in food labelling. This guidance should be available in June 2005.

(poss.) Framework Directive on food additives

− Exchange of views
The Commission’s proposal is for a single EU Regulation intended to replace Directive 89/107/EEC, and eventually replace and repeal Directives 95/2/EC on food additives other than colours and sweeteners, Directive 94/35/EC on sweeteners for use in foodstuffs and Directive 94/36/EC on colours for use in foodstuffs. The key aims of the proposal are: to simplify food additives legislation by creating a single instrument for principles, procedures and authorisations; to confer on the Commission powers to update the EU list of food additives (this is currently carried out under co-decision procedure); to consult EFSA for the full evaluation of food additives, including risk assessment, and evaluation of technical and consumer matters; to complete a re-evaluation programme for existing authorisations of food additives within 10 years; to establish procedures that will require the re-evaluation of authorised additives every 10 years to ensure that they are regularly re-evaluated according to the latest scientific and technical knowledge, and that additives that are no longer used are removed from the positive list; to require the authorisation of additives that consist of, contain, or are produced from GMO under the Regulation on GM food and feed before authorisation under the new legislation. The proposed regulation will impact equally across all parts of the UK. The implications on Scottish businesses will be the same as those for the rest of the UK.

(poss.) Draft Regulation on food enzymes

− Exchange of views
The Commission’s proposal is for an EU Regulation to regulate uses of enzymes in foods. At present some enzymes used as additives are regulated under Directive 95/2/EC whereas others that are used as processing aids are not harmonised across the EU and are subject to different measures across Member States. This Proposal will harmonise the regulation of enzymes at Community level. The key aims of the proposal are to: establish Community procedures for the risk assessment and authorisation of enzymes; introduce a positive list of authorised enzymes and their permitted uses in foods; establish procedures that will require the re-evaluation of authorised enzymes every 10 years to ensure that they are regularly re-evaluated according to the latest scientific and technical knowledge, and that enzymes that are no longer used can be removed from the positive list; establish Community procedures for labelling of food enzymes used in foods; require the authorisation of enzymes that consist of, contain or are produced from a GMO to be evaluated under the Regulation on GM food and feed prior to evaluation under the Regulation. The proposed Regulation will impact equally across all parts of the UK. The implications on Scottish businesses will be the same as those for the rest of the UK.

poss.) Amendment of Directive 95/2/EEC on food additives other than colours and sweeteners

− Exchange of views
European Parliament and Council Directive 95/2/EC harmonised the use of food additives other than colours and sweeteners throughout the EU. It has been amended on five previous occasions. European Parliament and Council Directive 94/35/EC harmonised the use of sweeteners for use in foodstuffs throughout the EU. It has been amended twice. The key
aims of the proposal are to: amend Directive 95/2/EC to take account of EFSA’s opinions on nitrites and nitrates and on parabens; makes permanent suspension of gelling agents in jelly mini-cups in Commission Directive 2004/374/EC; updates existing entries in Directives 95/2/EC and 94/35/EC to take account of SCF and EFSA opinions on new additive approvals, and to extend the uses of existing additives in line with industry’s requests and that of a new Member State, Hungary. The proposed Regulation will impact equally across all parts of the UK. The implications on Scottish businesses will be the same as those for the rest of the UK.

(poss.) Review of legislation on Medical devices
   – *Exchange of views*

The review of the MDD follows the 2002 review of the functioning of the medical devices Directive. The findings of the review broadly mirrored the UK’s own conclusions and input into the review however many Member States are taking the opportunity to suggest other changes to the MDD some of which may not be welcome to the UK. Negotiations are expected to start formally early in 2005.

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Planning
   – *Progress report from Commission/Exchange of views*

UK Health Departments are working on a UK basis to develop a flu pandemic plan. The plan is due to be published shortly. A version for Scotland's particular circumstances will also be produced.

