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GENERAL REPORT
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION
2000



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on the Activities of
the European Union

2000

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The President and the Members of the European Commission to the President of the European Parliament

Madam,

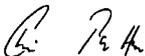
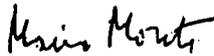
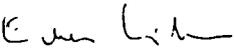
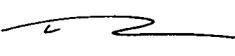
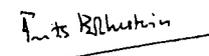
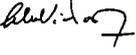
We have the honour to present the General Report on the Activities of the European Union for 2000, which the Commission is required to publish by Article 212 of the EC Treaty, Article 17 of the ECSC Treaty and Article 125 of the EAEC Treaty.

In accordance with the procedure described in the declaration on the system for fixing Community farm prices contained in the Accession Documents of 22 January 1972, the Commission will shortly be sending Parliament the 2000 Report on the Agricultural Situation in the European Union.

And, in accordance with an undertaking given to Parliament on 7 June 1971, the Commission is preparing its XXXth Annual Report on Competition Policy.

Yours faithfully,

Brussels, 13 February 2001

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NOTE

Legislative instruments under the co-decision procedure are mentioned in the Report followed by '(Table I)'. Instruments under the consultation procedure are followed by '(Table II)'. International agreements are followed by '(Table III)'. No footnotes are given for these instruments, which are listed in three separate tables annexed to the Report. The relevant references (OJ, COM, Bull.) for all the stages of the legislative procedure concerning each instrument, together with the appropriate point numbers in the text, are given in the tables.

As a rule, no references are given in the text for intermediate stages of procedures which started before 1 January 2000 and were not completed at 31 December 2000. These references also appear in the tables.

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The European Union in 2000

In 2000, the 50th anniversary of the Schuman declaration, founding text of the Community structure, was marked by a number of tangible signs of progress in the European integration process.

One of the most eloquent of such signs was to be seen in the persistent determination to complete the integration process launched by this declaration half a century ago, by uniting the entire continent of Europe. That is why the enlargement process remained high on the Community's agenda throughout the year. At the end of the year, the Nice European Council solemnly reaffirmed the political priority accorded to it, and approved a strategy paper produced by the Commission with a view to ensuring that the Union would be ready to welcome new members from the end of 2002. The enlargement process, launched in 1997, moved forward in 2000 in a number of areas, carried by the impetus provided by the Helsinki European Council at the end of 1999, after the general direction for the conduct of accession negotiations was confirmed in June by the Feira European Council. Four negotiating conferences were held at ministerial level in 2000, at which negotiations were launched with Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania and Slovakia, those already launched with Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia were continued and joint meetings were held with all these countries. At the same time, the negotiations moved forward on the technical front, and several chapters were closed with a number of the applicant countries. In addition to producing its regular reports on the progress made towards accession by each of the countries concerned, the Commission adopted a proposal for a first 'accession partnership' with Turkey, on which the Council subsequently reached political agreement and which was welcomed by the Nice European Council.

A prerequisite for enlargement remained the need, first of all, to complete the reform of the Community institutions. Marked by this need throughout, the year ended with agreement being reached at the Nice European Council on a future Treaty, thus concluding 10 months of intense negotiations on the four topics dealt with at the Intergovernmental Conference convened to work out the details of the reform: size and composition of the Commission; weighting of votes in the Council; replacing unanimity by qualified-majority voting in decision-making procedures; and closer cooperation.

The Heads of State or Government endeavoured to find lasting solutions to the above issues, left over after the conclusion of the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1997. As far as the Commission is concerned, they decided to keep one Commissioner per Member State until the 27th Member State joins the Union, while the President, to be designated in future by the European Council acting by a qualified majority, will have greater powers within the institution. As a corollary, a delicate compromise was reached on the weighting of votes in the Council. Although qualified-majority voting within the Council was extended to some 30 new areas, the unanimity rule was maintained for certain important subjects (taxation, social security and the environment) and the application of qualified-majority voting was deferred for others (asylum and immigration, and cohesion). The new Treaty will also boost the arrangements for closer cooperation, allowing a significant group of Member States to cooperate more closely, in certain circumstances, in areas where the Community has power to act and as regards the common foreign and security policy. Provision was also made for a future statute for political parties in relation to the European Parliament, which will see the number of its members restricted to 732. Parliament's role was enhanced in certain respects, and it will, in particular, be entitled to ask the Court of Justice, on the same terms as the other institutions, to monitor compliance with Community law. In addition, the new Treaty will reform the court system, in particular to allow the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance to operate smoothly in an enlarged Union.

Another brick was added to the Community structure at the Nice European Council with the solemn proclamation by the Presidents of the three Community institutions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Drawing in particular on texts such as the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, as well as on the constitutional traditions shared by the Member States, the charter enshrines a set of rights and principles that must be respected by the institutions and bodies of the Union and by the Member States when they apply Community law, even though it has not, at this stage, been incorporated into the basic Treaties. The Treaty of Nice contains a new 'early warning mechanism', designed to prevent, rather than penalise, serious and persistent breaches of the fundamental rights by the Member States. As well as drawing up the charter, the European Union continued to take action to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide.

Meeting the aspirations and improving the living conditions of Europe's citizens were the focus of a number of EU initiatives during 2000. Common to concerns about food safety, public health and the environment, the precautionary principle received particular attention in this respect. In the area of food safety, the Commission set out an integrated 'farm to table' strategy, which took on specific form in a number of legislative proposals, such as the creation of a

European Food Authority. The Commission also set out a new strategy and an action programme to implement the enhanced public health provisions introduced by the Treaty of Amsterdam. As regards the environment and sustainable development, major progress was made on environmental liability, waste, and air and water quality. The negotiations on the implications of climate change remained, for the European Union, a priority for international debate, despite the difficulties encountered in dealing with this delicate subject. The incorporation of the environmental dimension into other Community policies also continued. For example, Commission initiatives in the energy field focused not only on the security of supply of oil in particular but also on promoting renewable energy sources and energy efficiency and on nuclear safety. The safety of transport, whether by road, air or sea, was also a priority for the European Union in the context of the sinking of the oil tanker Erika.

Among the advances made towards creating an area of freedom, security and justice, some will significantly affect the lives of citizens. This applies, for example, to the initiatives and instruments adopted as regards jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, and in matrimonial matters and matters of parental responsibility for joint children, insolvency, service of documents, legal aid, greater rights for victims in criminal proceedings and mutual recognition of judgments. The European Union also set up a European Refugee Fund and a 'Eurojust' unit with powers to combat organised crime, and adopted a drug prevention action plan for 2000–04.

Consolidation of the economic and social area also continued throughout the year, thanks in particular to the impetus given in various fields by successive European Councils. The special European Council meeting in Lisbon in March set a new strategic goal to make the European Union the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. In this connection, the European Council took on more of a guiding and coordinating role and decided to devote its annual spring meeting to economic and social issues. In June, it approved the comprehensive 'eEurope 2002' action plan drawn up by the Commission as part of its strategy to ensure an information society for all and, in December, the European Social Agenda drawn up by the Commission with a view to reinforcing and modernising the European social model, characterised by the indissoluble link between economic performance and social progress. The Nice European Council also reached an agreement on the social policy aspects of the draft European company statute, allowing the Council to finalise the texts defining the statute and thus to make a decisive breakthrough on this issue that had remained blocked for some years.

Other major landmarks on the road towards a knowledge-based economy included the launching of an initiative to create a European research area, the

production of the first innovation scoreboard, the adoption of new Community programmes in the fields of education, youth and culture and the reform of the regulatory framework for telecommunications launched by the Commission.

The implementation and adaptation of the single market strategy, the major legislative advances in the financial services and taxation fields, the Commission initiatives towards establishing a genuine Community patent, harmonising certain aspects of copyright and removing barriers to trade in services, and the continued efforts to modernise the competition rules applying Articles 81 and 82 of the EC Treaty, have all helped to make Europe's economy more competitive.

Given the faster integration of financial markets within the euro area, which Greece will join on 1 January 2001, the coordination of economic policies took on new importance. The broad economic policy guidelines for 2000 thus contained detailed recommendations for each Member State, making them more specific and more operational. The stability and convergence programmes established by the Stability and Growth Pact, and the employment guidelines and European Employment Pact, together with the macroeconomic dialogue, also formed an important part of the coordination process mentioned by the Lisbon European Council.

With a view to improving the employment situation and boosting social cohesion, initiatives were taken to develop Community employment incentives, to adopt strategies for jobs in the information society, to step up the fight against social exclusion and to promote equal treatment and combat discrimination, and to modernise the organisation of work, especially by promoting new working time arrangements. Following decisions taken in 1999 as part of Agenda 2000, this was the first year of implementation both of the new programming period for the Structural Funds, essential tools for increasing economic and social cohesion, and of the reform of the common agricultural policy. Initiatives were also launched to implement the provisions introduced by the Treaty of Amsterdam to benefit the most remote regions of the Union.

On the external front, while continuing to contribute to the stabilisation of the continent of Europe and the attainment of strategic objectives linked to this continental dimension, the European Union also strove to assert its presence on the world stage. In 2000 the institutions devoted considerable energy to implementing the provisions introduced by the Treaty of Amsterdam in respect of the common foreign and security policy. With a view to establishing a common European security and defence policy, and in accordance with the Helsinki European Council conclusions as well as on the back of other major initiatives taken in 1999, interim bodies were set up to prepare the ground for the creation of the permanent political and military bodies agreed by the European Council. A Committee for Civilian Crisis Management was also set up, while the

Commission proposed creating a rapid reaction facility to provide financial support to the Union's non-military capacity to intervene effectively in crisis situations developing outside its borders.

While remaining among the most active providers of humanitarian aid in 2000, in particular via the work of the European Community Humanitarian Office, the European Union also launched a debate on the future of the Community's development cooperation policy, with a view to reformulating it in the light of the new global challenges and by giving priority to the goal of poverty reduction. Initiatives were also taken to incorporate the environmental dimension into the development process and to combat the major communicable diseases.

The emergence of the information society, which underpinned many of the European Union's internal policy initiatives, also became a recurring theme in its external relations. Thus, the annual G8 summit in Okinawa saw the adoption by the industrialised countries of a charter on the global information society.

In its relations with the western Balkans, the European Union continued to develop its regional approach via the stabilisation and association process and the stability pact for south-eastern Europe launched in 1999, and via technical and financial assistance, implementation of which was improved and simplified. Negotiations were launched on a stabilisation and association agreement with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The year also saw an improvement in relations with Croatia and, following the election of Mr Kostunica, with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The European Union continued to use the instruments for cooperation and assistance to the independent States of the former Soviet Union and Mongolia, and especially the dialogue written into the partnership and cooperation agreements and the common strategies adopted for Russia and Ukraine, to support economic development and the process of political change underway in these countries. The adoption by the Feira European Council of a common EU strategy on the Mediterranean region strengthened the partnership established five years previously at Barcelona, while a new basic regulation (MEDA II) was drawn up and association agreements concluded with Morocco and Israel. The deterioration of the situation in the Middle East led the Union to give particular attention to the resumption of the peace process in the region. Relations with Asia were distinguished by a fresh boost given to multilateral Asia–Europe relations (ASEM) and to bilateral relations, especially with India and China, and relations with Latin America, by the conclusion of a free trade agreement with Mexico and the launching of negotiations on association agreements with Mercosur and Chile. Cooperation with the ACP countries took a decisive turn with the signature at Cotonou of the new 20-year partnership agreement to succeed the Lomé Convention. Also during 2000, the first Europe–Africa summit was held in Cairo at the highest political level.

As the first year of implementation of the new financial perspective for 2000–06, a new approach was developed to the financing and functioning of the institutions, characterised by a concern for reform.

On the financial front, the procedure for the recasting of the financial regulation began with a view to simplifying its structure and adapting it to the new method of activity-based budgeting. To strengthen the system for the protection of the Community's financial interests, the Commission set out an overall strategic approach to the fight against fraud.

As regards the operation of the institutions, significant progress was made towards improving transparency. The Commission presented a proposal for a regulation on access to documents within the Community institutions and set up a public register of its President's correspondence on the Internet. The Council also took steps towards greater openness in this respect. Their determination to consolidate democratic control and dialogue led the Presidents of the European Parliament and of the Commission to sign a framework agreement on relations between their two institutions.

Alongside the general institutional overhaul undertaken in connection with the Intergovernmental Conference and enshrined in the Treaty of Nice, the Commission, during the year, implemented its intentions as stated at the end of 1999 with respect to its own internal reform. On 1 March, it presented a White Paper setting out strategic guidelines, together with an action plan for implementing the main aspects of the reform (developing a culture based on service; integrating policy programming, activity planning and resource allocation; human resources management; financial management, audit and control). The following months were spent adopting the first measures implementing this action plan. The reform is actually part of a much wider project, set out by the Commission in its strategic objectives for the period of its term of office, 2000–05, and placed by the European Council at the heart of the debate on the future of the Union in preparation for a new Intergovernmental Conference in 2004, this project being to promote new forms of European governance. While wanting its own reform initiative to serve as a possible example for other bodies, the Commission intends more generally to help adapt the institutions to the needs of enlargement, develop new forms of partnership between the various levels of power in Europe and make a specific and active European contribution to the development of global governance.

Chapter I

Intergovernmental Conference

1. On 26 January, as part of the procedure provided for by Article 48 of the Treaty on European Union ⁽¹⁾, the Commission delivered an opinion in favour of convening the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC), entitled 'Adapting the institutions to make a success of enlargement' ⁽²⁾, which centred on the following proposals:

- as regards the institutions and bodies of the Union, the Commission recommended retaining the upper limit of 700 members of the European Parliament, while proposing that a new method be developed for allocating seats among the Member States. It proposed that its own composition be reviewed and that the undertaking given at present by each Commissioner to resign if asked to do so by the President be formalised. It also proposed fixing the number of members of the Court of Auditors at 12 and making their six-year term of office non-renewable. It proposed that the Economic and Social Committee be made more representative of civil society in the European Union and that the distribution of seats by Member State and by socioeconomic category be reviewed, while the number of members be kept at around the current level. For the Committee of the Regions, it recommended limiting the number of members to one third of the number of MEPs and using a distribution key between Member States identical to that used for Parliament;
- as regards the decision-making process, the Commission took the view that qualified-majority voting should be the general rule and unanimity the exception. It also proposed that a link be established between qualified-majority voting and the co-decision procedure, and that the scope of Article 133 be extended to all services, investment and intellectual property rights. As for the revised weighting of votes within the Council, the Commission recommended that a system of double simple majority voting be adopted by laying down in the Treaty that a decision taken by qualified majority must be supported by a simple majority of Member States representing a majority of the total population of the Union;

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 976.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 34, Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.1.1; Supplement 2/2000 — Bull.

- on the question of closer cooperation, the Commission suggested a number of adjustments designed to make the procedure more flexible by removing a Member State's possibility of referring authorisation to establish closer cooperation to the European Council for a unanimous decision, and by fixing the minimum number needed to establish closer cooperation under the Treaty at one third of Member States. It proposed that closer cooperation be made possible in certain circumstances on matters coming under the common foreign and security policy.

2. On 3 February, the European Parliament also issued an opinion⁽¹⁾ in favour of convening the IGC, although it considered that the agenda adopted at Helsinki neither complied with the Amsterdam Protocol calling for a comprehensive review of the Treaty provisions concerning the institutions in the light of the challenges of enlargement nor satisfied the requirements of greater effectiveness and greater democratic legitimacy for the Union. It therefore called on the Council to take an open-minded approach to the Presidency proposals to expand the agenda for the conference. It also felt that the final decision of the Member States should be submitted to it via the assent procedure.

3. On 14 February⁽²⁾, the Council delivered its opinion in favour of convening the IGC, which was opened that same day in Brussels on the basis of the following organisational principles: political responsibility for the IGC rests with the ministers meeting in the General Affairs Council, in which the Commission participates; the Commission also takes part in the group made up of representatives of the governments which is responsible for preparing the ministerial meetings. Two observers from the European Parliament attend the meetings of this group, and may convey Parliament's view on any of the questions discussed. Each ministerial session, and likewise each meeting of the Heads of State or Government, is preceded by an exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament assisted by two representatives. Ten ministerial meetings were held after the opening of the IGC⁽³⁾.

4. On 15 February, with a view to launching, in partnership with the European Parliament and the Member States, a dialogue with European citizens and their elected representatives, the Commission adopted the 'Dialogue on Europe'⁽⁴⁾ initiative to run throughout the conference involving contacts and exchanges of views with the public and with opinion multipliers.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.1.2.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.1.3.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.1.5; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.1.4; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.1.2; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.1.1; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.1.2; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.1.1; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.1.1; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.1.3; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.1.2; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.1.6; http://europa.eu.int/comm/igc2000/dialogue/debate/contributions/index_en.htm.

5. On 1 March, the Commission produced an additional contribution⁽¹⁾, further to its initial opinion (→ *point 1*), focusing on the reform of the judicial system; this set out to clarify further the respective roles of the Court of Justice and the national courts in the preliminary ruling procedure, to achieve a better distribution of powers between the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance (CFI) in relation to direct actions, to adjust the roles of the Court of Justice and the CFI in respect of certain special categories of cases, to provide that judges be appointed by the Council acting by a qualified majority, and to determine the membership of the Court of Justice and the CFI. On 14 March, it adopted a second additional contribution⁽²⁾, in which it proposed introducing qualified-majority voting for the adoption of various provisions in the tax and social security fields, such as on preventing double taxation, measures which modernise and simplify existing Community rules in the indirect tax area, in order to eliminate distortions of competition, or measures for coordinating social security schemes to facilitate the free movement of persons.

6. The Committee of the Regions, in an own-initiative opinion delivered on 17 February⁽³⁾, and the Economic and Social Committee, in an opinion adopted on 1 March⁽⁴⁾, also gave their views on the future reform of the institutions in relation to the aspects which primarily concerned them.

7. In a resolution adopted on 13 April⁽⁵⁾, further to its opinion of 3 February (→ *point 2*), the European Parliament recommended a redistribution of its seats, within the upper limit of 700 MEPs, by means of gradual adjustments according to which, before the 2009 elections, and irrespective of the pace of accessions, the number of representatives to be elected to Parliament in each Member State should be determined on the basis of population, under a proportional allocation system adjusted by allotting each State a minimum of four seats. It also proposes that a Treaty provision should enable a number of members to be elected in a single European constituency and that an additional provision should be included in the EC Treaty whereby Parliament may decide, by an absolute majority of its members, where its seat should be located and where all its meetings should be held. Other proposals concern the weighting of votes, the composition and independence of the Commission and an increased political role for its president. Considering that the co-decision procedure and qualified-majority voting in the Council should become the general rule for decision-making in the legislative sphere, Parliament further proposes that qualified-majority voting should be extended, and that its own assent should be required in a greater number of cases. It also advocates constitutionalising the Treaties, simplifying them and consolidating them into a single text. Lastly,

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.1.1.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.1.2.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.1.4.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.1.3.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.1.1.

Parliament considers that closer cooperation must act as a magnet so that the Union may progress, but should be used only when the Union is genuinely incapable of collective action.

8. The European Council meeting in Santa Maria da Feira ⁽¹⁾, on 19 and 20 June, considered that closer cooperation should form part of the IGC's work, while respecting the need for coherence and solidarity in an enlarged Union. It confirmed its determination to reach an overall agreement at the Nice European Council in December in line with the timetable laid down by the Cologne and Helsinki European Councils.

9. The Commission adopted four additional contributions on 12 July, 29 September and 4 October. In the first ⁽²⁾, it proposed that a provision be added to the EC Treaty allowing the adoption by co-decision procedure of regulations governing European political parties, in particular the conditions for their recognition and the rules regarding their funding. In the second ⁽³⁾, which followed on from the report ⁽⁴⁾ on the reorganisation of the Treaties presented to it on 15 May by the Robert Schuman Centre of the European University Institute in Florence, the Commission endorsed the objective of drawing up a reorganised Treaty without departing from the law as it stands. While, in view of the time constraints, it did not think it realistic for the present IGC to carry out this reorganisation, it nonetheless recommended, given the political interest of the exercise, that the conference decide on a procedure and a timetable for completing future redrafting work without interfering with the current enlargement process. In its third contribution ⁽⁵⁾, following on from its opinion of 26 January (→ *point 1*), the Commission set out its proposals for creating an office of European Public Prosecutor responsible for protecting the Community's financial interests. In the fourth ⁽⁶⁾, it recommended adding to Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union on respect for democratic values a further provision designed to introduce a surveillance and early-warning mechanism upstream of the penalties laid down for a serious and persistent breach of fundamental principles.

10. In a resolution adopted on 20 September ⁽⁷⁾, the Committee of the Regions expressed support for a European constitutional framework which would make European integration more democratic and transparent. It also reiterated its long-standing demand for full institutional status.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.1.1.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 444; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.1.2.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 434; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.1.3.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.1.2.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 608; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.1.2.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.1.1.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.9.1.

11. In a resolution adopted on 25 October ⁽¹⁾, the European Parliament reiterated its wish to incorporate the fundamental values of the Union, citizens' rights and efficient institutional organisation in a constitutional instrument. To that end, it proposed a gradual method together with a timetable ensuring that the constitution would be adopted before the 2004 European elections. The convention which drafted the Charter of Fundamental Rights (→ *points 15 et seq.*) might, with a few adjustments, serve as a model for producing a preliminary draft constitution. In another resolution of the same date ⁽²⁾, Parliament dealt with the issue of closer cooperation, taking the view that closer cooperation must be developed within the framework of the Union, should include the common foreign and security policy and the defence policy in its scope, and should not apply in the areas where the Treaty provides for decision-making by qualified majority. Again on the same date ⁽³⁾, Parliament examined the outcome of the informal European Council in Biarritz (→ *point 13*) and called on the Council, the Commission and the Member States to make every effort to reach a comprehensive agreement on the outstanding matters of the IGC.

12. In a communication adopted on 22 November 2000 ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission proposed the incorporation in the Treaty of provisions designed to increase the powers of its President for directing policy and for internal organisation, that is to allocate or not allocate portfolios and departments to members of the Commission, to appoint vice-presidents from among the members of the Commission with responsibility for coordinating activities in a specific area, to require members of the Commission to resign (thereby formally incorporating in the Treaty the political commitment given by members of the present Commission to resign if asked to do so by the President), and to have a casting vote in Commission discussions. The Commission also proposed that the possibility be incorporated in the Treaty of empowering one or more of its members to take decisions on its behalf in specific fields, as already exists in its Rules of Procedure. Finally, the Commission refers to a number of possible adjustments to its internal working methods which would not require the Treaties to be amended.

13. In preparation for the Nice European Council, the Heads of State or Government held an informal European Council meeting in Biarritz on 13 and 14 October at which they discussed the main issues of the IGC.

14. On 11 December 2000 ⁽⁵⁾, the European Council, meeting as the Intergovernmental Conference in Nice, reached agreement on a new treaty after 10 months of intense negotiations. After formal signature at the beginning of

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.9.1.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.9.2.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.9.3.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 771; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.1.3.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

2001, the Treaty will be sent for ratification by the Member States. The following results were obtained on the four main IGC topics:

- as regards the composition of the Commission, the Heads of State or Government decided to keep one Commissioner per Member State until the 27th Member State joins the Union. When the Union has 27 members, there will be fewer Commissioners than there are Member States. An egalitarian rotation system was agreed, but the precise number of Commissioners will be decided unanimously by the Council beneath a ceiling set at 26. The powers of the President of the Commission have also been strengthened as follows: the President shall decide the internal organisation of the Commission; he shall determine the number of vice-presidents and shall appoint them after approval by the full Commission; members of the Commission shall tender their resignation at the President's request, after approval by the members of the Commission. The President shall be appointed by the European Council acting unanimously; members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Council on the basis of a qualified-majority vote, in agreement with the President;
- with reference to the weighting of votes, from 1 January 2005, the decision-making system will be changed as follows: a qualified majority shall be obtained when a decision is supported by a predetermined number of votes and a simple majority of members. Moreover, a Member State may request that it be verified that the qualified majority represents at least 62 % of the total population of the Union. If this is not the case, the decision is not adopted. The conference decided on the number of votes that each existing Member State will have. It also adopted the common position which the Member States will take on this matter in accession negotiations. The qualified-majority threshold will also be defined in the accession treaties on the basis of the principles set out in the declaration made by the conference on this matter;
- the conference decided that some 30 provisions would be changed from unanimity to qualified-majority voting, although for some of them application is deferred. For 10 of them, the co-decision procedure is to be used. The most important decisions changing over to qualified-majority voting after the Treaty of Nice is ratified relate to judicial cooperation in civil matters (Article 65 of the EC Treaty), some aspects of the common commercial policy (Article 133 of the EC Treaty), the industrial policy (Article 157 of the EC Treaty), the statute for Members of the European Parliament and the statute for political parties at European level (Articles 190(5) and 191 of the EC Treaty). For other provisions, such as those on asylum and immigration policy, cohesion policy and the adoption of the financial regulation, the change-over to qualified-majority voting has been decided in principle, but has been deferred;

- the minimum number of Member States needed to enter into arrangements on closer cooperation was set at eight. Furthermore, the following changes were made to the various ‘pillars’: in the area of the European Community, the veto was removed and the assent of the European Parliament required for closer cooperation in areas coming under the co-decision procedure; in the field of common foreign and security policy, closer cooperation was authorised for taking joint action or a common position (except in the area of security and defence policy), on the basis of a qualified-majority decision (with the possibility of an ‘emergency brake’). In the field of cooperation in police matters and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, the veto was removed.

The conference also decided on some other important institutional reforms:

- as regards the Community’s court system, the new Treaty provides for a redistribution of powers between the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance and for the setting up of specialised chambers and the recasting of the Court’s statute;
- the role of the European Parliament, whose membership was capped at 732 members, was strengthened in some areas. The co-decision procedure will be used more. Parliament may ask the Court of Justice to ensure that the Community institutions respect Community law in the same way as other institutions. A new, specific legal basis, proposed by the Commission, will enable a statute for political parties at European level to be adopted;
- an amendment to Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union provided for a warning system to signal, rather than to sanction, serious and persistent violations of fundamental rights by the Member States.

Finally, the European Council in Nice established a timetable for upcoming work on the future of the European institutions, identifying four areas for study: delimitation of powers between the Union and the Member States, while respecting the principle of subsidiarity; the status of the Charter of Fundamental Rights; the simplification of the Treaties; and the role of national parliaments in the European set-up. After a preparatory phase, for which practical arrangements will be decided by the December 2001 European Council, a new Intergovernmental Conference will be launched in 2004.

Chapter II

Human rights and fundamental freedoms

Section 1

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union

15. On 7 December, European integration entered a new and important stage with the solemn proclamation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union by Ms Fontaine, President of the European Parliament, Mr Chirac, President of the European Council, and Mr Prodi, President of the Commission, on the occasion of the Nice European Council⁽¹⁾. The purpose of this charter is to encourage citizens of the Union to identify with a set of formally protected and recognised common values and to clarify the terms of Article 6(2) of the Treaty on European Union, which refers to the existence of fundamental rights.

16. The charter lists the civil and political rights derived from the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, constitutional traditions common to the Member States, citizens' rights already embodied in the Community Treaties and the economic and social rights inspired by the Council of Europe's European social charters, the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights and Community secondary legislation. This body of rights and principles must be respected by the Union's institutions and bodies, and by the Member States when they apply Community law.

17. The charter was drafted in response to the conclusions adopted by the European Council meetings in Cologne (June 1999) and in Tampere (December 1999)⁽²⁾, which were marked by a desire, at the present stage of the Union's development, to establish the overriding importance and relevance of fundamental rights in a way which would make them more visible to the Union's citizens. These conclusions also laid down the terms of reference, composition and

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 17; <http://europa.eu.int/council/off/conclu/index.htm>.

working methods of the body entrusted with drawing up the draft charter, subsequently known as the convention, under the direction of a 'Praesidium'.

18. Work lasted from December 1999 to October 2000, within the convention itself and in the Praesidium⁽¹⁾, and brought together not only the contributions from the convention's 62 members, made up of representatives of four groups (national parliaments, the European Parliament, Member States' governments and the Commission), but also comments by observers from the Court of Justice, the Committee of the Regions, the Economic and Social Committee and the Ombudsman. Observers from the Council of Europe also contributed. The convention also considered as part of its work the very large number of comments from civil society, submitted via non-governmental organisations. All these comments can be found on the Council's web site⁽²⁾.

19. In addition to their work in the convention, the Community institutions also contributed to the discussions on the charter. In June, following the report on the progress made within the convention, the Feira European Council⁽³⁾ urged the convention to continue its work in such a way that the draft charter could be presented before October 2000. At their informal meeting in Biarritz on 13 and 14 October, the Union's Heads of State or Government were able to reach unanimous agreement on the draft submitted by the chairman of the convention. In a resolution of 16 March⁽⁴⁾, in which it set out guidelines for its delegation, the European Parliament also stressed, for the benefit of the European Council, its desire to see the charter incorporated into the Treaties with full mandatory legal status, thus suggesting a synergy with the current Intergovernmental Conference. Parliament reiterated this desire in a resolution of 3 October⁽⁵⁾. Moreover, in a recommendation of 14 November, confirming its position as set out in its March resolution, it approved the charter and instructed its President to proclaim it⁽⁶⁾.

20. The Commission, represented by Mr Vitorino, played an active part in the work and contributed to the public debate on the charter via two communications, dated 13 September⁽⁷⁾ and 11 October⁽⁸⁾. In the first, while suggesting a number of amendments to express some rights more explicitly (e.g. the right to strike, freedom of association), stressing the European dimension of exercising such rights, or recommending that the rights be expressed more forcefully (protection of the environment), it gave its support to the draft charter. In the

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.2.1; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.2; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.2.2; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.1; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.2.1.

⁽²⁾ <http://ue.eu.int/en/summ.htm>.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point I.5.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.1.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.2.2.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.2.3.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 559; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.2.

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2000) 644; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.2.3.

second, it called for the charter to be incorporated into the Treaties, in due course, with mandatory legal effect. It also suggested the early amendment of Article 6(2) of the Treaty on European Union to take account of the existence of the charter. On 6 December, the Commission approved the charter and likewise authorised its President to proclaim it⁽¹⁾. In an own-initiative opinion of 20 September⁽²⁾, the Economic and Social Committee declared its support for incorporating the charter into the Treaties, subject to certain conditions, as did the Committee of the Regions in a resolution adopted the same day⁽³⁾.

21. In December⁽¹⁾, the Nice European Council called for the charter to be disseminated as widely as possible amongst the Union's citizens as soon as it had been proclaimed. It also stressed that the question of the charter's force would be considered later in accordance with the Cologne conclusions⁽⁴⁾. This matter had been included on the list of points for discussion at the next Intergovernmental Conference, planned for 2004 (→ *point 14*).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.3.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.4.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 17.

Section 2

Actions within the Union

22. On 24 January, the European Parliament and the Council adopted the Community action programme (Daphne programme (2000–03) ⁽¹⁾ on measures to prevent violence against children, adolescents and women (Table I). On 19 May ⁽²⁾, Parliament adopted a resolution on the Commission communication on further actions in the fight against trafficking in women ⁽³⁾. The Commission adopted a number of measures to be taken in the area of freedom, security and justice in connection with trafficking in human beings and the exploitation of children (→ *points 454 and 477*).

23. In a resolution of 16 March ⁽⁴⁾ on respect for human rights in the European Union in 1998 and 1999, the European Parliament expressed its concern at the frequent violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by Member States in the field of criminal justice. It called also for priority to be given to promoting literacy, for steps to be taken to improve the protection of children against sexual abuse and physical violence and for a proactive strategy against extreme poverty to be implemented. It also stated that the European Union would reject the accession of any applicant country which, either in its legislation or in its practice, failed to guarantee respect for human rights. It drew attention to the human rights threat posed by the existence of extremist parties and groupings and the ideology they propagate, and called on the EU institutions to exert greater vigilance.

24. Following the issue, in December 1999, by the European Patents Office (EPO) ⁽⁵⁾ of a controversial patent involving human embryonic stem cells, in a resolution of 30 March ⁽⁶⁾, the European Parliament expressed its concern about the potential use which could be made of it in the cloning of human beings; it reiterated this position in a resolution of 7 September ⁽⁷⁾. On 13 December ⁽⁸⁾, it decided to set up a temporary parliamentary committee to examine new developments in human genetics and other new technologies in modern medicine.

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/project/daphne/en/index.htm.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.2.

⁽³⁾ COM(1998) 726; 1998 General Report, point 28.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 377, 29.12.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.3.

⁽⁵⁾ <http://www.european-patent-office.org/>.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 378, 29.12.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.5.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.5.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

25. On 11 December⁽¹⁾, the President of the European Parliament presented the Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought to the organisation 'Basta Ya', which set itself the objective of combating terrorism in the Spanish Basque Country.

26. The European group on ethics in sciences (EGE)⁽²⁾ delivered an opinion on the cloning of human beings in an opinion adopted on 14 November. The EGE also chose to target its work on the use of tests in trade circles, account being taken of the important European dimension of this matter and the examination launched by the Commission. In conjunction with the drafting of the Charter of Fundamental Rights (→ *points 15 et seq.*), on 23 May, the group also presented to the President of the Commission a report entitled 'Citizens' rights and new technologies', accessible via the Internet on the Europa server⁽³⁾. At the end of the third and last year of its mandate, the EGE compiled an activity report analysing all its opinions and working methods, which was presented to the President of the Commission in December.

27. The information on combating racism is dealt with in Section 3 ('Employment and social policy') of Chapter III (→ *points 111 and 112*).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ 1998 General Report, point 31; 1999 General Report, points 22 and 23; http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgc/ethics/en/index.htm.

⁽³⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgc/ethics/en/gee_en.htm.

Section 3

Actions outside the European Union

28. The European Union continued its policy of promoting the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. On 9 October, the Council published its second annual report on the human rights situation in the world⁽¹⁾, in which it wished to make known and share the EU's commitment, both within and outside the EU, to tackling priority issues such as racism, social exclusion and women and children's rights.

29. A significant number of common strategies, common positions and joint actions adopted by the European Union concern specifically human rights and democracy or deal at some length with human rights (→ *points 748 et seq.*). In the face of sustained serious violations of democratic principles and human rights in many countries, the Union kept up its pressure on the countries concerned through behind-the-scenes representations (→ *point 751*) and statements condemning such practices (→ *points 760 et seq.*).

30. Sending observers to elections remained an important facet of the European Union's policy for promoting human rights and democracy throughout the world; on the basis of guidelines laid down in 1998⁽²⁾, the EU sent observers to Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. In an attempt to determine the various ways in which the EU's activities in this field can be made more efficient and better coordinated, the Commission approved, on 11 April, a communication⁽³⁾ on election assistance and observation.

31. The importance which the EU attaches to respect for democratic principles and human rights was also reflected in its contribution to the deliberations of various international forums, including the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights⁽⁴⁾, the Conference on the Human Dimension of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)⁽⁵⁾ and the Council of Europe⁽⁶⁾. Continuing its international campaign for the abolition of the death penalty, the EU tabled a draft resolution for the

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.2.5. Previous report: 1999 General Report, point 24.

⁽²⁾ 1998 General Report, point 668.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 191; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.3.

⁽⁴⁾ <http://www.un.org/english/index.html>.

⁽⁵⁾ <http://www.osce.org/index.html>.

⁽⁶⁾ <http://www.coe.int>.

second year running on this subject at the 56th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, and it was adopted by a very large majority.

32. On 16 March, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on international human rights and on the EU's policy on human rights in 1999⁽¹⁾; it also delivered an opinion on the situation of human rights in many countries⁽²⁾, and on important topics such as the abolition of the death penalty⁽³⁾, the EU's priorities for the UN Commission on Human Rights⁽⁴⁾ or the role which women can play in the peaceful settlement of disputes (→ *point 133*). On 14 December, it adopted a resolution on the 50th anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees⁽⁵⁾.

33. The technical and financial aid provided by the Community for operations to promote and defend human rights and fundamental freedoms, support for the democratisation process and action to promote observance of human rights and democratisation in support of conflict prevention (EUR 96.8 million) was continued, in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Council on 29 April 1999⁽⁶⁾. On 14 November, the Commission approved a report on the implementation of measures intended to promote observance of human rights and democratic principles from 1996 to 1999⁽⁷⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 377, 29.12.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.6; <http://www.europarl.eu.int/charter/docs/en/text3.htm>.

⁽²⁾ Angola: OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.2.6; Bhutan and Nepal: Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.7; Cambodia: OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.2.7; Chile: Bull. 12-2000; China: OJ C 304, 24.10.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.2.8; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.2.1; Colombia: Bull. 5-2000, point 1.2.1; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.8; Egypt: OJ C 304, 24.10.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.2.9; United States: OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.2.10; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.2.2; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.2.2; Equatorial Guinea: Bull. 5-2000, point 1.2.2; India and Pakistan: OJ C 377, 29.12.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.8; Indonesia: Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.2.3; Iran: Bull. 4-2000, point 1.2.3; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.2.3; Iraq: OJ C 304, 24.10.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.2.11; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.2.4; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.9; Mozambique: Bull. 12-2000; Myanmar: Bull. 5-2000, point 1.2.4; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.10; Uganda and Sudan: Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.2.5; Paraguay: Bull. 6-2000, point 1.2.3; Peru: OJ C 377, 29.12.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.9; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.2.4; Philippines: Bull. 5-2000, point 1.2.6; Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.2.12; OJ C 377, 29.12.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.10; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.2.5; Russia: OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.2.13; OJ C 377, 29.12.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.11; Sierra Leone: Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.11; Chad and Cameroon: OJ C 304, 24.10.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.2.14; Tunisia: Bull. 6-2000, point 1.2.6; Bull. 12-2000; Turkey: Bull. 4-2000, point 1.2.4; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.9; Zimbabwe: Bull. 4-2000, point 1.2.5.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.2.2; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.2.2; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.2.6.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.2.5.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁶⁾ 1999 General Report, point 26.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.2.2.

Chapter III

The Community economic and social area

Section 1

Economic and monetary policy

Priority activities and objectives

34. *Since the changeover to the euro, the European Central Bank (ECB) has conducted monetary policy for the whole of the euro zone, mainly through money-market intervention. Although the euro has depreciated against the dollar, the integration of the financial markets of the euro zone has gathered pace, and private issues in euro have been significant. In June, Greece was admitted as the 12th Member State of the euro zone, the aim being to introduce the single currency into its monetary system from 1 January 2001. In the general context of the development of economic and monetary union, the coordination of economic policies assumed new importance. The broad economic policy guidelines include detailed recommendations for each Member State, making them more specific and more operational. In order better to ensure their application, the Commission published a report on the implementation of the previous broad guidelines and the European Council, meeting in Lisbon in March, attached increased importance to economic and social issues, particularly with a view to its future periodic meetings. The stability and convergence programmes introduced by the Stability and Growth Pact, as well as the employment guidelines and the European Pact for Employment in conjunction with the macroeconomic dialogue were also important factors in this coordination. Furthermore, at the request of the European Council, a detailed study was carried out into the quality and viability of public finances and their contribution to growth and employment. Special attention was also paid to structural reforms intended to improve the functioning of the markets in goods, services and capital.*

Economic situation

35. The economy in the European Union enjoyed a strong and robust recovery, the growth in gross domestic product (GDP) having remained buoyant throughout the year at 3.4 %. Activity in Europe benefited from the strengthening global recovery, underpinned by stronger than anticipated growth in the United States. European exports are also more competitive in price terms, thanks in part to the depreciation of the euro. The main pillar of growth in the Union, however, was strong internal demand. Private consumption continued to expand at a rate close to 3 %, underpinned by favourable labour market trends and high consumer confidence. Capital spending, in particular for equipment, accelerated (6.5 %). However, the adverse changes in raw material and currency prices prevented demand growth from rising to even higher levels.

36. The macroeconomic policy mix was balanced. Government deficits continued to recede and budgetary objectives established for 2000 were overachieved in many cases, thanks to the beneficial effect of strong growth. In an environment of declining slack on product and labour markets, the European Central Bank raised interest rates in the euro zone on several occasions, putting an end to the trend towards easier monetary conditions that was observed in the wake of the emerging markets crises. Further progress was attained on the labour market. Employment continued to rise by 1.6 %, despite a cyclically induced rebound in labour productivity. Job creation benefited, over and above the effects of growth, from a growing shift towards the more labour-intensive service sectors and from the fact that labour market reforms have begun to bear fruit. Generally appropriate wage agreements contributed to these sound gains, in line with the macroeconomic dialogue set up by the Cologne European Council⁽¹⁾, which encompasses the social partners. As a corollary, unemployment continued on the downward trend it embarked on in early 1997, falling by about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a percentage point, from 8.9 % of the labour force in December 1999 to 8 % at the end of the year. Inflation accelerated from the lows it had reached in 1999. As measured by the harmonised index (HICP), it rose from 1.2 % in 1999 to 2.1 % in 2000, mainly owing to rising import prices, themselves due mainly to sharply higher prices for energy and a strong US dollar. In contrast, underlying inflation, i.e. excluding volatile energy and food prices, remained muted at slightly more than 1 %.

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 36.

Economic policy coordination

Broad economic policy guidelines

37. The broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States and the Community for 2000 were formally adopted by the Council on 19 June⁽¹⁾. In accordance with Article 99(2) of the EC Treaty, they had previously been the subject of a Commission recommendation of 11 April⁽²⁾, a draft Council recommendation of 5 June⁽³⁾ and a conclusion adopted by the European Council at its meeting in Santa Maria da Feira⁽⁴⁾ in which it welcomed the draft recommendation. The European Parliament also approved the Commission's general approach in a resolution adopted on 18 May⁽⁵⁾. These broad guidelines give an operational content to the conclusions of the special European Council in Lisbon⁽⁶⁾ on employment, economic reforms and social cohesion, the idea being to take greater advantage of the opportunities offered by globalisation and the new knowledge-based economy and to help meet over time the challenges of restoring full employment, promoting the transition to the new economy, preparing for the consequences of ageing populations and improving social cohesion. The strategy behind the guidelines, which include detailed recommendations for each country to facilitate their application with the help of all policy-makers, aims to bring about a substantial improvement in the Union's potential production in the medium and long term and has several main strands: growth- and stability-oriented macroeconomic policies, along with a monetary policy based on preserving price stability, a more speedy process of budgetary consolidation and wage increases compatible with price stability and job creation; improvement in the quality and viability of public finances; promotion of the knowledge-based economy; a process of thoroughgoing reform to ensure the effective operation of product markets, to stimulate and integrate capital markets and to revitalise labour markets; and, finally, promotion of sustained development.

