



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



9148/06 (Presse 131)

PROVISIONAL VERSION

(only culture and audiovisual items)

PRESS RELEASE

2729th Council Meeting

Education, Youth and Culture

Brussels, 18-19 May 2006

President **Mr Franz Morak,**
State Secretary, Federal Chancellery and of Austria

P R E S S

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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- The documents whose references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site <http://www.consilium.europa.eu>.
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the abovementioned Council Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

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PARTICIPANTS

The Governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Ms Fadila LAANAN

Minister for Culture, the Audiovisual Sector and Youth,
French Community

Czech Republic:

Ms Petra SMOLÍKOVÁ

Deputy Minister for Culture

Denmark:

Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN

Deputy Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Peter WITT

Deputy Permanent Representative

Estonia:

Mr Raivo PALMARU

Minister for Culture

Greece:

Mr Giorgos VOULGARAKIS
Mr Theodoros ROUSOPOULOS

Minister for Culture
Minister of State and Government Spokesman

Spain:

Mr Francisco ROS PERÁN

State Secretary for Telecommunications and the
Information Society

France:

Mr Renard DONNEDIEU DE VABRES

Minister for Culture and Communication

Ireland:

Mr John BROWNE

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture and
Food (with special responsibility for Forestry)

Italy:

Mr Alessandro PIGNATTI

Deputy Permanent Representative

Cyprus:

Mr Pefkios GEORGIADES

Minister for Education and Culture

Latvia:

Ms Helēna DEMAKOVA

Minister for Culture

Lithuania:

Mr Vlādimiras PRUDNIKOVAS

Minister for Culture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Louis SCHILTZ

Ms Octavie MODERT

Minister for Communications, Minister for Cooperation
and Humanitarian Action, Minister for Defence
State Secretary for Relations with Parliament, State
Secretary for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural
Development, State Secretary for Culture, Higher
Education and Research

Hungary:

Mr András BOZÓKI

Minister for Cultural Heritage

Malta:

Mr Francis ZAMMIT DIMECH

Minister for Tourism and Culture

Netherlands:

Ms Medy van der LAAN

State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science

Austria:

Mr Franz MORAK
Mr Georg LIENBACHER

State Secretary, Federal Chancellery
Director General, Federal Chancellery

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Poland:

Mr Krzysztof OLENDZKI

Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Culture

Portugal:

Ms Isabel PIRES DE LIMA
Mr Augusto SANTOS SILVA

Minister for Culture
Minister for Parliamentary Affairs

Slovenia:

Ms Jelka PIRKOVIČ

State Secretary at the Ministry of Culture

Slovakia:

Mr Juraj NOCIAR

Deputy Permanent Representative

Finland:

Ms Tanja KARPELA
Ms Susanna HUOVINEN

Minister for Culture
Minister for Transport and Communications

Sweden:

Mr Leif PAGROTSKY

Minister for Education and Culture

United Kingdom:

Mr Shaun WOODWARD

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Creative
Industries and Tourism

.....
Commission:

Ms Viviane REDING
Mr Ján Figel'

Member
Member

.....
The Governments of the Acceding States were represented as follows:

Bulgaria:

Ms Ina KILEVA

Deputy Minister for Culture

Romania:

Mr Virgil NITULESCU

State secretary, Ministry for Culture and Religious Affairs

CULTURE AND AUDIOVISUAL

– *Culture 2007 programme*

Following the agreement on the financial framework for 2007-2013, the Council has now reached a political agreement on the entire¹ draft decision establishing the *Culture 2007* programme, aimed at providing financial support for the European cultural sector for the 2007-2013 period (8950/06).

It is recalled that the new programme, which succeeds the Culture 2000 programme, will give priority support to three objectives:

- promoting transnational mobility of people working in the cultural sector in the EU;
- encouraging transnational circulation of works of art and cultural products;
- encouraging intercultural dialogue.

The draft programme provides for three strands of intervention:

- direct financial support for cultural actions;
- support for bodies active at European level in the field of culture;
- support for analyses, for the collection and dissemination of information and for other activities improving the impact of projects in the field of European cultural cooperation.

It is to be noted that both the Commission and the Council agreed, as proposed by the European Parliament, to transfer strand 2.2 of the Commission's proposal, relating to actions for the preservation of memorials, to the proposed "*citizens for Europe*" programme.