European Response to public health risks from emerging zoonotic diseases
   – *Council conclusions*

Scotland is involved in a UK wide group looking at the issues around zoonoses

AOB

a) Conference on priority medicines
   – *Information from the Presidency*

b) European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
   – *Written information from the Commission*

c) The eight action programmes 1996-2002 of the European Parliament and the Council based on external evaluation
   – *Written information from the Commission*

d) (poss.) Strategic tobacco control report
   – *Information by the Commission*

e) Revision of the International Health Regulations under the framework of the WHO
   – *Progress report from the Presidency and the Commission*

f) Environment and Health Action Plan
   – *Written information from the Commission*

g) EU drugs strategy 2005-2012
The Action Plan states that the Commission should organise appropriate evaluations at mid-term and upon completion of the EU Drugs Strategy 2000-2004. In November 2002 the Commission presented a Communication on the mid-term evaluation. This Communication presents the results of the final evaluation and lays the foundation for the future evolution of EU drugs policy on the basis of the lessons learnt from the implementation of current policy.

h) Future European Health Strategy
   – Information from the Commission

i) (poss.) Follow-up on the Council conclusions of 5 June 2001 on an EU alcohol strategy
   – Presentation by the Commission

j) Coordination approach to combat HIV/AIDS in the EU and its neighbourhood
   – Information by the Commission
Pre-Council Report - ECOFIN, 7 December

Awaiting information from the Scottish Executive.
Awaiting information from the Scottish Executive.
Post-Council Report – ECOFIN, 21 October

POST-COUNCIL REPORT ON THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF EU MINISTERS (ECOFIN), 21st October 2004

UK Participant: Jon Cunliffe, HM Treasury

ITEMS APPROVED WITHOUT DEBATE

Economic and Financial Affairs
-Council decided to open negotiations with Andorra on use of Euro by Andorra. Negotiations will be suspended if Andorra has not ratified agreement on taxation of income from savings by 30th April 2005.
-Council welcomed a report on risk capital markets, and the EC’s plans to follow developments in the European risk capital market, to continue its efforts to address barriers to their development on both the supply and demand sides, and to review state-aid policy for risk capital. The Council believes that the impact of European legislation on risk capital markets should be properly taken into account when changing the regulatory framework.
-Council decided to authorise the UK to make an exemption on turnover taxes, in order to prevent the avoidance of VAT through the undervaluation of supplies in the motor vehicle trade.
-Council agreed to allow Italy not to impose VAT on tolls for the Gran San Bernardo tunnel. At present the absence of VAT in Switzerland is distorting competition in the sale of season tickets.

Enlargement
-Council decided to reallocate Pre-accession resources among the remaining beneficiary countries (Bulgaria and Romania).

Fisheries
-Council adopted a protocol with the Republic of Cape Verde about fishing off Cape Verde in the period July 2004-July 2005. Opportunities are granted to certain types of French, Spanish and Portuguese vessels, the EC paying compensation of €680,000 per year.
-Council adopted a protocol with Mauritius about fishing in Mauritian waters in the period December 2003-December 2007. Opportunities are granted to certain types of French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and British vessels, the EC paying compensation of €487,500 per year.
-Council authorised EC to open negotiations with Libya on a Fisheries Partnership Agreement.

Education
-Council agreed its position about “Europass”, a single European portfolio of documents on the qualifications and competences of job seekers, which aims to improve mutual recognition of qualifications and enhance labour mobility.

Culture
-Council adopted a decision to allow new Member States to compete for European Capital of Culture from 2009.
ITEMS DEBATED

Stability and Growth Pact
-Council reviewed and approved the measures taken by the Netherlands to correct the excessive deficit observed last year.
-Council discussed revisions made to Greek fiscal data on which it expects a detailed report. It called for Greece to improve the quality of its budgetary data as a matter of priority in order to avoid future problems.

Enterprise: administrative burden on businesses
-Council supported the development of a common European methodology to measure the administrative burden of EU legislation and regulation, to help in assessment of new initiatives and in evaluation of policy decisions.

Combating Fraud
-Council noted a report by the EC on fraud. A proposed regulation aims to ensure that Member States and EC exchange information on the use of proceeds of EU fraud, VAT fraud and other illegal activities.

