
Some suggestions for your organisation



Taking stock

Starting from the premise that your resources (time, other members' availability, expertise) are limited the focus should be on maximising your organisation's strengths.

You do NOT need to be an EU expert

You do NOT need to be a lawyer

You need to BE Knowledgeable about your sector

You need to BE Aware of developments

You need to React relatively quickly

What are we dealing with?

The European Commission presents some 900 documents linked to legislation each year:

Green & White Papers, Communications,
Legislative proposals and reports.

However, your interest will most probably be in only a few of them!

What are we dealing with?

To top the previous figure, a cursory look at the Directory of Community legislation reveals that there are tens of thousands of acts in force, ranging from directives and regulations to decisions and agreements — all in 20 chapters.

Again, your interest will most probably be in only a few of these chapters!

Do not feel overwhelmed!

If you wish to get an idea of current EU legislation, by sector, and in an easy-to-read format, the following online address should be of help:

http://europa.eu/scadplus/scad_en.htm



The screenshot shows the 'Europa' website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Print version', 'Legal notice', 'What's new?', 'Search', 'Contact', 'Index', 'Glossary', and 'About'. Below this, the main header features the 'Europa' logo and the text 'Activities of the European Union' and 'Summaries of legislation'. A language selector is set to 'English (en)'. The main content area is titled 'EUROPA - Summaries of legislation - CONSUMERS'. On the left, there is a sidebar menu with a 'Home page' link and a list of categories including Agriculture, Audiovisual and Media, Budget, Competition, Consumers, Culture, Customs, Development, Economic and Monetary Affairs, Education, Training, Youth, Employment and Social Policy, Energy, Enlargement, Enterprise, Environment, External Relations, External Trade, Food Safety, Foreign and Security Policy, and Policy. The main content area is titled 'CONSUMERS' and contains the following text: 'The European Union of 27 countries has almost half a billion potential consumers. The Member States have progressively developed measures aimed at safeguarding the specific interests of these consumers who play a vital economic and political role in society. Starting in the mid-1970s, the EU has endeavoured to harmonise these national measures in order to guarantee European citizens the same high level of protection throughout the single market. The European policy in favour of consumers aims to safeguard the health, safety and interests of consumers, as set out in Articles 153 and 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, by promoting openness, fairness and transparency in the internal market. [For more information...](#)' Below this, there are several sub-sections: 'GENERAL FRAMEWORK AND PRIORITIES' (Services of general interest, Actions and strategic programmes), 'CONSUMER INFORMATION' (Information systems, Misleading advertisements and commercial practices), 'CONSUMER SAFETY' (Consumer health, Product safety, Safety of services, Quality of goods and services), 'PROTECTION OF CONSUMERS' ECONOMIC AND LEGAL INTERESTS' (Consumer representation, Legal redress and the settlement of disputes, eCommerce, Contracts, Transport, Financial services), 'PRODUCT LABELLING AND PACKAGING' (Labelling of foodstuffs, Food packaging and contents, Non-food product labelling), and 'ENLARGEMENT' (Enlargement, Candidate countries).

Do not feel overwhelmed!

You can easily update yourself by regularly browsing through the websites of the:

- European Commission
- European Parliament
- Council of the European Union
- European Economic and Social Committee
- Committee of the Regions



If you wish to go into more detail...

Other online resources such as the Prelex database

(<http://ec.europa.eu/prelex/apcnet.cfm?CL=en>)

and the Council's Public Register

(<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/>) should be of help.

PreLex Database

Advanced search

Series ? e.g.: COM, COD, CNS Search on words from the title of the proposal in

Year e.g.: 1999

Number e.g.: 453

Events:

Activities of the institutions:

Between / / and / / e.g.: 24/01/1999 and 26/01/1999

AND OR

Events:

Activities of the institutions:

Between / / and / / e.g.: 24/01/1999 and 26/01/1999

PreLex Database (2)

Person: ?
Type a name or the beginning of a name followed by * and click on the button to select the pertinent name

Role: ▼

Nbre results/page

Other search

Pending proposals of directives, regulations, decisions and framework decisions for which the service responsible is

▼

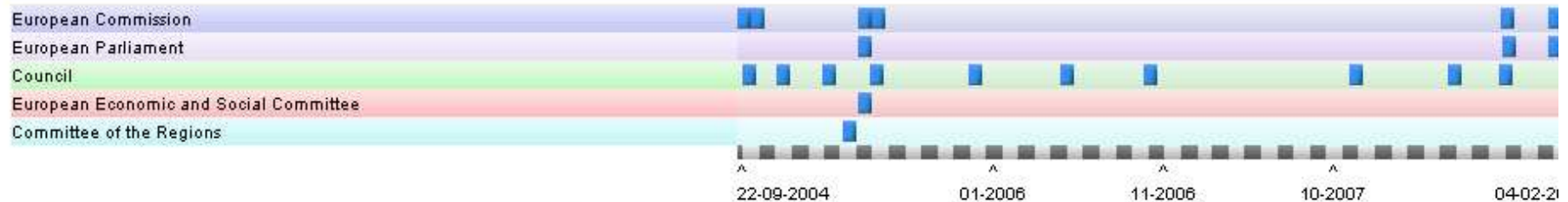
Proposals withdrawn by Commission since / /

