



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

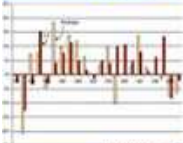
## GENERAL AFFAIRS

Sectoral Committee  
Weekly Update  
**02.07.10**

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## The Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union

On 1 July, Belgium took over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Belgium's role mainly consists of organising and managing the work of each Council configuration through its competent ministers. The Foreign Affairs Council is the only exception to this rule. Since the Treaty of Lisbon entered into force, it has been presided by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The rotating Presidency doesn't only chair the various configurations of the Council; it also chairs the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the large majority of working groups during its presidency.

Before the Treaty of Lisbon entered into force, the six-month Presidency also presided over the European Council. That is no longer the case. The European Council is now a separate Union institution with a permanent president who is elected for a two-and-a-half year term of office and may be re-elected once. Since 1 December 2009, this function has been exercised by former Belgian Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy.

Working together with the eighteen-month common work programme set up as a "trio" with Spain and Hungary, Belgium has set out its own priorities which it will pursue throughout its Presidency of the Council of the EU. Below, you can find the link to the Belgian presidency's programme.

### Presidency Website

<http://www.eu2010.be/>

### Programme of the Belgian Presidency of the EU Council

[http://www.eu2010.be/files/bveu/media/documents/Programme\\_EN.pdf](http://www.eu2010.be/files/bveu/media/documents/Programme_EN.pdf)



**COM (2010) 333 - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be adopted on behalf of the Union in the Joint Committee established by the Agreement of 21 June 1999 between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other part, on the free movement of persons as regards the replacement of Annex II on the coordination of social security schemes**

The Agreement between the European Community and Switzerland on the Free Movement of Persons entered into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2002. Article 18 of the Agreement states that the EU-Swiss Joint Committee on the Free Movement of Persons may adopt amendments to Annex II of the Agreement. According to Article 2 of Decision 2002/309/EC the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, may lay down the position to be taken by the Union on decisions of the Joint Committee.

To ensure coherent and correct application of EU legislation and to avoid administrative and possibly legal difficulties, Annex II of the Agreement refers to all the relevant EU legislation and the Decisions of the Administrative Commission for the Coordination of Social Security Systems. Therefore, Annex II of the Agreement was updated in particular to integrate the modernised system for the coordination of social security schemes which became applicable within the EU on 1 May 2010.

There will be an improvement in rights for EU nationals who are currently not covered by a bilateral agreement, such as nationals of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, since Switzerland will now have to export pensions to nationals of all EU Member States in third countries as Switzerland does for Swiss citizens.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0333:FIN:EN:PDF>



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**COM (2010) 335 - REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT Annual Report 2010 on the European Union's development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2009**

In this report the Commission describes the EU's policies on development and external assistance throughout 2009.

The Commission has acted rapidly to address the problems caused by the crises of 2008-2009 and to ensure that the impact of its resources is maximised. The EU has shown the capacity to innovate and to adapt its aid instruments to meet new challenges. The dynamics of this process have created new synergies and more effective results. The Commission will continue to work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, which are to be the subject of a major international review in 2010.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0335:FIN:EN:PDF>

**COM (2010) 346 - REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNITY STATISTICAL PROGRAMME 2008-2012**

This document reports on Eurostat's internal reporting mechanisms for annual work programmes and on a consultant's report covering some specific elements. Section 2 summarises the Community Statistical Programme's main achievements, section 3 looks ahead to the second half of the CSP and section 4 deals with specific elements that have to be addressed in the report. Section 5 presents recommendations for the future.

The CSP contains around 130 objectives, most of them multiannual and requiring steady implementation over the entire programme period. For each Title of the programme, many of the objectives (around 90 %) are on track and are likely to be achieved by the end of 2012 although resource constraints may render this more difficult than expected. Some important objectives had already been met by the



end of 2009 (establishment of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board, adoption of an energy statistics regulation, a more user-friendly Eurostat website). Objectives for which work has yet to begin include the development of indicators for analysing the performance of logistics and intermodal transport, the implementation of NACE rev2 in national accounts and the development of a methodology for assessing the quality of regional data.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0346:FIN:EN:PDF>

**COM (2010) 342 - Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) No .../... laying down the weightings applicable from 1 July 2009 to the remuneration of officials, temporary staff and contract staff of the European Communities serving in third countries**

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Regulation No 3019/87 amended the Staff Regulations of officials of the European Communities by adding an Annex X laying down special and exceptional provisions applicable to officials serving in third countries. Articles 11, 12 and 13 of Annex X deal with the remuneration of officials posted in countries outside the European Union. Remuneration is payable in euros in Belgium but there is also provision for all or part of an official's remuneration to be paid in the currency of the country of employment. In that event, the portion paid in local currency is subject to a weighting. The first paragraph of Article 13 of Annex X required the Council to determine the weightings for third countries every six months.

The current proposal sets the weightings applicable from 1 July 2009 to the remuneration of officials, temporary staff and contract staff of the European Communities serving in third countries. Eurostat calculates the economic parities. The *weighting* is the factor obtained by dividing the *economic parity* by the *exchange rate*. This means that implementation of the weighting system primarily involves calculating economic parities by comparing Brussels and the other places of employment.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0342:FIN:EN:PDF>



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**COM (2010) 351 - REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION on the application in 2009 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents**

This report, which covers 2009, was drawn up pursuant to Article 17(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. The annex to this report contains statistics on the processing of access applications. The statistics refer only to access applications to unpublished documents and do not cover orders for published documents or requests for information.

As in past years, the overall picture that emerges from an analysis of access applications is that a large proportion of them relate to Commission monitoring of the application of Community law. In a very large number of cases, access was requested in order to obtain documents likely to support the applicant's position in a complaint concerning, for example, an alleged infringement of Community law, or in an administrative or judicial action concerning, for example, a Commission decision on competition policy. These applications generally relate to large volumes of documents, analysis of which gives rise to a substantial administrative burden.

It should also be noted that the exception relating to protection of the Commission's decision-making process is cited mainly to protect decision-making on individual issues. In the legislative field, more and more documents are made available to the public directly, without waiting for access applications. The Commission's Directorates-General have developed their websites on specific policies and have used them to make a large number of documents publicly available. The exception concerning the protection of commercial interests is mainly cited in connection with requests for access to competition policy documents and tender procedures.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0351:FIN:EN:PDF>