EU Financial Framework for 2007-13
-Council exchanged views on budget flexibility under EU’s financial framework, in particular the proposal to create a Growth Adjustment Fund to support EU’s economic reform strategy.

*Awaiting information from the Scottish Executive.*
Post-Council Report – General Affairs and External Relations Council, 2 November

GENERAL AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COUNCIL

2 NOVEMBER 2004

Denis MacShane and John Grant (UK's permanent representative to the EU) represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Brussels on 2 November. This was a short half-day GAERC, which dealt primarily with the preparation of the European Council held on 5 November 2004.

Conclusions were agreed on Iraq and Sudan.

GENERAL AFFAIRS SESSION

Preparations For The European Council (5 November 2004)

The Council examined draft conclusions prepared by the Presidency for the European Council. These were finalised prior to the GAERC by officials. The Presidency outlined the main items that the European Council was due to discuss. These were:

Economic issues—Presentation by Mr. Wim Kok, chairman of a high-level group advising the Commission on the preparation of the mid-term review of the economic reform strategy laid down at Lisbon in March 2000.

Justice and home affairs—Adoption of a new multi-annual agenda for the EU's area of freedom, security and justice.

Communicating Europe—The European Council would examine how better to communicate to the public on the EU's work and its relevance to people's daily lives.

EU enlargement—The President of the Commission would present a number of policy documents regarding Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and Turkey's applications to join the EU.

External relations—Conclusions were expected on Iran, Iraq, the Middle East and Sudan. The Conclusions agreed at the GAERC on Iraq and Sudan were forwarded to the Council and attached to a Council Declaration. Draft conclusions for Iran and the Middle East were not discussed at the GAERC. These were discussed in the run-up to the European Council.

The European Council would also meet for the first time with Mr. Josep Borrell, the new President of the European Parliament.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS SESSION

Preparation Of The Eu-Russia Summit

The Council was briefed by the Presidency, the Commission and High Representative Javier Solana on preparation of the EU-Russia Summit to be held in The Hague on 11 November.

The summit, the fourteenth to be held under the EU-Russia Partnership and Co-operation Agreement, is due to address the building of four "common spaces" for the EU and Russia, namely the common economic space, the common space of freedom, security and justice, the common space of external security and the common space of research and education.
International and regional issues, such as the Middle East (including Iran and Iraq), terrorism. Moldova and the South Caucasus, are also likely to be discussed. The Presidency noted that the four "spaces" were part of a single package.

**AOB—Somalia**

On the agenda at Italian request, the Council held a brief exchange of views on the situation in Somalia following the election of Mr. Abdullahi Yusuf as President on 10 October and the expected formation of a transitional government. The Presidency reiterated support for the peace process in Somalia and emphasised the EU’s willingness to contribute to the country’s stabilisation and reconstruction, notably through support for African Union initiatives.

**AOB—African Great Lakes Region**

The Council was briefed by the Belgian Foreign Minister on efforts to bring peace and security to the African Great Lakes region, with particular focus on the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the light of his recent visit in the region.

**AOB—Guinea Bissau**

The Council was briefed by the Portuguese Foreign Minister on recent developments in Guinea-Bissau following unrest on 6 October and on efforts led by the international community, including Portuguese-speaking States, with a view to contributing to a stabilisation of the situation.

**AOB—Belarus**

At the suggestion of the Polish delegation, the Council briefly discussed EU policy with regard to Belarus in the light of irregularities in the parliamentary elections and referendum on 17 October and attacks on opposition leaders and media representatives at a political demonstration in Minsk on 19 October. It will discuss the matter in greater detail at its meeting on 22 November.
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-
and post-Council of the EU meetings. 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.