38. The ground for the debate on the broad guidelines for 2000 was also prepared by the publication of the Commission document 'The EU economy: 1999 review'⁽⁷⁾, which was launched at the end of 1999 in response to a growing demand for full economic information and analyses following the introduction of the euro and now replaces the former annual economic report⁽⁸⁾. This review was welcomed by the European Parliament on 2 March⁽⁹⁾ and by the Economic

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 210, 21.8.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.2.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 214; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.1.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.2.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, points 1.33 and 1.3.2.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.1.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 3-2000, points I.1 et seq.; <http://ue.eu.int/en/Info/eurocouncil/index.htm>.

⁽⁷⁾ Published in *European Economy*, No 69/1999.

⁽⁸⁾ Last report: COM(1999) 7; 1999 General Report, point 35.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.2.

and Social Committee on 29 March⁽¹⁾. On 14 March, as part of increased multilateral surveillance and in response to a Council report on economic policy coordination⁽²⁾, the Commission submitted a report on the implementation of the 1999 broad economic policy guidelines⁽³⁾. It noted that overall implementation was encouraging, especially with regard to budgetary targets, but that little progress had been made in disciplining State aid, reforming benefit systems and modernising work organisation.

39. In view of the growing importance of the guidelines in economic and monetary union, and following up the Lisbon European Council, which decided that from 2000 onwards the European Council would hold an annual meeting in the spring to discuss economic and social issues⁽⁴⁾, the Feira European Council⁽⁵⁾ invited the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Ecofin) to implement its conclusions on practical steps forward to enhance the coordinating role of the guidelines in close cooperation with the other relevant Council formations responsible for implementing them in their respective areas of competence.

40. On 21 December, the Commission adopted a communication on the contribution of public finances to growth and employment⁽⁶⁾ which, among other things, analyses the interaction between these elements and examines the role of public finances in promoting a knowledge-driven economy and their long-term sustainability in light of the impact of ageing populations on pension and healthcare systems.

41. The Commission began the process of preparing its analysis of the broad guidelines for 2001 by submitting on 29 November its report 'The EU economy: 2000 review' which analyses various aspects of the medium-term sustainability of economic growth, and in particular the effects of the 'new economy' on the European economy.

Stability and convergence programmes

42. In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 on budgetary discipline⁽⁷⁾ and within the framework of the Stability and Growth Pact, the Council, acting on a recommendation from the Commission⁽⁸⁾, adopted opinions on the updated stability programmes of Ireland, the Netherlands and Finland on

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 140, 18.5.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.3.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 37.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 143; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.4.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.17.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.33.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 846; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 209, 2.8.1997; 1997 General Report, point 95.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, points 1.3.2 to 1.3.12; Bull. 3-2000, points 1.3.5 to 1.3.7; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.2.

31 January⁽¹⁾, of Belgium, Germany, Spain and Italy on 28 February⁽²⁾, of France, Luxembourg and Portugal on 13 March⁽³⁾, and of Austria on 8 May⁽⁴⁾ and the newly updated stability programmes of Germany, the Netherlands and Finland on 27 November⁽⁵⁾, as well as the updated convergence programmes of Greece and Sweden on 31 January⁽⁶⁾ and of Denmark and the United Kingdom on 28 February⁽⁷⁾. On 18 May, Parliament adopted a resolution⁽⁸⁾ expressing its satisfaction at the implementation of the previous stability and convergence programmes.

43. On 28 February, the Council amended Regulation (EC) No 3605/93 on the application of the protocol on the excessive deficit procedure in order to take account of the introduction of the European system of integrated economic accounts in the Community⁽⁹⁾ (Table II).

Structural reforms

44. In a communication dated 27 September⁽¹⁰⁾, the Commission, responding to the requests made by the European Councils in Lisbon⁽¹¹⁾ and Santa Maria da Feira⁽¹²⁾, proposed 27 structural indicators for employment, innovation and research, economic reform and social cohesion that would serve assessment purposes and present an overall economic context in which structural reforms are taking place. This was welcomed by the Council in its conclusions of 17 October⁽¹³⁾ and by the Nice European Council⁽¹⁴⁾.

45. In response to the call by the Cologne European Council⁽¹⁵⁾, the Commission, in a communication dated 20 September, set out a long-term Community strategy for gradually integrating environmental issues into economic policy using existing instruments⁽¹⁶⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 60, 2.3.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, points 1.3.2 (Netherlands), 1.3.3 (Finland) and 1.3.4 (Ireland).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 98, 6.4.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, points 1.3.5 (Belgium), 1.3.6 (Germany), 1.3.7 (Italy) and 1.3.8 (Spain).

⁽³⁾ OJ C 111, 18.4.2000; Bull. 3-2000, points 1.3.5 (France), 1.3.6 (Luxembourg) and 1.3.7 (Portugal).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 162, 10.6.2000; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.2.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 374, 28.12.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.1 (Germany); OJ C 376, 29.12.2000; Bull. 11-2000, points 1.3.3 (Netherlands) and 1.3.2 (Finland).

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 60, 2.3.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, points 1.3.9 (Sweden) and 1.3.10 (Greece).

⁽⁷⁾ OJ C 98, 6.4.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, points 1.3.11 (Denmark) and 1.3.12 (United Kingdom).

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.3.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 310, 30.11.1996; 1996 General Report, point 95.

⁽¹⁰⁾ COM(2000) 594; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.1.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.17.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point I.33.

⁽¹³⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.1.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽¹⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 445.

⁽¹⁶⁾ COM(2000) 576; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.2.

Economic and monetary union

General developments

46. Following a formal request to take part in the third stage of economic and monetary union submitted by Greece on 9 March ⁽¹⁾, and on the basis of its own 2000 convergence report ⁽²⁾ and that of the European Central Bank, the Commission concluded that Greece fulfilled the necessary conditions for adoption of the single currency and proposed that the appropriate steps be taken ⁽³⁾. At its meeting on 19 June, the Council confirmed this view and decided to put an end to Greece's derogation with a view to permitting the introduction there of the euro with effect from 1 January 2001 (Table II). On the same day the Council amended Regulation (EC) No 2866/98 on the conversion rates between the euro and the currencies of the Member States adopting the euro, setting the conversion rate between the euro and the drachma at EUR 1 = GRD 340.750, with effect from 1 January 2001 (Table II). On 27 November, it amended Regulations (EC) No 974/98 on the introduction of the euro and (EC) No 1103/97 on certain provisions relating to the introduction of the euro (Table II).

47. On 31 January ⁽⁴⁾, in its conclusions on euro-denominated collector coins, the Council laid down detailed rules concerning their appearance, shape and denomination and their treatment in the Member States belonging to the euro zone and stated that efforts should continue to upgrade the specifications over time. It also welcomed the agreement between Member States on technical measurements and tolerances to be observed as the basis for the production of euro coins.

48. On 2 February, the Commission adopted a communication on communications strategy in the last phases of the completion of economic and monetary union ⁽⁵⁾, which aims to update the priorities of the campaign which such a challenge calls for and to confirm the Commission's own commitment. Having noted information gaps and a lack of preparation at certain levels, it believes that this strategy must be cost-effective and should mobilise the support of the people, which means close cooperation and coordination among all those involved and the targeting of certain groups, including SMEs, the general public and non-participating countries. In a resolution adopted on 6 July ⁽⁶⁾, Parliament welcomed this initiative. The Commission has launched a number of specific

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.8.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 277; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.4.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 274; COM(2000) 346; Bull. 5-2000, points 1.3.5 and 1.3.6.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.15.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 57; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.14.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.3.

awareness campaigns including the 'Euro made easy' programme for people finding it difficult to obtain information.

49. In its conclusions of 28 February⁽¹⁾, the Council approved a technical scheme for handling counterfeit euro coins which involves all parties responsible for preventing counterfeiting at national and European level and entails the establishment of a European technical and scientific centre (ETSC) with the task of analysing and classifying new counterfeit coins. Each Member State too should establish a national coin analysis centre. Member States and the Commission are also called upon to take the necessary steps for setting this technical scheme in place. On 26 July, the Commission submitted a proposal for a regulation on the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (→ *point 1084*).

50. On 12 July, the Commission adopted a communication on practical aspects of the euro: state of play and tasks ahead⁽²⁾, which provides an overview of the preparations undertaken so far and those still required for the final changeover to the euro at the beginning of 2002. It highlights two major challenges: changing all amounts denominated in national currency into euro, and withdrawing national banknotes and coins while introducing new ones denominated in euro. Furthermore, in a recommendation adopted on 11 October⁽³⁾, the Commission presented a raft of measures designed to facilitate the preparation of economic agents for the changeover to the euro.

51. In its conclusions of 5 June⁽⁴⁾ on the release of euro coin samples to relevant industries, the Council emphasised the importance of adjusting coin-operated machines in good time. To that end, euro-zone Member States may lend euro coins and/or tokens to companies which manufacture coin validators or other coin-handling equipment so that they can test and adapt their products.

52. In an opinion adopted on 1 March⁽⁵⁾, the Economic and Social Committee gave a positive assessment of the first months of the introduction of the single currency. Emphasising that the credibility of the European currency would depend not just on monetary factors, it argued for better policy coordination in order to improve the competitiveness of the euro zone. In an opinion of 21 September⁽⁶⁾, it called on the European Central Bank to practise greater transparency in the presentation of its decisions to make them more easily understood by the financial markets and called for the rapid establishment of a harmonised European framework for those markets.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.16.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 443; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.1.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.2.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.7.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 117, 26.4.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.9.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.3.

Activities of the European Central Bank (ECB)⁽¹⁾

53. In 2000, the ECB pursued a monetary policy aimed at the maintenance of price stability in the euro zone. To that end, its Governing Council reviewed economic developments and their implications for price stability at all its regular meetings and took measures aimed at achieving this primary objective.

54. The Governing Council approved further links between securities settlement systems, which can be used for the transfer of foreign collateral in the context of the ECB's monetary policy and in intraday credit operations in Target⁽²⁾. The latter continued to play an important role in the management of the single monetary policy and contributed to the integration of the euro money market. It developed into one of the largest payment systems in the world, processing some 4 million domestic and cross-border payments each month, representing a value of EUR 30 000 billion.

55. In June, the ECB released a policy statement aimed at clarifying the role of the Eurosystem as a whole (ECB and national central banks concerned) in the field of payment systems oversight, which is regarded as an essential function.

56. Following a first report on cross-border retail payment systems in 1999, the ECB published a report which reviews the progress of the banking sector and payment systems in terms of the objectives set by the Eurosystem and identifies outstanding issues.

57. The ECB, working in close cooperation with the European institutions and the Member States, paid considerable attention to the introduction of the euro banknotes and coins. For instance, the general principles of the framework for the euro cash changeover were defined and the frontloading of euro cash to credit institutions in the euro zone should begin on 1 September 2001. The ECB also launched an information campaign for the introduction of euro banknotes and coins which will operate in conjunction with the various information campaigns conducted at national and European level.

58. The ECB published a comprehensive description of the statistical information collected and compiled by the European System of Central Banks (ESCB), mainly in the areas of money and banking statistics, securities issues, interest rates, balance of payments and financial accounts. In a report published in August on requirements in the field of general economic statistics, the ECB reaffirmed the need to improve data concerning national quarterly accounts and public finance, labour market statistics, short-term statistics and statistics on

⁽¹⁾ Web site of the European Central Bank: <http://www.ecb.int/>.

⁽²⁾ Trans-European automated real-time gross settlement express transfer system (1999 General Report, point 46).

trade outside the euro zone and assisted the Commission in preparing an action plan to this end.

59. Following the Council decision of 19 June on the adoption by Greece of the single currency (→ *point 46*), the ECB started to review the legal framework of the ECB/ESCB with a view to introducing the necessary amendments prior to the integration of the Bank of Greece into the Eurosystem.

60. The ECB and the Eurosystem continued to promote cooperation among the competent national authorities on issues relating to prudential supervision and financial stability, by analysing the main structural and cyclical developments in the banking and financial sectors.

61. The ECB continued to take an active part in the work of international bodies and forums where issues of interest to the Eurosystem are discussed. At European level, these include meetings of the Ecofin Council, the Eurogroup, the Economic and Financial Committee⁽¹⁾, the Economic Policy Committee and the macroeconomic dialogue. At international level, the ECB is participating in the meetings of multilateral institutions and forums either as a member (OECD, Bank for International Settlements, G7, G10 governors⁽²⁾, G20) or as an observer (IMF, G10 ministers, Financial Stability Forum).

62. Although it is not involved directly in the accession negotiations, the ECB stepped up its contacts with the national central banks of the applicant countries, notably at an annual high-level policy seminar which this year was held in Vienna. The two sides also started discussing the legal framework to be established in the areas of Community law relating to the Eurosystem.

63. In March, the ECB published its 1999 annual report, and Parliament passed a resolution on it on 6 July⁽³⁾. As part of its information policy⁽⁴⁾, it also publishes a general information brochure presenting essential aspects both of the euro and of the tasks of the ECB and the Eurosystem. It also launched the publication of an 'Occasional papers' series, which seeks to present monetary-policy topics to a wide audience, including other policy-makers, academics and the general public. It also published 24 working papers with the aim of contributing to the technical discussion on subjects of interest to the conduct of monetary policy. In June, it updated its brochure on the Correspondent Central Banking Model (CCBM). Lastly, it continued to provide information to the public via initiatives such as its monthly bulletin and regular press conferences.

⁽¹⁾ 1998 General Report, points 62 and 63.

⁽²⁾ Coordination between central banks of the G7 countries, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.4.

⁽⁴⁾ All the Bank's publications are available on its web site: <http://www.ecb.int>.

International economic, monetary and financial matters

Countries which have applied to join the European Union

64. The economic dialogue with the applicant countries continued within the context of the accession partnerships (→ *points 706 et seq.*). As part of the negotiations, the Commission assessed the conformity of the national legislation of 12 applicant countries in the fields of economic and monetary union and the liberalisation of capital movements. Negotiations were provisionally closed with some of the countries (→ *point 703*).

G7 countries

65. The G7 finance ministers met on the sidelines of the spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Washington and the annual meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions in September in Prague for an exchange of views on the world economic situation, financial market developments and reform of the international financial architecture. Mr Solbes Mira, for the Commission, was invited to take part in some of these meetings. He also attended the meeting of G7 finance ministers in Fukuoka (Japan) in July, in preparation for the meeting of the G7 Heads of State or Government.

Financial activities

66. On 6 September, the Commission adopted its annual report on the borrowing and lending activities of the Community in 1999⁽¹⁾. The detailed table of lending activities during the period 1998–2000 and the total amount of borrowings in 2000 are dealt with in Section 5 ('Borrowing and lending operations') of Chapter VII (→ *point 1090*).

Macrofinancial assistance

67. The second instalment (EUR 20 million) of the aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina decided upon by the Council in May 1999⁽²⁾ started with the grant element (EUR 10 million). The grant element (EUR 20 million) of the first tranche (EUR 30 million) of the EUR 80 million assistance which the Council decided

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 524; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.7.2.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 58.

to grant to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 1999⁽¹⁾ was disbursed in December.

68. The second tranche (EUR 60 million) of the EUR 100 million loan which the Council decided to grant to Bulgaria in November 1999⁽²⁾ was paid on 29 September. The first tranche (EUR 100 million) of the EUR 200 million loan which the Council decided to grant to Romania, also in November 1999⁽²⁾, was disbursed in June.

69. On 20 March, the Council decided to amend its Decision 97/787/EC⁽³⁾ granting exceptional financial assistance to Armenia and Georgia in order to extend it to Tajikistan and to increase the amounts of aid decided in 1997 by EUR 75 million in loans and EUR 35 million in grants (Table II). In order to ensure balance-of-payments sustainability in Moldova, the Council decided, on 20 July, to grant it supplementary macrofinancial assistance of EUR 15 million (Table II).

70. To alleviate the financial constraints affecting Kosovo and to facilitate the introduction of the essential administrative functions and the preparation of a sound economic framework, the Council decided on 14 February to grant UNMIK exceptional financial assistance in the form of grants of up to EUR 35 million (Table II). The whole amount was disbursed in two tranches (EUR 20 million in March and EUR 15 million in August). To alleviate the immediate financing needs of Montenegro, the Council decided on 22 May to grant the Republic exceptional financial assistance of EUR 20 million in the form of grants (Table II). The first tranche (EUR 7 million) was paid in August and the second in December.

71. The Commission report on the implementation of macrofinancial assistance to third countries in 1999 was adopted on 27 October⁽⁴⁾.

Development of financing techniques

72. The Commission continued to develop the 'Eurotech capital' scheme, the purpose of which is to stimulate investment in high technology and in which 13 specialised financial institutions participate. Since the 1991 launch of the JOP programme (joint venture programme Phare-Tacis), in which 82 financial intermediaries are participating, 2 384 projects have received Community support totalling EUR 135 million. During the year the JOP programme was closed for new projects.

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 60.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 59.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 322, 25.11.1997; 1997 General Report, point 111; 1998 General Report, point 76.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 682; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.4.

73. In stage 1 of the SME finance facility, set up under the Phare programme in cooperation with the EBRD in order to encourage banks and investment funds in applicant countries benefiting under Phare to develop their financing operations for SMEs, 12 projects were accepted, representing EUR 15 million of Phare resources. In stage 2 the CEB and KfW will participate in the facility and cooperation with the EBRD will be extended, which means, overall, an additional Phare commitment of EUR 51 million.

74. On 18 October, the Commission adopted a communication on the review of specific Community financial instruments for SMEs⁽¹⁾, which was welcomed by the Council in its conclusions of 7 November, in which it called on the Commission to provide these financial instruments with a single legal basis, namely the multiannual programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship (2001–05) (→ *point 247*).

75. Information on the Commission financial instruments managed by the European Investment Fund are dealt with in the subsection concerning this fund (→ *point 84*).

Financing ECSC and Euratom activities

76. In accordance with the Commission's 1994 decision⁽²⁾, the ECSC did not conclude any new loans. The financial report of the ECSC for 1999 was adopted by the Commission on 18 July. On 6 September, in response to the Council resolution of 21 June 1999⁽³⁾, the Commission submitted proposals⁽⁴⁾ on financial and research activities after the expiry of the ECSC Treaty in 2002. It thus recommends that the assets of the ECSC should be transferred to the European Community, that the Community should administer the funds in liquidation and that the resulting revenue should be earmarked for research projects in the coal and steel sector. The communication is accompanied by a draft decision on the transfer of assets⁽⁵⁾ and by proposals for financial guidelines⁽⁶⁾ and for guidelines on research activities⁽⁷⁾. On 27 September, the Commission adopted a communication⁽⁸⁾ on the future of structured dialogue after the expiry of the ECSC Treaty, in which it proposes that the Economic and Social Committee should take over certain of the ECSC Consultative Committee's functions and methods. In accordance with the agreement reached at the Intergovernmental Conference in Nice

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 653.

⁽²⁾ 1994 General Report, point 1160.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 190, 7.7.1999; 1999 General Report, point 67.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 518; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.7.6.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 519; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.7.7.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 520; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.7.8.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 521; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.7.9.

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2000) 588; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.7.10.

(→ *point 14*), a draft protocol on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and the establishment and management of the fund for coal and steel research will be inserted into the new Treaty.

77. On the basis of Council Decision 94/179/Euratom⁽¹⁾, the Commission approved on 18 April a loan totalling EUR 212.5 million for the modernisation and improvement of the safety of the nuclear power station at Kozloduy (Bulgaria)⁽²⁾.

European Investment Bank (EIB)⁽³⁾

78. The EIB granted loans totalling EUR 36 billion (EUR 31.8 billion in 1999) in support of European Union objectives, including EUR 5.4 billion within the framework of development and cooperation aid policies with non-member countries (see Table 1).

79. Within the European Union, in order to support the conclusions of the Lisbon European Council of 23 and 24 March⁽⁴⁾ with a view to developing the knowledge and innovation society in Europe, the EIB launched its Innovation 2000 initiative, which aims, via a specific programme of loans amounting to between EUR 12 billion and EUR 15 billion over the next three years, to develop the Bank's financing in five areas: human capital, research and development, information technology and communications networks, dissemination of innovation, and development of SMEs and entrepreneurship. Furthermore, to support the extension of the EIB's activities in the field of SME risk capital, the Bank's governors have increased the reserve set up to cover risk relating to its operations from EUR 1 billion to EUR 2 billion. The board also authorised reform of the European Investment Fund to make it the specialised risk capital tool of the EIB group thanks to improvement of its financial and operational capacity (→ *point 83*). Overall, loans granted by the EIB within the European Union totalled EUR 30.664 billion (EUR 27.765 billion in 1999), including EUR 18.716 billion in the form of individual loans and EUR 11.928 billion in the form of global loans concluded with a number of partner banks and financial institutions with a view to financing small- and medium-scale investment projects in industry, services, education and health or small infrastructure projects for local authorities. Of individual loans, 73 % were granted for investment

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 84, 29.3.1994; 1994 General Report, point 1162.

⁽²⁾ SEC(2000) 661; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.4.20.

⁽³⁾ Copies of the EIB's annual report and of other publications relating to the Bank's work and its operations can be obtained from the main office (Information and Communications Department: 100 Boulevard Konrad Adenauer, L-2950 Luxembourg, fax (352) 4379-3189) or from its external offices or can be consulted on the Internet: <http://bei.eu.int/>.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, points 1.5 to 1.12.

contributing to the development of the less favoured regions. Individual loans for environmental protection totalled EUR 6.4 billion, while those for the supply and efficient use of energy totalled EUR 3 billion and loans for European communications infrastructure amounted to EUR 7.7 billion. Assistance totalled EUR 2.1 billion in the industrial and service sectors and EUR 1.2 billion in education and health.

TABLE 1
Contracts signed in 2000 and from 1996 to 2000

Countries	2000		1996-2000	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
Belgium	503	1.4	3 384	2.3
Denmark	991	2.8	4 060	2.8
Germany	6 038	16.8	23 281	15.9
Greece	1 712	4.8	5 335	3.6
Spain	4 199	11.7	16 667	11.4
France	3 323	9.2	15 684	10.7
Ireland	419	1.2	1 165	0.8
Italy	5 640	15.7	21 718	14.8
Luxembourg	200	0.6	510	0.3
Netherlands	260	0.7	2 161	1.5
Austria	735	2.0	2 744	1.9
Portugal	1 852	5.1	7 604	5.2
Finland	525	1.5	2 356	1.6
Sweden	621	1.7	3 600	2.5
United Kingdom	3 303	9.2	15 877	10.8
Other ⁽¹⁾	321	0.9	1 286	0.9
Union total	30 642	85.0	127 431	86.8
Applicant countries	2 948	8.2	10 398	7.1
(including pre-accession facility)	1 618	4.5	4 455	3.0
Applicant countries	2 948	8.2	10 398	7.1
Mediterranean countries				
(except Cyprus, Malta and Turkey)	1 214	3.4	4 595	3.1
ACP, OCTs and South Africa	541	1.5	2 459	1.7
Latin America and Asia	532	1.5	1 627	1.1
Western Balkans	154	0.4	318	0.2
Non-Union total ⁽²⁾	2 441	6.8	8 999	6.1
Overall total	36 031	100.0	146 828	100.0

⁽¹⁾ Projects of Community interest located outside the territory of the Member States, granted under Article 18 of the Statute of the EIB.

⁽²⁾ Includes risk capital from budgetary resources:

— ACP and OCTs: EUR 215 million in 2000 and EUR 770 million from 1996 to 2000;

— Mediterranean: EUR 21 million in 2000 and EUR 198 million from 1996 to 2000.

80. Outside the European Union the EIB continued to promote the integration of the applicant countries, proposing to its board of governors that Turkey should be included in the list of Mediterranean countries eligible for funding under the pre-accession facility in the same way as Cyprus and Malta. Operations amounted to EUR 5.389 billion (EUR 4.035 billion in 1999). In the applicant countries, assistance totalled EUR 2.948 billion, including EUR 1.618 billion under the pre-accession facility. This went mainly to communications infrastructures intended to strengthen links with the European Union. An amount of EUR 154 million was granted to Bosnia and Herzegovina to finance transport infrastructure. In the Mediterranean area, financing totalled EUR 1.214 billion, including EUR 21 million in the form of risk capital. Financing totalled EUR 401 million, including EUR 207 million in the form of risk capital, in the ACP countries and the OCTs and EUR 140 million in South Africa. Lastly, the EIB continued its operations in the countries of Latin America (400 million) and Asia (132 million).

81. The EIB obtained the funds needed for its lending activities by borrowing a total of EUR 29 billion on capital markets, 72 % of which was raised in Community currencies and in euro.

82. The EIB partly renewed its Management Committee. Mrs Martín Castellá was appointed Vice-President, replacing Mr Martí, and Mr Tutty was appointed Vice-President to replace Mr Panagiotis-Loukas Gennimatas.

European Investment Fund (EIF)⁽¹⁾

83. The year was marked by the reform of the EIF, which was designed to clarify its role within the EIB group by placing all the EIB's risk-capital activities in the hands of the Fund and to target operations in support of the financing of SMEs more effectively, in accordance with the conclusions of the Lisbon European Council⁽²⁾. The Fund continued to provide guarantees for projects connected with trans-European networks. On 19 June, the general meeting approved the reform of the Fund's statutes, which was designed among other things to rationalise the decision-making process and to ensure continuing cooperation between all the shareholders. The Commission and the financial institutions will continue to exert their influence on the EIF's activities through their representatives on its Board of Directors and Audit Board. Furthermore, the corporate documentation of the EIF (statutes, shareholders' agreement, rules of procedure) aims to protect the rights of minority shareholders. While preserving the tripartite structure of the Fund, the EIB became the majority shareholder

⁽¹⁾ Copies of the EIF's annual report can be obtained from its office (43 Avenue J. F. Kennedy, L-2968 Luxembourg) or consulted on the Internet: <http://www.eif.org/publications/default.htm>.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.8.

(60.6 %), the Commission's share (30 %) remaining unchanged and the remaining 9.4 % of the capital being subscribed by 29 financial institutions.

84. As regards the Commission financial instruments managed by the EIF, outstanding guarantees given by the Fund for the 'Growth and employment' action total EUR 723 million. Under the 'Growth and employment' initiative, it also invested EUR 52 million under the European Technology Facility (ETF) start-up scheme, and gave guarantees under the SME guarantee mechanism representing EUR 1.423 billion in loans.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)⁽¹⁾

85. The ninth annual meeting of the EBRD, held in Riga from 20 to 22 May, approved the Bank's accounts for 1999 and welcomed the turnaround achieved by it following the financial crisis in Russia. The Bank outlined its operational priorities for the medium term, which include in particular the promotion of SMEs, adjustment of the portfolio in Russia and support for applicant countries to facilitate their accession to the European Union.

86. According to an initial evaluation of the year's results, the EBRD concluded new operations costing a total of EUR 2.675 billion, of which EUR 605 million was in the form of participations and EUR 2.07 billion in the form of loans.

87. The Commission disbursed EUR 6 412 500 following the European Community's decision to subscribe for extra shares in the capital of the EBRD⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.ebrd.org/english/index.htm>.

⁽²⁾ Decision 97/135/EC (OJ L 52, 22.2.1997; Bull. 1/2-1997, point 1.3.21).

Section 2

Statistical system

Priority activities and objectives

88. *In the statistical field, which was given a new legal basis by the Treaty of Amsterdam (Article 285 of the EC Treaty), activities in 2000 have centred around implementation of the 1998–2002 Community statistical programme, which was adopted by the Council⁽¹⁾ in December 1998 and identifies three priority areas: economic and monetary union, competitiveness, growth and employment, and enlargement of the European Union.*

89. In its conclusions of 5 June on the statistical requirements of economic and monetary union⁽²⁾, the Council invited the Commission to draw up, in close collaboration with the European Central Bank (→ *point 58*), an action plan defining, for each Member State and each statistical field, the sectors in which progress ended to be made urgently, the relevant regulations being amended where necessary. The document prepared for this purpose was examined on 29 September by the Council, which asked the national and Community authorities concerned to make a special effort to ensure that the plan was implemented within the specified deadlines.

Framework and guidelines

90. In the economic and financial field, on 7 November, the Council and the European Parliament adopted Regulation (EC) No 2516/2000 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96⁽³⁾ concerning the common principles of the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community (ESA 95) as regards taxes and social contributions (Table I). The aim of the regulation is to define the principles governing the recording of these components in the ESA 95, so ensuring that accounts are comparable between Member States and yield realistic and transparent figures for general government deficits. On 20 September, the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation allowing the Member States to use ESA 95 data to determine their VAT-based own resource payments

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 42, 16.2.1999; 1998 General Report, point 97.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.11.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 310, 30.11.1996; 1996 General Report, point 95.

(Table I). This replaces the previous system (ESA 79) provided for under Regulation (EC) No 2223/96. On 14 December⁽¹⁾, it also adopted a mid-term report on allocation of financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) and a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the first results of the trial calculations for allocating and calculating FISIM as described in Council Regulation (EC) No 448/98 of 16 February 1998⁽²⁾.

91. In order to simplify the Combined Nomenclature, which must be used uniformly for intra-Community and external trade to facilitate use of the system of statistics on the trading of goods between the Member States, particularly for SMEs, on 10 July, the European Parliament and the Council amended Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States (Table I). On 20 July, the Commission adopted a proposal for a decision (Table I) on a set of measures to modernise the trans-European network for the collection, production and dissemination of statistics on the trading of goods within the Community and between the Community and non-member countries (Edicom). The aim of the proposal is to promote the modern, rational and efficient use of the network and to develop existing tools for the collection, processing, transmission and dissemination of statistical information. On 21 November⁽³⁾, it also adopted the report on harmonisation of consumer price indices in the Union.

92. In the agricultural field, on 22 May, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Decision No 1445/2000/EC (Table I) aimed at reorganising, and continuing for the period 1999–2003, the statistical application of area sampling and remote sensing techniques in the Member States. By Decision No 2298/2000/EC of 28 September (Table I), they also amended Decision 96/411/EC on improving Community agricultural statistics, extending it for the period 2000–02 and, in the light of experience acquired, amending certain of its provisions to simplify its implementation. On 27 September⁽⁴⁾, the Commission adopted an interim report presenting an initial appraisal of the implementation of Directive 96/16/EC⁽⁵⁾ on statistical surveys of milk and milk products and, on 23 November, a proposal for a directive on statistical surveys to determine the production potential of plantations of certain species of fruit trees (Table I).

93. On 10 November⁽⁶⁾, the Commission adopted a report on the implementation of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 58/97⁽⁷⁾ concerning structural business statistics.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 836; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 58, 27.2.1998; 1998 General Report, point 98.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 742; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.7.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 600; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.7.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 78, 28.3.1996; 1996 General Report, point 99.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 719; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.6.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 14, 17.1.1997; 1997 General Report, point 135.

94. At international level, on 20 July, the Council adopted negotiating directives with a view to concluding a bilateral agreement with Switzerland on statistical cooperation (→ *point 887*).

Publications

95. In February, Eurostat started up its new Internet server ⁽¹⁾, which features a wide range of facilities. In addition to the periodical indicators covering the euro zone and EU-15, this service has been extended by means of over 600 free publications (dissemination of data, methods and classifications, Eurostat news, databases, key indicators). Eurostat also published its *Statistical yearbook*, the *Statistical yearbook on candidate and south-east European countries*, the *Panorama of European business* and the *Regions: Statistical yearbook*, together with other statistical documents on health, education, transport, demography, agriculture, research and development.

⁽¹⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat>.

Section 3

Employment and social policy

Priority activities and objectives

96. *The Lisbon and Feira European Councils looked closely at employment and social policy issues, and the Nice European Council approved the new social policy agenda proposed by the Commission in June. On the employment front, a package of measures comprising a joint employment report for 2000, guidelines for employment in 2001 and a recommendation for implementing the Member States' employment policies received the Council's backing, while the Commission presented a proposal for a decision on Community incentive measures in the field of employment and a communication on strategies for jobs in the information society. In the social sphere, initiatives were taken or proposed with a view to boosting the fight against social exclusion and promoting equal treatment in employment and other areas, with particular emphasis on a Community action programme to combat discrimination. The European Parliament and the Council also adopted a directive on certain aspects of the organisation of working time designed to cover sectors and activities previously excluded from Community legislation.*

Social policy agenda

97. On 28 June⁽¹⁾, the Commission adopted a new agenda for social policy covering the period from 2000 to 2005, with the aim of addressing the new social challenges and needs resulting from radical changes as regards employment, the knowledge-based economy, the social environment, enlargement and globalisation, while at the same time providing great opportunities. The proposed strategy is geared to achieving interaction of economic, social and employment policies, reinforcing the role of social policy as a productive factor, giving practical effect to the political commitments undertaken at the Lisbon⁽²⁾ and Feira⁽³⁾ European Councils, and modernising and improving the European social model through different objectives (investing in human resources, building an active welfare state, boosting the quantity and quality of jobs,

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 379; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.17.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.16.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point I.30.

consolidating cohesion). The new agenda was welcomed by the Economic and Social Committee on 19 October⁽¹⁾, by the European Parliament on 25 October⁽¹⁾, calling on the Commission to take steps to consolidate this new approach, and by the Committee of the Regions on 14 December⁽²⁾. The social agenda was, moreover, approved by the Council on 28 November⁽³⁾ and by the Nice European Council in December⁽²⁾.

Employment

98. Following the approval given in December 1999 by the Helsinki European Council⁽⁴⁾, the Council officially adopted, on 14 February, Recommendation 2000/164/EC on the implementation of Member States' employment policies⁽⁵⁾ and, on 13 March, Decision 2000/228/EC on guidelines for Member States' employment policies for the year 2000⁽⁶⁾.

99. After examining the national plans submitted by the Member States, the Commission adopted, on 6 September, a package of employment-related measures comprising three documents. Firstly, the joint employment report 2000⁽⁷⁾ points to significant progress being made against a background of steady improvement in the European Union's economic situation, although unemployment remains unacceptably high; the employment rate needs to grow further and bottlenecks are starting to appear in some areas of the labour market. Despite the marked progress made in transforming the guidelines into active and preventive labour market policies, and in moving towards equality of opportunity for women and men, a level playing field has yet to be achieved both between the Member States and in relation to the four pillars of employability, entrepreneurship, adaptability and equality. Secondly, a proposal for a decision on employment policy guidelines for 2001 (Table II), drawing on evaluation of previous guidelines and the conclusions of the mid-term review of the European employment strategy, calls on the Member States to set national targets for raising the employment rate to 70 % by 2010, to develop a number of common quantitative indicators and to strengthen the role of the social partners, in line with the recommendations of the Lisbon⁽⁸⁾ and Feira⁽⁹⁾ European Councils. Lastly, calling upon the Council to adopt a recommendation on the implementation of Member

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.7.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.10.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 91.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 52, 25.2.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.22.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 72, 21.3.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.18.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 551; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.10.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.16.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.30.

States' employment policies⁽¹⁾, the Commission advocates that most of the 1999 recommendations should be maintained in full or in an amended form, with particular reference to the need to address new issues such as lifelong learning and boosting the role of the social partners. Council agreement on this package was reached on 28 November⁽²⁾, and it was also approved in December by the Nice European Council⁽³⁾. Moreover, on 24 October⁽⁴⁾, Parliament gave its opinion on the joint employment report 2000, and called for greater coordination of economic and employment policies coupled with the involvement of all the social partners interested in preparing and implementing the employment strategy and assessing its impact. Parliament also stressed the need to adopt, at all levels, budget policies consistent with the strategies and priorities laid down by the employment guidelines.

100. In its fourth communication, adopted on 1 March, concerning Community policies in support of employment⁽⁵⁾, and having regard to the conclusions of the Lisbon European Council⁽⁶⁾, the Commission turned its attention to developing the knowledge-based economy, helping to boost the internal market, fostering inclusion and participation in a productive economy, and supporting job creation at local and regional levels; it undertook to carry out a systematic, multiannual assessment of the relevance of Community policies for employment.

101. On 20 July, the Commission adopted a proposal for a decision on Community incentive measures in the field of employment (Table I), aimed mainly at promoting cooperation between the Member States as regards analysis, research and monitoring of labour market policies, identifying best practice, promoting exchanges of information and experience, and implementing an active information policy. This initiative ties in with the Lisbon European Council's new strategic goal⁽⁷⁾ of making the European Community the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.

102. In its communication entitled 'Strategies for jobs in the information society'⁽⁸⁾, adopted on 7 February, the Commission outlined its strategic approach to learning, work, public services and enterprise within the information society, and put forward detailed recommendations for the Member States, the social partners and industry, one of the aims being to give every worker the opportunity to acquire the skills needed in the information society. The Lisbon

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 549; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.12.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 11-2000, points 1.3.12 and 1.3.13.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.10.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 78; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.13.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.1.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.5.

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2000) 48; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.23.

European Council took particular note of this communication⁽¹⁾, which was a key element in drawing up the *e*Europe action plan (→ *point 318*). An Economic and Social Committee opinion delivered on 19 October⁽²⁾, entitled ‘New knowledge, new jobs’, emphasised the need for Europe to meet the challenge of fully exploiting the potential of the ‘new economy’, whilst preserving the ethos of its social model.

Local action for employment

103. The Commission launched the campaign ‘Acting locally for employment’ with a communication adopted on 7 April⁽³⁾, looking mainly at how the various players at local level can help to create or maintain jobs. Between June and October, a broad-based process of consultation took place and specific conferences were held, the results of which were presented by the Commission in Strasbourg on 30 November and 1 December, at a meeting organised in conjunction with the French Presidency. This initiative was bolstered with 32 experimental activities designed mainly to promote information on the European employment strategy and its implementation at local level, and to encourage transnational cooperation and dissemination of good practice. The Commission’s initiative was endorsed by the Committee of the Regions on 21 September⁽⁴⁾, by the Economic and Social Committee on 19 October⁽⁵⁾, and by the European Parliament on 30 November⁽⁶⁾.

Employment services

104. The employment guidelines for 2000 (→ *point 99*) required the Member States to continue modernising their public employment services and to make full use of them in identifying local employment opportunities and improving the functioning of local labour markets. The Commission, moreover, continued to support the employment services⁽⁷⁾, including the EURES network (→ *point 113*), particularly with a view to facilitating exchanges of good practice in relation to employment strategy and cooperation on operational projects.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.6.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.8.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 196; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.6.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.13.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.11.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.15.

⁽⁷⁾ 1999 General Report, point 91.

Social protection and social security

105. Further to the Council conclusions of 17 December 1999⁽¹⁾, a high-level working group submitted to the Feira European Council⁽²⁾ a report outlining priorities such as social inclusion and the sustainability of pension schemes. This group was replaced by a European Social Protection Committee, set up by the Council on 29 June (Table II).

106. On 28 April, the Commission proposed an update of Regulations (EEC) No 1408/71⁽³⁾ and (EEC) No 574/72⁽⁴⁾ on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community (Table I). A consolidated version of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 was drawn up and put on the EUR-Lex site in July⁽⁵⁾.

107. In a resolution adopted on 16 February⁽⁶⁾, the European Parliament welcomed the Commission's communication of 14 July 1999 on a strategy for modernising social protection⁽⁷⁾; it stressed the importance of gender issues and the fact that effective fiscal coordination is an essential part of the social convergence process. In opinions delivered on 2 March⁽⁸⁾ and 12 April⁽⁹⁾ respectively, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions endorsed the Commission's initiatives. On 21 March, the Commission adopted its first report on social protection in Europe (1999)⁽¹⁰⁾ and, on 11 October, it adopted a communication on the future evolution of social protection from a long-term point of view, envisaging safe and sustainable pensions⁽¹¹⁾. The Nice European Council⁽¹²⁾ for its part recommended that particular attention be paid to the sustainability and quality of retirement pension systems.

108. In a resolution adopted on 16 November⁽¹³⁾, Parliament drew attention to the problems of financing existing social security systems and pointed out that supplementary insurance systems would play an increasingly important role in the future. It therefore called on the Commission to present, within six months, a Green Paper detailing the current situation as regards social security systems and looking at ways in which they could be supplemented by other schemes.

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 96.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point I.29; Annex VII to the presidency conclusions.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 149, 5.7.1971.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 74, 27.3.1972.

⁽⁵⁾ http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/search_consleg_simple.html.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.25.

⁽⁷⁾ 1999 General Report, point 96.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.20.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.9.

⁽¹⁰⁾ COM(2000) 163; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.22.

⁽¹¹⁾ COM(2000) 622; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.12.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽¹³⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.17.

Measures to promote social integration

109. On 1 March, the Commission adopted a communication entitled 'Building an inclusive Europe'⁽¹⁾, which was discussed by the Lisbon European Council⁽²⁾. Subsequently, at the Council's request, the Commission submitted, on 16 June, a proposal for a decision establishing a programme of Community action to encourage cooperation between the Member States to combat social exclusion (Table I). On this subject, the Council adopted, on 17 October⁽³⁾, conclusions advocating participation in employment and access by all to resources, rights, goods and services, prevention of the risks of exclusion, action to help the most vulnerable and mobilisation of all interested parties. In December, the Nice European Council gave its backing to these objectives⁽⁴⁾ and reaffirmed the importance of a European strategy to combat poverty and social exclusion. In a resolution adopted on 30 November⁽⁵⁾, Parliament called for standardisation of undeclared domestic work.

110. Also on 1 March, the Commission presented a communication entitled 'Social trends: prospects and challenges'⁽⁶⁾, highlighting the emerging policy issues relating to the social needs of tomorrow, such as the ageing of the population and the changing role of women in economic and social life. A further communication adopted on 12 May, entitled 'Towards a barrier-free Europe for people with disabilities'⁽⁷⁾, looks at some of the key policies which can contribute, at EU level, to the improvement of access for people with disabilities in a number of areas of social life. This communication was endorsed by the Committee of the Regions on 14 December⁽⁴⁾. A conference on policies for the disabled in the European Union was held on 16 and 17 October in Paris under the French Presidency, whilst the European Day for Disabled People on 6 December focused on combating discrimination in the employment field.