The PreLex Database (3)

Detail
Print

COM (2004) 607 **2004/0209/COD**

Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Directive 2003/88/EC concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time



Events:

Adoption by Commission
22-09-2004

Transmission to Council
22-09-2004

Transmission to EP
22-09-2004

Supplement
22-09-2004

Discussions at Council
04-10-2004

Discussions at Council
07-12-2004

Discussions at Council
03-03-2005

Committee of Regions opinion

Fields of activity:	Freedom of movement for workers and social policy
Legal basis:	Commission : Traité/CE/art 137 par 2
Procedures:	Commission : Codecision procedure Council : Codecision procedure
Type of file:	Commission : Proposal for a Directive Council : Directive
22-09-2004	Adoption by Commission
Decision mode:	Oral procedure
Addressee for formal act	Council; European Parliament
Primarily responsible	DG Employment, Social Affairs
Mandatory consultation	Committee of the Regions; European Eco. & Soc. Committee

The PreLex Database (4)

EESC opinion

11-05-2005

EP opinion 1st rdg

11-05-2005

Commission position on EP amendments on 1st reading

11-05-2005

Adoption amended proposal

31-05-2005

Trans. amend. prop. to Council

31-05-2005

Transm. amended prop. to EP

31-05-2005

Discussions at Council

02-06-2005

Discussions at Council

08-12-2005

Discussions at Council

01-06-2006

Discussions at Council

07-11-2006

Discussions at Council

05-12-2007

Council agreement

09-06-2008

Adoption common position

15-09-2008

Adopt. declaration comn posit.

18-09-2008











Trans. Council decl. cmn posn

19-09-2008

Trans. EP decl. cmn posn

19-09-2008

EP receipt of common position

Documents:	 Bulletin /2004/9/ 1.3.11
	 OJ C/2004/322/ 10
	 IP/2004/1129/
	 CS/2004/12683/
	 COM/2004/607/FINAL
	 C6/2004/122/
Procedures:	Codecision procedure
Type of file:	Proposal for a Directive
Legal basis:	Traité/CE/art 137 par 2
NUMERO CELEX	 52004PC0607
22-09-2004	Transmission to Council
22-09-2004	Transmission to EP
22-09-2004	Supplement
Documents:	 SEC/2004/1154/
04-10-2004	Discussions at Council
Documents:	 CS/2004/13369/
	 PRES/2004/264/
OJ CONSEIL	ITEM "B" ON COUNCIL AGENDA
SESSION CONSEIL	2606
SUJET	EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
07-12-2004	Discussions at Council

Aware of the developments – time for analysis

You know your organisation best, however:

It would be better not to, internally, isolate EU-related developments which are of interest.

Network with other organisations which have mutual concerns – discuss and if need be work together.

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- Try to get expert views from different sources (eg. EESC and CoR opinions; think tanks, other organisations) to assist your analysis
 - Integrate monitoring within your routine and get attuned.
 - Establish procedures which shorten rather than lengthen internal decision-making on particular issues.
 - Identify the right channels which you need to engage with to get your views across.
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For Reps on a Sectoral Committee

You are aware of developments through your own initiative

You are receiving EU legislative proposals by sector directly from MEUSAC

Now what?

For Reps on a Sectoral Committee

- Go through the legislative proposals of particular interest and extract what is of concern as soon as you can
 - Highlight issues which may need to be raised internally
 - Inform members and disseminate where required (particularly if you represent an umbrella organisation!)
 - Discuss and do the relevant find-outs
 - Identify concrete proposals which may need to be made from your organisation's end
 - Inform MEUSAC of any issues
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Meeting with other CSOs and government officials within the Sectoral Committees

- Be prepared with the issues and any proposals you may have (be as practical as possible)
 - Work towards solutions (always keep in mind that your suggestions may not be possible to take on board) and if need be prepare a fallback (adjust and adapt could be one of them)
 - Network - what may be good for you could also be good for others
 - Maintain a link with your organisation — you are its representative
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Follow-up

- Continue monitoring developments
 - If change is to be expected start laying the groundwork
 - In the case of a Directive you may also be involved in its transposition
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Keep in touch

Our contact details, should you require them:

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