John Swinney MSP
Convener
LETTER(S) SENT TO THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE (DATED 29 OCTOBER)

TO CATHY JAMIESON, MINISTER FOR JUSTICE

Re. JHA initiatives and Fresh Talent

At our recent Committee meeting, we considered a series of Justice and Home Affairs initiatives in the area of Asylum and Immigration that were on the agenda of the EU Council of 25 October. Specifically, we understand that the Council looked at the:

- Proposal for a Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third country nationals for the purpose of scientific research – political agreement
- Draft Regulation on the establishment and operation of a Visa Information System (VIS) – presentation by the Commission
- Regulation restructuring the Common Manual on External Borders
- Community readmission agreements – orientation debate
- Modification of Regulation EC 539/2001 on visa reciprocity – orientation debate
- Preparation of the Inter Ministerial Conference on integration – orientation debate

The Committee agreed with my suggestion that we ask you for a note on whether the above have relevance to, or any implications for, the design or implementation of the Executive’s Fresh Talent initiative. If so, what this would be and what steps the Executive is taking to address this at both UK and EU-level.

I would be grateful if a reply could be sent to us by the 18 November 2004 which would enable us to consider this at our subsequent committee meeting. I thank you in advance for your assistance. I am copying this letter to the Conveners of the two Justice Committees for their interest.

EXECUTIVE’S RESPONSE

Available in hard copy only.
LETTER(S) SENT TO THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE BY THE CLERK (DATED 29 SEPTEMBER)

TO OFFICIALS IN THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Re. Biofuels Directive

At yesterday’s meeting, it was agreed that the Committee should seek some factual information relating to the Biofuels Directive. Specifically, Members sought more information on the quantity of biofuels represented by the 0.3% figure (i.e. in terms of litres sold), where this would be available (i.e. only at specific locations or across Scotland etc.) and where raw fuel would be grown, processed and distributed.

I would be grateful if this information could be provided in advance of the Committee’s meeting of the 9 November. Can you pass this request on to the relevant official?

Yours sincerely,

EXECUTIVE’S RESPONSE

EU DIRECTIVE ON THE PROMOTION OF THE USE OF BIOFUELS OR OTHER RENEWABLE FUELS FOR TRANSPORT (2003/30/EC)

Thanks for your letter of 29 September to Tim Simons seeking information on the Biofuels Directive and in particular on the proposed 0.3% UK target, biofuels outlets and production on behalf of the European and External Relations Committee. Your letter has been passed to this Division since the responsibility for the transport applications of biofuels lies here. I have been asked to respond.

Before going into the details of your query, I thought that it be might be helpful if I gave some background information on the Directive to put the issues raised by the Committee in context. The Directive came into force in May 2003 and requires Member States to set indicative targets for biofuels sales in 2005 and 2010. The Directive also includes reference values for Member States to take into account in setting their own targets; they are respectively 2% for 2005 and 5.75% for 2010. The Directive requires Member States to transpose its provisions into their domestic legislation by the end of 2004, and report to the EU Commission each year in July on the measures adopted to promote biofuels, their uptake and the indicative targets set for biofuels sales. The UK has until July 2007 to confirm its 2010 target. The UK has already submitted its report for the year 2004 to the Commission.

Many energy issues are of importance to Scotland and thus to the Scottish Ministers. For that reason, certain functions relating to energy matters have been “executively devolved” to the Scottish Ministers, enabling them to take certain decisions on energy matters within the framework of UK energy policy. In addition, the promotion of energy efficiency (other than by prohibition or regulation) is devolved, as is environmental regulation. Although the setting of targets for the use of biofuels is devolved, given the international dimension of the issue, Scottish Ministers have decided not to set a separate
Scottish target and opted instead for a co-ordinated UK approach and a single UK target. It is the intention that UK regulations will be made under section 57(2) of the Scotland Act 1998 to enable these EC obligations to be implemented. Also, in consultation with the Scottish Executive and the other devolved administrations the Department for Transport published the consultation paper Towards a UK Strategy for Biofuels earlier in the year which includes a proposed target that biofuels should form 0.3% of all fuel sales by volume in the UK by 31 December 2005. The consultation process is now concluded and the Department for Transport is considering the responses and the possible options to boost biofuel sales, including the provisional UK target, with the full involvement of all devolved administrations. The consultation document can be found at http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_roads/documents/page/dft_roads_028393.hcsp.