Combating discrimination

111. On 29 June, the Council adopted Directive 2000/43/EC implementing the principle of equal treatment irrespective of racial or ethnic origin (Table II); this initiative, forming part of a package proposed by the Commission on 25 November 1999⁽⁸⁾ giving meaningful effect to the new powers conferred on the Community by the Treaty of Amsterdam under Article 13 of the EC Treaty, seeks to prohibit discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin in areas

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 79; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.14.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.16; annex to the presidency conclusions.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.19.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.16.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 82; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.15.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 284; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.18.

⁽⁸⁾ 1999 General Report, point 99.

such as employment, education, social security, healthcare and access to goods and services, including housing. On 28 November, the Council also adopted Directive 2000/78/EC establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation aimed at combating discrimination on grounds of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation (Table II). On the same date, it adopted, by Decision 2000/750/EC, a Community action programme to combat discrimination, covered by a budget of EUR 98.4 million for the period 2001–06 (Table II). The Nice European Council⁽¹⁾ reaffirmed the importance of a European strategy to combat all forms of discrimination.

112. Created in 1997⁽²⁾, the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (Vienna) was officially inaugurated on 7 April. In carrying out its programme of activities, considerable progress has been made with the European racism and xenophobia information network (RAXEN)⁽³⁾; after the collection and transfer to a central European unit of national data and statistics, a database will be developed to facilitate research and dissemination of information. In addition, the monitoring centre adopted its annual report for 1999 and made important contributions to the European Conference against Racism, which took place in Strasbourg from 11 to 13 October. In a resolution adopted on 6 July⁽⁴⁾, Parliament called on the Austrian Government, the Member States and the institutions of the European Union to support the activities of the monitoring centre. Moreover, Parliament made several pronouncements on the combating of xenophobia, both generally in a resolution of 16 March⁽⁵⁾ and more specifically in a resolution of 17 February⁽⁶⁾ condemning the crimes of a racist nature perpetrated in El Ejido (Spain), and in a resolution of 21 September⁽⁷⁾ calling on the European Union to present a common position at the 2001 World Conference against Racism.

Freedom of movement for workers

113. On 2 October, the Commission adopted a report on the activities of the EURES European employment services network in 1998 and 1999⁽⁸⁾. The employment services of the Member States continued to integrate their job-vacancy systems into the EURES network, thereby increasing the number of transnational vacancies available to job-seekers. A new cross-border EURES partnership between Finland and Sweden (Tornedalen) was set up. The Lisbon European Council meanwhile called for a Europe-wide database on jobs and learning opportunities, as an integral part of an active employment policy⁽⁹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ 1997 General Report, point 57.

⁽³⁾ <http://www.eumc.at>.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.2.1.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.4.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.2.4.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.6.

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2000) 607.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.14.

Labour law and industrial relations

114. On 22 June, Parliament and the Council amended Directive 93/104/EC⁽¹⁾ concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time to cover sectors and activities excluded from that directive (Table I). A report adopted by the Commission on 1 December⁽²⁾ looked at the situation as regards implementation of the directive, drawing the attention of certain Member States in particular to matters such as the categories of workers excluded from its scope, overtime and night work. On 27 November, the Council adopted Directive 2000/79/EC aimed at giving effect to the European agreement of 22 March on the organisation of working time of mobile workers in civil aviation concluded by the Association of European Airlines, the European Transport Workers' Federation, the European Cockpit Association, the European Regions Airline Association and the International Air Carriers' Association (Table II).

115. On 2 May, the Commission adopted a proposal for a directive consolidating Directive 77/187/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of businesses (Table II). In accordance with Article 138(2) of the EC Treaty, the Commission decided, on 26 June, to take the first step in consulting the social partners on the modernisation and improvement of employment relations⁽³⁾, having regard to the approach advocated in the Green Paper 'Partnership for a new organisation of work'⁽⁴⁾, the communication 'Modernising the organisation of work — a positive approach to change'⁽⁵⁾ and the 'adaptability' pillar of the employment guidelines.

116. In a resolution adopted on 17 February⁽⁶⁾, the European Parliament condemned the decision by the management of Goodyear/Dunlop to close its Italian plant without warning.

Health and safety at work

117. On 8 June⁽⁷⁾, the Commission established a first list of indicative occupational exposure limit values in implementation of Council Directive 98/24/EC on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work⁽⁸⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 307, 13.12.1993; Twenty-seventh General Report, point 450.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 787; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.23.

⁽⁴⁾ 1997 General Report, point 150.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(1998) 592; 1998 General Report, point 126.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.26.

⁽⁷⁾ Directive 2000/39/EC (OJ L 142, 16.6.2000).

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 131, 5.5.1998; 1998 General Report, point 130.

118. In accordance with Articles 138 and 139 of the EC Treaty, the Commission adopted, on 25 April, documents relating to the first stage of consultation on the protection of workers against the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work. On 23 May ⁽¹⁾, the Commission also decided to begin social partner consultation on the protection of the health and safety of self-employed workers.

119. Parliament and the Council adopted, on 18 September, Directive 2000/54/EC on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work (seventh individual directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC) consolidating Directive 90/679/EEC ⁽²⁾ (Table I).

120. On 5 October ⁽³⁾, the Commission adopted a communication on the guidelines for assessment of the chemical, physical and biological agents and industrial processes considered hazardous for the safety or health of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breast-feeding. These guidelines were drawn up in accordance with Directive 92/85/EEC ⁽⁴⁾, designed to improve the safety and health of the workers concerned. The European Parliament for its part, in a resolution adopted on 6 July ⁽⁵⁾, regretted the shortcomings and delays in publishing the report on the implementation of this directive.

Social dialogue

121. At cross-industry level, the European Trade Union Confederation, the Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe and the European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation adopted a joint declaration at the forum of 15 June on the new social agenda (→ *point 97*), expressing their willingness to contribute to the success of the strategy set in train by the Lisbon European Council. They also started, in June, to negotiate a framework agreement on temporary work.

122. At sectoral level, 15 social partner representatives gave the Lisbon European Council their full support for the strategy geared to a Europe of innovation and knowledge (→ *point 1145*). As part of this strategy, various initiatives were taken: joint declaration of 15 March by the social partners in the telecommunications sector, concerning the training of workers in the new technologies and the modernisation of work organisation; agreement of 22 March on the organisation of the working time of mobile staff in civil aviation, constituting the

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.23.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 374, 31.12.1990.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 466; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.17.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 348, 28.11.1992; Twenty-sixth General Report, point 392.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.12.

fourth sectoral agreement and the third in the transport sector (→ *point 114*); agreement of 14 November on teleworking in the commerce sector.

123. In an own-initiative opinion adopted on 2 March ⁽¹⁾, the Economic and Social Committee gave its backing to a forward-looking strategy combining macroeconomic policies, economic reform, structural policies, active employment policies and modernisation of social protection.

Structural operations

124. The distribution of readaptation aid for workers in the coal and steel industries (Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty) is set out in Table 2.

TABLE 2

Readaptation aid — Appropriations committed (2000 programme)

Member States	Steelmaking and iron-ore mining		Coal mining			
	Traditional aid		Traditional aid		Supplementary programme	
	Number of workers	Amount (EUR)	Number of workers	Amount (EUR)	Number of workers	Amount (EUR)
Belgium	388	636 000	0	0	0	0
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	889	2 667 000	4 658	13 974 000	2 360	8 727 603
Greece	12	30 000	0	0	0	0
Spain	287	861 000	1 034	3 102 000	1 034	4 118 000
France	0	0	1 487	4 461 000	1 500	5 226 000
Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	1 061	3 183 000	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	258	774 000	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Austria	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	145	435 000	0	0	0	0
Finland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	1	3 000	260	640 000	260	640 000
Total	3 041	8 589 000	7 439	22 177 000	5 254	18 711 603

125. Information on the European Social Fund is given in Section 10 ('Economic and social cohesion') of this chapter (→ *points 343 et seq.*).

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 117, 26.4.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.17.

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

126. Continuing its activities in relation to working conditions, living conditions and industrial relations, the foundation provided results, advice and analyses based on comparative research conducted from a European point of view, with particular emphasis on the six priority areas for action identified in its 1997–2000 programme⁽¹⁾ (employment, sustainable development, equal opportunities, social cohesion, health and well-being, and participation). More detailed information can be found on the foundation's Internet site⁽²⁾.

International cooperation

127. As part of the pre-accession strategy (→ *points 706 et seq.*), the Commission organised a conference in Prague in May on the subject of employment and social policy in Europe and enlargement. Examination of the adjustments made by the applicant countries for implementing the European employment strategy led to the signing of joint assessments of employment policy priorities with the Czech Republic in May and with Slovenia in July. The Commission also organised, in March, a symposium on new employment strategies in the European Union and Japan.

128. The Commission continued its cooperation with international organisations in the social and employment fields, in particular with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the OECD. On 15 September, the Commission expressed its support for action to combat child labour in a recommendation addressed to the Member States⁽³⁾, calling on them to ratify the ILO Convention on the prohibition and immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ 1996 General Report, point 586.

⁽²⁾ <http://www.eurofound.ie>.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 243, 28.9.2000.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 120.

Section 4

Equal opportunities

129. On 7 June, the Commission presented a communication concerning a Community framework strategy on gender equality, covering the period from 2001 to 2005⁽¹⁾, aimed at combating gender inequality in economic, political, civil and social life, altering roles and eliminating stereotypes. In tandem with this, the Council adopted, on 20 December, a specific programme designed to assist the organisation of awareness-raising campaigns, improve the collection of data and implement transnational projects, with a budget of EUR 50 million for the period 2001–05 (Table II).

130. Also on 7 June, the Commission adopted a proposal for a directive amending Directive 76/207/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions (Table I). This proposal, taking account of the most recent amendments to the EC Treaty (Article 141) and of developments in the case-law of the Court of Justice, breaks new ground by making it clear that sexual harassment constitutes discrimination on grounds of sex at the workplace, and seeks to ensure coherence of secondary legislation on related issues based on Article 13 of the EC Treaty.

131. On 8 March, the Commission adopted its fourth annual report (1999) on equal opportunities for women and men in the European Union⁽²⁾. It also adopted, on 7 March, a report on the implementation of Council Recommendation 96/694/EC on the balanced participation of women and men in the decision-making process⁽³⁾ and, on 19 June, a decision relating to gender balance within the committees and expert groups established by the Commission⁽⁴⁾. The European Parliament meanwhile, in a resolution adopted on 5 October⁽⁵⁾ concerning the Commission's annual reports, called on the Commission to strengthen the 'strategic' nature of the reports as an instrument for monitoring and keeping track of Member State and EU policies in the equal opportunities field.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 335; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.26; http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/equ_opp/actprg_en.html.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 123; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.24; http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/equ_opp/report_en.html.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 120; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.23.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 154, 27.6.2000.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.21.

132. The Commission continued to develop projects fostering exchanges of information and good practice co-financed under the medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for women and men (1996–2000)⁽¹⁾. A total of EUR 6 million went towards the funding of 60 projects. Various activities were also carried out as part of the process of gender mainstreaming within Community policies, particularly from the point of view of strengthening Structural Fund assistance to promote equality in conjunction with the new programming framework (2000–06) (→ *points 350 et seq.*) and as part of the European employment strategy (→ *points 98 et seq.*). Moreover, the group of Commissioners responsible for equal opportunities⁽²⁾ played an important role in giving political impetus to the process of gender mainstreaming.

133. On 18 May⁽³⁾, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the follow-up to the Beijing action platform⁽⁴⁾ and, on 15 June, it adopted a resolution⁽⁵⁾ calling on the Council, the Member States and the Commission to take full account of the outcome of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly reviewing the implementation of the action platform agreed at Beijing in 1995. In conclusions reached on 28 November⁽⁶⁾, the Council urged the Member States and the social partners to adopt further measures and strategies to achieve the goal of balanced participation by women and men in family and working life. Moreover, in a resolution adopted on 30 November⁽⁷⁾, Parliament condemned systematic rape, forced impregnation, sexual slavery and all other forms of gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict, as well as the sexual misconduct of soldiers involved in peacekeeping operations. It called on the Member States to promote equal participation of women in peaceful conflict resolution.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 335, 30.12.1995; 1995 General Report, point 628.

⁽²⁾ 1995 General Report, point 627.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.24.

⁽⁴⁾ 1995 General Report, point 633. Further information on this subject can be found at the following Internet sites: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/>; <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/followup/beijing5/index.html>.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.28.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.26.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.2.3.

Section 5

Single market ⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

134. *With a view to improving the operation of the single market and promoting competitiveness, the Commission made its first annual review of the strategy for the single market drawn up in 1999, particularly examining progress on priority activities. In the course of the year, considerable progress was made on legislation, particularly in the field of financial services. The Commission also made proposals for introducing a genuine Community patent, harmonising certain aspects of copyright and recommending a strategy for eliminating obstacles to trade in the field of services. In the field of taxation, the Commission drew up a strategy aimed at improving the operation of the VAT system and a major agreement was reached on the adoption of a 'fiscal package', particularly as regards the sensitive issue of harmonising taxation on savings. Encouraged by the Nice European Council, the Council also managed to achieve some progress on the question of a European company.*

General strategy

135. On 3 May, the Commission submitted a communication on the 2000 review of the internal market strategy ⁽²⁾, based on a document originally published in November 1999 ⁽³⁾ and favourably received by the Economic and Social Committee ⁽⁴⁾ and the European Parliament ⁽⁵⁾. In it, the Commission identified the priority activities that it thought would have the greatest and most immediate impact on improving the operation of this market. This review was also in line with the wish expressed at the Lisbon European Council ⁽⁶⁾ for modernisation and simplification of the internal market so as to make the European Union the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world. The Economic and Social Committee approved this initiative on 19 October ⁽⁷⁾.

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/en/index.htm.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 257; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.26.

⁽³⁾ COM(1999) 642; 1999 General Report, point 127.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.28.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.13.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.9.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.23.

136. On 26 January, the Commission adopted a report on the functioning of Community product and capital markets, which is the second report on economic reform produced in the wake of the Cardiff European Council⁽¹⁾. With an eye to an annual updating of the target activities of the strategy for the single market, the report gives particular attention to problems such as price convergence and the development of a single market in financial services, and stresses the importance, in the present context, of economic reforms aimed at strengthening competitiveness. On the basis of the Commission's report and those drawn up in parallel by the Member States, on 16 March the Council adopted conclusions⁽²⁾ that were taken into account in the preparation of the broad economic guidelines for 2000 (→ *point 37*) and the updating of the target strategic activities. On 27 December, taking into account the timetable adjustments requested by the Lisbon European Council in March, the Commission submitted a third annual report on this subject⁽³⁾ stressing the objectives set by that European Council and the broad economic policy guidelines and the strategic objectives for the internal market.

137. On 22 May⁽⁴⁾ and 23 November⁽⁵⁾, the Commission published new editions of the single market scoreboard, which gives regular updates on progress by the Member States in applying and implementing single market legislation.

138. In a communication of 28 February entitled 'Review of SLIM: simpler legislation for the internal market'⁽⁶⁾, which dealt with progress achieved during the first three phases of the SLIM exercise⁽⁷⁾, the Commission defined procedures for improving transparency and proposed principles for selecting the sectors to be included. It also called for parallel efforts by the Member States to simplify their rules in the sectors concerned and called on the European Parliament and the Council to adopt, as soon as possible, the proposals that were largely based on the recommendations in connection with the SLIM initiative. The Council welcomed the communication in its conclusions of 26 May⁽⁸⁾. In an own-initiative opinion of 19 October⁽⁹⁾, the Economic and Social Committee called for the adoption of a multiannual simplification plan for 2001 to 2005.

139. In response to a request by the Lisbon⁽¹⁰⁾ and Feira⁽¹¹⁾ European Councils, on 20 September⁽¹²⁾, the Commission published a communication in which

(1) Previous report: 1999 General Report, point 128.

(2) Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.27.

(3) COM(2000) 881; Bull. 12-2000.

(4) SEC(2000) 879.

(5) SEC(2000) 88.

(6) COM(2000) 104; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.31.

(7) 1996 General Report, point 106; 1997 General Report, point 183; 1998 General Report, point 151; 1999 General Report, point 132.

(8) Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.28.

(9) Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.22.

(10) Bull. 3-2000, point 1.19.

(11) Bull. 6-2000, point 1.22.

(12) COM(2000) 580; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.19.

it set out its views on the clarification of the rules applicable to services of general interest, particularly as regards the single market. The Council welcomed this in a statement prepared for the Nice European Council of 7 and 8 December⁽¹⁾.

140. As part of its dialogue with citizens and business on the Europa server⁽²⁾, the Commission introduced a new guide entitled *Exercising your rights in the single European market* and launched a mechanism for feedback from businesses so that in the decision-making process better account could be taken of their practical experience.

141. On 1 March⁽³⁾, the Economic and Social Committee adopted an opinion on the Commission Green Paper on liability for defective products⁽⁴⁾. The European Parliament also adopted a resolution on this matter on 30 March⁽⁵⁾.

Free movement of goods

142. On 25 May⁽⁶⁾, the Commission adopted a report on the application of Regulation (EEC) No 3911/92⁽⁷⁾ on the export of cultural goods and Directive 93/7/EEC⁽⁸⁾ 1993 on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State. The report concluded that these legal instruments needed to be maintained and the administrative cooperation essential for their operation improved. It also announced a number of technical amendments to take account of the changeover to the euro and the need for a standard interpretation of the texts. On 22 December, the Commission proposed amending the abovementioned regulation and directive (Table II and Table I). On 15 December⁽⁹⁾, it adopted a report on the application of Directive 91/477/EEC⁽¹⁰⁾ on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons

Application of Articles 28 to 30 of the EC Treaty

143. The Commission continued to monitor compliance with Articles 28, 29 and 30 of the EC Treaty as regards the elimination of quantitative restrictions on imports and exports between Member States and measures having an

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ At <http://europa.eu.int/citizens> and <http://europa.eu.int/business> respectively.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.26.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 129.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 117, 26.4.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.26.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 325; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.35.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 395, 31.12.1992; Twenty-sixth General Report, point 161.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 74, 27.3.1993; Twenty-seventh General Report, point 96.

⁽⁹⁾ COM(2000) 837; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 256, 13.9.1991; Twenty-seventh General Report, point 208.

equivalent effect. The number of cases still under examination as at 31 December was 318, and the number of new complaints received in 2000 was 151.

Technical aspects

144. On 7 July⁽¹⁾, the Commission adopted a report on the operation between 1995 and 1998 of Directive 98/34/EC laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations⁽²⁾. In application of this directive, the Commission received, in 2000, 751 notifications of draft technical regulations (of which 23 related to rules on information society services), bringing the total number of notifications received since the directive came into force to 7 257. In 45 cases⁽³⁾, it issued detailed opinions because of the infringements of Community law to which the draft regulations might give rise. The Member States did likewise in 92 cases⁽³⁾. The number of notifications under the procedure for the exchange of information in the field of technical regulations provided for in the agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) totalled 18 in both 1999 and 2000. The Commission sent, on behalf of the Community, a total of 7 observations to the EFTA countries that are signatories to the EEA Agreement. The same procedure also applies informally to Switzerland. The number of notifications received from that country went from 17 in 1999 to 9 in 2000. On behalf of the Community the Commission sent Switzerland 8 observations⁽⁴⁾.

145. In the foodstuffs sector, on 23 June, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Directive 2000/36/EC relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption, with a view to harmonising throughout the Community the possibility of using vegetable fats other than cocoa butter (Table I). On 13 September, the Commission proposed an amendment to Directive 80/232/EEC as regards the range of nominal weights for coffee and chicory extracts (Table I).

146. In the pharmaceutical products sector, the European Parliament and the Council approved, in December, a proposal for a directive on the approximation of legislative, regulatory and administrative provisions relating to the implementation of good practice in the conduct of clinical trials on medicinal products for human use (Table I). In the cosmetic products sector, on 5 April, the Commission put forward a proposal for amending, for the seventh time, Council Directive 76/768/EEC on the approximation of the relevant laws of the Member States (Table I). In the field of medical devices, on 16 November the

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.13.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 136. Further information on this procedure is available on the Europa server at http://europa.eu.int/tris/index_en.htm.

⁽³⁾ As at 1 January 2001. The deadline for issuing reasoned opinions on projects notified in 2000 is 31 March 2001.

⁽⁴⁾ As at 1 January 2001. The deadline for making observations on projects notified in 2000 is 31 March 2001.

European Parliament and the Council amended the scope of Directive 93/42/EEC to include stable derivatives of human blood or human plasma (Table I).

147. As regards units of measurement, on 24 January the European Parliament and the Council amended Directive 80/181/EEC on the approximation of the relevant laws of the Member States (Table I). On 15 September, the Commission proposed a revision of the legislation on measuring instruments subject to legal metrological control (Table I).

148. In the motor vehicles sector, the European Parliament and the Council adopted, on 20 March, Directive 2000/7/EC on speedometers for two- or three-wheel motor vehicles (Table I), on 22 May, Directive 2000/25/EC on action to be taken against the emission of gaseous and particulate pollutants by engines intended to power agricultural or forestry tractors (Table I), and, on 26 June, Directive 2000/40/EC on the front underrun protection of motor vehicles (Table I), and amended, on 28 February, Council Directive 74/60/EEC⁽¹⁾ on the interior fittings of motor vehicles (Table I). The Council also adopted, on 13 April, a common position on a proposal for a directive introducing standards for tyre/road noise (Table I). The Commission made proposals, on 22 June, for amending Directive 97/24/EC on two- or three-wheel motor vehicles to introduce new standards for emissions of pollutants by motorcycles (Table I) and, on 6 September, for amending Directive 70/220/EEC⁽²⁾ on air pollution by motor vehicles (Table I). On 12 October, the Commission proposed that Directive 94/25/EC on recreational craft⁽³⁾ be amended to include various requirements for gas and noise emissions (Table I). At international level, on 31 January, the Council concluded the agreement negotiated under the aegis of the United Nations setting global technical regulations for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts ('Parallel Agreement') (Table III). The Commission adopted six proposals for decisions on Community accession to the international regulations on the approval of various vehicle parts (Table III).

149. On 7 December⁽⁴⁾, the Commission submitted an evaluation report on the implementation of Directive 94/11/EC⁽⁵⁾ on the labelling of the materials used in the main components of footwear. It considered that the directive had made it possible to improve consumer information and transparency.

150. In the chemical products sector, on 6 January and 20 June, the Commission put forward proposals for two new amendments to Directive 76/769/EEC on restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 38, 11.2.1974.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 76, 6.4.1970.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 164, 30.6.1994; 1994 General Report, point 110.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 812; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 100, 19.4.1994; 1994 General Report, point 105.

preparations⁽¹⁾ (Table I) as regards the use of certain substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction (CMR), and the use of short-chain chlorinated paraffins for the treatment of metals or leather.

Veterinary and plant health legislation

151. Veterinary and plant health legislation is dealt with in Section 7 ('Health and consumer protection') of Chapter IV (→ *points 669 et seq.*).

Customs

152. Customs are dealt with in Section 3 ('Common commercial policy') of Chapter VI (→ *points 815 et seq.*).

Free movement of persons

Freedom of movement and right of residence

153. Freedom of movement and right of residence are dealt with in Sections 1 ('Area of freedom, security and justice') and 2 ('Citizens' rights') in Chapter IV (→ *points 445 and 488*).

Right of establishment

154. On 20 March, the Council adopted a common position on a proposal for a directive amending the general and sectoral directives on the recognition of diplomas in certain professions, particularly with a view to simplifying the updating of the lists of diplomas in connection with the SLIM initiative (Table I). On 3 February, the Commission adopted a report⁽²⁾ on the application of Directive 92/51/EEC⁽³⁾, which supplements the general system for the recognition of diplomas, in which it suggests facilitating the provision of services and simplifying the updating of certain types of training.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 262, 27.9.1976; last amended by Directive 1999/77/EC (OJ L 207, 6.8.1999; 1999 General Report, point 138).

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 17; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.42.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 209, 24.7.1992; Twenty-sixth General Report, point 167.

Free movement of workers

155. Free movement of workers is dealt with in Section 3 ('Employment and social policy') of this chapter (→ *point 113*).

Freedom to provide services

156. On 29 December⁽¹⁾, the Commission adopted a communication on an internal market strategy for services. This initiative was in response to a wish expressed by the European Council in Lisbon⁽²⁾, and is part of the process for removing barriers to services — a sector in which the potential cross-border supply and demand had increased substantially with the information society. The Commission recommends a two-step approach (2001 and 2002), comprising a series of legislative and non-legislative measures.

Financial services

157. On 20 March, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Directive 2000/12/EC on the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions, which combines into a single legislative act seven existing directives and their successive amendments (Table I). They also adopted, on 18 September, Directive 2000/46/EC defining a regulatory framework for issuing electronic money in the context of the provisions on the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions (Table I), Directive 2000/28/EC extending the definition of credit institutions for this purpose (Table I), and, on 7 November, a directive amending Directives 85/611/EEC⁽³⁾, 92/49/EEC⁽⁴⁾, 92/96/EEC⁽⁵⁾ and 93/22/EEC⁽⁶⁾ as regards the exchange of information with non-member countries in the financial sector (Table I). On 18 February, the Commission submitted a report⁽⁷⁾ on the implementation of Directive 89/299/EEC on the own funds of credit institutions⁽⁸⁾, on which the European Parliament had issued an opinion on 17 November⁽⁹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 888; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.9.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 375, 31.12.1985; last amended by Directive 95/26/EC (OJ L 168, 18.7.1995; 1995 General Report, point 119).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 228, 11.8.1992; last amended by Directive 95/26/EC (OJ L 168, 18.7.1995; 1995 General Report, point 119).

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 360, 9.12.1992; last amended by Directive 95/26/EC (OJ L 168, 18.7.1995; 1995 General Report, point 119).

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 141, 11.6.1993; last amended by Directive 97/9/EC (OJ L 84, 26.3.1997; 1997 General Report, point 203).

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 74; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.49.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 124, 5.5.1989; Twenty-third General Report, point 211.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.39.

158. As regards insurance, on 8 February the Commission adopted an interpretative communication⁽¹⁾ on freedom to provide services and the general good in the insurance sector. On 15 May, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Directive 2000/26/EC (fourth motor insurance directive), which is aimed at enabling drivers passing through a Member State other than the one in which they live to obtain swift compensation in the event of an accident (Table I). The Commission adopted, on 28 June, a proposal for recasting the legislation on life assurance (Table I), on 20 September, a proposal for a directive on the regulation of insurance intermediaries with a view to enabling them to make better use of the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services and to ensure a high level of protection for the interests of consumers who deal with them (Table I). On 25 October, it adopted two proposals for directives amending the solvency margin requirements for insurance companies, with regard to life assurance and non-life insurance respectively (Table I). On 10 October, the Council adopted a common position on a proposal for a directive on the reorganisation and compulsory winding-up of direct insurance enterprises (Table I).

159. In May⁽²⁾ and November⁽³⁾, the Commission published its second and third interim reports⁽⁴⁾ on progress in implementing the plan of action on financial services, which was also the subject of conclusions adopted by the Lisbon European Council⁽⁵⁾ and the Council⁽⁶⁾ and of a European Parliament resolution⁽⁷⁾. In connection with this action plan⁽⁸⁾, the Commission also adopted communications on retail payments in the internal market⁽⁹⁾ and investment services⁽¹⁰⁾. It also submitted, on 18 October, a progress report on the risk capital action plan⁽¹¹⁾ — an initiative that the European Parliament welcomed in a resolution of 3 October⁽¹²⁾.

160. Following the Green Paper⁽¹³⁾ and the Commission communication⁽¹⁴⁾ on supplementary pensions, the European Parliament also stated its position on the question in a resolution of 13 April⁽¹⁵⁾. On 11 October, the Commission also adopted a proposal for a directive establishing prudential rules for institutions operating occupational pension schemes, in order to ensure a high level of

(1) OJ C 43, 16.2.2000.

(2) COM(2000) 336; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.37.

(3) COM(2000) 692; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.36.

(4) Previous report: 1999 General Report, point 148.

(5) Bull. 3-2000, point 1.10.

(6) Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.33.

(7) Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.20.

(8) COM(1999) 232; 1999 General Report, point 149.

(9) COM(2000) 36; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.46.

(10) COM(2000) 722; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.37; COM(2000) 729; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.38.

(11) COM(2000) 658; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.31.

(12) Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.30.

(13) COM(97) 283; 1997 General Report, point 207; 1998 General Report, point 177.

(14) COM(1999) 134; 1999 General Report, point 151.

(15) Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.21.

protection for beneficiaries and to allow these institutions to benefit fully from the single market (Table I).

161. On 20 July, the Commission adopted a proposal for a codified directive to replace a number of existing directives on the admission of securities to official listing and on information to be published on those securities (Table I).

162. On 17 October, the Council reached agreement on a first amendment to Directive 85/611/EEC on undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS) (Table I). In its conclusions of 17 July⁽¹⁾, it had said it was in favour of implementing this in conjunction with another amendment that was also the subject of a proposal for a directive (Table I). It reiterated this point of view in conclusions adopted on 17 October.

163. On 30 November, the Council adopted a common position on a proposal for extending the scope of Directive 91/308/EEC on prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering (Table I).

Other services

164. On 30 May, the Commission adopted a proposal for amending Directive 97/67/EC⁽²⁾ with regard to the further opening to competition of Community postal services (Table I). This would ensure the opening in 2003 of a further 20 % (on average) of incumbent operators' postal revenues, in addition to the 30 % already open to competition.

165. On 8 June, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Directive 2000/31/EC on electronic commerce (Table I), which is intended to guarantee, by means of an appropriate legal framework, that information-society services benefit from the single market principles of freedom to provide services and freedom of establishment.

Free movement of capital

166. The main infringements dealt with by the Commission in connection with the free movement of capital essentially concerned discriminatory tax systems applied to certain transactions, authorisation procedures applied to certain purchases of immovable property and the imposition by certain Member States of 'special' supervisory powers over privatised companies. This question, which

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.19.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 15, 21.1.1998; 1997 General Report, point 521.

had already been the subject of Commission initiatives⁽¹⁾, gave rise to an initial judgment by the Court of Justice⁽²⁾.

167. Progress by the applicant countries on aligning their legislation with that of the Community as regards free movement of capital was closely monitored in connection with the accession negotiations (→ *point 703*). The extensive liberalisation that had taken place in some of these countries meant that efforts were needed to analyse the development and stability of their financial systems (→ *point 706*).

Taxation

Direct taxation

168. In November, the Council reached a political agreement on the proposal for a directive to ensure a minimum of effective taxation of savings income in the form of interest payments within the Community (Table II). Under the terms of this agreement, each Member State would automatically provide the other Member States with information on savings income of their residents. However, Belgium, Luxembourg and Austria would, for a transitional period of seven years, instead apply a non-final withholding tax to the interest on savings of non-residents. This would be applied at a rate of 15 % for the first three years, after which it would rise to 20 %, and the percentage of revenue transferred to the Member State of residence of the saver by the Member State of the paying agent would be 75 %. In December⁽³⁾, the Nice European Council welcomed this political decision and asked the Commission and the Presidency to hold talks with the United States and other countries as soon as possible in order to favour the adoption of measures that would be equivalent at a broader international level. Depending on the outcome of these talks, the Council should be able to take a decision concerning the directive before the end of 2002.

169. On 2 March⁽⁴⁾, the Commission adopted a communication in which it explained why it did not think it desirable at present for the Community as a whole to introduce a tax on aviation fuel for intra-Community flights by Community carriers only and proposed that the Member States should rather work on the basis of bilateral agreements. The Council endorsed the general thrust of this communication in its conclusions of 29 June, and the European Parliament also stated its views in a resolution of 14 December⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ 1997 General Report, point 210; 1998 General Report, point 181; 1999 General Report, point 154.

⁽²⁾ Case C-58/99, *Commission v Republic of Italy* (Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.8.61).

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 110; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.39.

Indirect taxation

170. As regards a reduced rate of VAT on labour-intensive services, following on from Directive 1999/85/EC⁽¹⁾ the Council adopted, on 28 February, Decision 2000/185/EC⁽²⁾ authorising nine Member States to apply a reduced rate until 31 December 2002, and, on 30 March, Directive 2000/17/EC (Table II) amending Directive 77/388/EEC⁽³⁾ on the common system of value added tax so that Austria and Portugal could apply a reduced rate to certain transactions. On 27 November, the Council adopted Decisions 2000/746/EC⁽⁴⁾ and 2000/747/EC⁽⁴⁾ authorising the United Kingdom and France respectively to apply certain derogations from the directive in question. On 20 September, the Commission adopted a proposal for an amendment to the same directive, extending the period of application of the minimum standard rate (Table II).

171. On 7 June, the Commission adopted a communication entitled 'A strategy to improve the operation of the VAT system within the context of the internal market'⁽⁵⁾. The aim of this new approach is to improve the operation of the single market in the short term, without calling into question the idea of a definitive system of taxation in the country of origin as the long-term prospect. It was based on four main objectives: simplifying the existing VAT system, modernising it, standardising the implementing rules in the Member States and stepping up administrative cooperation between them, particularly with a view to combating fraud. As part of this strategy, the Commission had already, on 7 June, proposed an amendment to Directive 77/388/EEC on the common system of value added tax to take account of certain services provided by electronic means (Table II) and Regulation (EEC) No 218/92⁽⁶⁾ on administrative cooperation in the field of indirect taxation (VAT) (Table I). With a view to meeting the challenges of the internal market and the new technologies, the Commission adopted, on 17 November, a proposal for a directive aimed at simplifying, modernising and harmonising the conditions laid down for invoicing in respect of value added tax (Table II). With an eye to simplification, the Council had adopted, on 17 October, a directive on the determination of the person liable for payment of value added tax (Table II).

172. As regards the restrictions still applied by Denmark, Finland and Sweden to tobacco products and alcoholic beverages brought in by travellers from other Member States, in a report dated 24 May⁽⁷⁾ the Commission called on those

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 227, 28.10.1999; 1999 General Report, point 158.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 59, 4.3.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.54.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 145, 13.6.1977.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 302; 1.12.2000.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 348; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.39.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 24, 1.2.1992.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 316; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.49.

Member States to prepare for the restrictions to be finally lifted at the end of 2003. The Council also adopted two directives extending the restrictions applied by Finland (Table II) and Sweden (Table II) and/or laying down the stages in their gradual liberalisation.

173. On 15 November, with a view to increasing the efficiency of checks on derogations, the Commission adopted a proposal for a decision on reduced rates of and exemption from excise duty for diesel used for commercial vehicles and fuel used for public transport and taxis (Table II).

Company law

174. On 13 June, the Commission adopted a communication⁽¹⁾ on the European Union's new strategy on financial reporting. With a view to promoting the smooth-running of the capital markets in the European Union, it proposed that the listed companies in the Union should apply, not later than 2005, the accounting standards issued by the IASC (International Accounting Standards Committee) so as to promote transparency and a high level of comparability in company accounts in the EU.

175. On 19 June, the Council adopted a common position on a proposal for a directive on takeover bids (Table I). On 24 February the Commission put forward a proposal for amending Directives 78/660/EEC⁽²⁾ and 83/349/EEC⁽³⁾ as regards the valuation rules for the annual accounts and the consolidated accounts of certain types of companies (Table I).

176. On 15 November⁽⁴⁾, the Commission adopted a recommendation on checking the quality of audits, particularly with a view to guaranteeing that they were carried out in accordance with the recognised standards and that the auditors respected certain rules.

177. In response to a request by the Nice European Council⁽⁵⁾, the Council reached, on 20 December, a political agreement with a view to establishing a common position on the proposal for a regulation on the statute for a European company and a proposal for a directive supplementing this statute as regards the involvement of workers (Table I).

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 359; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.34.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 222, 14.8.1978; Twelfth General Report, point 108.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 193, 18.7.1983; last amended by Directive 90/605/EEC (OJ L 317, 16.11.1990).

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.42.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

Intellectual and industrial property

178. On 1 August, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Council regulation on the Community patent (Table II), which is the main initiative announced in its communication of 1999 on the follow-up to the 1997 Green Paper on the Community patent and the patent system in Europe ⁽¹⁾. This proposed regulation is aimed at creating, at Community level, a new unitary industrial property right, coexisting with the national and European patent systems. As requested by the Lisbon European Council ⁽²⁾, this unitary right should be in place by the end of 2001.

179. In response to a European Parliament resolution of 4 May ⁽³⁾, the Commission adopted, on 30 November ⁽⁴⁾, a communication, accompanied by an action plan, on the follow-up to its communication on combating counterfeiting and piracy in the single market ⁽⁵⁾.

180. On 16 March, the Council approved the WIPO ⁽⁶⁾ Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty ⁽⁷⁾ (→ *point 794*).

181. The Council adopted a common position on 19 June on the proposal for a directive on the resale right for the benefit of the author of an original work of art (Table I) and, on 28 September, a common position on the proposal for a directive on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society (Table I).

182. On 10 April ⁽⁸⁾, the Commission adopted a report on the implementation and effects of Directive 91/250/EEC ⁽⁹⁾ on the legal protection of computer programs.

Data protection

183. On 18 December, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a common position on a proposal for a regulation on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the European Community's institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (Table I).

⁽¹⁾ COM(97) 314; 1997 General Report, point 220; 1998 General Report, point 194; 1999 General Report, point 162.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.7.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.27.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 789; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.50.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(1998) 569; 1998 General Report, point 194; 1999 General Report, point 163.

⁽⁶⁾ <http://www.wipo.int/index.html.en>.

⁽⁷⁾ Council Decision 2000/278/EC, 16 March 2000 (OJ L 89, 11.4.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.41).

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2000) 199; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.23.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 122, 17.5.1991.

184. On 26 July, the Commission adopted, on the basis of Directive 95/46/EC⁽¹⁾, three decisions recognising that Switzerland⁽²⁾, Hungary⁽³⁾ and the 'safe harbour' privacy principles in the United States⁽⁴⁾ provided adequate protection of personal data. In a resolution of 5 July⁽⁵⁾, the European Parliament expressed a number of reservations regarding the decision on the US system.

Public procurement

185. The Commission continued to apply the measures announced in its communication of March 1998 on public procurement in the European Union⁽⁶⁾. In April, it adopted an 'interpretative communication on concessions under Community law'⁽⁷⁾ to inform operators and public authorities about the applicable rules and principles. The Economic and Social Committee also dealt with this question in an opinion of 19 October of public-private partnerships⁽⁸⁾.

186. As part of the measures aimed at simplifying and clarifying Community legislation, the Commission adopted, on 28 April and 10 May respectively, two proposals for directives (Table I) recasting and modernising the legal framework for awarding public contracts for supplies, services and works in general, and for the specific sectors of water, energy and transport. In its conclusions of 30 November⁽⁹⁾, the Council said that it was in favour of initiatives of this kind.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 281, 23.11.1995.

⁽²⁾ Decision 2000/518/EC (OJ L 215, 25.8.2000).

⁽³⁾ Decision 2000/519/EC (OJ L 215, 25.8.2000).

⁽⁴⁾ Decision 2000/520/EC (OJ L 215, 25.8.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.26).

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.25.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(1998) 143; 1998 General Report, point 197; 1999 General Report, point 165.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ C 121, 29.4.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.24.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.39.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.52.

Section 6

Competition policy⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

187. In 2000, the Commission, as a follow-up to its 1999 White Paper, continued its work on modernising the rules implementing Articles 81 and 82 of the EC Treaty, in particular with regard to the simplification and decentralisation of procedures. On 5 May, it adopted the XXIXth Report on Competition Policy⁽²⁾, which the Economic and Social Committee discussed in December⁽³⁾. On 18 January, the European Parliament⁽⁴⁾ had given its opinion on the XXVIIIth Report⁽⁵⁾.

Competition rules applying to businesses

General rules

188. Following its 1999 White Paper on modernisation of the rules implementing Articles 81 and 82 of the EC Treaty⁽⁶⁾, the Commission adopted, on 27 September, a proposal for a regulation (Table II) designed to do away with the centralised system for the notification and authorisation of agreements laid down by Regulation No 17⁽⁷⁾ and to set up a directly applicable exception system whereby the Commission and the national courts and competition authorities will have parallel powers to apply Article 81 of the EC Treaty. The proposal includes a provision establishing for the first time that, where trade between Member States is affected, only Community law is applicable, and not national

⁽¹⁾ Only the most significant cases are dealt with in this section. For further details, see the XXXth Report on Competition Policy, to be published by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities in mid-2001 in conjunction with this General Report. A report on the application of the competition rules in the European Union in 2000, prepared under the sole responsibility of the Directorate-General for Competition in conjunction with the XXXth Report on Competition Policy, is also available. Further information is available on the following web site: http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/index_en.html.

⁽²⁾ SEC(2000) 720; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.51; http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/annual_reports/.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 304, 24.10.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.61.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 166.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 132, 12.5.1999; 1999 General Report, point 168.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 13, 21.2.1962; Fifth General Report, point 47; as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1216/1999 (OJ L 148, 15.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 169).

law. The Commission also recommends measures to strengthen its investigative powers, so as to ensure effective, rapid detection of infringements of Community competition law.

189. As a follow-up to Regulation (EC) No 2790/1999 on block exemptions⁽¹⁾, the Commission, on 24 May, adopted guidelines on vertical restraints⁽²⁾. These seek to increase the transparency and predictability of Community competition policy in this field, so that the firms concerned can themselves assess the validity of their vertical agreements in the light of Article 81. Parliament had already welcomed the Commission's intentions in this respect in its resolution of 3 May⁽³⁾.

190. On 28 June, the Commission adopted a report⁽⁴⁾ on the application of the thresholds in the merger regulation⁽⁵⁾. In the report it stresses that too many mergers with cross-border effects nevertheless fail to reach the turnover thresholds set out in the regulation. On the same date it approved a simplified procedure⁽⁶⁾ for investigating mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures which do not pose any competition problems, so as to reduce the administrative burden on notifying parties while safeguarding the rights of Member States and third parties.

191. On 29 November, the Commission adopted two regulations on the application of Article 81(3) of the EC Treaty to categories of research and development agreements⁽⁷⁾ and categories of specialisation agreements⁽⁸⁾; it also adopted guidelines on the applicability of Article 81 to horizontal cooperation⁽⁹⁾.