Legal basis proposed: Article 151(5) of the Treaty – unanimity required for a decision by the Council and co-decision procedure with the European Parliament applicable.

¹ At the (EYC) Council of 14-15 November 2005, the Council reached a partial political agreement on the proposal.

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The European Parliament delivered its first reading opinion on 25 October 2005 (13677/05). A large number of the amendments proposed have been incorporated into the text, either in whole, in part or in essence. The text agreed will be adopted as a common position by a subsequent Council and sent to the European Parliament for a second reading.

– ***European capitals of culture***

The Council will take note of the names of the leading figures proposed by Austria and Finland to be nominated as members of the selection panel responsible for the designation of the 2011 "European capitals of culture". The two members will officially be appointed by the Council in the second half of this year.

The two nominees proposed are Mr Thomas ANGYAN (Austria) and Mr Seppo KIMANEN (Finland).

It is recalled that under Decision 1479/1999/EC¹ establishing a Community action for the European capital of culture event for the years 2005 to 2019, the Commission each year forms a selection panel which issues a report on the designation of cities as European capitals of culture. The selection panel is composed of seven leading independent figures who are experts on the cultural sector, of whom two are appointed by the European Parliament, two by the Council, two by the Commission and one by the Committee of the Regions. In accordance with Decision 2000/CE/01² on the appointment by the Council of two members of the selection panel, the two States holding the Council Presidency during the ongoing year each nominate a leading figure for appointment by a simple majority by the Council for the following year.

The "*European capital of culture*" event was instigated by the Council in 1985, on the initiative of Ms Méline Mercouri, Greek Minister for culture, in order to help bring the peoples of Europe closer together. The support this event receives from the Community is laid down in Decision 1419/1999/EC.

¹ Decision 1419/1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 1999 (OJ L 166, 1.7.1999, p. 1).

² Council Decision of 17 December 1999 (OJ C 9, 13.1.2000, p. 1).

– ***European year of intercultural dialogue 2008***

Pending the first reading opinion of the European Parliament, the Council reached a general approach on a draft decision designating 2008 as the *European year of intercultural dialogue (8951/06)*.

Intercultural dialogue contributes to achieving a number of the Union's priorities, in particular:

- by respecting and promoting cultural diversity in Europe and promoting active European citizenship open to the world and based on the common values in the European Union;
- by including the renewed Lisbon strategy, for which the knowledge-based economy requires people capable of adapting to changes and benefiting from all possible sources of innovation in order to increase prosperity;
- by supporting the Union's commitment to solidarity, social justice and greater cohesion in the respect of common values in the European Union;
- by enabling Europe to make its voice better heard in the world and to forge effective partnerships with neighbouring countries, thus extending the zone of stability and democracy beyond the Union and thereby influencing the wellbeing and security of European citizens and all those living in the European Union.

The designation of 2008 as European year for intercultural dialogue will allow the Community to support information and promotion campaigns, events and initiatives, surveys and studies aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue.

The European year initiative will assist European citizens as well as those living in the Union temporarily or permanently.

Legal basis proposed: Article 151 of the Treaty – unanimity required for a Council's decision; co-decision procedure with the European Parliament applicable.

– ***"Citizens for Europe" programme***

The Council reached political agreement on a draft decision establishing for the period 2007-2013 the programme "*citizens for Europe*" to promote active European citizenship.

Regarding the outstanding issues to be resolved by the Council (the designated bodies and the phasing-out period) it was agreed to add the *Institute für Europäische Politik*, the *European Council on Refugees and Exiles* and the *Maisons de l'Europe* to the list and to establish a funding phasing-out period of 3 years.

Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and the United Kingdom announced their intention to abstain when the act is adopted.

The aim of the programme is to safeguard the continuity of the ongoing programme on civic participation¹. As proposed, the programme aims specifically to:

- promote the mobility of citizens across Europe by bringing them together, in particular at local community level, to share and exchange experiences, opinions and values, to learn from history and to build for the future;
- foster action, debate and reflection related to European citizenship through cooperation between civil society organisations at European level;
- make the idea of Europe more tangible for its citizens by promoting and celebrating Europe's values and achievements, while preserving the memory of its past;
- encourage the balanced integration of citizens and civil society organisations from all Member States, contributing to intercultural dialogue and bringing to the fore both Europe's diversity and unity, with particular attention to activities with Member States that have recently joined the European Union.