We are aware that the proposed UK target falls somewhat short of the 2% reference target set by the Directive, but given the UK’s very low starting point, and the short time frame to deliver it, this was felt to be realistic. It represents a six-fold increase over today’s levels of biofuels sales which would equate to 12m litres a month in the UK in 2005. The Directive itself allows Member states to set different targets according to their particular circumstances (see last para. of Art 4) and the UK has fully explained its suggested target in its annual report to the EU Commission in July.

The UK has until 2007 to set a target for 2010, but it could set one earlier. Biofuels could make a significant contribution to UK emission reduction targets but this would entail significant costs if compared with carbon savings measures adopted in other sectors. UK Ministers and the devolved administrations are currently considering next steps in light of the public consultation.

As regards the availability of biofuels, biodiesel, which is the only biofuel commercially available currently in the UK, can be purchased from over 20 outlets across Scotland; a list of locations can be found at www.transportenergy.org.uk. Biodiesel sales have been stimulated by a 20p per litre duty rate cut and a similar incentive for bioethanol will come into force in January 2005.

The Committee also asked about biofuels production. As you might be aware, Scotland will soon have the nation’s first large scale biodiesel production unit near Motherwell and it is envisaged that as result of this the number of outlets in Scotland will increase. The Scottish Executive has provided encouragement and support to biodiesel production in Scotland by awarding a £1.2m grant to Argent Energy, a subsidiary of the Argent Group, who is building the Scottish plant. The plant will use cooking oils and residue animal fats in the production of biodiesel and it is expected to produce around 50m litres of biodiesel fuel per year.

The primary feedstock for biofuel produced in the UK is waste product (waste vegetable oil and tallow). The rest is dominated by imports and cottage type industries. There is good potential to grow crops for biofuels in areas of the UK, but this would likely require extra support from Government in order to make it economic.

To conclude I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the Scottish Executive’s commitment to promote the role of biofuels and their wider implications for the environment, agriculture and industry, as part of an integrated energy policy. This commitment is supported by a range of activities. The Executive is supporting the UK Powering Future Vehicles Strategy which aims to promote the shift towards clean, low carbon vehicles and fuels. The Executive is also represented on the Ministerial Low Carbon Group which oversees the implementation of the strategy. Further, the Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland (FREDS) is looking into the development of the biomass industry to maximise agricultural activities and contribute at the same
time to sustainable development. It is expected that the Group will make its recommendations on the way forward for a biofuel industry in Scotland by the end of the year.

I hope that the Committee will find this information useful for its next meeting.

Yours sincerely

Strategy & Policy Team
Transport Division
Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning Department
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.

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<td>Other</td>
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## Documents of Special Importance

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<tr>
<th>Subject Committee</th>
<th>SP Ref</th>
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<th>Document Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Education (to include young people) Enterprise and Culture</td>
<td>1632</td>
<td>COM (2004) 694</td>
<td>Communication from the Commission to the Council Follow-up to the White Paper on a New Impetus for European Youth: Evaluation of activities conducted in the framework of European cooperation in the youth field.</td>
<td>May be of interest to these Committees as this is a follow up to a White Paper. The White Paper on a New Impetus for European Youth was published in November 2001. Following a Council resolution in June 2002 regarding the framework of European cooperation in the Youth field, and the adoption of the new European Constitution by the European Council in June 2004, this document takes stock of the progress made since the publication of the White Paper and also outlines a series of conclusions and recommendations for the future. UK Government Explanatory Memorandum available on request.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment and Rural Development</td>
<td>1655</td>
<td>COM (2004) 724</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Regulation on electronic recording and reporting of fishing activities and on means of remote sensing.</td>
<td>May be of interest to this Committee. The rational exploitation of fisheries resources, which is one of the main aims of the Common Fisheries Policy, requires accurate and timely reporting of information relating to fishing activities, such as quantities of catches on board, species, time spent at fishing, the area where catches have been taken and the gears used. This essential information is currently collected by the masters of the fishing vessels by recording it with a pen on a paperbound logbook. The same procedure is used when catches are transhipped, landed, transported or sold. As a</td>
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consequence, in order to be gathered, analysed and transmitted to the authorities in charge of managerial or control tasks, this information needs to be digitalised. This process is considered by the European Commission to be slow, costly and conducive to typing mistakes which can hinder the quality of the data. In order to make it more efficient, accurate and less expensive, the Commission favours an electronic recording and reporting system which will replace the current manual and cumbersome process. It will be designed to alleviate the administrative burden on the masters and the main actors of the commercial chain and dramatically simplify the tasks of the national authorities. The paper also discusses possible financial assistance that would be available to fishermen and national authorities to help implement this proposal. UK Government Explanatory Memorandum available on request.