192. As part of the 'eEurope' initiative (→ *point 318*), the Commission adopted, on 26 April, a recommendation to the Member States, accompanied by a communication, on unbundled access to the local loop to enable the competitive provision of a full range of electronic communications services including broadband multimedia and high-speed Internet⁽¹⁰⁾.

193. On 15 November, the Commission adopted an evaluation report⁽¹¹⁾ on Regulation (EC) No 1475/95⁽¹²⁾, which declares a block exemption for motor vehicle distribution and servicing agreements.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 336, 29.12.1996; 1999 General Report, point 169.

⁽²⁾ SEC(2000) 831; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.54.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.53.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 399; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.50.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 (OJ L 395, 30.12.1989; Twenty-third General Report, point 376); as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 (OJ L 180, 9.7.1997; 1998 General Report, point 215).

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.51.

⁽⁷⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2659/2000 (OJ L 304, 5.12.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.54).

⁽⁸⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2658/2000 (OJ L 304, 5.12.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.54).

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.54.

⁽¹⁰⁾ COM(2000) 237; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.25.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.53; http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/car_sector/.

⁽¹²⁾ OJ L 145, 29.6.1995; 1995 General Report, point 142.

194. On 21 December, the Commission adopted a communication on remedies acceptable for resolving competition problems posed by mergers and acquisitions⁽¹⁾. The communication provides firms with a number of guidelines regarding European Union policy on merger control, the aim being to make it more predictable.

Inquiry by economic sector

195. By decision of 4 February⁽²⁾, the Commission requested national competition authorities and telecommunications regulators, together with mobile network operators and service providers in the Community to provide information on conditions and price structures for national and international roaming services. These requests mark the start of the second stage of the inquiry which it launched on 27 July 1999⁽³⁾ pursuant to Article 12 of Regulation No 17.

Permissible forms of cooperation

196. On 24 January, the Commission granted, until 31 December, an exemption for an agreement concerning virtually all producers and importers of domestic washing machines in the European Economic Area. The parties have undertaken to stop producing and importing washing machines with low levels of energy efficiency⁽⁴⁾. This is the first time that the Commission has adopted a decision applying Article 81(3) of the EC Treaty to an agreement designed to improve the ecological performance of products.

197. On 3 February, under the merger regulation, the Commission authorised Eastern Electricity (TXU Europe group) and London Electricity (EdF group) to set up a 50:50 joint venture to manage the utility network and to provide operating services, mainly for electricity distribution companies⁽⁵⁾.

198. On 21 March, the Commission authorised British Sky Broadcasting Group plc (BSkyB) to acquire a holding in KirchPayTV GmbH and Co. KGaA (KirchPayTV)⁽⁶⁾. The parties had offered to give undertakings with regard to the technical platform for pay TV to offset the increase in barriers to entry on the German market resulting from the deal.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 857; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.67.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 171.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.62.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.65.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.44.

199. On 19 April, the Commission adopted Regulation (EC) No 823/2000⁽¹⁾, renewing for five years the block exemption granted by the previous Regulation (EC) No 870/95⁽²⁾ to shipping company consortia for the operation of joint liner shipping services. The exemption will apply, however, only to consortia with a share of less than 30–35 % of each of the markets on which they operate.

200. On 10 May, the Commission granted, subject to conditions and obligations, an individual exemption⁽³⁾ to the European Broadcasting Union in respect of its internal rules governing the acquisition of broadcasting rights for sports events, the exchange of sports programmes through the Eurovision system and contractual access for third parties to such programmes.

201. On 20 June, the Commission authorised the sale to Callahan Invest of Deutsche Telekom's (DT) cable television network in North Rhine-Westphalia⁽⁴⁾, a merger which constitutes the first in a series of sales of DT's nine regional cable television networks.

202. On 22 June, the Commission authorised the joint takeover of CanalSatellite by the groups Canal+ and Lagardère, and the takeover of Multithématiques by the same groups and Liberty Media⁽⁵⁾, the Internet being expressly excluded from the agreement.

203. On 1 September, the European Commission authorised the merger between Bertelsmann AG and Mondadori SpA⁽⁶⁾, giving the parties joint control over BOL Italia, which sells books in Italian, music and video cassettes, CDs, CD-ROMs and DVDs via the Internet in Italy.

Prohibited restrictive agreements

204. By decision dated 6 June concerning a restrictive practice in the synthetic amino acids sector⁽⁷⁾, the Commission imposed fines of EUR 47.3 million on Archer Daniels Midland, EUR 28.3 million on Ajinomoto, EUR 12.2 million on Cheil Jedang, EUR 13.2 million on Kyowa Hakko and EUR 8.9 million on Dae-sang for infringements of Article 81(1) of the EC Treaty. The five cartel participants had fixed lysine prices worldwide, including in the European Economic Area. They had also fixed sales quotas for this market and operated an information system to underpin the quotas. In July 1966, Ajinomoto had decided to inform the Commission of the existence of the restrictive practice, shortly after

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 100, 20.4.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.26.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 89, 21.4.1995; 1995 General Report, point 141.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.57.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.48.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.49.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.32.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.47.

adoption by the Commission of its notice on the non-imposition or reduction of fines in cartel cases⁽¹⁾. In accordance with the notice, the Commission granted the four firms that had cooperated with it substantial reductions in the fines imposed.

205. On 20 September, the Commission imposed a fine of EUR 43 million on Opel Nederland BV, the Dutch importer of Opel cars, for obstructing parallel exports of new cars to final consumers in other Member States⁽²⁾. This is the second major decision taken by the Commission, following the one against Volkswagen AG in January 1998⁽³⁾, where customer complaints led the Commission to investigate the practices of car manufacturers and importers and to impose heavy fines.

206. On 21 December, the Commission adopted a decision finding that the UK Group JC Bamford (JCB), a leading manufacturer of handling equipment for the building industry, agriculture and manufacturing, had infringed Community legislation on restrictive practices. In the late 1980s, JCB had introduced distribution agreements and other practices that had the effect of restricting significantly sales of its products outside allotted sales territories, both within certain national borders and abroad, and interfering with the freedom to fix resale prices. On account of these very serious infringements of Article 81(1) of the EC Treaty, fines totalling EUR 39.6 million were imposed on JCB.

Dominant positions

207. On 7 March, the Commission rejected the complaint by Sociedade Independente da Comunicação (SIC) against Radiotevisão Portuguesa (RTP)⁽⁴⁾, accusing the latter of having bought more programmes than it could broadcast in order to deprive SIC of attractive programmes. The Commission considered that the acquisition of a large quantity of programmes did not in itself constitute an abuse, since it gives channels the necessary flexibility.

208. On 26 July, the Commission ruled against the system of landing fees applied at Spanish airports⁽⁵⁾. It took the view that the system of discounts and the different landing fees charged according to the origin of the flight discriminated in favour of the national airlines.

209. On 21 December, the Commission adopted a decision on the provision in Italy of new value added postal services. It takes the view that Italian

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 207, 18.7.1996; 1996 General Report, point 156.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 9/2000, point 1.3.30.

⁽³⁾ 1998 General Report, point 203.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.46.

⁽⁵⁾ Decision 2000/521/EC (OJ L 208, 18.8.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.31).

Legislative Decree No 261 of 22 July 1999, which reserves for the incumbent operator the delivery of hybrid mail, is in breach of Article 86(1) of the Treaty, read in conjunction with Article 82.

Mergers

210. In 2000 the Commission received 345 notifications and adopted 345 final decisions under the merger regulation (Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 on the control of concentrations between undertakings)⁽¹⁾. Most of the cases were cleared at the end of the first stage of examination, lasting one month, but the Commission found it necessary to initiate the second stage of examination, lasting a further four months, in respect of 19 planned operations, and it continued detailed examinations started in 1999 in 9 cases. In 3 of the cases which went to this second stage, the Commission gave unconditional authorisations, in 12 cases it made its authorisation subject to conditions, in 2 cases it banned the merger, in 6 cases the planned operation was abandoned and in 5 cases the decision was deferred to 2001.

211. On 12 January, the Commission decided to authorise Generali to acquire control of INA⁽²⁾, subject to the parties complying with undertakings they had given. Thus, Generali will ensure that the members of INA's board of directors and executive committee no longer occupy posts in other companies in the insurance sector and it will significantly reduce existing links between the members of its own board of directors and executive committee with such companies.

212. On 28 February, the Commission authorised the acquisition of a stake in Libro by Telekom Austria⁽³⁾, on condition that Libro withdraw its application for a licence for fixed network telephony, thereby allaying concerns with regard to the future development of this market.

213. On 27 March, the Commission authorised BT to acquire Esat, an Irish telecommunications operator⁽⁴⁾. In response to the competition concerns identified by the Commission, BT gave certain undertakings aimed at loosening or breaking some distribution agreements with global service providers in Ireland.

214. On 12 April, the Commission authorised the takeover of the German company Mannesmann AG by Vodafone Airtouch (United Kingdom), subject

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 395, 31.12.1989; Twenty-third General Report, point 376; as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 (OJ L 180, 9.7.1997; 1998 General Report, point 215); http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/mergers/legislation/simplified_procedure/index_en.html.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.68.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.83.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.55.

to compliance with the undertakings given by the parties⁽¹⁾. Owing to the fast development of the mobile telecommunications sector, the award of so-called third generation UMTS (universal mobile telecommunications system) licences and the fact that competitors will in all likelihood try to build up alternative infrastructures, the undertakings given have been limited to a period of three years.

215. On 3 May, the Commission authorised a merger between the US aluminium producers Alcoa and Reynolds Metals, which created the largest integrated aluminium producer in the world⁽²⁾. The merger would have resulted in dominant positions in three product markets, but Alcoa proposed divestments aimed at restoring the competitive conditions prevailing before the merger.

216. On 3 May, the Commission authorised the acquisition of Union Carbide by Dow Chemical⁽³⁾. The merger will create one of the world's largest producers of plastics and chemicals. To resolve the problems posed by the merger in these sectors, the parties have agreed to sell various production segments and to grant licences for some of their principal technologies.

217. On 8 May, the Commission authorised a merger between Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham, provided that the parties honoured their commitments⁽⁴⁾. The new company, Glaxo SmithKline, will be the largest pharmaceutical company in the world. On 22 May, the merger between the pharmaceutical companies Pfizer Inc. and Warner-Lambert Inc., both established in the United States, was also authorised, subject to a number of commitments.

218. On 11 May, the Commission authorised the proposed creation of the European Aeronautic, Space and Defence Company (EADS), to which the German company DaimlerChrysler AG, France's Lagardère SCA, the French Government and the Spanish company Sociedad Estatal de Participaciones Industriales (SEPI) are contributing their activities in the aviation, telecommunications, space and defence sectors⁽⁵⁾. To remove competition concerns, the parties offered to divest some of their activities and certain intellectual property rights.

219. On 13 June, the Commission authorised the merger between VEBA and VIAG, subject to stringent conditions⁽⁶⁾. The transaction, together with the merger between RWE and VEW, examined at the same time by the Federal Cartel Office, will significantly change the face of the German electricity sector. To

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.30.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.58.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.59.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.61.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.63.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.52.

allay the competition concerns raised by the Commission, the VEBA/VIAG groups undertook to divest numerous holdings and also to make general improvements to the ground rules governing the electricity market.

220. On 28 June, the Commission prohibited the merger between the US telecommunications firms MCI WorldCom Inc., the world's leading provider of Internet connectivity, and Sprint Corp., one of its main competitors⁽¹⁾. The deal would have made competitors and customers dependent on the new merged entity for the provision of universal Internet connectivity. Under the cooperation agreement concluded between the European Union and the United States in 1991⁽²⁾, the Commission investigated the merger in parallel with the US Department of Justice. In a resolution of 7 September⁽³⁾, Parliament considered that the decision was a good example of EU legislation working for the benefit of consumers by eliminating a dominant position on the telecommunications market.

221. On 26 July, the Commission authorised the merger between the agrochemical operations of the Anglo-Swedish firm Astra Zeneca plc and the Swiss company Novartis AG⁽⁴⁾. The parties proposed a number of divestments in order to allay concerns about the creation or strengthening of dominant positions on several markets for plant health products, even though the new enterprise, Syngenta, will be the world leader in crop protection.

222. On 4 August, the Commission authorised the creation of a joint venture, MyAirCraft.com, by US-based companies United Technologies Corp. and Honeywell International Inc.⁽⁵⁾ The new company, which specialises in business-to-business transactions in the aerospace sector, is the first B2B e-commerce marketplace to be approved by the Commission, which took the view that the operation would not give rise to competition problems.

223. On 11 August, the Commission authorised France Télécom to acquire sole control of the UK mobile phone operator Orange⁽⁶⁾. To prevent the creation of a duopoly, or joint dominance, on the Belgian market, France Télécom/Orange offered to sell the interest which it held jointly with KPN (Netherlands) in Belgium's third mobile operator to an independent third party.

224. On 1 September, the Commission authorised Volvo's acquisition of Renault Véhicules Industriels (RVI), the Renault subsidiary specialising in truck production⁽⁷⁾. The parties to the transaction undertook to shed the activities

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.57.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 340, 11.12.1991; Twenty-fifth General Report, point 246.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.33.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.39.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.42.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.45.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.34.

which would undermine competition as a result of the acquisition of RVI. On 15 March the Commission had prohibited the acquisition by Volvo of its main competitor, Scania⁽¹⁾. In the event, the investigation had confirmed that the merger would have significantly affected the structure of the market, to the detriment of consumers.

225. On 27 September, the Commission decided to authorise the acquisition by Boeing of the satellite business of Hughes Electronics Corporation⁽²⁾. The Commission's investigation dispelled earlier concerns that the transaction could significantly strengthen Hughes' position on the market for commercial geostationary communication satellites (GEO satellites) and fears that the parties might encourage Hughes' satellite customers to procure launch services from Boeing.

226. On 28 September, the Commission authorised the Carrefour group to acquire sole control of GB, the Belgian supermarket operator⁽³⁾. On 25 January it had decided to refer the examination at local level of Carrefour's acquisition of Promodès to the French and Spanish competition authorities, and to authorise the remaining aspects of the merger subject to the parties complying with the undertakings given⁽⁴⁾.

227. On 11 October, the Commission authorised the merger between America Online Inc. (AOL) and Time Warner Inc. on the basis of AOL's offer to sever all links with German media group Bertelsmann AG⁽⁵⁾. The proposed undertakings will prevent AOL from having access to Europe's leading source of music publishing rights, thereby eliminating the risk of dominance in the emerging markets for online delivery of music over the Internet and software-based music players.

228. On 13 October, the Commission authorised the acquisition of Seagram (Canada) by the French telecommunications and media group Vivendi and its subsidiary Canal+. Vivendi entered into significant undertakings, agreeing in particular to sell its stake in BSkyB and to guarantee access to Universal films for other pay-TV operators⁽⁶⁾.

229. On 18 October, the Commission gave the go-ahead for the creation of the Airbus Integrated Company (AIC), to which BAES (UK), EADS NV (Netherlands), EADS France, EADS Germany and CASA of Spain will contribute

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.49.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.38.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.42.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.72.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.42.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.43.

their Airbus assets and activities, including their respective interests in Airbus Industries⁽¹⁾.

230. On 7 November, the Commission authorised the purchase by Carrefour, AGIP, Avia and a number of other companies of 70 motorway service stations belonging to TotalFina Elf. The sale satisfies one of the main conditions laid down by the Commission at the beginning of the year for clearance of the purchase of Elf Aquitaine by TotalFina⁽²⁾. Without these sales, TotalFina Elf would have been in a dominant position on French motorways.

231. On 22 November, the Commission took the view that the measures taken by the Portuguese authorities to prevent the takeover bid by Secil Companhia Geral de Cal e Cimentos SA and Holderbank for the Portuguese company Cimpor Cimentos de Portugal SGPS were incompatible with Community competition legislation. In its opinion, the decisions taken by the minister for finance in July and August were not designed to protect legitimate interests within the meaning of Article 21 of the merger control regulation.

232. On 5 December, the Commission cleared the merger between the stainless steel producers Outokumpu Steel Oyj (Finland) and Avesta Sheffield (United Kingdom — Sweden) following an in-depth investigation which had shown that there would still be sufficient competition in the sector despite the high degree of concentration.

233. On 6 December, the Commission authorised a joint venture bringing together the nuclear activities of the French company Framatome SA and those of Siemens AG. Authorisation had been made possible by the parties' agreement that Cogéma, another French company operating in the nuclear sector, would not participate in the joint venture. Électricité de France (EdF) will also withdraw from Framatome and will diversify its supply structure so as to ensure that the largest European electricity market will in future be accessible to competitors taking part in the new joint venture.

234. On 13 December, the Commission authorised Robert Bosch GmbH to acquire Rexroth, a Mannesmann subsidiary. Authorisation is conditional on the sale of Bosch's radial-piston pump business so as to avoid the creation of a dominant position on the market in hydraulic-piston pumps. Since the Commission is concerned that the sector to be hived off will be weakened in the meantime and emphasises the importance of finding a purchaser, Bosch has agreed to look for a purchaser before the merger is put into effect. This is the first time that a merger has been authorised subject to the condition that it may not be put into effect until the disposal commitment has been fulfilled.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.45.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.79.

State aid

General policy

235. During the year⁽¹⁾, the Commission received 869⁽²⁾ notifications of new aid schemes or amendments to existing aid schemes and registered 133⁽³⁾ cases of unnotified aid schemes. In 623⁽⁴⁾ cases it decided not to raise any objection; in 76⁽⁵⁾ cases it decided to initiate proceedings under Article 88(2) of the EC Treaty or Article 6(4) of Decision No 3855/91/ECSC⁽⁶⁾, as a result of which it took 17⁽⁷⁾ positive final decisions, 38⁽⁸⁾ negative final decisions and 11⁽⁹⁾ conditional final decisions.

236. On 11 April, the Commission adopted its eighth report on State aid in the European Union⁽¹⁰⁾. The report, which covers the period from 1996 to 1998, emphasises that the total volume of State aid paid out has fallen by 11 % compared with the previous period (1994–96). Pursuant to the enabling Regulation (EC) No 994/98⁽¹¹⁾, the Commission, on 6 December, approved two regulations⁽¹²⁾ exempting, subject to certain conditions, aid to small and medium-sized undertakings and aid for education and training from the prior notification requirement provided for in Article 88(3) of the EC Treaty, and a regulation which consolidates practice as regards the *de minimis* State aid rule⁽¹²⁾.

Horizontal aid

237. On 26 July, the Commission adopted Directive 2000/52/EC⁽¹³⁾ amending Directive 80/723/EEC⁽¹⁴⁾ in order to improve the transparency of the accounts of undertakings supplying services of general economic interest. The amendment introduces separate accounts for such services in respect of which these undertakings receive compensation in the form of payments or special or exclusive rights while carrying on normal commercial activities.

⁽¹⁾ For a discussion of the most significant individual cases, see the XXXth Report on Competition Policy.

⁽²⁾ Of which 5 in the coal industry, 33 in transport, 272 in agriculture and 73 in fisheries.

⁽³⁾ Of which 0 in the coal industry, 7 in transport, 29 in agriculture and 14 in fisheries.

⁽⁴⁾ Of which 0 in the coal industry, 24 in transport, 225 in agriculture and 36 in fisheries.

⁽⁵⁾ Of which 0 in the coal industry, 2 in transport, 7 in agriculture and 0 in fisheries.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 362, 31.12.1991; Twenty-fifth General Report, point 254.

⁽⁷⁾ Of which 0 in the coal industry, 2 in transport, 2 in agriculture and 0 in fisheries.

⁽⁸⁾ Of which 0 in the coal industry, 3 in transport, 8 in agriculture and 0 in fisheries.

⁽⁹⁾ Of which 0 in the coal industry, 1 in transport, 1 in agriculture and 0 in fisheries.

⁽¹⁰⁾ COM(2000) 205; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.34.

⁽¹¹⁾ OJ L 142, 14.5.1998; 1998 General Report, point 223.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽¹³⁾ OJ L 193, 29.7.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.54.

⁽¹⁴⁾ OJ L 195, 27.9.1980; Fourteenth General Report, point 195.

238. On 28 June, the Commission extended⁽¹⁾ until 31 December the guidelines on State aid for environmental protection⁽²⁾ and, on 21 December, it approved new guidelines⁽³⁾ making it possible to take new environmental protection requirements into account while strengthening the State aid rules in this field. It also adopted a report on the guidelines on employment aid⁽⁴⁾ which it will continue to apply after 31 December⁽⁵⁾ until the entry into force of new guidelines or an exemption regulation adopted pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 994/98 of 7 May 1998⁽⁶⁾.

Sectoral schemes

239. On 13 June, the Commission decided to extend by one year, to 31 December 2001, the validity of the framework for State aid to the motor vehicle industry⁽⁷⁾.

Regional schemes

240. In 2000, the Commission completed the procedure approving the regional aid maps of the Member States for the period 2000–06. The objective was twofold: to concentrate aid in regions with the most serious development problems and to reduce the general level of aid in the European Union.

241. The guidelines on national regional aid⁽⁸⁾ were amended⁽⁹⁾ by the Commission on 26 July to take account of the entry into force of the new Article 299(2) of the EC Treaty relating to the outermost regions of the Community (→ *point 369*).

International cooperation

242. At the Tokyo Summit in July (→ *point 964*), the European Union and Japan agreed on the specific elements of a future bilateral cooperation agreement on the application of Community and Japanese competition law (Table III). The agreement is designed to facilitate the exchange of information

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 184, 1.7.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.64. First extension: OJ C 14, 19.1.2000; Bull. 12-1999, point 1.2.55.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 72, 10.3.1994; Bull. 12-1993, point 1.2.73.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 334, 12.12.1995; 1995 General Report, point 162;

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgc/aides/forms/empl07_fr.htm.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 371, 23.12.2000.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 142, 14.5.1998; 1998 General Report, point 223.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ C 258, 9.9.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.63.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ C 74, 10.3.1998; Bull. 12-1997, point 1.2.79.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ C 258, 9.9.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.53.

on international competition cases and to make it possible to coordinate investigations if national rules so allow.

243. On 25 July, the Commission decided⁽¹⁾ to close an investigation of Air France for alleged discrimination against Sabre, an American computerised reservation system (CRS), after the French airline had agreed to comply with a code of good behaviour guaranteeing Sabre, as well as other computerised reservation systems, equivalent terms to those offered to the Amadeus system it partly owns. The successfully concluded investigation was the first to have been instigated on a request by the United States Department of Justice pursuant to a bilateral cooperation agreement between the European Communities and the United States, the US administration having availed itself for the first time of the positive comity mechanism provided for by the agreement⁽²⁾.

244. In the context of the pre-accession strategy, the Commission and Estonia held a competition conference in Tallinn in September which was attended by all the applicant countries.

245. In connection with the discussions aimed at launching a new round of trade negotiations (*→ points 807 et seq.*), the Commission took part in a number of meetings of the World Trade Organisation working group on the interaction between trade and competition policy.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.52.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 173, 18.6.1998; 1998 General Report, point 230.

Section 7

Enterprise ⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

246. *The new strategic goal set by the Lisbon European Council of making the European Union the most competitive and dynamic economy in the world is of particular importance for enterprise policy. To this end, the Commission has set out guidelines for a coherent framework. The drawing up of a charter for small businesses has also formed an important part of this policy, as have the multiannual programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship (2001–05), and the creation of the first innovation scoreboard and of an enterprise policy scoreboard.*

Competitiveness

General

247. The Lisbon European Council of 23 and 24 March ⁽²⁾ set the European Union a new strategic objective for the coming decade: to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustained economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. To this end, on 26 April, the Commission adopted a communication entitled ‘Challenges for enterprise policy in the knowledge-driven economy’ ⁽³⁾ that aims to set out a coherent framework for adopting enterprise policy measures, to define actions to encourage risk-taking and entrepreneurship, to create — particularly in conjunction with recent Commission initiatives concerning an information society for everyone (→ *point 318*) — a dynamic and innovation-based environment for businesses, and to provide the latter with effective access to markets. An annex to the communication contains a proposal for a decision on a multiannual programme for 2001–05 geared to the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises with a view to achieving these objectives (→ *point 261*). On 18 May ⁽⁴⁾, the Council expressed its satisfaction with the

⁽¹⁾ Further information is available on the following web site:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/index_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.5.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 256 and Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.49.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.82.

Commission communication. In some respects, the European Charter for Small Enterprises (→ *point 258*) also represents a move in this direction.

248. On 5 December⁽¹⁾, the Council adopted conclusions on innovation as a factor of competitiveness, based on a set of documents prepared by the Commission⁽²⁾, and welcomed the European scoreboard projects in the field of enterprise and innovation recommended by the Commission⁽³⁾.

International industrial cooperation⁽⁴⁾

249. The Commission continued to promote international industrial cooperation and dialogue between entrepreneurs in the European Union and non-member countries. In connection with the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, it continued to work with its partners in the 'Euro-Mediterranean industrial cooperation' working party and took part in the third Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Industry Ministers in Limassol (Cyprus) on 22 June. The Commission also took part in the transatlantic business dialogue (TABD), the object of which is to facilitate the development of transatlantic trade and investment by eliminating trade barriers caused by regulatory differences. The various activities of the EU–Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation (aimed at businesses and jointly managed and funded by the Commission and the MITI) also continued, and the Commission supported the work of the EU–Japan business dialogue round table, which on 19 July adopted a set of recommendations for improving the business environment. It also monitored the work of the Mercosur–Europe business forum (MEBF), which proceeded in parallel with the negotiations for the European Union–Mercosur agreement (→ *point 1007*) and assisted with the organisation of the European Union–Russia round table on industry on 7 and 8 October in Moscow. In order to promote dialogue between businesses in the applicant countries and those in the Union, it also gave its support to the industrial forum on enlargement held in Paris on 26 October.

Standardisation

250. In association with the Member States and the European standardisation bodies, the Commission launched several operations following from the Council resolution of 28 October 1999⁽⁵⁾ on the role of standardisation in Europe. These basically concerned new standardisation tools, international

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ SEC(2000) 1942; SEC(2000) 1823; SEC(2000) 1824; SEC(2000) 1825.

⁽³⁾ SEC(2000) 1841.

⁽⁴⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/enterprise_policy/index.htm.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 141, 19.5.2000; 1999 General Report, point 219.

aspects, the future funding of European standardisation and a benchmarking operation.

251. On 7 July⁽¹⁾, the Commission produced a report on the application of Directive 98/34/EC⁽²⁾, particularly the functioning of the procedure in the field of standards.

Identification of good practice and the enterprise policy scoreboard

252. In order to enhance efficiency and improve monitoring, the Commission took steps to bring together the various aspects of work on identifying good practice in the field of enterprise policy. Priorities in this field are now determined on the basis of a scoreboard comprising a set of performance indicators serving as a quantitative and qualitative benchmark for evaluating progress made with this policy. A new enterprise policy group⁽³⁾ was also set up, bringing together representatives of the business community and Member States, to advise the Commission on enterprise policy issues, particularly as regards work on identifying good practice and the resultant recommendations.

Business services

253. In 2000, the 273 Euro Info Centres (EIC) dealt with more than 450 000 requests for information and advice, and organised over 4 100 events (seminars, conferences, etc.), particularly on the subject of cooperation between businesses⁽⁴⁾. The 230 EICs in the European Economic Area completed a euro awareness campaign among businesses that had started in early 1999⁽⁵⁾, and the seven EICs in central and eastern Europe conducted a campaign to promote the network in their respective countries, whilst the end of the year saw all EICs participating in the launch of an awareness and information campaign on electronic commerce. Furthermore, as part of the 'PR events' campaign in the field of health and safety at work, the EICs organised more than 100 events. Cooperation with the Commission's departments continued, with the EICs making a more substantial contribution to the dialogue with business project⁽⁶⁾ as part of a new mechanism for obtaining feedback from businesses.

254. Two Europartenariat business cooperation meetings were held — one in June in Aalborg (Denmark) and the other in December in Palermo (Italy), each

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 429; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.13.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 204, 21.7.1998; 1998 General Report, point 158.

⁽³⁾ Decision 2000/690/EC (OJ L 285, 10.11.2000).

⁽⁴⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/networks/eic/eic.html>.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 232.

⁽⁶⁾ 1999 General Report, point 232; <http://europa.eu.int/business>.

being attended by some 2 500 businesses. A further 22 Enterprise cooperation meetings were held in the European Union, and seven in the applicant countries. Three international buyers' exhibitions (IBEX) were held in the field of subcontracting. Business partnership meetings with Egypt and the United States were also organised for European SMEs as part of the internationalisation of their activities.

255. In the field of subcontracting, the Commission selected 10 new projects following a call for proposals published in 1999⁽¹⁾. These cover a wide range of industrial sectors and involve, amongst other things, the networking of subcontractors, benchmarking, integrated training, the internationalisation of subcontractors and a study of the legal questions raised by subcontracting. The Commission also published an invitation to tender⁽²⁾ for a study of the legal context of inter-enterprise relations and subcontracting in Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania.

Environmental protection matters

256. On 3 May, the Commission adopted a communication on promoting sustainable development in the EU non-energy extractive industry⁽³⁾, which the Council welcomed on 29 June⁽⁴⁾. Work continued on specific projects to promote eco-efficiency techniques and to develop tools and indicators for evaluating the impact of policy measures and environmental projects on competitiveness and innovation. A specific study was launched to define indicators for assessing the degree to which sustainable development has been incorporated into enterprise policy.

Innovation

257. On 20 September, the Commission adopted a communication on innovation in a knowledge-driven economy⁽⁵⁾ that sets out guidelines for enhancing innovation in Europe. In accordance with the conclusions of the Lisbon European Council⁽⁶⁾, the Commission included an initial draft for an innovation scoreboard based on the monitoring of 16 indicators. On 5 December⁽⁷⁾, the Council welcomed this initiative.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 245, 28.8.1999; 1999 General Report, point 234.

⁽²⁾ OJ S 149, 5.8.2000.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 265; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.88.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.83.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 567; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.55.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.2.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

Action in favour of SMEs, craft industries and the social economy

Enterprise policy and entrepreneurship

258. The Feira European Council of 19 and 20 June⁽¹⁾ approved the drafting of a European Charter for Small Enterprises⁽²⁾ and set out guidelines for aspects such as education in entrepreneurship, the need for better regulation and the reform of tax systems and financial services.

259. On 27 October, the Commission published the first report on the implementation of the action plan to promote entrepreneurship and competitiveness⁽³⁾, one example of which is Directive 2000/35/EC on combating late payment in commercial transactions (Table I).

260. In the field of enlargement, the Commission opened its third multiannual programme in favour of SMEs to applicant countries (→ *points 716 and 717*).

261. On 20 December, the Council adopted a multiannual programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship, particularly SMEs (2001–05) featuring a rigorous selection of actions based on an evaluation of the execution of former programmes, the budget being focused on business funding initiatives (Table II).

Improving the business environment and access to financing⁽⁴⁾

262. The Commission continued with its joint European venture (JEV) programme⁽⁵⁾ which, as part of the ‘growth and employment’ initiative, backs the founding of joint ventures bringing together enterprises from at least two Member States. This programme, which was drawn up pursuant to Directive 98/347/EC⁽⁶⁾, funds projects in all the Member States and in the EFTA members of the European Economic Area. After two years, over 100 projects have been approved, involving more than 200 SMEs. All sectors have been represented, from high technology through waste management to simple product distribution.

263. In 2000, the Commission expanded the CREA operation (seed capital). It also continued to assist with the creation of networks of ‘business angels’ and,

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point I.20; Annex III to the conclusions of the presidency.

⁽²⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/enterprise_policy/charter.htm.

⁽³⁾ SEC(2000) 1825.

⁽⁴⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship.financing/index.htm>.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 229.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 155, 29.5.1998; 1998 General Report, point 262.

together with the European network (European business angels network — EBAN), took part in a seminar that was attended by over 300 people. Operations to raise awareness of mutual guarantee companies (and how to set them up, particularly in Spain, France and Sweden) were stepped up.

264. On 19 June, the third round table of bankers and SMEs adopted its final report, which included a wealth of experience in the field of SME funding and recommendations to the European institutions. The fourth round table, devoted to SME access to financing in the 13 applicant countries, was held on 30 November⁽¹⁾.

Business support measures

265. Information on these measures can be found in the ‘Business services’ subsection of this section (→ *points 253 to 255*).

Concerted action and promotion of the interests of SMEs in Community policies and programmes

266. On 18 May⁽²⁾, the Council welcomed the Commission’s report on concerted action with Member States in the field of business policy⁽³⁾. As part of the exchange of good practice in the field of business policy and support services, various events were organised: a seminar on SME support services in the face of globalisation in Copenhagen on 17 and 18 January; a forum on public SME policies in Europe in Lisbon on 13 and 14 April; a seminar on best practice in strategic support services for SMEs in Athens on 15 and 16 May; a forum on ‘Training for entrepreneurs’ in Nice on 19 and 20 October.

Small enterprises and craft industries

267. The Commission launched an action to identify and promote external support services for small enterprises, micro-enterprises and sole proprietorships. It also awarded four European prizes for ‘best young entrepreneur’, collaborated in networks of ‘target group’ entrepreneurs (women, young people, minorities), joined forces with 20 EICs in organising a number of initiatives to help small businesses use the Internet (Screen project) and monitored the progress of the pilot projects launched since 1997.

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int.comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship.financing/round_table.htm.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.86.

⁽³⁾ COM(1999) 569; 1999 General Report, point 236.

Social economy⁽¹⁾

268. In order to enhance its understanding of the structure and specificity of the business world, the Commission stepped up efforts to set up a system for the regular collection and analysis of information on cooperatives, mutual societies and associations and took steps to set up networks of contacts and experts in this field.

Individual sectors

Industry

269. In the steel sector, on 21 January, the Commission adopted a forward programme for steel for 2000⁽²⁾ and, on 22 December, it adopted a draft forward programme for steel for 2001⁽³⁾.

270. Further to the Commission's communication on the state of competitiveness of the forest-based and related industries in the European Union⁽⁴⁾, the first forum on this branch was held in Strasbourg on 6 September, bringing together 160 representatives from the European Parliament, the Commission, the French Government, industrial federations, companies and non-governmental organisations. This provided an opportunity for in-depth discussions between the six sectors that make up the branch, and there was also an exchange of views on the impact of information and communication technologies and the impact of climate change. Plenary sessions of the advisory committee on forestry and forestry-based industries⁽⁵⁾ were held on 29 May and 1 December.

271. The Commission continued its work on several topics covered by the action plan contained in its 1997 communication⁽⁶⁾ on the implementation of a European Union strategy for the defence-related industries. The regulation on the control of exports of dual use goods and technologies that can be used for either civilian or military purposes was adopted on 22 June (→ *point 825*).

272. In the rail industries sector, the work of the MARIE (mass transit rail initiative for Europe) forum continued⁽⁷⁾ and a conference was held in Vienna on 22 March aimed at promoting the dissemination of the findings of the forum

⁽¹⁾ <http://europa.eu.int.comm/enterprise/entrepreneurship/coop/index.htm>.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.110.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(1999) 457; 1999 General Report, point 239.

⁽⁵⁾ Decision 97/837/EC (OJ L 346, 17.12.1997; 1998 General Report, point 244).

⁽⁶⁾ COM(97) 583; 1997 General Report, point 288.

⁽⁷⁾ 1999 General Report, point 241.

organised for industry representatives and operators in the urban and regional transport sector. In the maritime industry sector, further to Regulation (EC) No 1540/98⁽¹⁾ the Commission undertook to carry out a detailed analysis of the shipbuilding market at world level, particularly in respect of the pricing policies applied by competitors in the Far East, and negotiations began with the Government of the Republic of Korea (→ *point 834*). Although the initiative on the maritime information society (MARIS)⁽²⁾ ended in 1999 as a G8 project, the Commission continued to monitor it in 2000, particularly the developments that help to enhance industrial competitiveness in the maritime sector. During the 11th plenary session of the Maritime Industries Forum (MIF) held in Helsinki on 5 and 6 June, delegates endorsed a new structure to make the forum more efficient and more geared to real needs.

273. On 19 December⁽³⁾ the Commission published a report on the implementation of the action plan to improve the competitiveness of the European textiles and clothing industry aimed at redirecting the policies relating to this sector in order to improve competitiveness and the employment situation.

274. In the food industry, the system for the trading of processed agricultural products (not covered by Annex I of the Treaty) was modified by the Council (→ *point 394*) and the certification system for the export of these products was modified by the Commission⁽⁴⁾. The Commission also concluded negotiations on improving the agricultural trading system with several applicant countries (→ *point 712*).

275. As a follow-up to its communication on the competitiveness of the construction industry⁽⁵⁾ the Commission focused on six priority actions from the 13 selected. These concern the use of information technology, the problem of abnormally low bids, benchmarking, sustainable construction, education and training, and the sector's image.

276. In the mechanical, electrotechnical and telecommunications equipment industries, efforts continued to ensure the uniform implementation of directives, particularly with regard to improving cooperation between national administrations on market surveillance. Lists were published⁽⁶⁾ with the references of the harmonised standards relating to directives in the sector. The implementation of mutual recognition agreements in the electronics field continued.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 202, 18.7.1998; 1998 General Report, point 226.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 240.

⁽³⁾ SEC(2000) 1531.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1520/2000 (OJ L 177, 15.7.2000).

⁽⁵⁾ COM(97) 539; 1997 General Report, point 295.

⁽⁶⁾ <http://www.NewApproach.org/>.

277. Information on the conditions relating to the marketing and use of various industrial products (particularly chemical and pharmaceutical products, motor vehicles and clothing) can be found in Section 5 ('Single market') of this chapter (→ *points 144 et seq.*). Information on other sectors can be found in Section 3 ('Common trade policy') of Chapter VI (→ *points 830 et seq.*). Information on environmental and health aspects and on consumer protection can be found in Sections 4 ('Environment') and 7 ('Consumer health and protection') of Chapter IV respectively (→ *points 540 et seq., 690 and 691*).

Services

278. 2000 saw the 'European days of commerce' campaign, in the course of which over 30 conferences and events on the euro and on e-commerce were organised in all the Member States. The campaign ended with a European conference on electronic commerce in Brussels on 4 and 5 December. The Commission published an invitation to tender for a study on the logistical impact of new information and communication technologies on businesses. It also played an active role in the second European congress on 'Commerce and the city', which was held in Lille from 15 to 17 November. In the tourism sector, opinions were delivered on 18 January ⁽¹⁾ by the Economic and Social Committee, on 18 February ⁽²⁾ by the European Parliament and on 15 June ⁽³⁾ by the Committee of the Regions on the Commission's communication 'Enhancing tourism's potential for employment' of 28 April 1999 ⁽⁴⁾, which was received favourably overall and which, following the conclusions of the Council of 21 June 1999 ⁽⁵⁾ formed the point of departure for a number of major projects during 2000, the progress of which was charted by the Commission in a communication of 7 November ⁽⁶⁾.

E-commerce

279. In order to encourage the adoption of electronic commerce and information and communication technologies by businesses, the Commission backed the initiatives launched by the European standardisation bodies (CEN/ISSS and ETSI) to create open and interoperable platforms, as well as the general initiatives launched pursuant to the directives on electronic signatures ⁽⁷⁾, the protection of personal data ⁽⁸⁾ or electronic commerce (→ *point 165*).

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 75, 15.3.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.111.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 309, 27.10.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.112.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 317, 6.11.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.84.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 178, 23.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 244.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 244.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 696; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.74.

⁽⁷⁾ 1995 General Report, point 425.

⁽⁸⁾ 1998 General Report, point 196.

Section 8

Research and technology⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

280. *At the beginning of the year the Commission launched a major initiative aimed at establishing a 'European research area'. This initiative sparked off discussions at the highest political level and was supplemented by guidelines concerning its implementation which will set the tone for all EU research activities over the period 2002–06. Also, the implementation of the fifth framework programme for research and technological development 1998–2002 continued with the launching of several thousand new projects.*

Community RTD policy

Coordination and general developments

281. In a resolution adopted on 3 February⁽²⁾ on the communication 'Women and science'⁽³⁾ adopted by the Commission in 1999, the European Parliament called upon the latter to take positive action to combat the under-representation of women in science. In the context of the action plan set out in its communication, on 15 June, the Commission embarked on an assessment of the gender dimension (mainstreaming) in the specific programmes under the fifth framework programme.

282. On 19 December, the Commission adopted its annual report on RTD activities⁽⁴⁾, which gives an overview of EU research policies and activities over the period 1999–2000.

European research area

283. On 18 January, the Commission adopted a communication⁽⁵⁾ concerning the establishment of a 'European research area', a frontier-free area in which

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/research/index_en.html.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.114.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 248.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 842; Bull. 12-2000. Also available on the Internet via the Europa server at the following address: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/reports/1999/index_en.html.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 6; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.113.

scientific resources will be used more efficiently in order to create jobs and increase Europe's competitiveness. This initiative has two specific objectives: to increase the coherence and hence the impact of research activities conducted in Europe, and to reconcile Europe's citizens with science and technology. It was favourably received by scientific and industrial circles, and endorsed at the highest political level by the Heads of State or Government at the Lisbon European Council on 23 and 24 March ⁽¹⁾, and also received the support of the Committee of the Regions on 12 April ⁽²⁾, the European Parliament on 18 May ⁽³⁾, and the Economic and Social Committee on 24 May ⁽³⁾. In a resolution adopted on 16 November ⁽⁴⁾, the Council recalled the need to make progress on the networking and opening-up of the national research programmes. It also stressed the importance of the mobility of researchers and the need for a European approach to research infrastructures.

284. Following a resolution adopted by the Council on 15 June ⁽⁵⁾, on 4 October the Commission also published guidelines for research activities to be carried out over the period 2002–06 ⁽⁶⁾. In addition, in association with the Member States, initiatives were launched on the following matters: a European approach to 'science and society' issues; benchmarking of research policies; identification and networking of centres of excellence in Europe; development of a coherent approach to financing and supporting research infrastructures; financing of innovation; development of a European space strategy.