The proposed programme comprises, *inter alia*, actions such as town-twinning, support for research into and consideration of European policies, support for commemorations or for Europe-wide awards.

Legal basis proposed: Articles 151 and 308 of the Treaty – unanimity required for a Council decision and co-decision procedure with the European Parliament applicable.

The European Parliament adopted its first reading opinion on 5 April 2006 (8028/06). The text agreed will be adopted as a common position by a forthcoming Council and sent to the European Parliament with a view to its second reading.

For further details, see the Commission proposal 8154/05.

¹ OJ L 30, 2.2.2004, p. 6

– ***UNESCO convention on cultural diversity***

The Council adopted a decision on the conclusion by the European Community of the UNESCO convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions (8953/06 + 8661/1/06).

The convention on cultural diversity was adopted at the general conference of UNESCO in Paris on 20 October 2005. It establishes a series of rights and obligations to protect and promote cultural diversity.

The purpose of the proposal is to authorise the European Community to approve and, consequently, become a party to the UNESCO convention, together with the Member States..

The full participation of the European Community and its Member States in implementing the convention will contribute, in particular, to:

- establishing a new pillar of world governance with the aim of ensuring protection and promotion of cultural diversity;
- emphasising the specific and dual (cultural and economic) nature of cultural goods and services;
- recognising the role and legitimacy of public policies in the protection and promotion of cultural diversity;
- recognising the importance of, and promoting, international cooperation to respond to cultural vulnerabilities, in particular with regard to developing countries;
- defining appropriate links with other international instruments that enable the convention to be implemented effectively.

Legal basis proposed: Articles 133, 151, 181, 181a, 300 (2) and (3) of the Treaty – unanimity required for a Council decision.

– ***Strengthening European creative industries***

The Council held an exchange of views on the topic *strengthening the European creative industries: a contribution to growth and employment*.

On 2/3 March 2006 an EU expert seminar on "*content for competitiveness*", organised by the Austrian Presidency, was held in Vienna. The conclusions of the seminar were approved as *Presidency conclusions (see annex of 8954/06)*.

According to the Presidency, the seminar has shown that content and creative industries possess a large potential for creating growth and employment thus contributing to the goal set out for Europe in the Lisbon agenda. It also underlined the need for a coherent policy with regard to content and creative industries, in particular exploiting the full potential of information and communication technologies (ICT).

On the basis of the results of the seminar and of other initiatives, the Presidency organised today's debate covering the following issues (8954/06):

- *Priorities for content and creative industries that are relevant for the updating of the Work Plan for Culture and implementation of the i2010 initiative.*
- *Improvement of the dialogue between all stakeholders of the cultural, audiovisual and ICT sectors on the European level.*

– ***Protection of minors and human dignity***

The Council reached political agreement on a draft recommendation on the *protection of minors and human dignity and on the right of reply* in the European audiovisual and online information services industry (8956/06).

The Netherlands, Slovakia and the United Kingdom announced their intention to abstain when the act is adopted.

The draft recommendation calls on the Member States, the industry and interested parties (viewers' associations), as well as the Commission, to enhance the protection of minors and human dignity in the broadcasting and internet sectors. It also recommends that the Member States consider the introduction of measures regarding the right of reply in relation to online media.

It builds upon the Council Recommendation 98/560/EC of 24 September 1998¹, which remains valid. It responds to the new challenges both in quantitative (more “illegal” content) and qualitative terms (new platforms, new products) that technological developments bring in this field.

The draft recommendation addresses the following questions:

- media literacy;
- rating or classification of audiovisual content;
- portrayal of the sexes in the media and advertising;
- right of reply.

Legal basis proposed: Article 157 of the Treaty – qualified majority required for a Council decision; co-decision procedure with the European Parliament applicable.

The European Parliament delivered its first reading opinion on 7 September 2005 (11955/05). The text agreed will be adopted as a common position by a subsequent Council and sent to the European Parliament with a view to its second reading.

¹ OJ L 270, 7.10.1998, p. 48.