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<tr>
<td>Enterprise and Culture</td>
<td>1656</td>
<td>COM (2004) 723 Communication from the Commission on the EU Economy - 2004 Review: Summary and main conclusions.</td>
<td>May be of interest to these Committees. This paper provides brief summary and subsequent conclusions on the EU Economy. It discusses the effects of the enlargement of the EU and also examines the progress of the Lisbon strategy and employment across the Member States. UK Government Explanatory Memorandum available on request.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enterprise and Culture</td>
<td>1666</td>
<td>COM (2004) 721 Report from the Commission concerning the 15th Annual Report on the implementation of the Structural Funds (2003).</td>
<td>May be of interest to these Committees. This document provides a report on the implementation of the Structural Funds in 2003. Both these Committees have an interest in monitoring the</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equal Opportunities Communities</td>
<td>1672</td>
<td>COM (2004) 693</td>
<td>The Fundamental Rights Agency – Public consultation document.</td>
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spending of Structural Funds within Scotland. The document includes a technical annex which contains detailed statistical data, both on a sectoral basis, and with regards to specific Member States. UK Government Explanatory Memorandum available on request.
the development of fundamental rights in the EU.
To that end, the Commission would like to receive contributions by 17 December 2004, to be sent by e-mail to the following address:

JAI-charte@cec.eu.int

Contributions received will be published on “Your Voice in Europe” with the authors’ names, unless they wish to remain anonymous or request that their entire contribution be treated as confidential.

The dialogue on the Agency will end with a hearing, attended by the interested parties, to be held on 30 November 2004.

UK Government Explanatory Memorandum available on request.
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<td>Enterprise and Culture (to include Lifelong Learning, Tourism)</td>
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<td>Local Government and Transport</td>
<td>1635</td>
<td>COM(2004)672</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the accession of the Community to United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Regulation No 94 on provisions concerning the approval of vehicles with regard to the protection of the occupants in the event of a frontal collision and Regulation No 95 on provisions concerning the approval of vehicles with regard to the protection of the occupants in the event of a lateral collision.</td>
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<td>1627</td>
<td>SEC(2004)1324</td>
<td>Amending Letter No.3 to the Preliminary Draft Budget for 2005 - Volume I:</td>
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<td>1628</td>
<td>SEC(2004)1346</td>
<td>Amending Letter No.2 to the Preliminary Draft Budget for 2005:</td>
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<td>1631</td>
<td>Com(2004)700</td>
<td>Prevention of an fight against terrorist financing through measures to improve the exchange of information, to strengthen transparency and enhance the traceability of financial transactions.</td>
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<td>1641</td>
<td>Draft at 30 Sep</td>
<td>Draft Council Status of Mission Agreement (SOMA) on the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Georgia, EUJUST THEMIS</td>
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<td>1642</td>
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<td>Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and Romania on security procedures for the exchange of classified information.</td>
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<td>Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the signing of a Framework Agreement between the European Community and Bosnia and Herzegovina on the general principles for the participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Community programmes.</td>
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<td>Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the signing 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, on a Framework Agreement between the European Community and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the general principles for the participation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Community programmes.</td>
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<td>Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of a Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement...</td>
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<td>1659</td>
<td>COM(2004)743</td>
<td>Proposal for a Council Regulation adjusting, from 1 July 2004, the rate of contribution to the pension scheme of officials and other servants of the European Communities and, from 1 January 2005, the interest rate used for transfers between the Community scheme and national schemes.</td>
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