



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 22 June 2009

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NOTE

From : Incoming Swedish Presidency
To : the Article 36 Committee, SCIFA and the Civil Law Committee
Subject : Preparing the Stockholm Programme
- Organisation of discussions in the Council

On 10 June 2009, the Commission adopted a Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on “An area of freedom, security and justice serving the citizen” (doc 11060/09 JAI 404)). At the same time it adopted a Communication entitled "Justice, freedom and security in Europe since 2005: an evaluation of the Hague programme and action plan (doc 10953/09 JAI 389 + Add 1, Add 2, Add 3).

These Communications had been preceded by a long period of consultation with citizens (more than 800 contributions were submitted to the European Commission following its wide ranging questionnaire), Member States' Governments (see the Reports of the Future Group, (docs 11960/08 JAI 388 + 11962/08 JAI 389 Add 1, Add 2), which concluded two years of consultations), the European Parliament (i a the Pagano Report A6-0262/2009 and the Resolution adopted on 24 April 2009 during the Annual debate on the progress made in 2008 in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, P6 TA-PROV (2009) 0329), International Organisations and Non Governmental Organisations (a number of submissions were made in the course of discussions)

and other stakeholders (see the report of the Bruges Conference, Preparing the Stockholm Programme – Conference in Bruges on 4-5 March 2009 (doc 10576/09 JAI 349) as well as proceedings of the European Academy of Law in Trier on 25 and 26 May 2009.

The incoming Swedish Presidency will now focus its consultations on the Commission Communication with all stakeholders, without prejudice to other events that may occur during the Presidency, before the adoption of the Stockholm Programme at the meeting of the European Council in Brussels on 10 December 2009.

As a first step, delegations in the Committees that are meeting at senior level within the Council are invited to give their preliminary comments on the Commission Communication orally at the meeting of the Senior Level Committees of the Council in the JHA area (CATS on 2 July, The Civil Law Committee on 3 July and SCIFA on 6 July). Ministers will then be requested to give their political orientations at the informal meeting of JHA Ministers in Stockholm on 16-17 July.

Delegations are also invited to give their written comments to the incoming Presidency if they so wish, in particular on the details of the Commission proposals. Comments may be sent to kristina.holmgren@justice.ministry.se, hans.nilsson@foreign.ministry.se and Bernard.Philippart@consilium.europa.eu

The Presidency will continue with consultations with all stakeholders, including in particular with the European Parliament. The issue of the Stockholm Programme will be examined by the European Parliament and national parliaments at the meeting of COSAC on 4-5 October and at the Joint Parliamentary Meeting on 9-10 November (on the invitation of the Swedish Riksdag).

In order to organise the discussions in the Senior Level Committees, the incoming Swedish Presidency invites delegations to focus their comments in particular on the following aspects and Chapters of the Commission Communications, while taking note of the fact that written comments may be made:

CATS

Assessment of the implementation of the Hague Programme

Chapters 2 (except 2.1, 2.2, 2.5 and 2.6), 3 (except 3.1 and civil law parts of 3.2, 3.3 and 3.5) and 4 (except 4.2.3.).

Chapter 5.1.4 (parts)

SCIFA

Assessment of the implementation of the Hague Programme

Chapter 5

Chapter 2.1

Chapter 2.5

Chapter 4.2.3

Chapter 4.3.1 (on Human Trafficking)

CIVIL LAW COMMITTEE

Assessment of the implementation of the Hague Programme.

Chapter 2.1 (civil law parts)

Chapter 2.2 (to the extent possible)

Chapter 3.1 and civil law parts of 3.2, 3.3. and 3.5

Chapter 3.4

Chapter 4.1.1.

In addition, the incoming Presidency asks the Senior Level Committees to examine more generally whether they are content with the way the issue of external relations have been dealt with in the Commission Communication or whether that issue should also be given a more prominent place in the context of the adoption of the Stockholm Programme.

In this context, reference is made to the document submitted by the United Kingdom delegation (doc to be issued) Delegations will be invited to make comments on that document.