– ***Television without frontiers***

Pending the European Parliament's first reading opinion, the Council took note of a progress report and held a debate on the proposal for a directive amending the Directive on the pursuit of *television broadcasting activities*¹.

The debate covered, in particular, the following issues in relation with the proposed directive,:

- the appropriateness and the sustainability of the distinction between linear and non-linear services;
- the common rules² applying to both categories of services;
- the extent of the modernisation and simplification of the television advertising and teleshopping rules³.

The majority of the delegations were in line with the approach of the Commission proposal. They mentioned some issues needing to be more deeply discussed : the need for further legal certainty concerning the definitions of linear and non-linear services (possibility of a positive list), the protection of minors, avoiding restrictions to the development of the audiovisual industry, etc.

The proposed directive seeks to address the more recent and significant technological and market developments, while ensuring a level competitive playing field.

It aims to introduce common minimum rules for all audiovisual media services irrespective of the transmission platform technology used to deliver those services, thus ensuring platform neutrality, and to modernise advertising rules.

¹ Council Directive 89/552/EEC (OJ L 298, 17.10.1989, p. 23) as last amended by Directive 97/36/EC (OJ L 202, 30.7.1997, p. 60).

² Identification of the media service provider, the protection of minors, the prohibition of incitement to hatred, the promotion of cultural diversity, some qualitative restrictions for as well as the identification of commercial communication.

³ Regulations about recognisability and separation as well as insertion of television advertising and teleshopping, about the time limit and about the regulations for television broadcasts exclusively devoted to advertising and teleshopping.

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It introduces the notion of audiovisual media services and distinguished between "linear" services (e.g. scheduled broadcasting via traditional TV, the internet or mobile phones, which "pushes" content to viewers) and "non-linear" services (such as video-on-demand, which the viewer "pulls" from a network). Only a basic tier of rules would apply to non-linear services.

Advertising rules, which concern only linear services, are simplified. The daily limit on advertising is dropped, but the 12 minute upper limit per hour is maintained. The 20 minutes minimum interval between advertising breaks is also abolished, but cinematographic works, news and children's programmes can be interrupted only once every 35 minutes. Rules on product placement, not currently addressed by the TVWF Directive, are introduced.

Legal basis proposed: Articles 47 and 55 of the Treaty – qualified majority required for a Council decision; co-decision procedure with the European Parliament applicable.

For further details, see the Commission proposal 15983/05.

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OTHER BUSINESS

The Council was briefed on the following items:

- Inclusion in the list of "European Heritage" (9165/06)
 - Information from the French and Spanish delegations

- Changing the name of the concentration camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau
 - Information from the Polish delegation

AUDIOVISUAL

Media 2007 programme

Following the agreement on the financial framework for 2007-2013, the Council reached a full¹ political agreement on a decision establishing a programme of support for the European audiovisual sector (*Media 2007*) (8955/06 +COR 1).

It is recalled that the programme, which combines the current Media Plus and Media Training programmes, is intended to support the European audiovisual sector with the aim following objectives:

- preserving and enhancing European cultural diversity and its cinematographic and audiovisual heritage;
- guaranteeing its accessibility to European citizens;
- promoting intercultural dialogue;
- increasing the circulation and viewership of European audiovisual works inside and outside the European Union;
- strengthening the competitiveness of the European audiovisual sector in an open and competitive European market.

The text agreed will be adopted as a common position by a forthcoming Council and sent to the European Parliament with a view to its second reading.

¹ At the (EYC) Council of 14-15 November 2005, the Council reached a partial political agreement on the proposal.

YOUTH

Values of non-formal and informal learning - Council resolution

The Council adopted the following resolution:

"the Council of the European Union and the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council,

Whereas:

- (1) The Conclusions of the Lisbon European Council on 23 and 24 March 2000 define new strategic objectives to strengthen employment, economic reform and social cohesion as an integral part of a knowledge-based economy. Member States were invited by the European Council to adopt the necessary measures in their constitutional provisions and the Council and the Commission, each within the limits of its own competences, were invited to develop *inter alia* a common European blueprint for curricula vitae to be used on a voluntary basis, which would make it easier for educational and training institutions as well as employers to assess skills acquired and promote mobility.
- (2) The White Paper *A new impetus for European youth* of 21 November 2001¹, with regard to the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, emphasises the need for a clearer definition of the concepts, of the skills acquired and of quality standards, a higher regard for those involved, greater recognition of these activities and greater complementarity with formal learning and training.
- (3) The Barcelona European Council on 15 and 16 March 2002 adopted a concrete work programme with the objective of making the education and training systems a worldwide quality reference by 2010. It agreed that the three basic principles underlying this programme should be improved quality, facilitation of universal access, and opening to the wider world.