285. In a communication of 27 September ⁽⁷⁾ entitled 'Europe and space: turning to a new chapter', which was adopted in agreement with the European Space Agency, the Commission sought to define a role for the EU in the field of space and to give a political and Community dimension to space with three objectives: strengthening the foundation for space activities so that Europe preserves independent and affordable access to space; enhancing scientific knowledge; and exploiting the benefits of space-based tools for markets and society. This approach will be pursued in two Community initiatives: the development of a civil satellite navigation and positioning system (Galileo) and an initiative to build a coherent capacity in Europe for global monitoring for environment and security (GMES). The Council welcomed this communication in a resolution adopted on 16 November ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.7.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.52.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.90.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.75.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.86.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 612; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.70.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 597; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.57.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.76.

Framework programme 1998–2002⁽¹⁾

286. The number of research proposals received by the Commission in 2000 (several thousand) confirms the success and importance of the framework programme in scientific and industrial circles. Measures were taken to simplify the access procedures and significantly increase the size of projects. In accordance with the guidelines presented by the Commission concerning the implementation of the European research area, the following changes were made to the fifth framework programme: measures to stimulate the use of large-capacity electronic networks by the various scientific communities; application of the ‘integrated project’ concept based on the ‘clustering’ of research projects, coordination activities and training fellowships as part of a coherent whole; launching of an initiative on the theme of ‘genomics’, involving a small number of ‘integrated projects’, and an additional effort in relation to research infrastructures, as well as activities in the fields of nanotechnologies and action to combat major illnesses.

Framework programme 2002–06

287. On 20 July, the Commission published a five-year assessment of the framework programmes, carried out by an independent expert panel, the conclusions of which will help to guide the preparations for the sixth framework programme and tie in with the new economy and the objectives set by the Lisbon European Council⁽²⁾. Suggestions based on past experience were also made by the Economic and Social Committee in an opinion adopted on 21 September⁽³⁾.

Implementation of the fifth framework programme 1998–2002

Quality of life and living resources

288. 236 projects and concerted actions were selected in 2000 following the first call for proposals⁽⁴⁾, bringing to 564 the number of projects supported since the start of the programme. Five clusters of particularly promising projects were set up on the following subjects: vaccines against AIDS, hepatitis C, tuberculosis, malaria and mucosal immunity. 803 proposals were received in response to

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp5_en.html.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.7.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.58.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 64, 6.3.1999; 1999 General Report, point 254.

the second call⁽¹⁾, which closed on 15 March, and 146 projects were launched, including 25 in the comparatively new field of environment and health.

289. In general, there was a significant increase in the proportion of proposals selected compared with 1999 (18 % as opposed to 14 %), with several promising results, such as identifying several genes involved in diabetes, enabling a paraplegic to 'stand up and walk' thanks to an electronic implant, and demonstrating the technical and economic feasibility of using technology to extract a high-value protein from lucerne for food and feed applications.

290. On the basis of Special Report No 9/99⁽²⁾ of the Court of Auditors concerning research activities in the field of agriculture and fisheries (FAIR), on 17 October⁽³⁾ the Council adopted conclusions in which it stressed the major contribution of the FAIR specific programme to agricultural research. In a resolution adopted on 14 November⁽⁴⁾, the European Parliament called upon the Commission to use the assessments of programmes that have been implemented as a key element in preparations for new research programmes and considered scientific research to be an important part of the common fisheries policy.

User-friendly information society

291. Midway through the information society technologies (IST) programme for the period 1998–2002 the second phase began and five calls for proposals were published. In all, 477 proposals concerning shared-costs actions, training fellowships, concerted actions and accompanying measures were selected following the second⁽⁵⁾ and third⁽⁶⁾ calls for proposals. The fourth and fifth calls were launched in July⁽⁷⁾ and October⁽⁸⁾. The programme also tied in with the major policy developments as regards the information society, and in particular the establishment of the European research area (→ *point 283*) and the eEurope initiative (→ *point 318*). The revised work programme for this specific programme for 2001 follows the strategic guidelines of an external advisory group (ISTAG)⁽⁹⁾ mandated by the Commission.

292. The project submitted by the GEANT consortium, selected following a specific call for proposals⁽¹⁰⁾ for the interconnection of research networks, was

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 361, 15.12.1999.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 92, 30.3.2000: Bull. 12-1999, point 1.10.21.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.69.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.80.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 278, 1.10.1999; 1999 General Report, point 256.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 38, 10.2.2000.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ C 212, 25.7.2000.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ C 293, 14.10.2000.

⁽⁹⁾ Decision 98/682/EC, Euratom (OJ L 318, 27.11.1998).

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ C 134, 13.5.2000.

awarded EUR 80 million for putting in place a trans-European Internet backbone interconnecting 30 countries for research purposes. It corresponds to one of the major objectives of eEurope and will establish an essential infrastructure for the European research area, promoting cooperation between European research programmes

Competitive and sustainable growth

293. Following a second call for applications⁽¹⁾ covering all the key actions, generic RTD activities, and support for research infrastructures, 947 proposals were received and 288 were selected for Community financing, including the 'Tango' project, a technological platform in the field of the key action 'New perspectives for aeronautics', involving 34 partners from 12 countries and supported by the European Union to the extent of EUR 42 million, with a view to validating new design, manufacturing and testing technologies on a large scale. In addition, 492 proposals were received following a third periodical call covering all programme activities, which was published on 6 June⁽²⁾.

294. In response to the first two dedicated calls in the field of generic research into measurements and testing⁽³⁾, 29 proposals for financing were received. A new dedicated call covering support for infrastructures was launched on 13 October⁽⁴⁾ with a view to setting up virtual institutes.

295. The research under way includes developing biomaterials for use in helping the body repair itself in the event of serious accidents or burns.

Energy, environment and sustainable development

296. In the context of the 'Environment and sustainable development' section of the programme, 163 new projects were launched following a second call for applications⁽⁵⁾, as well as 30 specific measures for SMEs, 22 'Marie Curie' fellowships and other training measures, together with several accompanying measures selected on the basis of open calls. As a result of these new projects, all the research areas provided for in the fifth framework programme are now covered.

297. 22 January saw the official launch of the 'Theseo 2000-Solve' experiment, the biggest campaign ever undertaken to study the ozone layer above northern

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 361, 15.12.1999.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 155, 6.6.2000.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 200, 15.7.1996; OJ C 295, 15.10.1999.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 290, 13.10.2000.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 330, 18.11.1999.

Europe, which for several months will mobilise 400 or so scientists from the European Union, Canada, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Poland, Russia, Switzerland and the United States. It detected serious ozone losses during winter 2000.

298. In the context of the 'Energy' section of the programme, 51 projects were selected under the 'Cleaner energy, including renewable energy sources' key action and 40 under the 'Economical and efficient energy for a more competitive Europe' key action. In addition, 26 generic measures, including accompanying measures to promote the dissemination of innovative energy technologies were selected. Most of the funds allocated to the various projects concern renewable energy sources and their industrial applications. A fourth call for proposals was published in October ⁽¹⁾.

299. On 29 May, the Commission presented to the press two fuel-cell cars designed and developed in the context of Community projects which produce electricity by breaking down hydrogen.

Confirming the international role of Community research

300. The international cooperation programme continued to be implemented in such a way as to take account of the diversity of the Union's partner countries or groups of partner countries.

301. In 2000, 16 countries were associated with the fifth framework programme: the 10 accession candidate countries of central and eastern Europe and Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway under the European Economic Area Agreement, Israel ⁽²⁾ and Switzerland whose agreement with the EU ⁽³⁾ is in the process of being ratified by the Member States.

302. As part of the measures to promote the integration of the pre-accession countries, following a specific call ⁽⁴⁾ 37 proposals were selected and support was given to 34 centres of excellence, 8 conferences and 9 public awareness and training measures.

303. The International Association for the Promotion of Cooperation with Scientists from the independent States of the former Soviet Union (INTAS), which is mainly funded by the Community, launched 866 new research projects involving a total amount of EUR 16 million. The Community continued to support scientists from Russia, Ukraine and other countries of the former Soviet Union through the International Science and Technology Centre (ISTC) and the

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 303, 24.10.2000.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 264.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 262.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 77, 20.3.1999; 1999 General Report, point 259.

Ukrainian Science and Technology Centre (USTC). The scientific and technical cooperation agreement between the Union and Russia, which was initialled on 11 February 1999, was signed on 16 November (Table III).

304. Under the programme, scientific and technological cooperation also continued with the Mediterranean countries, the developing countries and the industrialised and emerging-economy countries⁽¹⁾. Specific cooperation was also implemented with Latin America and Asia.

305. To improve the coherence of the European research effort and strengthen synergy in this area, the Commission established closer links with the various European scientific organisations such as the European Particle Physics Laboratory/CERN, the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Science Foundation (ESF) and the OECD. The Commission also continued its support for European cooperation in the field of scientific and technical research (COST) with which Israel was associated as a cooperating country. Over 200 COST projects were in progress in 2000, a figure which represents a steady progression. The Commission also continued to participate in the Eureka initiative⁽²⁾, which welcomed three new members in 2000: Croatia, Israel and Latvia. In this framework, it has supported a total of 45 research projects since the initiative was launched, including in the areas of microelectronics, computer-assisted manufacturing and transport.

Promotion of innovation and SME participation

306. In the context of the specific measures designed to encourage SME participation in the Community research programmes, namely exploratory awards and cooperative research (CRAFT), 2 000 proposals involving 5 500 SMEs were received in 2000, half of which were selected for funding. In addition, over 7 000 requests for information were sent to the single entry point for SMEs that is common to all the programmes. Under the heading of 'Economic and technological intelligence', a scheme designed to identify information of relevance to SMEs, 15 projects were launched involving over 100 partners. On 29 and 30 June the third SME technology days were held in Oporto with the participation of over 350 SMEs and representatives of the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament.

307. Under the part of the work programme concerning new approaches to technology transfer, a call for proposals concerning innovation projects was published on 15 June⁽³⁾. The Commission selected 30 projects from among the 124 proposals received. Under the part concerning the innovating regions in

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 85, 27.3.1999; 1999 General Report, point 264.

⁽²⁾ Nineteenth General Report, point 320; Twenty-sixth General Report, point 321.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 165, 15.6.2000.

Europe network and regional innovation strategy projects in newly associated countries, a call for proposals was published on the same date⁽¹⁾, and 62 proposals were received. Under the parts concerning intellectual property and access to private innovation funding, a call for proposals was published on 7 July⁽²⁾. In response to the call for proposals concerning mechanisms to facilitate the creation and development of innovative firms launched on 15 June 1999⁽³⁾, 15 thematic networks and 22 projects were selected for Community support. The second European forum for innovative enterprises was held in Lyon on 20 November, and was followed the next day by the symposium 'Towards a European innovation area' organised by the French Presidency in cooperation with the Commission. A conference on innovation and business start-ups 'Statistics and indicators' was held in Nice on 23 and 24 November.

Increasing human potential and the socioeconomic knowledge base

308. Following the call for proposals launched under this programme, 3 600 projects, covering the various programme activities, were received, and 1 000 were selected for funding. In addition, 1 000 Marie Curie fellowships were awarded as a contribution to the training and mobility of researchers in Europe.

309. Under the 'improving the socioeconomic knowledge base' key action, several new research projects were launched on subjects such as the governance of science in Europe and the future of social security systems in Europe. The European Science and Technology Week was held from 6 to 11 November in several European countries. At the 12th European Union Contest for Young Scientists, which took place in Amsterdam from 18 to 22 September, three first prizes were awarded to five young people for their work on dinosaur tracks found in Poland, fermentors used in the pharmaceutical industry, and the protection of bats in Georgia. The first Descartes prize for top-quality European research was awarded on 8 November to three international research teams working in the fields of chemistry, electronics and genetics. Approximately 200 high-level scientific conferences also received Community support in order to increase the participation of young European scientists. Lastly, 120 networks involving some 960 research bodies were set up in 2000 in order to host and train young researchers.

Direct actions carried out by the JRC for the European Community

310. The JRC continued to provide scientific and technical support to the European Community⁽⁴⁾. To this end, it reoriented its work programme around

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 165, 15.6.2000.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 188, 7.7.2000.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 167, 15.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 269.

⁽⁴⁾ 1998 General Report, point 290; 1999 General Report, point 272.

four thematic pillars reflecting its areas of technical competence: safety of food and chemicals; environment; dependability of information systems and services; nuclear safety and safeguards (Euratom). It prioritised work on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), including the production of certified reference materials making it possible to detect them; it also worked on projects aimed at increasing public confidence in trustworthy Internet services (e-commerce), educational resources); as part of the fight against fraud, the JRC used technology such as data mining, language engineering, information filtering, satellite-image interpretation and data fusion; it also focused on environment and resources management, with particular emphasis on environmental quality (air, water and natural hazards), natural resources and global climate change.

311. The JRC continued to network strategically to ensure that the best scientific support is provided to the Union, and the communication on the European research area (→ *point 283*) describes the role that the JRC could play in setting up a European technical and scientific reference system.

Nuclear energy

312. The ‘controlled thermonuclear fusion’ and ‘nuclear fission’ key actions continue to be implemented in the context of this programme⁽¹⁾. Under the first initiative, a significant event was the restarting of the facilities of the Joint European Torus as part of the new organisation set up under the European Fusion Development Agreement. On 16 November, the Council adopted negotiating directives for the establishment of an international framework allowing the parties to the ITER/EDA (International Experimental Thermonuclear Reactor/Engineering Design Activities) Agreement⁽²⁾ and qualified third countries to prepare jointly for the future establishment of an ITER legal entity for the construction and operation of the ITER (Table III). In the second area, following two calls for proposals published in March 1999⁽³⁾, 109 new projects were launched in 2000 with total Community funding of EUR 78 million. Accompanying measures and Marie Curie fellowships were also funded. A new call for proposals was published on 17 October⁽⁴⁾. The projects in progress have produced results concerning aspects such as understanding the effects of radiation on human beings and optimising radiation doses used in medical applications, management of nuclear emergencies and management and restoration of contaminated areas, the measures needed to prevent and mitigate serious accidents, and the processing and geological storage of large quantities of long-lived radioactive waste.

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 274.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 244, 26.8.1992; extended by Decision 98/705/Euratom (OJ L 335, 10.12.1998; 1998 General Report, point 306).

⁽³⁾ OJ C 77, 20.3.1999; 1999 General Report, point 274.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 294, 17.10.2000.

Direct actions carried out by the JRC for Euratom

313. The JRC's activities concerning nuclear safety concerned the transfer to third countries of safeguard methods and techniques and the preparation of appropriate safeguards procedures for nuclear facilities outside the European Union.

Coal and steel technical research

314. In accordance with the medium-term guidelines for the ECSC programme of research and technological development for steel (1996–2002)⁽¹⁾, 81 research proposals were selected covering the development, improvement and optimisation of steel processes and products while taking into account social and environmental aspects. These proposals received financial support totalling EUR 56 million. In addition, the Commission proposed multiannual guidelines for the research programme of the Coal and Steel Research Fund applicable after 2002.

315. On 24 January, the Council adopted a new four-year programme (2000–03) concerning the operation of the Petten high-flux reactor (Table II).

Joint Research Centre (JRC)

316. The JRC's activities under the fifth programme for RTD come under the specific programmes 'Direct actions carried out by the JRC for the European Community' (→ *point 310*) and 'Direct actions carried out by the JRC for Euratom' (→ *point 313*). The Commission adopted its annual report (1996) on the JRC on 9 June⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 294, 9.11.1995; 1995 General Report, point 265; 1999 General Report, point 319.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 366.

Section 9

Information society ⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

317. *On the basis of the guidelines of the Lisbon European Council, which set for the EU a new strategic goal of becoming the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, the Commission drew up a draft action plan 'eEurope 2002: an information society for all'. Approved by the Feira European Council, it sets out an overall strategy for the next two years, integrating and coordinating the actions of the EU and the Member States and identifying a series of objectives linked to various specific measures. In addition, a comprehensive reform of the regulatory framework for telecommunications was launched.*

Information society

318. On 7 February, the Commission followed up its initiative 'eEurope: an information society for all', adopted in December 1999 ⁽²⁾ and welcomed by the European Parliament in its resolution of 16 March ⁽³⁾, with another communication to the European Council on strategies for jobs in the information society (→ *point 102*). On the basis of these two documents from the Commission and of a progress report also submitted by the Commission on 8 March ⁽⁴⁾, at its meeting in Lisbon on 23 and 24 March ⁽⁵⁾ the European Council urged the Community institutions to conclude the legislative work in progress, asked the Council and the Commission to draw up a comprehensive action plan and called on the Member States to take a series of measures. In response, on 24 May the Commission adopted a communication on eEurope 2002 together with an action plan ⁽⁶⁾ to remove the key barriers to the uptake of the Internet in Europe and create the conditions for a decisive move towards the new economy. To this end, the Commission set three objectives to be attained by 2002: provide a cheaper, faster, more secure Internet; invest in skills; and give the public access

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/information_society/index_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ COM(1999) 687; 1999 General Report, point 424.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.91.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 130; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.90.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.6.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 330; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.91.

to the Internet and encourage its use. In Santa Maria da Feira on 19 and 20 June, the European Council⁽¹⁾ endorsed this action plan and requested the Community institutions, the Member States and all other players to ensure full, timely implementation.

319. On 29 November, the Commission adopted a communication⁽²⁾ ('The eEurope 2002 update') on the progress made towards achieving the objectives set in the action plan, which was favourably received by the Nice European Council meeting on 7 and 8 December⁽³⁾.

320. In accordance with the guidelines mapped out by the eEurope initiative adopted in 1999, on 2 February the Commission adopted a communication⁽⁴⁾ launching public consultations about the creation of the new .eu Internet top-level domain to strengthen the image and infrastructure of the Internet in Europe. It made the results of these consultations public on 5 July in a communication describing the way to proceed and the course of action recommended at European level to implement the .eu domain name⁽⁵⁾. In addition, on 12 December the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation concerning the establishment of a registry to run this new domain (Table I).

321. On 11 April, the Commission adopted a communication on the organisation and management of the Internet⁽⁶⁾. This initial report on the Commission's action in this field focused on the way this infrastructure is coordinated internationally. It also proposed various measures on domain names. On 3 October⁽⁷⁾, the Council adopted a resolution welcoming the progress already achieved on this subject and asking for this work to be pursued.

322. In response to a call for proposals published on 20 April⁽⁸⁾ concerning the selection of preparatory actions to stimulate the development and use of European digital content on the global network and to promote linguistic diversity in the information society, 29 projects were selected for Community funding. On 22 December, the Council adopted a decision on a multiannual Community programme on digital content (Table II).

323. Under the action plan on safer use of the Internet adopted on 25 January 1999⁽⁹⁾ and following 2 calls for proposals, 10 projects were selected for

(1) Bull. 6-2000, point I.20.

(2) COM(2000) 783; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.81.

(3) Bull. 12-2000.

(4) COM(2000) 153; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.116.

(5) COM(2000) 421; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.88.

(6) COM(2000) 202; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.53.

(7) Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.72.

(8) OJ C 114, 20.4.2000.

(9) Decision No 276/1999/EC (OJ L 33, 6.2.1999; 1999 General Report, point 423).

Community funding totalling EUR 6 million in 2000. A new call for proposals was launched on 1 December ⁽¹⁾.

324. The Commission adopted a communication entitled 'eLearning: Designing tomorrow's education' on 24 May ⁽²⁾ (→ *point 523*).

Electronic communications

325. Taking into account the results of the 1999 public consultations ⁽³⁾ presented in a communication adopted on 26 April ⁽⁴⁾ and endorsed by the Economic and Social Committee on 19 October ⁽⁵⁾, on 12 July the Commission adopted a package of seven legislative proposals designed to boost competition on the electronic communications markets in the European Union for the benefit of consumers and the European economy to set in motion the comprehensive reform of the regulatory framework for telecommunications in Europe called for by the European Council in Lisbon ⁽⁶⁾. This package consists of five proposals for directives on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services, access to, and interconnection of, electronic communications networks and associated facilities, processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector, authorisation of electronic communications networks and services, and universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services, together with a proposal for a decision on a regulatory framework for radio spectrum policy in the European Community (Table I). Another proposal, concerning unbundled access to the local loop, was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 18 December as Regulation EC No 2887/2000, an essential measure to give Europe a competitive advantage at world level on the use of the Internet ⁽⁷⁾ (Table I).

326. On 18 May ⁽⁸⁾, the European Parliament welcomed the Commission's fifth report on the implementation of the telecommunications regulatory package ⁽⁹⁾, which the Committee of the Regions had endorsed on 12 April ⁽¹⁰⁾.

327. Also on 18 May ⁽¹¹⁾, Parliament adopted a resolution on the Commission communication on the next steps in radio spectrum policy ⁽¹²⁾. Parliament called

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 345, 2.12.2000.

⁽²⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/elearning/indexen.html>.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 430.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 239; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.54.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.74.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.

⁽⁷⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/information_society/policy/framework/index_en.htm.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.95.

⁽⁹⁾ COM(1999) 537; 1999 General Report, point 430.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ C 226, 8.8.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.55.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.96.

⁽¹²⁾ COM(1999) 538; 1999 General Report, point 434.

upon the Member States, the Commission and the Council to seek a balance between the interests of commercial and non-commercial frequency users taking sufficient account of the public interest.

328. On 7 December, the Commission adopted the sixth report on the implementation of the telecommunications regulatory package⁽¹⁾. It came to the conclusion that, after three years of full liberalisation of telecommunications services, Europe is not only capitalising on its strengths, but also rapidly making good its weaknesses, and that progress has been made towards achieving the objectives set by the 'eEurope' initiative and the Lisbon Summit.

329. On 24 May⁽²⁾, the Economic and Social Committee endorsed the Commission's communication on a new framework for electronic communications services: infrastructure, transmission and access⁽³⁾, which the Committee of the Regions had endorsed on 12 April⁽⁴⁾. Parliament endorsed the communication in a resolution adopted on 13 June⁽⁵⁾, while stressing the importance of rapid implementation of the new system.

330. On 16 May, the European Parliament and the Council extended Decision No 710/97/EC⁽⁶⁾ on a coordinated authorisation approach in the field of satellite personal communication services in the Community (Table I).

331. On 17 November, the Commission adopted a communication on the evaluation of the 'Bridge' phase of the technology initiative for disabled and elderly people (TIDE)⁽⁷⁾.

Trans-European telecommunications networks

332. Information on trans-European telecommunications networks is provided in Section 12 ('Trans-European networks') of this chapter (→ *point 378*).

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 814; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 204, 18.7.2000; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.97.

⁽³⁾ COM(1999) 539; 1999 General Report, point 430.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 226, 8.8.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.55.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.88.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 105, 23.4.1997; 1997 General Report, point 513.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 727; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.81.

Advanced television services

333. In a resolution adopted on 13 June⁽¹⁾ on the Commission's report⁽²⁾ on the development of the market for digital television in the context of Directive 95/47/EC of 24 October 1995 on the use of standards for the transmission of television signals⁽³⁾, the European Parliament stressed the need to establish a single internal market in this area.

Data protection

334. Information on the protection of personal data is provided in Section 5 ('Single market') of this chapter (→ *points 183 and 184*).

International cooperation and regional aspects

335. The Commission held bilateral talks on regulatory issues related to communications services and the information society with Australia on 3 February, Japan on 12 and 13 April, Russia on 4 July, and Ukraine on 5 September. It also began to implement an action plan based on the joint declaration on electronic commerce adopted by the EU and Canada at the EU-Canada Summit on 26 June⁽⁴⁾.

336. Together with the Member States, the Commission prepared the Community's negotiating brief for communications services and e-commerce in the framework of the World Trade Organisation. It also cooperated with the private sector to examine issues related to the information society and the digital economy in the context of the EU's 'business round tables' with Russia, Japan and the United States, and in the context of the 'global business dialogue on e-commerce'.

337. In preparation for the World Radiocommunications Conference 2000 (WRC 2000), on 8 March the Commission adopted a communication designed to coordinate the positions of the Member States during the negotiations at WRC 2000⁽⁵⁾. This stressed the importance of issues relating to third-generation mobile communications and satellite radio navigation (Galileo). These proposals were welcomed by the Council in the conclusions adopted on 2 May⁽⁶⁾. The

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.89.

⁽²⁾ COM(1999) 540; 1999 General Report, point 437.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 281, 23.11.1995; 1995 General Report, point 453.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 851.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 86; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.92.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.94.

Commission set out the results of the conference in a communication ⁽¹⁾ adopted on 6 December.

338. To support development of the information society in the central and east European countries, the Commission and the Polish Government organised a ministerial conference on the information society in Warsaw on 11 and 12 May.

339. To develop the Euro-Mediterranean information society, on 25 March the Commission launched Eumedis (a subprogramme of the MEDA programme). This provides funding totalling EUR 35 million for projects concerning health, education, culture, tourism, electronic commerce and industrial innovation which must be submitted by partnerships bringing together participants from both Mediterranean and EU countries.

340. In conclusions adopted on 10 November ⁽²⁾, the Council stressed the problem of the digital divide, which risks marginalising the developing countries, and called for consideration to be given to this issue with a view to drawing up a report.

341. On 20 November, the Commission proposed to the Council an exchange of letters concerning the accession of the Republic of Korea to the IMS (intelligent manufacturing systems) programme involving the EU, Australia, Canada, Japan, the United States and the EFTA countries (Table III).

342. Following the designation of the information society as a priority for support from the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) ⁽³⁾, after defining the guidelines ⁽⁴⁾ and criteria ⁽⁵⁾ to apply to the information society and regional development, the Commission produced a new programming framework for the Structural Funds (→ *point 350*) designed to take greater account of the priorities and measures concerning the information society and, in particular, to implement the *eEurope* action plan. In all the Objective 3 programmes (→ *point 357*), the information society has been included as one of the three horizontal priorities of the European Social Fund. Finally, on behalf of the Commission, Mr Barnier and Mr Liikanen joined representatives of local, regional and national governments, businesses and civil society at a conference on 'Information society and economic, social and territorial cohesion 2000–06: a new opportunity' in Lyon on 18 and 19 December.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 811; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.84.

⁽³⁾ Regulations (EC) No 1783/1999 and No 1784/1999 (OJ L 213, 13.8.1999; 1999 General Report, point 316).

⁽⁴⁾ COM(1999)344; 1999 General Report, point 323.

⁽⁵⁾ SEC(1999) 1217. The Committee of the Regions adopted an opinion on this document on 21 September (Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.61).

Section 10

Economic and social cohesion

Priority activities and objectives

343. *Following adoption in 1999 of the legal framework for Structural Fund assistance in 2000–06, the Commission's main priority in 2000 was drawing up the programming documents for the new period. This year also saw the adoption of a strategy and guidelines for the Community initiatives and innovative schemes as well as regulations to improve decentralised management of the Structural Funds.*

General outline

344. On 13 November, the Commission adopted its 11th annual report on the implementation of the Structural Funds⁽¹⁾. Parliament⁽²⁾ and the Economic and Social Committee⁽³⁾ delivered their opinions on the 10th report⁽⁴⁾ on 15 June and 12 July respectively. On 13 April the Committee of the Regions⁽⁵⁾ examined the ninth⁽⁶⁾ and tenth reports. In addition, the Commission's sixth periodic report on the socioeconomic situation and development of the regions⁽⁷⁾ was endorsed by Parliament on 18 January⁽⁸⁾ and by the Committee of the Regions on 12 April⁽⁹⁾.

345. On 18 December, the Council reached political agreement on a proposed decision to adopt a Community cooperation framework for promoting sustainable development in urban areas proposed by the Commission (Table I). With a budget envelope of EUR 14 million in 2001–04, this instrument will promote awareness-raising schemes run in partnership by the Commission and the campaign for sustainable cities and networks of cities in Europe, which is supported by 540 regional and local authorities. The scheme will also be open to

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 698; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.87.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.92.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 268, 19.9.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.100.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(1999) 467; 1999 General Report, point 327.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 226, 8.8.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.58.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(1998) 562; 1998 General Report, point 355.

⁽⁷⁾ 1999 General Report, point 326.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ C 304, 24.10.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.122.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ C 226, 8.8.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.60.

regional and local authorities in the applicant countries and other countries which have association agreements with the Community.

346. On 12 April the Committee of the Regions advocated an integrated Community strategy for the management of coastal areas⁽¹⁾ and on 14 June it stressed the need to ensure the accessibility of rural areas⁽²⁾. On 12 July, in an own-initiative opinion⁽³⁾, the Economic and Social Committee highlighted the special nature of the problems facing less favoured island regions, and on 25 October Parliament adopted a resolution on the status of islands in the EC Treaty⁽⁴⁾. The need to mount specific action to assist island regions to the extent that budget funds allow was also discussed at the European Council in Nice in December⁽⁵⁾.

347. Integrating regional policy and other policies continued to be a focus of attention for the Community institutions and other organs. Thus, on 13 April, the Committee of the Regions stressed the importance of the role of local and regional authorities in reforming public health systems⁽⁶⁾. On 26 June, following a report by the Court of Auditors⁽⁷⁾, the Council adopted conclusions on the links between regional policy and development of industrial sites⁽⁸⁾. Information on the role of structural assistance in the development of the information society and on how Structural Fund action takes account of environmental concerns is given in Section 9 ('Information society') of this chapter and Section 4 ('Environment') of Chapter IV respectively.

348. On 24 January, the Council adopted a regulation laying down the Community's financial contribution to the International Fund for Ireland in 2000–02 (Table II). In its conclusions adopted on 26 June⁽⁹⁾, it welcomed the positive contribution made by this fund and by the special peace and reconciliation programme between Northern Ireland and the bordering counties of Ireland (the PEACE programme)⁽¹⁰⁾. On 20 September, the Economic and Social Committee recommended that the European Investment Bank should focus its activities on regional policy and convergence⁽¹¹⁾.

349. Information on the establishment of the 2000–06 programming frameworks for the Structural Funds is covered in the following subsection ('Structural measures') (→ *points 350 et seq.*).

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 226, 8.8.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.64.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 317, 6.11.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.91.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 268, 19.9.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.123.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.100.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 226, 8.8.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.61.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.94.

⁽⁸⁾ 1999 General Report, point 1045.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.95.

⁽¹⁰⁾ 1995 General Report, point 321.

⁽¹¹⁾ OJ C 367, 20.12.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.60.

Structural measures

New programming framework

350. On 30 May, the Commission further consolidated the legal framework for Structural Fund assistance for the 2000–06 programming period defined in 1999 under Agenda 2000⁽¹⁾ by adopting a regulation setting out the information and publicity measures to be carried out by the Member States concerning Structural Fund assistance⁽²⁾. On 18 January, Parliament gave its opinion⁽³⁾ on the indicative guidelines for programmes in 2000–06 presented in 1999 by the Commission⁽⁴⁾. On 12 April, it also stressed the importance of the principle of additionality in awarding public funds to projects part-financed by the Structural Funds⁽⁵⁾, while the Council, in its conclusions of 26 June⁽⁶⁾ and reacting to a report by the Court of Auditors on this subject⁽⁷⁾, found that the rules on verifying the application of this principle in the new programming period were simpler and better integrated than under the old framework. To ensure effective action by the Structural Funds, the Committee of the Regions stressed, in two opinions adopted in April, the need for compliance with the partnership principle⁽⁸⁾ and the importance of developing appropriate evaluation methods and criteria⁽⁹⁾.

351. The Commission designated the areas to be covered by Objective 2 of the Structural Funds (→ *point 354*) in Germany⁽¹⁰⁾, Spain⁽¹¹⁾, France⁽¹²⁾, Italy⁽¹³⁾, Luxembourg⁽¹⁴⁾, Austria⁽¹⁵⁾, Sweden⁽¹⁶⁾ and the United Kingdom⁽¹⁷⁾. The decisions for Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Finland were adopted in 1999⁽¹⁸⁾. On 20 January, Parliament pointed to the urgent need for Structural Fund assistance in the regions eligible under this objective which were hit by the severe storms of December 1999⁽¹⁹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, points 314 to 325;

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/PRORD/guide/euro2000-2006_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1159/2000 (OJ L 130, 31.5.2000; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.99).

⁽³⁾ OJ C 304, 24.10.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.121.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 267, 22.9.1999; COM(1999) 344; 1999 General Report, point 323.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.57.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.93.

⁽⁷⁾ 1999 General Report, point 1045.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ C 226, 8.8.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.62.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ C 226, 8.8.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.59.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 66, 14.3.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.126.

⁽¹¹⁾ OJ L 84, 5.4.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.100.

⁽¹²⁾ OJ L 123, 24.5.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.99.

⁽¹³⁾ OJ L 223, 4.9.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.113.

⁽¹⁴⁾ OJ L 87, 8.4.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.124.

⁽¹⁵⁾ OJ L 99, 19.4.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.124; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.114 (draft).

⁽¹⁶⁾ OJ L 69, 17.3.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.98.

⁽¹⁷⁾ OJ L 99, 19.4.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.101.

⁽¹⁸⁾ 1999 General Report, point 323.

⁽¹⁹⁾ OJ C 304, 24.10.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.119.

Community support frameworks (CSFs) and single programming documents (SPDs)

352. The Commission adopted CSFs and/or SPDs for the period 2000–06 for Community structural assistance under Structural Fund Objective 1 (development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind): in Belgium (SPD for the province of Hainaut, 15 May)⁽¹⁾; in Germany (CSF for all eligible regions, 19 June)⁽²⁾; in Greece (CSF for all eligible regions, 28 November)⁽³⁾; in Spain (CSF for all eligible regions, 19 October)⁽⁴⁾; in France (SPD for Réunion: 30 October⁽⁵⁾, Guadeloupe: 23 November⁽⁶⁾, French Guiana: 29 December⁽⁷⁾, Martinique: 21 December⁽⁸⁾, Corsica: 17 November⁽⁹⁾, and Nord-Pas-de-Calais: 20 December)⁽¹⁰⁾ in Ireland (CSF for all eligible areas, 28 July)⁽¹¹⁾; in Italy (CSF for all eligible areas, 1 August)⁽¹²⁾; in the Netherlands (SPD for Flevoland, 27 July)⁽¹³⁾; in Austria (SPD for Burgenland, 7 April)⁽¹⁴⁾; in Portugal (CSF for all eligible areas, 30 March)⁽¹⁵⁾; in Finland (SPD for north and east Finland, 31 March)⁽¹⁶⁾; in Sweden (SPD for Norra Norrland⁽¹⁷⁾ and Södra Skogslän⁽¹⁸⁾, 24 May) and the United Kingdom (SPD for Merseyside⁽¹⁹⁾, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly⁽²⁰⁾, South Yorkshire⁽²¹⁾ and West Wales and the Valleys⁽²²⁾: 24 July; the Highlands and Islands: 8 August⁽²³⁾; Northern Ireland, 20 December⁽²⁴⁾).

353. The breakdown by Member State of commitments for 2000 under Objective 1 is given in Table 3.

354. The Commission adopted SPDs for 2000–06 covering structural assistance under Structural Fund Objective 2 (economic and social restructuring of

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.100.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.104; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.96.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.101; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.90.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.102; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.81.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.105; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.82.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.80; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.89.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.79; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.77; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.78; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.88.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.76; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.101; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.111.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.65; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.112.

⁽¹³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.103; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.110.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.95; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.64.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.96.

⁽¹⁶⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.123; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.97.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.101.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.102.

⁽¹⁹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.97; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.106.

⁽²⁰⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.98; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.107.

⁽²¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.100; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.109.

⁽²²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.99; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.108.

⁽²³⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.104.

⁽²⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.103; Bull. 12-2000.

TABLE 3
Commitments in 2000 — Objective 1

(million EUR)

Member State	ERDF	ESF	EAGGF Guidance Section	FIFG
Belgium	82.560	20.150	4.090	0.210
Germany	1 398.309	189.875	309.389	16.347
Spain	1 220.066			212.700
France	273.680	150.773	72.248	3.447
Ireland	407.670	201.860	32.450	2.020
Italy	1 987.089	490.343	380.820	38.565
Netherlands	18.150	1.650	1.700	1.500
Austria	24.373	7.714	5.798	0.116
Portugal	2 117.285	693.861	354.908	36.327
Finland	76.403	39.809	15.809	0.979
Sweden	65.333	22.269	15.672	1.650
United Kingdom	504.628	239.955	46.396	10.628
Total	8 175.546	2 058.259	1 239.280	324.489

areas facing structural difficulties) in Denmark (9 November)⁽¹⁾, Finland (30 June⁽²⁾ and 20 December⁽³⁾) and Sweden (15 and 20 December)⁽⁴⁾.

355. The breakdown by Member State of commitments for 2000 under Objective 2 is given in Table 4.

TABLE 4
Commitments in 2000 — Objective 2

(million EUR)

Member State	ERDF	ESF
Denmark	23.214	7.786
Finland	60.537	15.462
Sweden	59.849	
Total	143.600	23.248

356. The rural development measures financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section and covered by programming for Objective 2 are included in Table 9 of Chapter III (→ *point 389*).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.62; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.96.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, points 1.3.102 and 1.3.103.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.83; Bull. 12-2000 (Åland Islands).

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 10-2000, points 1.3.84 to 1.3.87; Bull. 12-2000 (four SPDs).

357. The Commission adopted SPDs for 2000–06 covering structural assistance under Structural Fund Objective 3 (adaptation and modernisation of policies and systems relating to education, training and employment) in Belgium (4 October)⁽¹⁾, Denmark (24 October)⁽²⁾, Germany (10 October)⁽³⁾, Spain (24 September)⁽⁴⁾, France (18 July)⁽⁵⁾, Luxembourg (8 August)⁽⁶⁾, the Netherlands (8 August)⁽⁷⁾, Austria (8 August)⁽⁸⁾, Finland (1 August)⁽⁹⁾, Sweden (27 September)⁽¹⁰⁾ and the United Kingdom (11 July)⁽¹¹⁾.

358. The breakdown by Member State of commitments for 2000 under Objective 3 is given in Table 5.

TABLE 5
Commitments in 2000 — Objective 3

Member State	ESF (outside Objective 1 regions)
Belgium	107.391
Denmark	53.186
Germany	667.517
Spain	124.072
France	661.543
Italy	545.554
Luxembourg	5.537
Netherlands	245.674
Austria	76.937
Finland	58.723
Sweden	104.914
United Kingdom	665.623
Total	3 316.671

359. The Commission also adopted SPDs for 2000–06 covering structural assistance in the fisheries sector outside Objective 1 regions in Belgium (21 December)⁽¹²⁾, Denmark (8 August)⁽¹³⁾, Germany (28 September)⁽¹⁴⁾,

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, points 1.3.63 to 1.3.66; Bull. 10-2000, points 1.3.92 to 1.3.95.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.67; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.97.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.68; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.96.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.71.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.116.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.120.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.119.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.118.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.117.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.70.

⁽¹¹⁾ SEC(2000) 670.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽¹³⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.121.

⁽¹⁴⁾ SEC(2000) 1533.

Spain (31 October)⁽¹⁾, France (12 December)⁽²⁾, Austria (31 October)⁽³⁾, Finland (22 August)⁽⁴⁾, Sweden (15 December)⁽²⁾, and the United Kingdom (27 December)⁽²⁾.

360. The breakdown by Member State of commitments under the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) outside Objective 1 regions is given in Table 6.

TABLE 6
Commitments in 2000 — FIFG

Member State	FIFG (outside Objective 1 regions)
Belgium	4.900
Denmark	28.700
Germany	15.600
Spain	29.100
France	32.800
Austria	0.600
Finland	4.500
Sweden	8.700
United Kingdom	17.600
Total	142.500

(million EUR)

Community initiatives⁽⁵⁾

361. In April, following endorsement in opinions delivered by Parliament⁽⁶⁾, the Economic and Social Committee⁽⁷⁾ and the Committee of the Regions⁽⁸⁾ on proposals which it had put forward in 1999⁽⁹⁾, the Commission adopted guidelines for 2000–06 covering the Community initiatives EQUAL (transnational cooperation to promote new means of combating all forms of discrimination and inequalities in connection with the labour market)⁽¹⁰⁾, Interreg (trans-

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.99.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.98.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.122.

⁽⁵⁾ http://inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/prordc/prdc_en.htm.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.128 (EQUAL); OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.130 (Interreg); OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.132 (Leader +); OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.134 (URBAN).

⁽⁷⁾ OJ C 75, 15.3.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.127 (EQUAL); OJ C 51, 23.2.2000; 1999 General Report, point 324 (Interreg, Leader + and URBAN).

⁽⁸⁾ OJ C 156, 6.6.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.129 (EQUAL); OJ C 156, 6.6.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.131 (Interreg); OJ C 156, 6.6.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.133 (Leader +); OJ C 156, 6.6.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.135 (URBAN).

⁽⁹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 324.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ C 127, 5.5.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.66.

European cooperation intended to encourage harmonious and balanced development of the European territory)⁽¹⁾, Leader + (rural development)⁽²⁾, and URBAN (economic and social regeneration of declining urban areas in order to promote sustainable urban development)⁽³⁾.

362. Commitments in 2000 amounted to EUR 391 million (Interreg and URBAN), EUR 69.9 million (Employment) and EUR 80.2 million (Leader II), i.e. all the remaining appropriations for earlier programmes covering the 1994–99 period. Because of delays in the adoption of programmes covered by the new initiatives, it proved impossible to take up the 2000 tranche before 31 December. However, under the interinstitutional agreement on budgetary discipline of 6 May 1999⁽⁴⁾, this tranche will be transferred to subsequent years to ensure compliance with the allocations for 2000–06.

Innovative schemes

363. The Commission adopted draft guidelines on 12 July for innovative schemes to be financed in 2000–06 by the ERDF⁽⁵⁾. In accordance with the conclusions of the European Council in Lisbon⁽⁶⁾, these measures are targeted at the ‘innovation deficit’ of the least competitive regions. Parliament also set out its priorities in a resolution adopted on 6 July⁽⁷⁾ and, in an opinion of 14 December⁽⁸⁾, welcomed the approach envisaged for the ERDF by the Commission. The Committee of the Regions gave its opinion on 13 December⁽⁸⁾.

Cohesion Fund⁽⁹⁾

364. The Commission adopted its annual report on the work of the Cohesion Fund in 1998⁽¹⁰⁾. The Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion on 29 March⁽¹¹⁾ and Parliament adopted a resolution on the same report on 16 June⁽¹²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 143, 23.5.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.67.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 139, 18.5.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.68.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 141, 19.5.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.3.69.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 921.