¹ 14441/01 - COM(2001) 681 final.

- (4) The Council Resolution on lifelong learning of 27 June 2002¹ invites the Member States to encourage cooperation and effective measures to validate learning outcomes, crucial for building bridges between formal, non-formal and informal learning and thus a prerequisite for the creation of a European area of lifelong learning.
- (5) On the basis of the joint Commission and Council of Europe working paper *Pathways towards Validation and Recognition of Education, Training and Learning in the Youth Field* the January 2005 "Bridges for Recognition" conference in Leuven developed approaches towards the assessment and recognition of education, training and learning in the field of youth and underlined the need for a better validation of non-formal learning.
- (6) The comprehensive work of the Council of Europe in the field of non-formal and informal learning, for instance by means of a European Portfolio for Youth Leaders and Youth Workers, underlines the value of this type of educational experience and emphasises the need to recognise it, particularly given the significance of life-long learning.
- (7) The Conclusions of 28 May 2004 of the Council and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, advocated, in accordance with the Copenhagen Declaration of 30 November 2002² :
 - the adoption of a set of common European principles for the identification and validation of non-formal and informal learning;
 - the development and dissemination of European instruments to recognise non-formal and informal learning.
- (8) The Council Conclusions of 21 February 2005³ called on the European Council to integrate the European Pact for Youth initiative into the mid-term review of the Lisbon Strategy and to adopt guidelines on concrete measures.
- (9) The Presidency Conclusions of the European Council of 23 March 2005, which agreed on the European Pact for Youth, state that a package of strategies and measures dedicated to youth should form a fully integrated part of the Lisbon Strategy. One objective is to develop closer cooperation between the Member States on transparency and comparability of occupational qualifications as well as to recognise non-formal and informal learning.

¹ OJ C 163 of 9.7.2002, p. 1.

² 9600/04.

³ OJ C 85 of 7.4.2005, p. 5.

- (10) The Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 15 November 2005¹, addresses the implementation of the European Pact for Youth and the promotion of active citizenship and defines action lines.
- (11) The Presidency Conclusions of the European Council on 16 and 17 June 2005 propose Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2005 –2008) which include the implementation of the European Pact for Youth.
- (12) The Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council creating the "YOUTH IN ACTION" programme² gives European cooperation a key role in promoting non-formal and informal learning.
- (13) The Joint Report of the Council and the Commission *Modernising Education and Training: a vital contribution to prosperity and social cohesion in Europe* on progress in implementing the Education and Training 2010 work programme³ emphasises the importance of achieving a balance between the social and economic objectives of education and training policies and of developing diverse learning partnerships which include those engaged in both formal and non-formal sectors;

AWARE that

- (1) the work and achievements of young people and those active in youth work and youth organisations deserve greater recognition in order to enhance their value and visibility, and should be given due consideration by employers, formal education and civil society in general;
- (2) non-formal and informal learning activities within the youth field are complementary to the formal education and training system, have a participative and learner-centred approach, are carried out on a voluntary basis and are therefore closely linked to young people's needs, aspirations and interests; by providing an additional source of learning and a possible route into formal education and training, such activities are particularly relevant to young people with fewer opportunities;
- (3) non-formal and informal learning in the youth field takes place in a wide and varied range of settings and that, for the self-development of young people and their social, cultural and professional integration, specific and appropriate methods and instruments are required;

¹ OJ C 292 of 24.11.2005, p. 5.

² 11586/04 - COM(2004) 471 final.

³ OJ C 79, 1.4.2006, p. 1.

- (4) public and private investment in the youth field at local, regional, national and European level have an important economic and social impact;
- (5) the social and economic importance of the youth field is evident in its potential impact on the development of key competences that are of practical relevance to the labour-market, and its fostering of participation, active citizenship and social responsibility.