⁽⁵⁾ SEC(2000) 1870; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.99.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.5.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.97.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁹⁾ http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/procf/cf_en.htm.

⁽¹⁰⁾ COM(1999) 483; 1999 General Report, point 346.

⁽¹¹⁾ OJ C 140, 18.5.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.102.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.104.

365. The new regulations in force since the beginning of the year are designed to take account of the introduction of the single currency, simplify management procedures and increase the effectiveness of assistance.

366. Commitments for financing Cohesion Fund projects in 2000 totalled EUR 2 406.3 million. A breakdown of the commitments by country and subject heading is given in Table 7.

TABLE 7
Commitments in 2000 — Cohesion Fund

Member State	Environment		Transport		Total (million EUR)	Breakdown (%)
	million EUR	%	million EUR	%		
Greece	56.820	5.03	176.828	13.84	233.648	9.71
Spain	780.136	69.11	768.488	60.16	1 548.624	64.35
Ireland	136.967	12.13	89.484	7.00	226.451	9.41
Portugal	154.872	13.73	242.593	19.00	397.465	16.52
Technical assistance					0.164	0.01
Total	1 128.795	100	1 277.393	100	2 406.352	100

Pre-accession instruments

367. Activities relating to the pre-accession structural instrument (ISPA) are dealt with in Section 5 ('Pre-accession strategy') of Chapter V (→ *point 725*).

Section 11

Measures for the most remote regions

368. The Commission's report on the measures to implement Article 299(2) of the EC Treaty with regard to the outermost regions of the European Union was adopted on 14 March⁽¹⁾ and forwarded to the Council and Parliament. It reviews the action carried out under the various Community policies and sets out a sustainable development strategy for those regions (the Canary Islands, the French overseas departments (DOM), the Azores and Madeira). The Lisbon European Council on 23 and 24 March took note of the report and invited the Commission to submit its initial proposals to the Council⁽²⁾. The Feira European Council on 19 and 20 June again considered the subject and took note of the work programme produced by the Commission⁽³⁾. It called on the Commission to study the information provided or to be provided by the Member States with a view to taking measures within its sphere of competence and to submit appropriate proposals to the Council as soon as possible, with a view to immediate adoption. The European Council, meeting in Nice on 7 to 10 December⁽⁴⁾, took note of the Commission's revised work programme aimed at the full implementation of the Treaty provisions on the outermost regions, and of the proposals already presented, and called on the Council to examine them without delay.

369. In the area of State aid, the Commission approved the creation of a special zone for the Canary Islands on 18 January, introducing a system of tax incentives for new businesses intended to encourage the establishment of certain economic activities in the Canary Islands. On 26 July, it amended the guidelines on national regional aid⁽⁵⁾ to allow aid which is neither progressively reduced nor limited in time to be granted in the outermost regions when it is intended only to reduce the additional costs arising from their geographical location. The Commission also revised the guidelines on State aid to fisheries and aquaculture on 29 November, introducing a reference to the special needs of the outermost regions. On the same day it presented a proposal to the Council for special arrangements for State aid to agriculture for the outermost regions as part of its proposals on the agricultural section of the POSEI programmes (→ *point 371*).

370. Regarding the Structural Funds, on 29 November the Commission presented proposals to the Council to amend Regulations (EEC) No 3763/91⁽⁶⁾,

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 147; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.104.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.103.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.105.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 258, 9.9.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.53.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 356, 24.12.1991; Twenty-fifth General Report, point 523.

(EEC) No 1600/92⁽¹⁾, (EEC) No 1601/92⁽¹⁾, (EC) No 1260/1999⁽²⁾ and (EC) No 2792/1999⁽³⁾ to take more account of the needs of the outermost regions (structural derogations). The proposals relate to the ceilings on the Structural Fund contribution to investment, intervention ceilings for investment in agricultural and forestry holdings and certain intervention rates under the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (Table II).

371. In agricultural matters, the Commission presented three draft regulations to the Council on 29 November intended to replace the regulations based on the agricultural section of the programmes of options specific to the remote and insular nature of the French overseas departments (Regulation (EEC) No 3763/91 (Poseidom)), Madeira and the Azores (Regulation (EEC) No 1600/92 (Poseima)) and the Canary Islands (Regulation (EEC) No 1601/92 (Poseican)), and an amendment to Council Regulation (EC) No 1254/1999 on the common organisation of the market in beef and veal (Table II). These proposals, to which an addendum relating to milk production in the Azores was announced at the Nice European Council⁽⁴⁾, are intended to consolidate the achievements and improve the schemes in question, taking into account the experience gained and the changes that have occurred both inside and outside the European Union. The proposals were accompanied by progress reports on the implementation of the programmes in the period 1992–98⁽⁵⁾. Lastly, the Commission's initiatives and talks in the Council aimed at resolving the dispute in the WTO was of interest to banana-producing regions (→ *points 400 and 813*).

372. In the field of taxation, the Commission presented a proposal on 15 November to maintain reduced excise rates on fuel in Madeira (→ *point 173*), as part of the proposal to extend the derogation systems of several Member States. In its work programme submitted to the Nice European Council, the Commission announced that it would soon be presenting a proposal to amend Regulation (EEC) No 1911/91, to extend the APIM tax in the Canary Islands until 31 December 2001 at the latest. This extension should avoid any legal vacuum pending the entry into force of the new AIEM system announced by Spain (*Arbitrio sobre las importaciones y entregas de mercancías en las islas Canarias*), which will replace the current system and has first to be considered by the Community.

373. In the customs field, Council Regulation (EC) No 2789/2000 of 14 December 2000⁽⁶⁾ extended beyond its date of expiry, on 31 December, Regulation (EEC) No 1657/93⁽⁷⁾ temporarily suspending the autonomous Com-

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 173, 27.6.1992; Twenty-sixth General Report, point 494.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 161, 26.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 315.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 337, 30.12.1999; 1999 General Report, point 332.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 790; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.102.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 324, 21.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 158, 30.6.1993; Twenty-seventh General Report, point 422; as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 3256/94 (OJ L 339, 29.12.1994; 1994 General Report, point 479).

mon Customs Tariff duties on certain industrial products intended to equip the free zones of the Azores and Madeira. In respect of the Canary Islands, on 29 December the Commission sent a proposal to extend Regulations (EC) No 3621/92 and (EC) No 527/96 temporarily suspending the Common Customs Tariff duties on certain fisheries products and certain industrial products respectively for one year beyond their expiry date of 31 December (Table II). The extension, for one year, of these two regulations should avoid any legal vacuum pending the response to Spain's request to maintain certain measures in respect of the Common Customs Tariff in the Canary Islands for a longer period of time.

Section 12

Trans-European networks ⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

374. *Since 2000 was the first year of application of the revised framework regulation on the financing of the trans-European networks in the period 2000–06, which was adopted in 1999 in the context of Agenda 2000, the activities relating to these networks were essentially of an operational nature, carried out on the basis of the programmes adopted in this connection.*

General strategy

375. On 22 September the Commission adopted its 1999 annual report on trans-European networks ⁽²⁾. For its part, on 4 May ⁽³⁾, when commenting on the Commission's 1998 annual report on trans-European networks ⁽⁴⁾, the European Parliament stressed the importance of the review of the general rules for the granting of financial aid for these networks ⁽⁵⁾ aimed at greater private-sector funding and the launching of public–private partnerships.

376. Community funding for the trans-European networks (TENs) is shown in Table 8. The TEN Financial Assistance Committee met five times during the course of the year and endorsed the commitment of EUR 643.3 million, of which EUR 591.5 million for transport, including intelligent transport systems, EUR 38 million for telecommunications and telematics and EUR 13.8 million for energy.

Transport

377. On 5 June, the Council adopted a common position on the proposal to amend Decision No 1692/96/EC ⁽⁶⁾ on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport networks (TEN-T) to include seaports and inland ports and amend a project in Annex III (Table I).

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy_transport/en/tn_en.html.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 591; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.3.72.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.105.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 354.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1655/1999 (OJ L 197, 29.7.1999; 1999 General Report, point 353).

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 228, 9.9.1996; 1996 General Report, point 327.

TABLE 8
Community financing of TENs in 2000

<i>(million ECU/EUR)</i>							
Sector	Type of aid	Instrument	1993-96	1997	1998	1999	2000
<i>Transport</i>	Loans	EIB	11 170	4 943	4 415	5 977	4 010
	Guarantees	EIF	464	55	71	256	80
	Subsidies	Structural Funds	3 638	527	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
		Cohesion Fund	4 216	1 251	1 337	444	1 277
	Subsidies, interest rebates, loan guarantees and co-financing of studies	TENs budget heading B5-70	905	352	474	497	592
		Of which the 14 priority projects	573	211	305	266	253
<i>Energy</i>	Loans	EIB	2 998	854	393	174	392
	Guarantees	EIF	490	4	5	0	15
	Co-financing of studies and subsidies	Structural Funds	2 029	277	n.a.	355	n.a.
		TENs budget heading B5-71	21	24	19	29	13
<i>Telecommunications</i>	Loans	EIB	5 921	1 880	3 434	2 126	2 211
	Guarantees	EIF	184	276	230	44	140
	Financial contributions	Structural Funds	468	n.a.	n.a.	387	n.a.
	Co-financing of feasibility and validation studies	TENs budget heading B5-720	61	27	28	21	35
<i>Telematic networks</i>	Subsidies	TENs budget heading B5-721	163	47	15	24	20

NB: n.a. = not available.

Telematics and telecommunications

378. Following a Court of Auditors special report⁽¹⁾ on trans-European telecommunications networks (TEN-Telecoms), on 3 October the Council adopted conclusions⁽²⁾ welcoming various Commission initiatives but calling upon the latter to provide it, and the European Parliament, with more detailed information about the measures taken and carry out more on-the-spot inspections. In accordance with the decision on a series of guidelines for these networks⁽³⁾, on 15 March, following a broad consultation of the industry and Member States, the Commission adopted the revised TEN-Telecoms work programme for the period 2000 to 2002, which will be the basis for future calls for proposals.

379. Pursuant to Decisions No 1719/1999/EC and No 1720/1999/EC⁽⁴⁾, the IDA (interchange of data between administrations) work programme was adopted in May. In addition, a symposium was held in Brussels on 25 May to stimulate possible contributions to *eEurope/government online*.

Energy

380. On 16 November⁽⁵⁾, the Commission adopted a decision defining the specifications for projects of common interest in the field of trans-European energy networks.

381. On 16 October, the Commission adopted a decision granting financial support to projects of common interest in the context of the trans-European energy networks for a total amount of EUR 13.8 million.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 166, 15.6.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.10.17.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.104.

⁽³⁾ Decision No 1336/97/EC (OJ L 183, 11.7.1997; 1997 General Report, point 426).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 203, 3.8.1999; 1999 General Report, point 340.

⁽⁵⁾ Decision 2000/761/EC (OJ L 305, 6.12.2000).

Section 13

Agriculture ⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

382. *The year 2000 saw implementation of the common agricultural policy reforms adopted earlier as part of Agenda 2000, which affected the sectors of arable crops, beef and veal, milk and milk products and rural development (now the second pillar of the CAP), and the financing framework. The international dimension also accounted for a major share of the work over the year.*

Content of the common agricultural policy

383. In 2000, the Commission continued the process of simplifying agricultural legislation and making it more transparent and accessible. The reforms of the various market organisations led to a reorganisation of the legislation in force and a reduction in the number of regulations. Other initiatives involved the repeal of obsolete provisions, the informal consolidation or reworking of legislation, and simplification measures proper, such as streamlining import and export licensing procedures ⁽²⁾.

384. On 19 December, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 2826/2000 reforming the policy on information and the promotion of agricultural products on the internal market, the aim being to replace 12 different systems, each of them with its own sectoral rules, with a harmonised system that complements the traditional marketing activities of firms and the national and regional authorities and simplifies management procedures (Table II).

385. On 17 July, the Council amended Regulation (EEC) No 3508/92 of 27 November 1992 establishing an integrated administration and control system for certain Community aid schemes ⁽³⁾, bringing it into line with the new

⁽¹⁾ For further details see *The Agricultural Situation in the European Union — 2000 Report*. The 1999 Report (COM(2000) 485; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.125) is available from the Official Publications Office and at the following Internet address on the Europa server:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/publi/agrep/index_en.htm. Additional information is also available on the Europa server at the following address: http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/agriculture/index_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1291/2000 (OJ L 152, 24.6.2000).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 355, 5.2.1992; Twenty-sixth General Report, point 511.

arrangements introduced by the CAP reform (Table II). On 15 December, the Commission proposed that farmers entitled to small amounts of direct aid be allowed to opt for a simplified scheme (Table II).

Agriculture and the environment, forests

386. On 26 January, the Commission adopted a communication entitled 'Indicators for the integration of environmental concerns into the common agricultural policy' ⁽¹⁾. This had been drawn up as part of the environmental integration strategy approved in December 1999 by the European Council in Helsinki ⁽²⁾, in response to the briefs issued at the summits in Cardiff ⁽³⁾ and Vienna ⁽³⁾ in June and December 1998. The Commission also granted a total of EUR 14.8 million in financial assistance to implement programmes submitted by the Member States under the regulations on the protection of the Community's forests against atmospheric pollution ⁽⁴⁾ and fire ⁽⁵⁾. On 19 October, the Economic and Social Committee delivered an opinion on the use of sewage sludge in agriculture ⁽⁶⁾.

Rural development

387. On 12 September, the Commission amended the transitional rules ⁽⁷⁾ for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 ⁽⁸⁾ on EAGGF support for rural development to improve implementation of the programming phase concerning agri-environmental measures. On 29 September, it clarified and supplemented the detailed rules for the application of that regulation ⁽⁹⁾. In an opinion delivered on 15 June, the Committee of the Regions emphasised the contribution that the new support for rural development could make to helping rural communities meet the challenge of making themselves competitive ⁽¹⁰⁾.

388. In June, the Commission began approving the rural development plans submitted by Member States, including the schemes funded across the Community as a whole by the EAGGF Guarantee Section (early retirement, aid for less

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 20; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.138.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 507; Bull. 12-1999, point I.14, and Annex VI to the conclusions of the presidency.

⁽³⁾ 1998 General Report, point 484.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86 (OJ L 326, 21.11.1986).

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EEC) No 2158/92 (OJ L 217, 31.7.1992).

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.106.

⁽⁷⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1929/2000 (OJ L 231, 13.9.2000).

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 502.

⁽⁹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2075/2000 (OJ L 246, 30.9.2000).

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.108.

favoured areas, agri-environment measures, farm woodland management) plus other rural development measures where they are not covered by the Structural Funds. These rural plans provide for annual Guarantee Section expenditure of the order of EUR 4.3 billion a year in 2000–06 (at 1999 prices). On 14 April, the Commission also issued guidelines for the Community initiative for rural development (Leader +)⁽¹⁾ to enable Member States to present integrated and innovative development programmes for rural areas for implementation by local actions groups (LAGs).

389. The breakdown by Member State of EAGGF Guarantee Section assistance for rural development measures is set out in the following Table 9.

TABLE 9

EAGGF Guarantee Section rural development commitments in 2000–06, by Member State

Member State	EAGGF Guarantee Section
Belgium	50
Denmark	46
Germany	700
Greece	131
Spain	459
France	760
Ireland	315
Italy	595
Luxembourg	12
Netherlands	55
Austria	423
Portugal	200
Finland	290
Sweden	149
United Kingdom	154
Total	4 339

390. EAGGF Guidance Section assistance in Objective 1 areas and under the Leader + initiative is dealt with in Section 10 ('Economic and social cohesion') of this chapter (→ *points 353 and 362*).

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 139, 18.5.2000.

Veterinary and plant health legislation

391. The veterinary and plant health fields are dealt with in Section 7 ('Public health and consumer protection') of Chapter IV (→ *points 669 to 675*).

Quality of agricultural products

392. As part of the implementation⁽¹⁾ of Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs⁽²⁾, the Commission made additions to the list of registered names — which now stands at 541 — in March⁽³⁾, April⁽⁴⁾, June⁽⁵⁾, July⁽⁶⁾, September⁽⁷⁾, and November⁽⁸⁾. The list of registered names was also added to by the Commission in July⁽⁹⁾ in connection with the implementation of Regulation (EEC) No 2082/92 on certificates of specific character for agricultural products and foodstuffs⁽¹⁰⁾ and now stands at nine. Following adoption by the Council of Regulation (EC) No 1804/1999 supplementing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 on organic production⁽¹¹⁾, the Commission began a programme of work to implement this regulation in the field of organic livestock products.

Agricultural prices and related measures

393. As a result of the Agenda 2000 decisions and previous reforms of the market organisations, the annual price-setting exercise now only involves a few sectors. In this connection, the Council adopted regulations fixing prices for pig-meat, together with various prices and amounts in the sugar sector (19 June) and the prices for silkworms and sheepmeat and goatmeat, and the monthly increases applicable to cereals and rice (17 July) (Table II). These regulations follow the same multiannual approach as Agenda 2000 and previous reforms and fix institutional prices and amounts for the six sectors for an indefinite period. The monthly increases for cereals will, however, be reduced by 7.5 % from 2001/02. In the sugar sector, where the current production quota regime

⁽¹⁾ 1998 General Report, point 561.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 208, 24.7.1992; Twenty-sixth General Report, point 518.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 547/2000 (OJ L 67, 15.3.2000).

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EC) No 813/2000 (OJ L 100, 20.4.2000).

⁽⁵⁾ Regulations (EC) No 1187/2000 (OJ L 133, 6.6.2000) and (EC) No 1338/2000 (OJ L 154, 27.6.2000).

⁽⁶⁾ Regulations (EC) No 1576/2000 (OJ L 181, 20.7.2000) and (EC) No 1659/2000 (OJ L 192, 28.7.2000).

⁽⁷⁾ Regulations (EC) No 1903/2000 (OJ L 228, 8.9.2000) and (EC) No 1904/2000 (OJ L 228, 8.9.2000).

⁽⁸⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2446/2000 (OJ L 281, 7.11.2000).

⁽⁹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1482/2000 (OJ L 167, 7.7.2000).

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 208, 24.7.1992.

⁽¹¹⁾ OJ L 222, 24.8.1999; 1999 General Report, point 510.

legally expires at the end of the 2000/01 marketing year, the prices and amounts were fixed for that year only.

Management of the common agricultural policy

Adjustments to common market organisations

394. On 20 November, in accordance with the Community's international commitments, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 2580/2000 amending the trade arrangements for goods not covered by Annex I to the EC Treaty but which incorporate agricultural products (Table II). On 22 December, the Commission tabled a proposal for changing the terms and conditions governing inward processing of specified agricultural products (Table II).

Crop products

395. The Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 811/2000 introducing a specific measure in respect of certain grain legumes (lentils, chickpeas and vetches) to keep adjustment in aid in line with the areas sown to grain legumes (Table II). On 23 October, it amended ⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EEC) No 2358/71 on the common organisation of the market in seeds ⁽²⁾ to preserve the possibility of granting certain types of aid in Finland.

396. In the sugar sector, the reduction in production quotas provided for in the basic regulation in cases where exportable surpluses exceed the quantities eligible for a refund under the Marrakesh Agreement was applied for the first time in 2000/01. On 4 October, the Commission also proposed amending the basic regulation in force from the 2001/02 marketing year while retaining the fundamental principles of quotas, price guarantees and financing by producers (Table II).

397. On 17 July, the Council adopted a reform of the market organisations in flax and hemp, to apply from the 2001/02 marketing year, which is aimed firstly at integrating the two crops into the support system for arable crop producers under Regulation (EC) No 1251/1999 and secondly at granting additional support to approved processors in the form of aid for processing flax and hemp straw grown for fibre (Table II). The measures promoting flax fibres and aid for the private storage of flax fibres and hemp are to be discontinued from

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.111.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 246, 5.11.1971, as amended by the Act of Accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden and, most recently, by Regulation (EC) No 1405/1999 (OJ L 164, 30.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 512).

2001/02. The Council also decided that, for the 2000/01 marketing year and by 31 October at the latest, the aid for fibre flax and hemp will be fixed by the Commission within a budget of EUR 88 million and will be tied to crop declarations.

398. Further to the transitional measures in the olive oil sector during the three marketing years from 1 November 1998 to 31 October 2001⁽¹⁾, the Commission presented a report on 21 December on a quality policy for this product⁽²⁾ as well as a proposal for a regulation to extend the rules currently in force up to the end of the 2002/03 marketing year⁽³⁾ and to make aid under the future rules conditional, as from November 2003, on the introduction of a geographical information system (GIS) for olive growing (Table II).

399. In the fruit and vegetable sector, the Council adopted on 4 December a regulation harmonising the arrangements for processed tomatoes, citrus fruit, peaches and pears, simplifying the procedure for fixing aid for the operational funds of producer organisations and improving the management of export refunds (Table II). In a resolution dated 16 June Parliament called for support measures to be adopted for the Community's production of nuts and locust beans⁽⁴⁾. On 5 October, the Commission proposed that the period of validity of the support arrangements for this sector be extended to include 2001 (Table II).

400. Following the 1997 decision by the World Trade Organisation's dispute settlement body⁽⁵⁾ and the Commission's own November 1999 proposal amending the present banana import regime⁽⁶⁾, advocating a two-stage approach, the Commission noted in a communication of 5 July⁽⁷⁾ that the negotiations with interested parties on maintaining tariff quotas during the first stage managed on the basis of historical reference amounts had reached an impasse. The Council took note of that report on 10 July and invited the Commission to examine the possibility of managing quotas on a 'first come, first served' basis and to present to the Council a progress report on this approach. After concluding that the communication presented by the Commission on 4 October, dealing in part with the feasibility of the 'first come, first served' method⁽⁸⁾, provided a viable solution to the WTO dispute over the Community's banana import regime, the Council reached a political agreement on 20 December leading to a common position which would allow such a system for all quotas; however, a preference

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 18, 23.1.1999; 1999 General Report, point 514.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 855; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ Regulation No 136/66/EEC (OJ 172, 30.9.1966; Tenth General Report, point 174); previous amendments: Regulation (EC) No 2702/1999 (OJ L 327, 14.12.1999; Bull. 12-1999, point 1.2.187) and Regulation (EC) No 1638/98 (OJ L 210, 28.7.1998; 1998 General Report, point 551).

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.109.

⁽⁵⁾ 1997 General Report, point 622.

⁽⁶⁾ 1999 General Report, point 517.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 431; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.132.

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2000) 621; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.107.

of EUR 300/tonne was to be maintained for ACP countries under the third round of quotas, with transition to a single, unified quota system in 2003 (Table II).

401. In its conclusions of 23 October⁽¹⁾, the Council reaffirmed its commitment to compliance with the rules of fair competition between EU Member States and the new wine-producing countries, and examined the role of bilateral agreements in this respect. In July, it asked the Commission to investigate the possibility of introducing a regulatory framework for agricultural alcohol, confined to the following aspects: definition of agricultural alcohol, improved reporting of statistics to make the market more transparent, a system of automatic import licences, creation of a suitable committee to oversee the sector.

402. In a communication of 14 December⁽²⁾, the Commission sent the Council an evaluation report on the hops sector which included a proposal to extend the aid arrangements for producers until the end of 2002 (Table II).

403. On 7 June, the Commission adopted a proposal for a reform of the common organisation of the market in rice (Table II), aimed at restoring balance to the Community rice market, promote the competitiveness of the Community product by increasing direct aid to growers and abolishing intervention and ensure that rice continues to be grown in areas where it benefits the environment.

Livestock products

404. In connection with the implementation of the reform of the milk and milk products sector decided under Agenda 2000, Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/1999 of 17 May 1999 on the common organisation of the market in milk and milk products⁽³⁾ was amended on two occasions: on 16 May by Regulation (EC) No 1040/2000 (Table II) and on 20 July by Regulation (EC) No 1670/2000 (Table II).

405. In the beef and veal sector, Parliament and the Council approved Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000 introducing a compulsory labelling system which makes beef traceable all the way 'from stable to table', the aim being to provide comprehensive food safety guarantees and make production and marketing conditions more transparent (→ *point 671*). The measures adopted and the return of consumer confidence have allowed selling to take place from intervention stocks, which had built up as a result in particular of the crisis, without disrupt-

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.114.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 838; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 519.

ing the Community market or international trade and in compliance with the Union's undertakings in the World Trade Organisation. However, a further crisis linked to BSE began to arise at the end of October, causing renewed disturbance of consumption and the beef market. The Commission and the Council took rapid action to calm the market again (→ *point 670*). On 23 October, the Council extended the authorisation given to the Isle of Man authorities to apply a system of special import licences to sheepmeat and beef and veal⁽¹⁾.

406. In April, in the wake of sharper cyclical price movements on the pigmeat market, in particular during the 1998 and 1999 crisis, the Commission proposed introducing a regulatory fund into the market organisation (Table II) to be financed by producers and aimed at stabilising incomes by collecting levies when the short-term economic situation is favourable and making payments in times of recession. On 19 December, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 2825/2000 simplifying the definition of 'producers in less favoured areas' within the context of premiums for producers of sheepmeat and goatmeat⁽²⁾ and Regulation (EC) No 5/2001 introducing compulsory marking of the rearing method on eggs and egg packaging⁽³⁾.

Other work

Agrimonetary measures

407. Agrimonetary measures adopted in 2000 related solely to implementing Regulation (EC) No 2799/98⁽⁴⁾ and involved fixing agrimonetary compensation to offset the reduction in certain direct payments converted into national currency in Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom as a result of the appreciation of those currencies.

Food aid

408. The European Union provided EUR 196 million under its food aid programme for the needy in the form of agricultural products drawn from intervention stocks and made available to charities. Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden and the United Kingdom had withdrawn from the programme, so this aid was distributed among the other 10 Member States. Other similar operations involved aid for butter consumption (EUR 2 million), the free distribution

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.3.113.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 328, 23.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 2, 5.1.2001; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 349, 24.12.1998; 1999 General Report, point 521.

of fruit and vegetables (EUR 15 million) and distribution of school milk (EUR 83 million).

409. Since, by the end of 1999, the programme adopted in 1998 to send free supplies of agricultural products to Russia had not been completed⁽¹⁾, the Commission decided not to allocate the remaining quantities.

State aid

410. State aid schemes are covered by Section 6 ('Competition policy') of this chapter (→ *points 235 et seq.*).

Farm accountancy data network (FADN)

411. On 22 May, the Commission amended⁽²⁾ Regulation (EEC) No 2237/77 on the form of the farm return⁽³⁾ in order to take account of changes due to Agenda 2000, in particular relating to direct aid. In 2000, the FADN published macroeconomic figures for agriculture in the 15 Member States of the European Union, in particular on agricultural incomes and production costs. Special attention was paid to modernising and improving the management of the network through new consultation and data-gathering systems.

Advisory committees and relations with farming organisations

412. At the 80 meetings of advisory committees and working parties held in 2000 the Commission continued its dialogue on the evolution of the CAP in particular with representatives of producers, processors, traders, consumers and workers, environmental protection organisations and organisations active in rural development.

Agricultural management and regulatory committees

413. The activities of the agricultural management and regulatory committees are shown in Table 10.

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 523.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1122/2000 (OJ L 127, 27.5.2000).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 263, 17.10.1977.

TABLE 10
Activities of the agricultural management and regulatory committees

Committee	From 1 January to 31 December 2000			
	Meetings (¹)	Opinions for	No opinion	Opinions against
Management Committee for Cereals	48	998	61	0
Management Committee for Pigmeat	12	27	5	0
Management Committee for Poultrymeat and Eggs	16	64	1	0
Management Committee for Fruit and Vegetables	14	33	4	0
Management Committee for Wine	33	38	1	0
Management Committee for Milk and Milk Products	24	176	18	0
Management Committee for Beef and Veal	18	53	4	0
Management Committee for Sheep and Goats	6	8	0	0
Management Committee for Oils and Fats	14	28	13	0
Management Committee for Sugar	50	161	8	0
Management Committee for Live Plants and Floricultural Products	0	0	0	0
Management Committee for Products Processed from Fruit and Vegetables	9	18	3	0
Management Committee for Tobacco	5	11	0	0
Management Committee for Hops	1	1	0	0
Management Committee for Flax and Hemp	7	8	0	0
Management Committee for Seeds	2	3	0	0
Management Committee for Dried Fodder	1	1	0	0
Implementation Committee for Spirit Drinks	4	1	0	0
Implementation Committee for Aromatised Wine-based Drinks	0	0	0	0
Management Committee for Bananas	10	14	0	0
Joint meetings of management committees (¹)	27	19	0	0
EAGGF Committee	16	37	4	0
Committee on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development	20	73	1	0
Community Committee on the Farm Accountancy Data Network	3	2	0	0
Standing Committee on Agricultural Research	0	0	0	0
Standing Forestry Committee	9	2	0	0
Standing Committee on Organic Farming	8	6	0	0
Committee on Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin (²)	5	3	0	0
Committee on Certificates of Specific Character (²)	3	1	0	0
Committee on the Conservation, Characterisation, Collection and Utilisation of Genetic Resources in Agriculture	2	0	0	0
Joint meetings of regulatory committees	0	0	0	0

(¹) Including those relating to trade mechanisms (11 meetings), promoting agricultural products (5 meetings) and agrimonetary matters (3 meetings).

(²) For agricultural and food products.

Financing the common agricultural policy: the EAGGF

414. The 2000 budget⁽¹⁾ allocates appropriations totalling EUR 40.994 billion to the EAGGF Guarantee Section (excluding the monetary reserve of EUR 500 million, but including EUR 24.9 million allocated as a reserve in Chapter B0-40), broken down as follows (in EUR million):

• Crop products	25 867
• Livestock products	9 521
• Ancillary expenditure	1 501
Total (subheading 1a)	36 889
• Rural development and accompanying measures	4 105
Total (subheading 1b)	4 105
Guarantee Section total	40 994

415. When the 2001 budget was adopted on 14 December (→ *point 1063*), the appropriations allocated to the EAGGF Guarantee Section were fixed at EUR 43 297.7 million. Table 11 shows, by chapter, expenditure from 1997 to 2000, and the initial allocations in the 2001 budget.

416. The Commission adopted a series of decisions on the clearance of Member States' accounts relating to EAGGF Guarantee Section expenditure: on 1 March⁽²⁾ and 5 July⁽³⁾ in respect of 1995, on 14 February⁽⁴⁾ and 28 April⁽⁵⁾ in respect of 1999 and on 1 March⁽⁶⁾ and 5 July⁽⁷⁾ in respect of 1996. On 27 December, the Commission also adopted its Twenty-ninth Financial Report on the EAGGF Guarantee Section covering 1999⁽⁸⁾.

417. On 26 July, the Commission proposed amendments to Regulation (EC) No 1258/1999⁽⁹⁾ (Table II) on the financing of the common agricultural policy to take account of the recasting of the financial regulation (→ *point 1077*) by

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 40, 14.2.2000; 1999 General Report, points 529, 937 and 938.

⁽²⁾ Decision 2000/197/EC (OJ L 61, 8.3.2000).

⁽³⁾ Decision 2000/448/EC (OJ L 180, 19.7.2000).

⁽⁴⁾ Decision 2000/179/EC (OJ L 57, 2.3.2000).

⁽⁵⁾ Decision 2000/314/EC (OJ L 104, 29.4.2000).

⁽⁶⁾ Decision 2000/216/EC (OJ L 67, 15.3.2000).

⁽⁷⁾ Decision 2000/449/EC (OJ L 180, 19.7.2000).

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2000) 882; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 160, 26.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 501.

changing 'negative expenditure' under the EAGGF Guarantee Section in the various agricultural regulations concerned into 'earmarked revenue'.

TABLE 11
EAGGF Guarantee Section expenditure, by sector ⁽¹⁾

Sector or type of measure	<i>(million ECU/EUR)</i>				
	1997 expenditure	1998 expenditure	1999 expenditure	2000 expenditure ⁽²⁾	2001 appropriations ^{(2) (3)}
Arable crops ⁽⁴⁾	17 414.1	17 945.2	17 865.9	16 663.1	18 026.0
Sugar	1 607.9	1 776.6	2 112.8	1 910.2	1 726.0
Olive oil	2 187.0	2 237.0	2 091.8	2 210.1	2 473.0
Dried fodder and dried legumes	367.4	377.5	376.4	381.3	384.0
Fibre plants	906.9	869.8	1 027.1	991.4	855.0
Fruit and vegetables	1 555.3	1 509.5	1 454.1	1 551.3	1 654.0
Wine products	1 030.1	700.0	614.6	765.5	1 153.0
Tobacco	998.0	870.3	911.1	987.1	1 000.0
Other plant sectors or products	187.4	258.2	285.3	350.0	324.0
Milk and milk products	2 984.9	2 596.7	2 510.1	2 544.3	2 345.0
Beef and veal	6 580.5	5 160.6	4 578.6	4 539.6	6 007.0
Sheepmeat	1 425.0	1 534.6	1 894.3	1 735.6	1 620.0
Pigmeat, eggs and poultry, and other	557.5	329.2	449.2	446.9	170.0
Fishery products	21.8	10.5	7.8	9.4	16.6
Non-Annex I products	565.9	553.1	573.4	572.2	415.0
Food programmes	328.7	333.7	390.5	308.9	327.0
'Special supply' programmes ('POSEI')	187.6	200.3	223.7	226.9	246.0
Veterinary and plant-health measures	5.6	0.1	—	—	165.6
Monitoring and preventive measures	51.8	70.1	23.3	74.6	112.0
Clearance and reductions/suspensions (B1-10 to 39)	- 867.6	- 654.8	- 606.2	- 1 077.9	- 700
Promotion and information measures	54.2	45.0	68.5	48.7	66.5
Other measures ⁽⁵⁾	208.7	178.1	100.2	933.1	417.0
Total: subheading 1a	38 358.2	36 901.1	39 952.5	36 172.2	38 802.7
Subceiling 1a				37 352.0	40 035.0
Margin				1 179.8	1 232.3
Rural development and accompanying measures (subheading 1b)	2 064.8	1 847.0	2 588.2	4 176.4	4 495.0
Subceiling 1b				4 386.0	4 495.0
Margin				209.6	0
Total (1a + 1b)	40 423.0	38 748.1	39 540.7	40 348.6	43 297.7
Guideline	41 805.0	43 263.0	45 188.0	46 549.0	
Margin	1 382.0	4 514.9	5 647.3	6 200.4	

⁽¹⁾ In accordance with the nomenclature in the 2001 draft budget.

⁽²⁾ Including the appropriations entered under Chapter B0-40 (Reserves and provisions).

⁽³⁾ Initial commitment appropriations entered in the 2001 budget.

⁽⁴⁾ Cereals, oilseeds, protein crops and set-aside.

⁽⁵⁾ From the 1996 budget, this chapter mainly covers agrimonetary aid.

Pre-accession instruments

418. Pre-accession instruments are dealt with in Section 5 ('Pre-accession strategy') of Chapter V (→ *point 724*).

International cooperation

419. Despite the failure to launch a new round of multilateral trade talks at the Seattle Conference at the end of 1999⁽¹⁾, sectoral negotiations on the review of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture began officially on 1 January 2000 in accordance with what was agreed at Marrakesh in 1994. With regard to disputes, the Community won its case in three major 'panels' relating to agricultural issues either directly (wheat gluten and bananas) or indirectly ('Foreign Sales Corporations — FSC') (→ *point 813*)⁽²⁾.

420. On 10 November, the Council authorised the Commission to vote within the International Olive Oil Council on behalf of the Community to extend by a further two years the 1986 International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives⁽³⁾.

421. The Commission negotiated trade liberalisation agreements for various agricultural products with a number of central and eastern European countries (→ *point 712*). In June, accession negotiations on the agriculture chapter were opened with Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia (→ *point 703*). The Commission also continued to represent the interests of the European Communities in various international organisations, in particular the OECD, the FAO, and other United Nations agencies.

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 676.

⁽²⁾ The WTO panels can be found on the WTO's Internet site: <http://www.wto.org>.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 214, 4.8.1987.

Section 14

Fisheries

Priority activities and objectives

422. *The priorities of the EU institutions in the fisheries sector in 2000 were monitoring and evaluating the ongoing multiannual guidance programmes for fishing fleets, policing the implementation of Community rules on conserving and managing resources and establishing a closer dialogue with the industry and other interested groups.*

Content of the fisheries policy

423. On 20 January, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the results of the multiannual guidance programmes for the fishing fleets at the end of 1997⁽¹⁾ in which it called on the Commission to submit proposals for harmonising rules on the power of vessels and to contract one or more independent certification institutes to check the data. On 10 May, the Commission adopted a report on preparations for a mid-term review of the multiannual guidance programmes (MAGPs)⁽²⁾.

424. On 24 January, the Commission adopted a report on the regional meetings on the common fisheries policy after 2002 which had been organised in 1998–99 to give representatives of the fishing industry and other interested groups in the Member States an opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Commission on the future of the fisheries policy⁽³⁾. On 16 June, the Council adopted some conclusions on these regional fisheries workshops⁽⁴⁾, stressing their importance within the wider context of the dialogue with the sector, as a forum for all those with an interest in the common fisheries policy to exchange views on its implementation, in particular from the standpoint of the features peculiar to the various regions and fishing zones. This had been preceded by the adoption on 27 March of Council Regulation (EC) No 657/2000 on closer dialogue with the fishing sector and groups affected by the common fisheries

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.147.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 272; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.3.110.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 14; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.146.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.116.

policy, whose aim is, in particular, to make the decision-making process more transparent (Table II).

425. On 24 January, the Commission adopted a report on the application of the Community system for fisheries and aquaculture in 1996–98⁽¹⁾ in which it emphasises the major developments introduced over the period, reviews the measures adopted in various areas of fisheries policy and reports on some aspects of the debate on the policy after 2002. On 29 June, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 1543/2000 establishing a Community framework for the collection and management of the data needed to conduct the common fisheries policy (Table II), and a decision on a financial contribution from the Community towards the expenditure incurred by Member States in collecting data, and for financing studies and pilot projects for carrying out the common fisheries policy (Table II).

426. On 8 November, the Commission presented a communication underlining the importance of the fisheries sector in reducing poverty in developing countries (→ *point 847*).

427. On 12 July, the Economic and Social Committee adopted an own-initiative opinion on the common fisheries policy and the fisheries situation in the European Union⁽²⁾.

Conservation and management of resources

Internal aspects

428. Regulation (EC) No 2742/1999 fixing for 2000 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in Community waters and, for Community vessels, waters where limitations in catch are required⁽³⁾ was amended by the Council on six occasions: on 16 June, to adjust the allocation of anchovy stocks in the Bay of Biscay⁽⁴⁾; on 26 June, to enable the exploitation of new fishing possibilities, adapt the terms for fishing in French Guiana, and improve the implementation of quotas in the Baltic, Skagerrak and Kattegat⁽⁵⁾; on 20 July, to establish the fishing opportunities for Community vessels in the waters of the Faeroes and Estonia and define the areas where Norwegian vessels may fish for blue whiting⁽⁶⁾; on 9 November, to

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 15; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.3.145.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 268, 19.9.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.136.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 341, 31.12.1999; 1999 General Report, point 538.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1446/2000 (OJ L 163, 4.7.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.120).

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1446/2000 (OJ L 163, 4.7.2000).

⁽⁶⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1696/2000 (OJ L 195, 1.8.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.3.138).

take account of the outcome of discussions with third countries concerning certain species and to define the areas in which herring may be taken in the north-east Atlantic⁽¹⁾; on 17 November, to ensure adequate protection for stocks of bluefin tuna⁽²⁾; and on 14 December to transfer Baltic herrings and sprat to the Community⁽³⁾. On 15 December, it also adopted Regulation (EC) No 2848/2000 fixing fishing opportunities and associated conditions for 2001⁽⁴⁾. On 18 December, at the request of the Member States concerned, the Commission adjusted certain fish quotas for 2000⁽⁵⁾, under Council Regulation (EC) No 847/96 introducing additional conditions for year-to-year management of TACs and quotas⁽⁶⁾. In a communication of 1 December, the Commission advocated the introduction over the next few years of a multiannual decision-making process which takes into account the precautionary principle and meets the concern of the industry to avoid over-frequent changes in TACs⁽⁷⁾.

429. On 17 April, in the area of technical measures, the Council amended for the fourth time Regulation (EC) No 1626/94 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean (Table II). On 17 November a further amendment was adopted extending the period of validity of certain derogations until 31 December 2002⁽⁸⁾. On two occasions the Council amended on 17 April (Table II) and 8 June, Regulation (EC) No 850/98⁽⁹⁾ (Table II). On 6 September, the Commission proposed a third amendment to this regulation (Table II). The Commission also adopted, on 9 February and 30 March respectively, Regulations (EC) No 304/2000⁽¹⁰⁾ and (EC) No 304/2000⁽¹¹⁾ establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of cod in the Irish Sea (ICES division VIIa), and, on 17 November, the Council laid down additional measures for the same purpose (Table II). On 22 November, the Commission proposed a new regulation to the same end for 2001 (Table II).

430. The Commission continued to monitor compliance with TACs and quotas and technical measures in Community waters and certain international waters, leading to the closure of 39 fisheries in 2000. It also monitored compliance with conservation measures, agreements with third countries and international conventions, took part in setting up the inspection scheme in the regulatory area covered by the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries, held meetings with the group of experts of the Member States on the

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2517/2000 (OJ L 290, 17.11.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.116).

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2579/2000 (OJ L 298, 25.11.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.117).

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2765/2000 (OJ L 321, 19.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 334, 30.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2773/2000 (OJ L 321, 19.12.2000).

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 115, 9.5.1996; 1996 General Report, point 541.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 803; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁸⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2550/2000 (OJ L 292, 21.11.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.120).

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 125, 27.4.1998; 1998 General Report, point 601; as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1459/1999 (OJ L 168, 3.7.1999; 1999 General Report, point 539).

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 35, 10.2.2000.

⁽¹¹⁾ OJ L 80, 31.3.2000, p. 14.

implementation of the satellite monitoring scheme and, on 24 January, announced its decisions on the eligibility of expenditure planned by certain Member States in 2000 on monitoring and control systems applying to the common fisheries policy⁽¹⁾. An international conference was held in Brussels from 24 to 27 October bringing together 250 monitoring and control experts from around the world. This achieved its goal of encouraging the exchange of experience and examples of best practice, and underlined the fact that greater cooperation among actors, involvement of the industry, use of new technologies and improved cost-effectiveness of controls are the keys to making sure that rules are applied so that sustainable fisheries can be guaranteed throughout the world.

431. The Commission was notified by the Member States of 69 national conservation measures, of which 40 were the subject of comments by the Commission and 29 were still under scrutiny on 31 December.

External aspects

432. The Community participated in the work of several international fisheries organisations, including the North-West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO), the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO), the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). It also contributed to preparatory work for the future south-east Atlantic and south-west Indian Ocean fisheries organisations (Table III). It had observer status in the meetings of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (Wecafc). The Community took part in negotiations within the IATTC to bring the basic convention into line with the Law of the Sea and continued its work⁽²⁾ towards joining that organisation. The Community also followed the proceedings of the multilateral high-level conference to establish a new organisation for the management of tuna stocks in the western central Pacific and took steps towards joining this future organisation also.

433. On 8 June, in line with recommendations from several regional organisations, the Commission proposed bringing together in a single regulation the whole range of technical measures applicable to certain migratory stocks (Table II). Moreover, on 10 July, in order to transpose a CCAMLR conservation measure into Community law, it adopted a proposal for a regulation establishing a catch documentation scheme for *Dissostichus spp.* (Table II).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 33, 8.2.2000.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 542.

434. In response to the Commission's communication on Community participation in regional fisheries organisations (RFOs)⁽¹⁾, the Council agreed, in its conclusions of 16 June⁽²⁾, that such organisations played a fundamental role in the management of fisheries at international level and that their ever-expanding role called for increased Community participation. Parliament, in a resolution adopted on 15 November⁽³⁾, requested the Commission to present as a matter of urgency a communication covering all aspects of RFOs and the rules governing action by the Union in those bodies, in which it believes the Commission should play a part.

435. On 8 June, the Council laid down certain control measures for vessels flying the flag of countries that are not contracting parties to NAFO (Table II), to ensure that the operations of these vessels do not undermine the application of the conservation and implementation measures adopted by the organisation. On 17 July, it also adopted a decision on the acceptance by the Community of an amendment to the agreement establishing the GFCM with a view to establishing an autonomous budget for the organisation (Table II). On 15 May, the Commission laid down detailed rules for the application of control measures applicable in the area covered by the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries⁽⁴⁾, in particular with regard to data communication, the secure and confidential treatment of electronic reports and messages and inspection activities.

436. The Council adopted a decision renewing the protocol to the fisheries agreement with Mauritius (Table III) and adopted decisions on the provisional application of the protocols attached to the agreements with Angola (Table III), Côte d'Ivoire (Table III), Equatorial Guinea (Table III) and Greenland (Table III). It also authorised Spain and Portugal to extend their fisheries agreements with South Africa until March and April 2001 respectively⁽⁵⁾.

Market organisation

437. On 17 November, the Council adopted a regulation⁽⁶⁾ amending Regulation (EC) No 2406/96 laying down common marketing standards for certain fishery products⁽⁷⁾, so as to include in the new market organisation five new species eligible for intervention (scallop, whelk, striped mullet, red mullet and black sea bream) and, on 14 December, it adopted a regulation opening autonomous

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 542.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.3.123.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.126.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1085/2000 (OJ L 128, 29.5.2000).

⁽⁵⁾ Decisions 2000/686/EC and 2000/687/EC (OJ L 285, 10.11.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.124).

⁽⁶⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2578/2000 (OJ L 298, 25.11.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.3.127).

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 334, 23.12.1996; 1996 General Report, point 553; last amended by Regulation (EC) No 323/97 (OJ L 52, 22.2.1997; 1997 General Report, point 658).

tariff quotas for a number of fishery products for the period 2001 to 2003⁽¹⁾. Also on 14 December, the Council fixed the guide prices for fishery products for the 2001 fishing year⁽²⁾.

Fisheries and the environment

438. Following on from the second Commission report on the implementation of the conclusions of the Bergen conference on the integration of fisheries and environmental issues⁽³⁾, Parliament called, in a resolution adopted on 2 March⁽⁴⁾, for continuing efforts to improve the existing monitoring machinery under the common fisheries policy and appealed to the Member States to strive to set up the Community network of protected areas on the Natura 2000 model⁽⁵⁾. Also on 2 March, Parliament set out its views⁽⁶⁾ on the communication from the Commission on fisheries management and nature conservation in the marine environment⁽⁷⁾, urging the Commission and the Member States to step up the monitoring and control of compliance with environmental legislation and calling on them to launch an information campaign to make fishermen and consumers aware of the constraints on the exploitation of fishery resources.

Structural action

439. On 2 May, the Commission adopted Regulation (EC) No 908/2000 laying down detailed rules for calculating aid granted by Member States to producer organisations in the fisheries and aquaculture sector⁽⁸⁾.

440. Structural action implemented in 2000 is covered in Section 10 ('Economic and social cohesion') of this chapter (→ points 353, 359 and 360).

State aid schemes

441. State aid schemes are covered in Section 6 ('Competition policy') of this chapter (→ *points 235 et seq.*).

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2803/2000 (OJ L 331, 27.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000).

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2764/2000 (OJ L 321, 19.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000).

⁽³⁾ COM(1999) 270; 1999 General Report, point 548.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.115.

⁽⁵⁾ 1997 General Report, point 543.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.116.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(1999) 363; 1999 General Report, point 548.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 105, 3.5.2000.

Chapter IV

Citizenship and quality of life

Section 1

Area of freedom, security and justice

Priority activities and objectives

442. *Following up the conclusions of the Tampere European Council ⁽¹⁾, the Commission adopted in March, for the first time, a scoreboard ⁽²⁾ in the field of justice and home affairs which sets objectives and clearly defines the specific steps to be taken by the competent institution and includes a timetable for adoption and to record the progress of the steps to be taken, in order to keep under review the creation of the area of freedom, security and justice in the European Union provided for by the Treaty of Amsterdam ⁽³⁾. This scoreboard covers a broader scope than the areas of Title IV of the EC Treaty and Title VI of the Treaty on European Union, though it does not attempt to encompass all the potential legislative activity resulting from the incorporation of the Schengen acquis in the Treaty. It covers the years 2000 to 2004 and will be updated every six months, in order to maintain the European Council's political commitment in this field.*

With a view to constructing a common European policy on asylum and migration, the European Union has set up a European Refugee Fund intended to give balanced support to the efforts of the Member States to cope with the influx of refugees and displaced persons. The Commission has also presented initiatives on the temporary protection of refugees or displaced persons and minimum common standards on procedures for granting or withdrawing refugee status and two communications on asylum and immigration respectively. In the field of judicial cooperation in civil

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, points 889 and 1026.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 167; Bull. 3.2000, point 1.4.1.; http://europa.eu.int/com/dgs/justice_home/index_en.htm.

⁽³⁾ On 15 February, Parliament welcomed the progress made in 1999 in implementing this area (OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.4.2).

matters in 2000, the 1968 Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters was transformed into a Community instrument; three regulations were adopted on insolvency, jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and in matters of parental responsibility for joint children, and on the service of documents; the Commission presented a Green Paper on legal aid, and an action programme was adopted on the implementation of the principle of mutual recognition of judicial decisions. The Commission also adopted a communication on the mutual recognition of final decisions in criminal matters. Decisions were thus taken in the fields of mutual assistance in criminal matters, action to combat fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment, sanctions against counterfeiting, strengthening the rights of victims in criminal proceedings and the creation of a 'Eurojust' unit with responsibility for the fight against organised crime. Significant progress has been made in the fight against this type of crime (programme for the prevention and control of organised crime, agreement on cooperation between financial intelligence units, increased police cooperation to combat child pornography, signature of a convention against transnational organised crime, common strategy to help Russia combat organised crime). An action plan to combat drugs for the period 2000–04 was also adopted by the Feira European Council, which also set clear priorities for external relations in the field of justice and home affairs, while particularly complex negotiations were undertaken with the applicant countries.

Internal borders, external borders, visa policy, right of non-Community nationals to travel

443. The agreements with Iceland and Norway on the involvement of these countries in implementing, applying and developing the Schengen *acquis* (Table III) and the rights and obligations existing between these two third countries, on the one hand, and the United Kingdom and Ireland on the other, (Table III) entered into force on 26 June. On 14 September, in accordance with Declaration No 45 annexed to the Treaty of Amsterdam, the Commission also gave a favourable opinion⁽¹⁾ on Ireland's request to take part in the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* relating to police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, drugs, and the Schengen information system (SIS). On 1 December, the Council adopted a decision on the implementation of the Schengen *acquis* in the Nordic States (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden)⁽²⁾.

444. With a view to improving the exchange of information between Member States on false documents, the Council set up, on 27 March, a system of notifications to detect counterfeit travel documents (Table II).

⁽¹⁾ SEC(2000) 1439; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.1.

⁽²⁾ Decision 2000/777/EC, OJ L 309, 9.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

445. On 26 January, the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (Table II). The Council reached agreement on the proposal on 30 November. On 14 June, Portugal submitted to the Council a draft proposal for a regulation on the period during which third-country nationals exempt from visa requirements are free to travel within the territory of the Member States (Table II). On the same date, Finland submitted a draft regulation on practical procedures for examining visa applications (Table II). On 13 July, France took a similar initiative to facilitate the free movement of holders of long-stay visas (Table II).

Asylum, immigration

446. On 22 November, the Commission adopted a communication on a European immigration policy⁽¹⁾ aimed at initiating discussions with a view to defining this policy, with due account for the significant impact that admitting and integrating migrants has on the political, social and economic life of Member States and countries of origin.

447. On the same date⁽²⁾ and as requested by the Tampere European Council⁽³⁾, the Commission also adopted a communication on a common asylum procedure and a uniform status, valid throughout the European Union, for persons granted asylum.

448. On 29 May, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate with Iceland and Norway an agreement on the criteria and mechanisms for determining the State responsible for examining an asylum application made in one of the Member States of the European Union, Iceland or Norway. The agreement was initialled on 28 November (Table III).

449. On 20 September, the Commission adopted a proposal for a directive on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status in the Member States (Table II). The aim of this initiative is to establish, in the short term, a minimum level of harmonisation of the rules applicable in this area in the Community. It is an essential first measure on asylum procedures in the Member States, based on Article 63(1) of the EC Treaty. In a resolution adopted on 15 June⁽⁴⁾ on the Commission document entitled 'Towards common standards on asylum procedures'⁽⁵⁾, Parliament invited the

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 757; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.4.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 755; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.3.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 896.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.9.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 892.

Commission to adopt harmonised and simplified legally binding instruments, with special safeguards for vulnerable groups.

450. On 28 September, the Council set up the European Refugee Fund (Table II). The fund has been allocated a total amount of EUR 216 million for the period 2000–04, within the framework of action in favour of refugees, and is intended to support and encourage the efforts made by the Member States to receive refugees and displaced persons and bear the consequences. It also enables emergency measures to be taken in the event of a sudden, mass influx of refugees or displaced persons.

451. On 24 May, the Commission presented to the Council a proposal for a directive on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons (Table II), solidarity between the Member States in this case being via a mechanism for financial intervention by the European Refugee Fund and physical reception based on double voluntary action by the persons concerned and the Member States.

452. On 13 June⁽¹⁾, the Council approved the report of the high-level ‘asylum and migration’ working group for Albania and the neighbouring region and the list of actions for implementing the action plans drawn up for Afghanistan, Iraq, Morocco, Somalia and Sri Lanka⁽²⁾. It also authorised the Commission to start negotiations on readmission agreements between the Community and Morocco, Pakistan, Russia and Sri Lanka on 18 September (Table III). The European Parliament for its part was fairly critical about the action plans on 30 March⁽³⁾ and 26 October⁽⁴⁾.

453. On 19 May, Parliament rejected Finland’s initiative with a view to the adoption of a regulation on obligations between the Member States for the readmission of third-country nationals (Table II) and called on the Commission to take steps to implement the conclusions of the Tampere European Council on this subject⁽⁵⁾.

454. Following the tragic events in Dover (→ *point 487*), and taking account of the conclusions of the Tampere European Council, on 4 September France submitted a draft directive and a draft framework decision on defining and strengthening the penal framework to prevent the facilitation of unauthorised entry and residence (Table II). On 20 September, it also presented an initiative with a view to the adoption of a directive concerning the harmonisation of financial penalties imposed on carriers transporting into the territory of the

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.4.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 891.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 378, 29.12.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.4.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.4.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 896.

Member States third-country nationals lacking the documents necessary for admission (Table II). The Commission supplemented those initiatives with the adoption on 21 December⁽¹⁾ of two proposals for framework decisions on trafficking in human beings and the exploitation of children.

455. On 20 July, France submitted a draft directive on mutual recognition of decisions on the expulsion of third-country nationals (Table II).

456. On 11 December, the Council adopted a regulation concerning the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of the fingerprints of applicants for asylum and certain other third-country nationals (Table II).

457. At its meeting on 30 November and 1 December, the Council adopted a series of conclusions concerning the fight against illegal immigration networks⁽²⁾, the reception of asylum-seekers⁽²⁾ and harmonisation of the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents⁽²⁾.

Judicial cooperation in civil matters

458. On 29 May the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 1347/2000 replacing the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Matrimonial Matters and in matters of parental responsibility for joint children (Table II), Regulation (EC) No 1348/2000, replacing the Convention on the Service in the Member States of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents (Table II) and on Regulation (EC) No 1346/2000 replacing the Convention on Insolvency Proceedings⁽³⁾ (Table II). On 22 December, it also adopted a regulation transforming into a Community instrument, on the basis of Article 65 of the EC Treaty, the 1968 Brussels Convention⁽⁴⁾ on Jurisdiction and the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters (Table II).

459. Fulfilling the mandate conferred on it at the Tampere European Council⁽⁵⁾, the Council adopted, on 30 November, an action programme presented by the Commission on implementing the principle of mutual recognition of court decisions in civil matters. Taking as its starting point the existing legislation (the regulations referred to above), this programme determines the new fields to which identical or similar rules will have to apply, and the progress to be made in the fields already covered by Community law. On 22 June, France

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 854.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ 1995 General Report, point 972.

⁽⁴⁾ 1997 General Report, point 1043; 1999 General Report, point 899.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 903.

transmitted to the Council an initiative with a view to adopting one of the first measures concerned by this programme relating to mutual enforcement of decisions on rights of access to children (Table II). On 26 September, Germany also transmitted an initiative for the adoption of a regulation on cooperation between the Member States in the taking of evidence in civil and commercial matters (Table II).

460. On 9 February, the Commission adopted a Green Paper on legal aid⁽¹⁾ in which it focuses on the problems encountered by citizens in cross-border litigation.

461. On 6 September, the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation extending the programme of incentives and exchanges for legal practitioners in the area of civil law (Grotius — Civil), as established in 1996⁽²⁾ (Table II) and, on 14 December, a proposal for a decision establishing a second phase of a similar programme in the fields of general and criminal law (Grotius II — General and criminal) (Table II). On 30 November, France presented a draft decision on setting up a European legal training network which, based on the national training structures, would develop training for judges in matters relating to cooperation in criminal matters (Table II).

462. On 22 September, the Commission adopted a draft decision establishing a European judicial network in civil and commercial matters, the aim of which is to improve judicial cooperation between Member States and provide the public with practical information to facilitate access to justice in cross-border litigation (Table II). In its conclusions of 29 May, the Council called on the Commission to present a Green Paper assessing alternative methods of settling disputes under civil and commercial law⁽³⁾.

463. On 26 July, the Commission also adopted a communication on the mutual recognition of final decisions in criminal matters⁽⁴⁾. Intended to identify the different ways of proceeding in this matter, this communication is a contribution to the programme of measures called for by the Tampere European Council⁽⁵⁾ with a view to implementing the principle of mutual recognition, which will become the keystone of judicial cooperation within the Union. On 30 November, the Council adopted a programme of measures presented by the Commission which takes that contribution into account.

464. The Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Member States of the European Union was adopted by the Council and signed on 29 May (Table II). This convention, which is intended to supplement the

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 51; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.4.4.

⁽²⁾ Joint Action 96/636/JHA: OJ L 287, 8.11.1996; 1996 General Report, point 957.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.6.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 495; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.14.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 910.

1959 European Convention on Mutual Assistance, the Benelux Treaty and the Schengen Implementation Convention and facilitate application between the Member States, covers a large number of issues, including the procedures whereby assistance is afforded, specific forms of mutual assistance, interception of telecommunications and data protection.

465. On 29 May, the Council also adopted a framework decision aimed at increasing protection by criminal and other sanctions against counterfeiting in connection with the introduction of the euro (Table II). The Commission also presented a proposal for a Council regulation on the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (→ *point 1084*).

466. In response to the Commission communication of 14 July 1999 on crime victims in the Union⁽¹⁾, on 20 July Portugal submitted a draft framework decision on the standing of the victim in the criminal procedure (Table II), with the aim of laying down minimum rules as regards the victims' rights (information, participation in the procedure, protection of private life) and to encourage the Member States to develop measures to help them. On 15 June, the European Parliament welcomed the Commission communication and made some recommendations⁽²⁾.

467. In the field of financial crime, on 24 August France submitted initiatives with a view to adopting both a convention on improving mutual assistance in criminal matters, in particular in the area of combating organised crime, laundering of the proceeds from crime and financial crime (Table II), and a framework decision on money laundering, the identification, tracing, freezing, seizing and confiscation of instrumentalities and the proceeds from crime (Table II).

468. On 11 February, Denmark presented an initiative with a view to adopting a Council framework decision on combating serious environmental crime (Table II). This draft, which aims to respond to its increasing scale, establishes the minimum rules on the elements constituting criminal infringements and the applicable sanctions.

469. On 4 September, Germany submitted a draft framework decision on criminal law protection against fraudulent or other unfair anti-competitive conduct in relation to the award of public contracts in the common market (Table II).

470. To give effect to the conclusions of the Tampere European Council⁽³⁾, Belgium, Germany, France, Portugal and Sweden launched initiatives with a

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 906.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.10.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 910.

view to adopting a Council decision setting up 'Eurojust' (Table II). The task of this unit, composed of prosecutors, magistrates or police officers seconded from the Member States, will be to contribute to the effective coordination of the national authorities responsible for prosecution and to give support in investigations into cases of organised crime. On 22 November the Commission presented a communication⁽¹⁾ on this subject in which it proposes adding several elements with a view to increasing the added value of the Eurojust unit and make it as useful, flexible and effective as possible. On 14 December, the Council, following an initiative of Belgium, Germany, France, Portugal and Sweden, also adopted a decision establishing a provisional judicial cooperation unit which should stimulate and improve the coordination of investigations and prosecutions between Member States until Eurojust is set up (Table II).

Police and customs cooperation and the fight against organised or other crime

471. In response to the request of the Vienna European Council⁽²⁾ to step up, in accordance with the new provisions of the Treaty of Amsterdam⁽³⁾, the European Union's action against organised crime, on 27 March the Council adopted an action programme entitled 'The prevention and control of organised crime: A European strategy for the beginning of the new millennium'⁽⁴⁾. This new programme, replacing the one approved by the Amsterdam European Council in 1997⁽³⁾, which expired in 1999, makes about 30 multidisciplinary recommendations on stepping up European cooperation in preventing and combating this type of crime. On 21 September, this initiative was welcomed by Parliament which, however, regretted that it had not been consulted and made a number of practical suggestions⁽⁵⁾. In connection with the implementation of the conclusions of the Tampere European Council on crime prevention, the Council adopted a decision on setting up a European crime prevention network (Table II). The Commission presented a communication on 29 November⁽⁶⁾ crime prevention, together with a draft decision on a financial programme (Table II). The communication, which is intended to provide material for discussions on European crime prevention guidelines and initiatives, recommends that a European crime prevention network be set up.

472. On the international front, the European Union took an active part in the work of the United Nations on the Convention against Transnational

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 746; Bull. 11-2000, point 14.9.

⁽²⁾ 1998 General Report, point 960.

⁽³⁾ 1997 General Report, point 1031.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 124, 3.5.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.9.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.16.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 786; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.14.

Organised Crime, signed on 15 December in Palermo (Table III). One of the convention's main components concerns measures to combat money laundering. The convention also has three additional protocols annexed to it on the manufacture of and trafficking in firearms (Table III), the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings (Table III).

473. On 27 March, the Council adopted an action plan with Russia to combat organised crime⁽¹⁾. This action plan, which partly follows up the common strategy of the European Union on Russia⁽²⁾, aims to promote close cooperation between the Union, its Member States and Russia, essentially in the judicial and law-enforcement fields. In this context, the Union will help Russia to bring its procedures into line with international practice regarding judicial cooperation, and to train those active in the legal services field. Particular attention will also be given to measures to combat corruption, money laundering, trafficking in human beings, drugs and weapons. Cooperation between Europol and the competent Russian services will also be developed, as will appropriate cooperation within the competent international bodies.

474. On 14 December, the Commission proposed establishing a second phase of the programme of incentives, exchanges, training and cooperation for the law enforcement authorities of the Member States of the European Union (OISIN II) (Table II).

475. The Commission played an active role in the discussions on the European Police Academy proposed in the wake of the conclusions of the Tampere European Council⁽³⁾. On 22 December, following an initiative from Portugal, the Council adopted Decision 2000/820/JHA on the establishment of a European Police College (CEPOL), initially to consist of a network of national bodies, with the task of contributing to training for senior members of the relevant departments of the Member States (Table II).

476. The Commission monitored the development of police cooperation on terrorism, especially in the light of the rise of terrorist activity in Spain. For its part, the Feira European Council expressed its abhorrence at the tragic incidents of terrorism in Europe and firmly reiterated its commitment to continuing the fight against terrorism⁽⁴⁾.

477. On 29 May, the Council adopted Decision 2000/375/JHA to combat child pornography on the Internet and aiming to combat, chiefly by means of police cooperation, the production, processing, possession and distribution of child pornography material (Table II). On 14 December, the Commission proposed establishing a second phase of the programme of incentives, exchanges,

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.13.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 797.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 910.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.40.

training and cooperation for persons responsible for combating trade in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children (STOP II) (Table II).

478. On 28 September ⁽¹⁾, responding to the call made by the Tampere European Council ⁽²⁾, the Council recommended that Member States should deal with all requests from Europol to initiate investigations in specific cases. On 30 November ⁽³⁾, it extended Europol's mandate to money laundering. On 7 October, in response to an initiative by Finland, the Council adopted a decision concerning arrangements for cooperation between financial intelligence units, with a view to combating money laundering (Table II).

Drugs

479. On 13 June, the Feira European Council approved an action plan to combat drugs (2000–04) ⁽⁴⁾, which sets out a catalogue of practical, multidisciplinary measures to be implemented by all the European institutions and the Member States in order to translate into reality the EU's strategy which was already endorsed by the Helsinki European Council ⁽⁵⁾, following various initiatives at Community level ⁽⁶⁾.

480. On the basis of a report assessing the risks posed by ketamine and GHB drawn up by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the Commission presented two reports to the Council on 16 November ⁽⁷⁾ in which it concludes that it is not appropriate at this time to submit an initiative proposing that the substances in question be subject to control at EU level, as provided for by Joint Action 97/396/JHA on the exchange of information, risk assessment and control of new synthetic drugs ⁽⁸⁾.

481. On 28 September, the Council concluded an agreement with Norway on the latter's participation in the work of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). Norway thus becomes the first non-member country admitted to this agency (Table III). On the same date, the Council amended Regulation (EEC) No 302/93 establishing the EMCDDA ⁽⁹⁾ to enable it to provide the applicant countries with the technical

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.17.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 910.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, points I.40 and 1.4.1.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 12-1999, point I.16.

⁽⁶⁾ 1999 General Report, point 911.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 737; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.15.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 167, 28.6.1997; 1997 General Report, point 1045. Latest initiative: 1999 General Report, point 912.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 36, 12.2.1993; Twenty-seventh General Report, point 598.

assistance necessary for their eventual participation as members in this work (Table II).

External relations

482. The Feira European Council of 19 and 20 June⁽¹⁾ approved the following priorities for external priorities in the field of justice and home affairs: on the geographical front, enlargement, the stability pact in the Balkans, the Mediterranean, the common strategies on Russia, Ukraine and the Mediterranean and non-military aspects of crisis management; on the horizontal front, the external dimension of migration policy, the fight against organised crime and terrorism, the fight against specific forms of crime (financial crime, money laundering, corruption, trafficking in human beings, high-tech and environmental crime), the fight against drug-trafficking and the development and the consolidation of the rule of law. The European Council also considered that the guiding principles for the external dimension of justice and home affairs are their relevance in terms of creating the area of freedom, security and justice, added value in relation to action by Member States, the contribution to the general political objectives of the Union's external policy and achievability within a reasonable period of time.

483. Throughout the year the Commission continued negotiations with the applicant countries (→ *point 703*) in the field of justice and home affairs (Chapter 24) on complex topics such as border controls, asylum, migration, visas, customs and police cooperation and judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, with a view not only to adopting the *acquis*, but also to developing institutions and applying EU rules in practice.

484. Justice and home affairs represented a significant part of the Commission's contribution to the work of the stability pact for south-eastern Europe (→ *point 893*).

485. Under the partnership and cooperation agreement between the European Union and Russia, the subcommittee set up to examine the joint efforts made to combat illegal activities met on 5 and 6 October in Moscow and reached a consensus on new forms of cooperation and projects in the field of justice and home affairs. An action plan to help Russia fight organised crime was also adopted (→ *point 943*).

486. Within the framework of cooperation and dialogue with the United States and Canada, exchanges were continued and intensified in various justice

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point I.40.

and home affairs sectors, such as migration, money laundering and computer crime (→ *points 957 and 969*).

487. At the European Union–China summit on 23 October (→ *point 996*), the two parties decided, with reference to the Dover tragedy⁽¹⁾ where 58 illegal Chinese immigrants were found dead in a refrigerator lorry, to initiate active cooperation to combat illegal immigration networks.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.4.

Section 2

Citizens' rights

The right to free movement and residence

488. On 6 September, Parliament gave its opinion⁽¹⁾ on the Commission's report on the implementation of a series of directives on the right of residence for students, retired persons and other non-economically active persons⁽²⁾, and on the Commission's communication on the special measures concerning the movement and residence of citizens of the Union which are justified on grounds of public policy, public security or public health⁽³⁾. While it approved these two documents, it regretted that many obstacles exist to freedom of movement and residence, and expressed its concern about the situation of migrant workers. In a resolution passed on 27 October, it also expressed its concern at the conditions of employment of foreign *lettori* in Italian universities⁽⁴⁾.

Right to vote and stand in elections

489. On 18 December, with a view to ensuring that Community law is applied correctly and to bringing the Union closer to its citizens, the Commission adopted a communication⁽⁵⁾ on the application of Directive 93/109/EC⁽⁶⁾ at the June 1999 elections to the European Parliament, which assesses the application of the directive, highlighting the main problems that emerged and encouraging the good practices developed in certain Member States.

Right to diplomatic protection

490. The Commission took part in the meetings of the Council working party on consular affairs, and in particular those concerning the transfer of sentenced persons on the basis of an international Council of Europe convention which has acquired an extra-European dimension owing to the accession of the United

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.21.

⁽²⁾ 1995 General Report, point 8.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 9.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.9.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 843; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 329, 30.12.1993; Twenty-seventh General Report, point 590.

States and other countries. As part of the exchanges of views with the European Union troika, the working party held a meeting in Washington with the United States, at which the Commission was represented, to discuss various topical issues relating to consular relations between the Member States of the Union and the United States.

Right of petition and right of access to the Ombudsman

491. On 6 July, Parliament passed a resolution⁽¹⁾ on the deliberations of its Committee on Petitions in the 1999/2000 parliamentary year. The Committee examined some 700 petitions, mostly relating to social security, the environment, taxation, the free movement of persons and the recognition of qualifications. The Commission was consulted on the vast majority of the petitions examined and sent communications to Parliament on the various cases. In certain cases, the intervention of the Commission and Parliament ensured that petitioners obtained satisfaction. The Committee on Petitions also gave consideration throughout the year to the reorganisation of its work and to the conclusion of a new exchange of letters with the Commission and the Council on the procedure for examining petitions.

492. On 6 July, Parliament also adopted a resolution⁽²⁾ on the fifth annual report (1999)⁽³⁾ of the European Ombudsman, Mr Söderman, whose mandate was renewed on 27 October 1999⁽⁴⁾. Of the 1 577 complaints received and examined in 1999, some 70 % fell outside the scope of the Ombudsman's mandate, while 206 were deemed admissible and investigated further; 163 of these concerned the Commission. The main types of maladministration cited related to lack of transparency, delays that could have been avoided, discrimination, abuse of power, rights of defence, errors in law and negligence. In his report, the Ombudsman again called for a change in his status such that all restrictions on his right of access to documents of the institutions and bodies he reviews be removed. On 17 November, Parliament also gave its opinion⁽⁵⁾ on the special report from the European Ombudsman into secrecy in the Commission's recruitment procedures⁽⁶⁾. While recommending a number of measures to increase openness in competitions, it noted the Commission's positive reaction to the Ombudsman's recommendations.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.19.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.18.

⁽³⁾ Report available on the Internet: <http://www.euro-ombudsman.eu.int/report/en/default.htm>.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 16.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.18.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 371, 22.12.1999; 1999 General Report, point 15.

Section 3

Education and culture

Priority activities and objectives

493. *In the field of education and culture, the year 2000 saw the adoption of new Community programmes concerned with education (Socrates II), young people (Youth) and culture (Culture 2000 and MEDIA Plus), with greater emphasis on decentralisation than in the past, geared primarily towards better occupational integration, equal opportunities and active citizenship. With these programmes getting under way, the new vocational training programme (Leonardo da Vinci II) adopted in 1999 was also launched. In addition, the Commission took various measures for the evaluation of quality in school education and for education-related cooperation with third countries. Moreover, in line with the objectives set by the Lisbon European Council, the Commission adopted the initiative 'eLearning — designing tomorrow's education', extending the eEurope action plan to the field of education and training. In terms of promoting the transnational mobility of persons active in the fields of education, training and youth, the Commission put forward a proposal for an action plan which received Council backing and was approved by the Nice European Council.*

Education, training and youth

Education

494. On 24 January, the European Parliament and the Council adopted the decision establishing, for the period 2000–06, the second phase of the 'Socrates' Community action programme in the field of education⁽¹⁾ (Table I). The objectives of this programme, covered by a budget of EUR 1.85 billion, are to reinforce the European dimension of education while promoting equal opportunities at all levels, to strive for a quantitative and qualitative improvement in knowledge of EU languages, to promote cooperation and mobility in the education field by helping to remove obstacles to the creation of a European education area, and to encourage innovation in the development of educational practices and materials.

⁽¹⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/socrates.html>.

495. On 21 January, the Commission adopted a proposal for a recommendation on mobility within the Community for students, trainees, young volunteers, teachers and trainers (Table I). In line with the Green Paper on obstacles to transnational mobility⁽¹⁾, this proposal seeks to get the Member States to take specific measures to remove these obstacles. The Council adopted a common position on the proposal on 9 November, followed, on 15 December, by a resolution on an action plan for mobility⁽²⁾, which was approved by the Nice European Council in December⁽²⁾.

496. In school education (Comenius strand of the Socrates programme), 2 738 school partnerships were financed in 2000, involving 9 856 coordinating schools and partners, while 10 183 teachers benefited from the mobility provided by Comenius. Moreover, 1 911 teachers took part in Europe-wide continuing training activities organised for their benefit. The Commission also gave support to 162 continuing training projects and 70 projects concerned with intercultural education and the education of children of migrant workers and travelling tradespeople. To promote the acquisition of European language skills, support was given, in 2000, to cooperation programmes for the training of teachers, mobility grants for teachers and assistants, and joint language-learning projects between schools (involving 40 532 young people).

497. In May, the Commission published the first European report on the quality of school education⁽³⁾, based on 16 quality indicators. It also adopted, on 24 January, a proposal for a recommendation on European cooperation in quality evaluation in school education (Table I), in respect of which the Council adopted a common position on 9 November.

498. As regards higher education (Erasmus strand of the Socrates programme), financial assistance was granted in 2000 to 1 814 higher education establishments (including 272 establishments in the 11 associated countries); 229 000 students and 45 000 teachers were thus eligible to spend some time abroad with a mobility grant. The academic credit transfer system was implemented in 824 establishments. Furthermore, funding was given to 122 joint syllabus development projects (comprising 70 at postgraduate level, 19 at basic or intermediate level, 30 'European modules' and 3 integrated language courses) and to 238 intensive programmes, as well as to 18 new thematic network projects. Additional aid was given to 16 existing thematic networks and 27 Erasmus curricular projects, to disseminate the results obtained during their three years of activity. Many of these measures included the development of linguistic knowledge. On 18 January, the Commission adopted a report on the results of a survey concerning the socioeconomic situation of Erasmus

⁽¹⁾ COM(96) 462; 1996 General Report, point 269.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/indic/rapinfr.pdf>.

students⁽¹⁾, on which the European Parliament expressed its views on 6 September⁽²⁾.

499. The Commission granted aid to 76 projects under the Grundtvig strand (adult education and other educational pathways) of the Socrates programme, and to 70 projects concerned with the development of open and distance learning (Minerva strand) and educational applications of the new information and communication technologies (→ *points 523 and 524*), and organised 1 875 ARION study visits for educationalists. The Commission also continued to support the Eurydice (information on education systems) and NARIC (academic recognition of qualifications) networks. Greater all-round emphasis was placed on language learning, particularly in school education (→ *points 496 and 507*).

500. For the Jean Monnet Project 2000 (European integration in university studies), the Commission selected 117 new teaching projects in Community law, European economics, European political science and the history of the European construction process, thereby bringing to 486 the number of Jean Monnet Chairs in the European Union. Work continued also in organising the Jean Monnet Chair networks through transnational multidisciplinary working and reflection groups on topical Community issues, with particular reference to the Intergovernmental Conference (→ *points 1 et seq.*), and a two-day symposium was held in Brussels.

501. The Commission continued its policy of cooperation with the ECSA (European Community Studies Associations) network, specialising in the study of European integration and now numbering 45 national associations. The ECSA world conference held in Brussels on 14 and 15 December, on the theme of enlargement, was attended by 300 or so participants from around the world. In connection with the provision of support for activities on European integration organised by universities, the Commission selected 96 projects dealing with topics such as enlargement, the euro, the Intergovernmental Conference and world trade.

502. On 10 January, the Commission presented a report⁽³⁾ taking stock of the results achieved, by the end of 1999, in implementing its White Paper entitled 'Teaching and learning: towards the learning society'⁽⁴⁾. The Economic and Social Committee meanwhile adopted, on 13 July, an information report on the European dimension of education⁽⁵⁾, in which it looked at the possibility of a more integrated European education strategy involving the social partners and civil society organisations, and advocating an entirely new approach to school-

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 4; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.4.16.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.22.

⁽³⁾ COM(1999) 750.

⁽⁴⁾ 1995 General Report, point 266.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.21.

ing, characterised by a different structure, wider objectives and more diverse fields of learning, and state-of-the-art methods and materials.

Vocational training

503. In 2000, the Commission concentrated on implementing the second phase of the Leonardo da Vinci programme⁽¹⁾ covering the period 2000–06, with the year's budget amounting to EUR 143 million. Under the programme's decentralised procedure for mobility-related measures, the Commission adopted operational plans submitted by the participating countries, enabling 37 000 people engaged in initial vocational training, students, young workers, recent graduates, trainers and instructors to spend a period of time in one or more of the 29 countries involved in the programme. For other measures, the call for proposals launched in January⁽²⁾ resulted in the submission of 3 094 pre-proposals followed by 1 482 proposals. In all, 235 projects (181 pilot projects, including 2 thematic actions, 21 linguistic projects, 13 transnational networks and 20 reference tools), involving more than 1 500 partners, received financial support totalling EUR 80.9 million.

504. On 22 December, the Commission adopted its final report on the implementation of the first phase of the Leonardo da Vinci programme (1995–99)⁽³⁾, containing a series of recommendations to do with the management of the programme and the dissemination and development of projects. The European Parliament for its part commented, on 8 September⁽⁴⁾, on the Commission's 1999 report⁽⁵⁾ assessing the European Year of Lifelong Learning (1996).

505. On 1 January, Decision 1999/51/EC on the promotion of European pathways for work-linked training, including apprenticeship⁽⁶⁾ came into force. The budget for this initiative in 2000 amounted to EUR 1.2 million. Taking all the Community languages into account, 300 000 copies of the 'Europass training' document were produced, together with 225 000 copies of a brochure and information leaflet.

Youth

506. On 13 April, Parliament and the Council adopted the decision establishing, for the period 2000–06, the 'Youth' Community action programme⁽⁷⁾

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision 1999/382/EC (OJ L 146, 11.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 283); <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/leonardo.html>.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 23, 27.1.2000.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 863; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.23.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 285.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 17, 22.1.1999; 1998 General Report, point 336.

⁽⁷⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth.html>.

(Table I). This programme, for which the allocated budget is EUR 520 million, is intended to help young people make a worthwhile contribution to the building of Europe, boost their sense of solidarity, foster a spirit of initiative, enterprise and creativity, and strengthen cooperation in the youth field both within the Community and with third countries. It also supports periods of voluntary service for young people outside their country of origin, initiatives taken by young people, cooperation projects linking youth systems and policies, and training activities for youth workers. As the first Community programme incorporating all youth-related activities, it will pull the various strands more effectively together, especially with regard to existing programmes and as a supplement to the Socrates (→ *point 494*) and Leonardo (→ *point 503*) programmes. Under this programme, around 7 000 projects were financed in 2000, involving 50 000 young people from EU countries as well as people from countries involved in the pre-accession process and from third countries involving a total of EUR 76 million. Moreover, in December, the Council adopted a resolution on the social inclusion of young people ⁽¹⁾.

Languages

507. As part of the Socrates programme (→ *point 494*), the Commission launched the new Lingua 1 action ⁽²⁾ aimed at raising general awareness about the benefits of learning foreign languages and improving access to language courses. In this connection, 31 cooperation projects were financed, involving 208 institutions, geared to the development of tools for teaching and learning languages and instruments for evaluating linguistic skills. Under the Leonardo da Vinci programme, funding was given to 21 projects aimed specifically at language learning.

508. The decision establishing 2001 as the European Year of Languages was adopted on 17 July (Table I), and preparation for this requires close cooperation between the Commission, the Council of Europe and the Member States. Also being coordinated with the Member States is the designation of a European logo for innovative initiatives in the field of language teaching and learning.

509. The Commission continued to support the activities of the European Bureau for Lesser-used Languages and other organisations working to promote and safeguard regional and minority languages.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 374, 28.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/languages/actions/lingua2.html>.

European Training Foundation

510. A new strategy for the foundation was adopted in line with the European Union's priorities for external relations and as part of the pre-accession strategy involving the applicant countries. It also reflects the growing importance of the foundation as a centre of expertise. The Commission proposed that the foundation's activities be extended to all the Balkan countries.

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)

511. Cedefop's activities in 2000 were structured around the operational guidelines and medium-term priorities for the period 2000–03, covering four main aspects: promotion of key skills and lifelong learning; development of new ways of learning; supporting employment and competitiveness; and improving European understanding and transparency. It published a first report on vocational training at European level and expanded its activities in respect of electronic publications⁽¹⁾.

European University Institute⁽²⁾

512. The Commission contributed a total of EUR 5.2 million towards the 2000 budget of the European University Institute; the money was earmarked for certain scientific and research activities (more specifically those of the Robert Schuman Centre, the European Forum and the Academy of European Law), and for the historical archives of the European Communities (→ *points 1230 and 1231*), which are managed by the institute. For the 1999/2000 academic year, the institute and its four departments⁽³⁾ had 49 professorial chairs (7 held jointly with the Robert Schuman Centre), whose holders develop research projects and supervise the work of some 350 doctoral researchers from all the Member States of the European Union and, in some cases, from third countries. The European Forum focused on the topic 'Between Europe and the nation State: the reshaping of interests, identities and political representation'.

513. On 15 May, the institute delivered to the Commission a report on the reorganisation of the Treaties in the context of the Intergovernmental Conference (→ *points 1 et seq.*).

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.cedefop.gr/>; <http://www.trainingvillage.gr>.

⁽²⁾ The report by the President of the institute and an information booklet on the institute's activities can be obtained from its headquarters (Publications Office, via dei Roccettini, 9, I-50016 San Domenico di Fiesole (FI)). Information about the institute and its activities can also be accessed online (<http://www.iue.it>), including recent editions of the European Foreign Policy Bulletin.

⁽³⁾ History and civilisation, economics, law, political and social sciences.

Culture, audiovisual policy and sport

Culture

514. On 14 February, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Decision No 508/2000/EC establishing the 'Culture 2000' programme⁽¹⁾ (Table I). Covering a five-year period (2000–04), with an overall budget of EUR 167 million, this programme is designed to reinforce and rationalise the effectiveness of cooperation in all artistic and cultural sectors, within the framework of a single financing and programming instrument. A further aim is to contribute to the promotion of a cultural area common to the people of Europe, by fostering cooperation between creative artists, cultural operators, public and private promoters, those responsible for the activities of cultural networks and other partners, as well as between the cultural institutions of the Member States.

515. In conjunction with this programme, a call for applications⁽²⁾ yielded support for 198 projects and 19 cooperation agreements in the fields of theatre, cultural heritage, music and books. Support was also given to 9 joint projects undertaken by the European Cities of Culture for the year 2000 and to 2 European heritage laboratories. Lastly, the call for proposals introducing a prize for contemporary architecture⁽³⁾ was the first step in organising a biennial prize to be awarded to young architects who, through their work, help to raise awareness of the part played by architecture in the creation of environmental quality.

516. On 16 May, the Council adopted a resolution on the conservation and enhancement of European cinema heritage⁽⁴⁾, emphasising how this can help to consolidate the cultural identity of European countries; on 23 November, it adopted a resolution on national aid to the film and audiovisual industries⁽⁵⁾.