RECOGNISE that

- (6) non-formal and informal learning are important elements in the learning process and are effective instruments for making learning attractive, developing readiness for lifelong learning and promoting the social integration of young people;
- (7) non-formal and informal learning can enable young people to acquire additional knowledge, skills and competences and contribute to their personal development, social inclusion and active citizenship, thereby improving their employment prospects;
- (8) non-formal and informal learning activities within the youth field can provide significant added value for society, the economy and young people themselves; the contributions which such activities make should therefore be made more visible, as well as better understood, recognised and supported;
- (9) the YOUTH and future "YOUTH IN ACTION" Programmes make an important contribution to the acquisition of competences and are therefore key instruments in providing young people with opportunities for non-formal and informal learning in a European dimension.

INVITE THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION to

- (1) encourage, while taking into account the specific situation in each Member State, the development of a comparable and transparent youth-specific element within Europass for identifying and recognising the skills and competences acquired by young people through non-formal and informal learning, that could be attached to or form an integral part of, certificates or other recognition tools in order to make it easier for third persons – particularly in another Member State – to understand what the original certificate means in terms of the knowledge, skills and competences acquired by its holder;
- (2) enable by this means the identification of those competences acquired and actually used, with a view to their recognition on the labour market;

- (3) encourage public bodies and NGOs to use and, where appropriate, adapt comparable and transparent instruments for recognising competences of those active in youth work and youth organisations, in accordance with the European Portfolio for Youth Leaders and Youth Workers currently being developed within the Council of Europe;
- (4) recognise and support, within their respective competences, the specific contribution made by youth organisations and other non-governmental organisations in providing non-formal and informal learning;
- (5) promote application of the common European principles for the identification and validation of non-formal learning to the specific needs of the youth field;
- (6) encourage further research into the impact of non-formal and informal learning provided by those working in the youth field and youth organisations, in particular their contribution to society and the economy, *inter alia* by making comprehensive use of the information provided by the European Knowledge Centre for Youth Policy;
- (7) encourage the social partners to acknowledge the quality and diversity of young people's non-formal and informal learning and to recognise its social and economic added value;
- (8) encourage innovative partnerships between formal and non-formal learning providers, in order to develop pedagogical approaches that could be attractive for different groups of learners;
- (9) promote access to Europass and similar instruments existing at national and European level and encourage young people to use these on a voluntary basis."

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Belarus - Council adopts financial restrictive measures

The Council adopted a common position amending common position 2006/276/CFCP imposing restrictive measures against certain officials of Belarus by freezing all funds and economic resources of persons who are responsible for the violations of international electoral standards and the crackdown on civil society and the democratic opposition in the context of the 19 March 2006 presidential elections and those natural or legal persons, entities or bodies associated with them, as listed in the annex (8818/06). The common position also specifies that no funds or economic resources shall be made available, directly or indirectly, to or for the benefit of the persons concerned.

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The Common position establishes a list of 36 persons concerned, including President Lukashenko.

These measures are adopted in addition to travel restrictions against President Lukashenko, members of the leadership and certain officials of Belarus imposed by common position 2003/276/CFSP¹ adopted by the Council on 10 April. At that time, the Council had indicated that further targeted measures could be decided (*See 10 April Council conclusions on Belarus in External relations press release 7939/06*).

The Council also adopted a regulation implementing these measures at Community level (8847/06).

For further information, please see press release 9531/06.

Relations with Monaco

The Council agreed on the position to be taken by the Community in the EC-Monaco Joint Committee concerning its rules of procedure.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

ACP-UE council of ministers in Papua New Guinea, 1-2 June

The Council approved a draft provisional agenda for the 31st session of the ACP-EU council of ministers, which will take place in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on 1 and 2 June.

The ministerial session will address issues of common interest such as economic partnership agreements, trade and development cooperation, migration and EU strategies for ACP regions.

The Council also approved a draft joint ACP-UE declaration on climate change and development, to be issued at the meeting.

¹ OJ L 101, 11.4.2006, p. 5.

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TRANSPARENCY

Public access to documents

The Council adopted:

- the reply to the letter sent to the Council by the European Ombudsman concerning the follow-up to complaint 2172/2005/MHZ (8773/06);
 - the reply to confirmatory application 22/c/01/06 (8729/06).
-