Audiovisual and media⁽⁶⁾

517. On 17 July, the Commission adopted its fourth communication⁽⁷⁾ on the application of Articles 4 and 5 of 'television without frontiers' Directive 89/552/EEC⁽⁸⁾ for the period 1997–98. Pursuant to Article 3a of the 'television without frontiers' directive, whereby the Member States can draw up a list of

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/culture/C2000-index_en.html.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 101, 8.4.2000.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 224, 5.8.2000.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 193, 11.7.2000; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.20.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.28.

⁽⁶⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg10/avpolicy/index_en.html.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 442; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.26.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 298, 17.10.1989, as last amended by Directive 97/36/EC (OJ L 202, 30.7.1997; 1997 General Report, point 705).

events of major importance, the Commission published a series of measures notified by Denmark ⁽¹⁾, Germany ⁽²⁾, Italy ⁽¹⁾ and the United Kingdom ⁽³⁾.

518. On 5 October ⁽⁴⁾, Parliament expressed its opinion on the Commission communication concerning parental control of television broadcasting ⁽⁵⁾.

519. The Commission proceeded with the final year of the MEDIA II (1996–2000) programme ⁽⁶⁾ supporting and promoting the European audiovisual industry. In conjunction with the training of professionals in the audiovisual sector, 40 bodies were selected to implement training projects on production management, script-writing and the use of new image technologies. To encourage the development and distribution of European audiovisual works, 907 projects were financed, 321 of them concerned with the development of audiovisual works (pre-production), 51 geared to project ‘packages’, 15 aimed at strengthening or consolidating production companies, 380 providing selective support for the distribution of European films outside their national territory, 39 for video and multimedia distribution, 101 for television, 2 for the networking of European cinemas, 58 for international marketing and promotion, 75 for festivals and 3 for intra-festival cooperation networks. Some 154 companies benefited from the system of automatic support for the distribution of non-national European films. Seven projects were selected under the procedure for supporting initiatives in respect of innovative and multilingual television and radio channels, along with pilot projects in the fields of electronic content distribution and electronic production networks.

520. With the backing of the Nice European Council ⁽⁷⁾, the Council adopted, on 20 December, a decision on the implementation of the MEDIA Plus programme to encourage the development, distribution and promotion of European audiovisual works (Table II). In December, Parliament and the Council reached agreement on the proposal for a decision on the MEDIA ‘training’ programme (Table I). The sum of EUR 400 million is earmarked to cover the entire MEDIA programme from 2001 to 2005.

521. On 26 June ⁽⁸⁾, the Council endorsed the approach set out by the Commission in its 1999 communication on principles and guidelines for the Community’s audiovisual policy in the digital age ⁽⁹⁾. Opinions on this were also expressed by the Committee of the Regions on 15 June ⁽¹⁰⁾, by the European Parliament on 6 September ⁽¹¹⁾, and by the Economic and Social Committee on

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 209, 21.7.2000.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 227, 29.9.2000.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 328, 18.11.2000.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.12.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 307.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 321, 30.12.1995; 1995 General Report, point 677; 1996 General Report, point 637; http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg10/avpolicy/media/index_en.html.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ C 196, 12.7.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.22.

⁽⁹⁾ COM(1999) 657; 1999 General Report, point 306.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.20.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.24.

19 October ⁽¹⁾. Moreover, in an opinion delivered on 29 March ⁽²⁾, the Economic and Social Committee asked the European institutions to consider laying down guidelines and devising legal instruments to ensure pluralism in the media.

522. Matters relating to advanced television services are dealt with in Section 9 ('Information society') of Chapter III (→ *point* 333).

Multimedia

523. The Commission gave new impetus to the strategy set out by the Council in 1996 and 1997 in the field of multimedia technologies ⁽³⁾ by presenting, on 27 January, a follow-up report entitled 'Designing tomorrow's education: promoting innovation with new technologies' ⁽⁴⁾. In addition, it launched the initiative 'eLearning: designing tomorrow's education' ⁽⁵⁾ adopted on 24 May, on which the Committee of the Regions delivered an opinion on 14 December, as part of the general eEurope action plan (→ *point* 318); with this initiative, the objectives of the plan are streamlined within an education-oriented framework, in line with the wishes of the Lisbon European Council ⁽⁶⁾ that European education and training systems be adapted to the needs of the knowledge society. The Feira European Council ⁽⁷⁾ welcomed this initiative.

524. From 20 to 27 November, and for the fourth consecutive year, the Commission organised the 'Netd@ys Europe' initiative with the support of all the European education ministries, aimed at exchanging and disseminating experience and know-how in the use of the new media, particularly the Internet, as teaching, learning and cultural instruments and resources ⁽⁸⁾. A budget of EUR 1.4 million made it possible to fund a mobilisation campaign in all Member States and to allocate a total of EUR 748 200 to 36 projects.

Sport ⁽⁹⁾

525. Activities in 2000 had to do mainly with implementing and following up the report presented by the Commission in 1999 to the Helsinki European Council on safeguarding current sports structures and maintaining the social function of sport within the Community framework ⁽¹⁰⁾, in which the Commis-

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.13.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 140, 18.5.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.16.

⁽³⁾ 1996 General Report, point 280; 1997 General Report, point 358.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 23; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.4.19.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 318; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.16.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.13.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point I.26.

⁽⁸⁾ Information available on the Internet at the following site: <http://www.netdays2000.org/>.

⁽⁹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/sport/index_en.html.

⁽¹⁰⁾ COM(1999) 644; 1999 General Report, point 312.

sion recommended a pooling of effort on the part of the European Union, the Member States and sports federations in order to preserve the social role of sport in its new economic environment. Accordingly, having regard to the declaration on sport annexed to the Amsterdam Treaty, a meeting took place between Mrs Reding, Member of the Commission, and European sports federations on 17 April. Moreover, the Commission organised jointly with the French Presidency the European Sports Forum on 26 and 27 October, during which discussions were held on the specific characteristics of sport, the protection of young sportspersons, measures to combat doping and the contribution of new technologies to sport. In December, the Nice European Council took note of the declaration adopted by the Council on the specific characteristics of sport and drew attention to certain aspects of amateur sport, the role of sports federations and the protection of young sportspersons.

526. The Commission also began to implement the Community support plan to combat doping, adopted at the end of 1999⁽¹⁾, which was endorsed by the Economic and Social Committee on 24 May⁽²⁾, by the Committee of the Regions on 15 June⁽³⁾, and by the European Parliament on 7 September⁽⁴⁾. The main work lay in mobilising the different Community instruments likely to help in the fight against doping and providing funding for projects. For the year 2000, a budget of EUR 5 million was earmarked for combating doping. Initially, 16 projects were selected following a call for proposals⁽⁵⁾, with particular emphasis on initiatives taking account of the 'gender' dimension and the needs of people with disabilities.

527. The Commission took observer status in the initial work of the international anti-doping agency set up on the initiative of the International Olympic Committee. In conclusions adopted on 5 December⁽⁶⁾, the Council outlined the ways in which the Member States, the European Union and its institutions could be suitably represented therein. The Nice European Council⁽⁶⁾ welcomed these conclusions and agreed to step up European cooperation in this area.

528. In a resolution on Euro 2000, adopted on 6 July⁽⁷⁾, Parliament requested all the countries with teams participating in European tournaments to take action both to foresee and to prevent hooliganism. In another resolution adopted on 7 September⁽⁸⁾, Parliament expressed its views on the Commission report to the Helsinki European Council aimed at safeguarding current sports

⁽¹⁾ COM(1999) 643; 1999 General Report, point 312.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.22.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.23.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.26.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 116, 26.4.2000.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.27.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.27.

structures and maintaining the social function of sport within the Community framework ⁽¹⁾.

Cooperation with non-member countries

529. As part of the pre-accession strategy, most of the applicant countries have been involved to varying degrees in the three new programmes Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth, from the outset (→ *points 716 and 717*). The countries of the European Free Trade Association within the European Economic Area are also involved in various Community activities in the fields of education, training and youth, and in the audiovisual and cultural sectors.

530. The Euro-Mediterranean initiative, jointly financed by the 'Youth' and MEDA programmes, has strengthened cooperation with the partner countries of the Mediterranean region in the areas of youth and voluntary service. In this connection, 63 projects were financed in 2000. A key aspect of cooperation is the appointment, in the 12 MEDA countries, of 'youth coordinators' who provide information, advice and assistance in establishing partnerships for non-governmental organisations in the youth sector.

531. Having regard to the partnership for education and culture created with non-member countries in connection with the 'Netd@ys Europe' project (→ *point 524*), the main countries involved in 2000 were Australia, Brazil, Canada and Israel, while more than 130 countries participated in varying degrees.

532. On 17 July ⁽²⁾, the Council amended Decision 1999/311/EC adopting the third phase of the trans-European cooperation scheme for higher education (Tempus) ⁽³⁾, thereby opening the programme up to Croatia and other countries, including the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In conjunction with the first call for proposals under the Tempus III programme, 36 joint European projects were implemented and 37 individual mobility grants were financed in 2000 in the non-associated countries eligible under the Phare programme, involving a total sum of EUR 10 million. In the independent States of the former Soviet Union, 60 joint European projects and 28 individual mobility grants accounted for a total of EUR 23 million.

533. On 18 and 19 December, the Council signed agreements renewing the cooperation programme for higher education and training with the Canada and United States respectively (Table III). Under the current agreements, concluded in 1995 ⁽⁴⁾, a fifth selection of joint projects was made, resulting in 13 coopera-

⁽¹⁾ COM(1999) 644; Bull. 12-1999, point 1.2.96.

⁽²⁾ Decision 2000/460/EC (OJ L 183, 22.7.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.23).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 120, 8.5.1999; 1999 General Report, point 292.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 279, 22.11.1995; OJ L 300, 13.12.1995; 1995 General Report, point 285.

tion projects with the United States and 7 with Canada, involving sums of EUR 1.6 million and EUR 740 000 respectively.

534. On 1 and 2 April, the Commission took part in a meeting of education ministers of the G8 on the subject of education policy in a changing society, at the end of which the participants made a firm commitment to improve cooperation and to share experience of mobility models such as Erasmus.

Section 4

Environment ⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

535. *In the year 2000 the major priorities for the European Union institutions were the preparations for the sixth environment action programme, aimed at setting out the broad lines of Community policy in this area for the years ahead, in particular in the run-up to the United Nations conference to be held in 2002, and the continued efforts to integrate environmental aspects into other Community policies. Significant progress was also made in the areas of environmental liability, waste, protection of the ozone layer, air quality and water. With the adoption of the LIFE III programme there is now a financial instrument for the environment for the period 2000–04. Negotiations relating to climate change remained an important item on the international agenda.*

Preparation of the sixth action programme

536. The publication in November 1999 ⁽²⁾ of the Commission communication containing a global assessment of the measures taken to implement the fifth environment action programme and guidelines for the future was followed up by very broad consultations with the public authorities in the Member States, representatives of industry and environmental organisations in order to provide food for thought with regard to the broad lines of the sixth programme. In addition, the Commission set up a web page on the Europa server ⁽³⁾ in order to enable the general public to contribute to the debate. In conclusions adopted on 30 March ⁽⁴⁾, the Council gave its views on the communication, as did the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions in opinions adopted on 24 May ⁽⁵⁾ and on 14 June ⁽⁶⁾ respectively.

⁽¹⁾ Further information can be obtained on the following web site:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/policy_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ COM(1999) 543; 1999 General Report, point 443.

⁽³⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/newprg/index.htm>.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.17.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.23.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.26.

Taking the environment into account in other policies

537. In response to the potential threat posed by the direct and indirect environmental impacts of projects supported by the Structural Funds which could destroy the balance of natural habitats, in a resolution adopted on 16 March ⁽¹⁾ the European Parliament called upon the Commission to ensure effective enforcement, in all projects, of the European Union environmental laws, and in particular the habitats directive ⁽²⁾, the birds directive ⁽³⁾ and the directive on environmental impact assessments for projects ⁽⁴⁾. In addition, the Council adopted a common position on 30 March on the proposal for a directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

538. Further information on taking the environment into account in other Community policies as part of the 'Cardiff process' ⁽⁵⁾ is given in Sections 1 ('Economic and monetary policy') (→ *point 45*), 5 ('Internal market') (→ *points 148 and 150*), 7 ('Enterprise') (→ *point 256*), 13 ('Agriculture') (→ *point 386*) and 14 ('Fisheries') (→ *point 438*) of Chapter III, Sections 5 ('Energy') (→ *points 595 et seq.*) and 6 ('Transport') (→ *points 626 and 627*) of this chapter and Section 4 ('Development cooperation') of Chapter VI (→ *points 848 and 849*).

539. On 2 February, the Commission adopted a communication on the precautionary principle, which, in addition to the health aspects (→ *point 664*), addresses potentially dangerous effects for the environment.

Industry and environment

Emissions and risks from industrial plants

540. In accordance with Council Directive 96/61/EC on integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC) ⁽⁶⁾, on 17 July the Commission adopted Decision 2000/479/EC ⁽⁷⁾ on the implementation of a European pollutant emission register (EPER) in order to improve public information and participation.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.20.

⁽²⁾ Directive 92/43/EEC (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992).

⁽³⁾ Directive 79/409/EEC (OJ L 103, 25.4.1979), as last amended by Directive 97/49/EC (OJ L 223, 13.8.1997).

⁽⁴⁾ Directive 85/337/EEC (OJ L 175, 5.7.1985).

⁽⁵⁾ 1998 General Report, point 484; 1999 General Report, point 445.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 257, 10.10.1996; Twenty-seventh General Report, point 473; 1996 General Report, point 453.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 192, 28.7.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.30.

541. On 12 April⁽¹⁾, the Commission proposed the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Protocol on Heavy Metals to the Convention⁽²⁾ on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Table III).

542. A communication submitted on 23 October on safe operation of mining activities⁽³⁾ set out the Commission's thinking on a series of accidents which occurred over the last 10 years and proposed various action on this subject, notably on prevention, including the candidate countries.

Chemicals and biotechnology

543. On 12 December, the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the conciliation procedure, reached agreement on the Commission's proposal to amend Directive 90/220/EEC on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms (Table I). After adopting, on 27 September, Decision 2000/608/EC⁽⁴⁾ concerning the guidance notes for risk assessment outlined in Annex III of Directive 90/219/EEC, on 19 October the Commission proposed amendments to the same directive as regards the criteria for establishing the safety to human health and the environment of certain types of genetically modified micro-organisms (Table III) (→ *point 663*).

544. In conclusions adopted on 30 March⁽⁵⁾, the Council welcomed the Commission's 1999 communication on a strategy for endocrine disrupters⁽⁶⁾ and called upon the Member States and the Commission to give a firm commitment to implement this strategy and apply the precautionary principle (→ *point 664*). The European Parliament in turn adopted a resolution on this strategy on 26 October⁽⁷⁾.

Waste management

545. On 4 December, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Directive 2000/76/EC on the incineration of waste (Table I), which strengthens the existing legal framework and enlarges its scope. On 18 September, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Directive 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles (Table I), which contains measures for the design, collection, treatment, recovery and disposal of such waste. On 13 June, the Commission adopted two

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 177; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.4.11.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 171, 27.6.1981; Bull. 6-1981, point 2.1.72.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 664; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.17.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 258, 12.10.2000.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.23.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(1999) 706; 1999 General Report, point 451.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.20.

proposals for directives on the management of waste from electrical and electronic equipment (Table I) which follow a similar approach.

546. On 26 July, the Commission adopted a Green Paper on the environmental issues of PVC⁽¹⁾ with a view to launching a broad public consultation in order to adopt a comprehensive Community strategy.

Environmental quality and natural resources

Protection of water, soil conservation, agriculture

547. On 30 May, the Commission published its 17th report on the quality of bathing water⁽²⁾, and on 21 December it adopted a communication on developing a new bathing water policy⁽³⁾.

548. On 23 October, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a directive establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (Table I), which constitutes a new basis for the coordination of policies in this area between Member States in order to prevent further deterioration in water quality and provide greater protection for water. It provides for a gradual reduction in chemical pollution caused by discharges of hazardous substances. Another aim is to ensure an adequate supply of good-quality surface and groundwater. On 7 February, the Commission proposed the establishment of a list of priority substances with a view to evaluating the risk they pose to aquatic ecosystems (Table I).

Protection of nature and biodiversity, coastal areas, forests

549. On 8 September, the Commission adopted a proposal for a recommendation concerning the implementation of integrated coastal zone management in Europe (Table I), calling upon the Member States to develop national strategies to implement integrated management principles. On 27 September, it adopted a communication⁽⁴⁾ advocating a strategy for Europe in this connection.

550. Following the 11th meeting of the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held from

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 469; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.29.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.29; http://europa.eu.int/water/water-bathing/index_en.html.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 860; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 547; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.35.

10 to 20 April in Nairobi (Kenya)⁽¹⁾, on 30 November the Commission amended the annexes to Regulation (EC) No 338/97⁽²⁾, in order to revise the lists of species in which trade is regulated⁽³⁾.

551. At the fifth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity held in Nairobi (Kenya)⁽⁴⁾ on 24 May the Community signed the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Table III), which was adopted on 29 January at a special meeting in Montreal⁽⁵⁾.

552. The Commission actively supported the conclusion of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) at its fourth and last session from 31 January to 12 February. Its final report, containing a proposal for new arrangements for forests, together with conclusions and proposals for action to ensure the sustainable management of forests, was adopted at the eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in April, and followed in October by the establishment of the United Nations Forum on Forests by the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Urban environment, air quality, transport, energy, noise

553. On 22 June, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a decision on the monitoring of specific emissions of carbon dioxide from new passenger cars (Table I). On 4 October, the Commission published its first report on the Community strategy to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from cars⁽⁶⁾. On 5 October it adopted a communication taking stock of the 'Auto-Oil II' programme⁽⁷⁾, which was favourably received by the Council⁽⁸⁾ on 18 December. On 9 October the Council adopted a common position on the proposal to amend Directive 70/220/EEC⁽⁹⁾ concerning measures to be taken against air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles (Table I). On 18 December the Commission proposed extending the scope of Directive 97/68/EC concerning the emission of gaseous and particulate pollutants from internal combustion engines to be installed in non-road mobile machinery (Table I).

554. The Council adopted a common position on the proposal for a directive relating to ozone in ambient air (Table I) on 10 October, on the proposal for a directive setting ceilings for sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.4.16.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 61, 3.3.1997; 1997 General Report, point 544.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2724/2000 (OJ L 320, 18.12.2000).

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 5-2000, points 1.4.30 and 1.4.31.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.4.36.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 615; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.22.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 626; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.23.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 76, 6.4.1970, as last amended by Directive 98/69/EC (OJ L 350, 28.12.1998).

compounds and ammonia (Table I) on 7 November and on the proposal to amend Directive 88/609/EEC⁽¹⁾ on large combustion plants and establish national emission ceilings for various gases and dusts (Table I) on 9 November. To implement Directive 96/62/EC⁽²⁾ on ambient air quality assessment and management, on 16 November the European Parliament and the Council adopted a directive setting limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air (Table I).

555. The Economic and Social Committee, on 24 May, and the Committee of the Regions, on 14 June, endorsed the Commission proposal on a Community framework for cooperation to promote sustainable urban development (Table I).

556. Where noise abatement is concerned, on 3 July the European Parliament and the Council adopted a directive on noise emission by equipment used outdoors (Table I). On 26 July, the Commission adopted a proposal for a directive relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise (Table I).

557. On 29 June, the European Parliament and the Council adopted the new regulation on substances that deplete the ozone layer (Table I), and on 28 September they adopted two regulations amending it as regards the base year for the allocation of quotas of hydrofluorocarbons (Table I) and as regards metered dose inhalers and medical drug pumps (Table I). From 11 to 14 December the Commission attended the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol which was held in Ouagadougou and reached agreement on the elimination of quotas of chlorofluorocarbons contained in medical products for the treatment of asthmatic illnesses.

Environmental instruments

LIFE

558. On 17 July, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a new regulation (LIFE III) for the period 2000–04 (Table I). The total budget is EUR 640 million subdivided into three parts: LIFE-Environment (47 %), LIFE-Nature (47 %) and LIFE-Third Countries (6 %). The Association Councils with Estonia, Romania, Latvia, Slovenia and Hungary decided on the participation of those countries in LIFE (→ *points 729 et seq.*). The Commission also

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 336, 7.12.1988; Twenty-second General Report, point 577.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 296, 21.11.1996; 1996 General Report, point 464.

adopted, on 25 October, guidelines for LIFE-Environment demonstration projects⁽¹⁾.

Voluntary approaches

559. On 17 July, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 1980/2000 (Table I) on a revised Community eco-label award scheme which is intended to promote, on a voluntary basis, products likely to reduce any harmful impact on the environment. On 15 June⁽²⁾, the Commission amended Decision 98/94/EC of 7 January 1998⁽³⁾ establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the Community eco-label to tissue-paper products.

560. On 22 November, the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the conciliation procedure, reached agreement on a proposal for a regulation allowing voluntary participation by certain organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) in order to improve their performance (Table I).

Other instruments

561. On 9 February, the Commission adopted a White Paper on environmental liability⁽⁴⁾, in which it set out proposals for a Community-wide environmental liability regime and invited comments from other European institutions and interested parties. The Commission considers environmental liability to be an important and necessary step in the implementation of the key principles of environmental policy enshrined in Article 174 of the EC Treaty, and in particular the polluter pays principle. To this end the White Paper proposes that three types of damage be covered: traditional damage (that is, injury to persons and damage to their property), damage to biodiversity and damage in the form of contamination of sites. The White Paper was endorsed by the Committee of the Regions on 12 June⁽⁵⁾ and by the Economic and Social Committee on 12 July⁽⁶⁾.

562. On 26 July, the Commission adopted a communication on pricing policies for enhancing the sustainability of water resources⁽⁷⁾, which sets out the main facets of water-charging policies taking the environment into account and explains the reasoning behind the Commission's preference for strict application of sound economic and environmental principles in water-pricing policies (and

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 308, 27.10.2000.

⁽²⁾ Decision 2000/413/EC (OJ L 155, 28.6.2000).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 19, 24.1.1998.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 66; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.28.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.25.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 268, 19.9.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.28.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 477; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.34.

supports the implementation of the economic articles (concerning pricing and economic analysis) of the new water framework directive (→ *point 548*).

563. On 29 June, the Commission adopted a report on the experience gained in the application of Directive 90/313/EEC⁽¹⁾ on freedom of access to information on the environment, together with a proposal for a directive aimed at correcting the shortcomings that have become apparent in the implementation of that directive with regard to public access to information (Table I).

European Environment Agency

564. In March, the agency published its annual report and its first report on environmental indicators⁽²⁾.

565. The Commission conducted the negotiations for the participation of the accession candidate countries in the European Environment Agency (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey) (Table III) and the participation of Switzerland as an observer (Table III).

Civil protection

566. On 20 December, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Decision No 2850/2000/EC aimed at establishing a Community framework for cooperation in the field of accidental or intentional marine pollution (Table I). The decision includes an action programme for the period 2000–06 and covers pollution risks posed by oil and other hazardous substances.

567. On 27 September, the Council adopted a resolution on strengthening the capabilities of the European Union in the field of civil protection. On 27 September, the Commission presented a proposal for a decision establishing a Community mechanism for the coordination of civil protection intervention in the event of emergencies (Table III) with the objective of strengthening the capacity in this field, based on four elements: pre-identification of material and human resources, joint training and exercises, the setting-up of assessment and coordination teams, and the establishment of an emergency communication system.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 158, 23.6.1990; Twenty-fourth General Report, point 504.

⁽²⁾ <http://org.eea.eu.int/documents/>.

568. The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 2 March on the economic and environmental consequences of the wreck of the *Erika* ⁽¹⁾ followed on 26 October by a resolution on the floods in Italy and Spain ⁽²⁾.

Nuclear safety

Radiation protection

569. On 20 March, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 616/2000 ⁽³⁾ extending until 31 March 2010 Regulation (EEC) No 737/90 ⁽⁴⁾ on the conditions governing imports of agricultural products originating in third countries following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. Pursuant to that regulation, on 24 July the Commission adopted Regulations (EC) No 1609/2000 ⁽⁵⁾ and (EC) No 1627/2000 ⁽⁶⁾ concerning the list of products excluded from its scope and the detailed rules for the application of the regulation.

570. Under the Euratom Treaty, the Commission continued to verify the application of the safety standards for the protection of the health of the public and workers ⁽⁷⁾. It published several documents to provide guidance on the application of the provisions of Directives 96/29/Euratom ⁽⁸⁾ and 97/43/Euratom ⁽⁹⁾ on the dangers of ionising radiation. Pursuant to Article 33 of the Euratom Treaty and taking account of the imminent entry into force of these two directives the Commission examined and issued recommendations on 20 draft national measures. In accordance with Article 37 of the same Treaty, it delivered 12 opinions on plans for the disposal of radioactive waste, and, under Article 35, it carried out two visits to verify the operation and efficiency of the facilities for monitoring the level of radioactivity in the environment. On 8 June, the Commission adopted a recommendation ⁽¹⁰⁾ on the application of Article 36 of the Treaty concerning the monitoring of the levels of radioactivity in the environment for the purpose of assessing the exposure of the population as a whole.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 346, 4.12.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.36.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.28.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 75, 24.3.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.37.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 82, 29.3.1990.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 185, 25.7.2000.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 187, 26.7.2000.

⁽⁷⁾ 1999 General Report, point 480.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 159, 29.6.1996; 1996 General Report, point 474.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 180, 9.7.1997; 1997 General Report, point 578.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Recommendation 2000/473/Euratom (OJ L 191, 27.7.2000).

Nuclear plant safety and radioactive waste

571. Information concerning nuclear plant safety is given in Section 5 ('Energy') of this chapter (→ *points 617 et seq.*).

International dimension

Global environment, climate change, geosphere and biosphere

572. On 8 March, the Commission adopted a Green Paper on greenhouse gas emissions trading within the European Union⁽¹⁾ which explored the use of such a scheme within the EU and the role it could play in contributing towards fulfilment of the Community's commitments under the Kyoto Protocol⁽²⁾. The Commission advocated that a prudent start be made to greenhouse gas emissions trading, e.g. by initially confining emissions trading to carbon dioxide emissions from large fixed-point sources, and explored a number of options concerning the sectors to be covered and the allocation of allowances. The Economic and Social Committee⁽³⁾ and the Committee of the Regions⁽⁴⁾ adopted opinions on the Green Paper on 20 and 21 September respectively.

573. On 8 March, the Commission also adopted a communication entitled 'EU policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions: Towards a European climate change programme (ECCP)'⁽⁵⁾. It stressed, as on earlier occasions⁽⁶⁾, how much more effort is needed for the EU to meet its target set by the Kyoto Protocol of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 8 % in the timeframe 2008–12 as compared to 1990, given that emissions are increasing. In this connection the communication establishes a multi-stakeholder consultative process, focusing on the key areas for emission reduction and includes a list of potential policies and measures which could be developed under the ECCP. The Commission adopted a report under the 1999 Council decision⁽⁷⁾ on a mechanism for monitoring emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases in the Community⁽⁸⁾.

574. On 22 June⁽⁹⁾ and 7 November⁽¹⁰⁾ the Council set out the EU's strategy for the sixth Conference of the Parties⁽¹¹⁾ to the United Nations Framework

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 87; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.40.

⁽²⁾ 1997 General Report, point 552.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.45.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.46.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 88; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.39.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(1999) 230; 1999 General Report, point 467.

⁽⁷⁾ Decision 1999/296/EC (OJ L 117, 5.5.1999; 1999 General Report, point 468).

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2000) 749; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.43.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.39.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.40.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.42.

Convention on Climate Change⁽¹⁾ held in The Hague from 13 to 24 November. This conference made progress on numerous technical aspects of the rules and procedures necessary to make the Kyoto Protocol work well. However, at political level no consensus could be reached on two major issues discussed in this final phase of the negotiations: use of 'carbon sinks' to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and the balance between domestic action in the industrialised countries on the one hand and use of the 'Kyoto mechanisms' (emissions trading, joint implementation and the clean development mechanism) on the other. Since there was not enough time to evaluate and quantify the proposals made by the United States and other parties on use of sinks and considering the concessions obtained by the other parties on other items under negotiation, the ministers from the European Union decided not to accept the proposals. Consequently, in the absence of an agreement, the parties preferred to suspend the conference and to resume discussions formally at the next session ('COP6-bis'). At Nice, the European Council regretted this failure and appealed to the parties to resume their work in order to reach an agreement as quickly as possible⁽²⁾. In conclusions⁽²⁾ adopted on 18 December, the Council indicated its intention of organising meetings with the other parties.

575. On 10 October⁽³⁾, the Council adopted conclusions on coordinated policies and measures concerning climate change, calling upon the Commission to encourage research and development and the use of the best available technologies, to pay particular attention to emissions from transport, agriculture and waste, and to consider financial and tax incentives.

International cooperation

576. The Commission continued its participation in the work of the Helsinki Commission, the executive body for the Convention for the Protection of the Baltic Sea⁽⁴⁾, the Black Sea Commission and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River. It also continued to contribute to work under the 'Environment for Europe' process, including support for the regional environment centre for central and eastern Europe and Moldova and for the establishment of new regional environment centres for the Caucasus, Russia, Ukraine and central Asia.

577. At an informal meeting in Brussels on 9 October, Mrs Wallström, member of the Commission, met the ministers for the environment from the candidate countries. Turkey was represented at ministerial level for the first time. Discussions focused on the state of play with the enlargement process, instruments

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 33, 7.2.1994; Twenty-sixth General Report, point 596.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.29.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 457.

for financing environmental investments and climate change. The second 'Cities towards EU compliance award' ceremony was held during the meeting.

578. The European Union took part in the work conducted at the eighth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development⁽¹⁾, held in New York in April, which focused primarily on agriculture, land resources, trade and financial resources and took important decisions in preparation for the 'Rio+10' Conference in 2002. The European Union also participated in the first Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the new political framework for the United Nations Environment Programme, held from 29 to 31 May in Malmö (Sweden). In conclusions⁽²⁾ adopted on 7 November the Council stressed the vital importance of finalising the negotiations on an internationally legally binding instrument on persistent organic pollutants (POPs)⁽³⁾, and in conclusions⁽⁴⁾ adopted on 18 December it emphasised the need to improve international governance with regard to the environment.

579. A ministerial meeting of the G8 on the environment was held in Otsu (Japan) from 7 to 9 April. The participants called for rapid fulfilment of the commitments entered into under the Convention on Climate Change (→ *point 574*) and ratification of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (→ *point 551*).

580. On behalf of the Community, the Council concluded the new Annex V to the OSPAR (Oslo/Paris) Convention on the Protection and Conservation of the Ecosystems and Biological Diversity of the Maritime Area (north-east Atlantic) (Table III) on 8 May and the new Convention for the Protection of the Rhine (Table III) on 7 November. Also on 24 January, it authorised the Community to participate in the negotiations on the amendment of the Protocol on Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil (Barcelona Convention) (Table III). On 17 February⁽⁵⁾, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the ecological disaster caused by a cyanide spill from a Romanian goldmine into the Danube and other rivers.

581. On 23 November, the Commission adopted a recommendation for a decision concerning draft amendments to the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Table III).

582. Further information is given in the subsection concerning the protection of nature, biodiversity and forests (→ *points 550 and 552*).

⁽¹⁾ Twenty-sixth General Report, point 596.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.31.

⁽³⁾ 1998 General Report, point 518.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.4.34.

Public awareness, information, education and training

583. As part of the Hanover Universal Exhibition (→ *point 1222*) the Commission organised a European Environment Week aimed at the general public and on 5 June it celebrated the World Environment Day with the active participation of children from all over Europe. In the context of Decision 97/872/EC⁽¹⁾, it supported the activities of 18 non-governmental organisations to raise awareness about environmental problems. It also launched a new two-monthly magazine 'Environment for Europeans' which is circulated to over 50 000 subscribers.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 354, 30.12.1997; 1997 General Report, point 565.

Section 5

Energy⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

584. *The Commission adopted a Green Paper on the security of energy supply in order to assess the role of each energy source in relation to energy policy priorities. In response to the worrying rise in oil prices, it adopted a communication stressing the importance of a coherent EU approach with regard to both internal measures and relations with the oil-producing countries. It also adopted a proposal for a directive on the promotion of electricity from renewables and an action plan on energy efficiency. On the international front, it set out the broad lines of a new EU strategy on nuclear safety in the central and east European countries and the independent States of the former Soviet Union.*

Security of supply and international cooperation

585. On 29 November, the Commission adopted a Green Paper on the security of energy supply⁽²⁾ and presented it to the Council on 5 December. It was designed to launch a broad debate on the role of each energy source in relation to energy policy priorities: security of supply, sustainable development, enlargement, and action to combat climate change. In December, the Nice European Council⁽³⁾ called upon the Commission to carry out, in cooperation with the Council's General Secretariat, a detailed study of the security of supply in the European Union and to identify possible ways of developing cooperation in this area.

586. In conclusions adopted on 30 May⁽⁴⁾, the Council invited the Commission to monitor and analyse developments in the security of EU gas supply in cooperation with the Member States and the European gas industry, and stressed the importance of exchanging information in this connection.

⁽¹⁾ Further information can be obtained on the following web site:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy_transport/index_en.html.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 769; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.47.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.37.

587. The energy negotiations launched in November 1999 with six accession candidate countries (Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia) continued (→ *point 703*). The Commission updated the screening reports for six other candidate countries (Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovakia), and preparations started for an analytical examination in the energy sector for Turkey. In the composite papers (→ *point 700*) concerning the candidate countries (published in November) the Commission took the view that they still needed to make progress in areas such as the internal energy market, oil reserves, restructuring in the solid fuels sector, energy efficiency and nuclear safety.

588. In conclusions adopted on 30 May⁽¹⁾ the Council welcomed the results of the third Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum held in Grenada (Spain) in May and stressed the central role of energy in the achievements of the objectives of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. Moreover Mrs de Palacio, Vice-President of the Commission, took part in the seventh international forum on energy, between 17 and 19 November in Riyadh.

589. Within the framework of the partnership and cooperation agreements (→ *points 932 and 944*), energy meetings were held with Russia and Ukraine, since the Commission plays an active role in the international task force set up to assist with the reform of the nuclear sector in Ukraine under the 1995 Protocol of Agreement⁽²⁾. There were also political and technical interventions in many regional frameworks, in particular concerning the stability pact in south-east Europe (→ *point 893*), the Baltic Sea area in connection with the northern dimension (→ *point 956*), and China (→ *points 995 et seq.*).

590. On 15 December, the Council decided to sign the agreement between the United States and the European Community on the coordination of energy-efficient labelling programmes (Table III).

591. Negotiations continued on an energy transit protocol⁽³⁾ under the Energy Charter Treaty⁽⁴⁾ and energy charter conferences were held in June and December in Brussels. At its summit in Okinawa in July (→ *point 956*) the G8 set up a task force on renewable energy sources.

592. As part of the reform process (→ *point 1207*) the Commission redirected the Synergy⁽⁵⁾ international cooperation programme towards the priority objectives as regards security of supply and the application of flexibility mechanisms, as well as an increase in the average amount allocated to contracts.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 5-1997, point 1.4.44.

⁽²⁾ 1995 General Report, point 516.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 362.

⁽⁴⁾ 1998 General Report, point 399.

⁽⁵⁾ 1998 General Report, point 400.

Activities concerned, in particular, the impact of energy projects in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, the opening-up of the energy markets and the promotion of clean energy sources in Latin America as well as the oil producers-consumers dialogue which has been encouraged at Council level.

Internal energy market

593. The Lisbon European Council meeting on 23 and 24 March ⁽¹⁾ asked the Commission to speed up liberalisation in areas such as gas and electricity in order to achieve a fully operational internal market in those areas. In response to this, in a communication adopted on 16 May on recent progress with building the internal electricity market ⁽²⁾, the Commission analysed the situation and examined the steps that need to be taken in order to facilitate the functioning of this market. Where gas is concerned, most Member States had already incorporated Directive 98/30/EC ⁽³⁾ into their national law before 10 August, the time limit for complying with the directive, and the vast majority have even exceeded the minimum requirements in terms of opening up the market in the Community. In conclusions adopted on 30 May ⁽⁴⁾, the Council welcomed the progress with liberalising the electricity and gas markets, while calling for measures to remove the final obstacles.

Trans-European energy network

594. Information concerning the trans-European energy networks is given in Section 12 ('Trans-European networks') of Chapter III (→ *points 380 and 384*).

Energy and environment

595. The priority energy policy objectives remain closely linked to European policy on sustainable development, a fundamental component of which is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (→ *points 572 et seq.*). The policies and measures proposed by the Commission to the Council and European Parliament with regard to new and renewable energy sources (→ *points 596 et seq.*), as well as the Community action plan for energy efficiency (→ *point 599*), were concrete responses to this issue, in particular as regards carbon dioxide (CO₂). These initiatives were also in response to the requests made at the Helsinki Euro-

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point I.9.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 297; Bull. 5.2000, point 1.4.38.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 204, 21.7.1995; 1998 General Report, point 406.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.39.

pean Summit⁽¹⁾ as regards taking the environment into account in energy policy. This approach is also taken into account in the Green Paper on security of supply⁽²⁾ (→ *point 585*).

New and renewable energy sources

596. On 28 February, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a multiannual framework programme (1998–2002) for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community (Altener II) (Table I). With a budget of EUR 77 million, this initiative is intended to create the legal, socioeconomic and administrative conditions required for the implementation of a Community plan in this area and encourage private and public sector investment to this end.

597. In a resolution adopted on 30 March⁽³⁾ the European Parliament stressed the need to promote renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market and advocated tax measures to this end. On 10 May, the Commission adopted a proposal for a directive on the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources (Table I), aimed in particular at increasing the share of renewable energy in inland energy consumption. Accordingly, the Member States will have to set annual national objectives consistent with the commitments entered into at the Kyoto Conference⁽⁴⁾ and the objectives of the White Paper on renewable energy sources⁽⁵⁾.

598. In an opinion adopted on 20 September⁽⁶⁾, the Economic and Social Committee called upon the Commission to undertake a joint policy initiative for sustainable development in rural areas which have considerable potential as regards renewable energy sources.

Energy efficiency and rational use of energy

599. On 28 February, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a multiannual framework programme (1998–2002) to encourage energy efficiency (SAVE II)⁽⁷⁾ (Table I). With a budget of EUR 66 million, this initiative is designed to stimulate energy efficiency measures in all sectors, encourage private and public sector investment in energy conservation, and create the conditions

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 373.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.37.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.42.

⁽⁴⁾ General Report 1997, point 552.

⁽⁵⁾ General Report 1997, point 452.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.48.

⁽⁷⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg17/save.htm>.

for improving the energy intensity of final consumption. On 5 December, the Council adopted a Community action plan on energy efficiency⁽¹⁾, which the Commission had proposed on 26 April⁽²⁾, which advocates measures to enhance the integration of energy efficiency into other Community non-energy policy and programme areas, measures aimed at refocusing existing successful Community energy-efficiency measures and new common and coordinated policies and measures.

600. On 28 January, the Commission submitted a proposal for a regulation on a Community energy efficiency labelling programme for office and communication technology equipment (Table I). On 18 September, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Directive 2000/55/EC on energy efficiency requirements for ballasts for fluorescent lighting (Table I).

601. On 20 December, the Council adopted a directive on summer-time arrangements (Table I), the purpose of which is to fix the dates and times when the summer-time period will begin and end after 2001 throughout the EU, and to establish the arrangements from 2002.

Promotion of research and technological development

602. Information concerning the specific programme 'Energy, environment and sustainable development' under the fifth framework programme for research and technological development (1998–2002) is given in Section 8 ('Research and technology') of Chapter III (→ *points 296 et seq.*).

Individual sectors

Oil

603. In response to the sharp rise in oil prices, on 4 October⁽³⁾ the Commission adopted a communication on the European Union's oil supplies, stressing the importance of a coherent EU approach to promote dialogue between the major oil producing and consuming countries and adjust the EU's priorities in order to achieve more reasonable and more stable prices. It also underlines the importance of a common approach to taxation and the smooth functioning of

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 247; Bull. 4.1997, point 1.4.22.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 631; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.34.

the petroleum products market, in particular in the refining and distribution sectors, and emphasises the need for vigorous energy-saving measures.

Natural gas

604. Information concerning the implementation of Directive 98/30/EC on the internal market in natural gas is given in the subsection 'Internal energy market' of this section (→ *point 593*).

Solid fuels

605. On 6 December, the Commission adopted a final report on the market for solid fuels⁽¹⁾.

Electricity

606. Information concerning the implementation of Directive 96/92/EC on the internal market in electricity is given in the subsection 'Internal energy market' of this section (→ *point 593*).

Nuclear energy

607. Negotiations continued with a view to concluding a cooperation agreement on peaceful uses of nuclear energy between Euratom and Japan⁽²⁾. On 26 June, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate nuclear cooperation agreements between Euratom and Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (Table III). On 26 September, a tripartite safeguards agreement pursuant to additional Protocol I of the Treaty of Tlatelolco was signed between the International Atomic Energy Agency, France and Euratom (Table III) concerning nuclear materials in the French territories of Latin America and the Caribbean (French Guyana, Guadeloupe and Martinique).

Euratom Supply Agency

608. In 2000, as in previous years⁽³⁾, the EU's supplies of nuclear fuels were generally satisfactory, despite very low market prices, in particular for natural

⁽¹⁾ SEC(2000) 2143; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 390.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 392.

uranium, mainly as a result of the continued selling of a significant amount of stocks by the United States⁽¹⁾. The Euratom Supply Agency continued its policy of diversifying its sources of supply and encouraging users to conclude multi-annual contracts with the primary producers for the vast majority of their requirements, and to keep sufficient stocks to cover one year's requirements in the event of a shortage. The policy of trying to ensure that the EU does not depend unreasonably on acquisitions of nuclear materials from the independent States of the former Soviet Union continued in a flexible fashion, but the countries in that region, and in particular Russia, still remain the main sources of supplies of natural uranium and the biggest external source of enriched uranium. With the prospect of the lifting of the US restrictions on imports of natural uranium from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine, which could change the market situation, the agency launched a series of consultations in order to re-examine and possibly review this policy.

609. Significant concentration operations took place between nuclear energy users and in the nuclear fuel cycle industry, some of which (merger between VEBA and VIAG (→ *point 219*) and the setting-up of a joint undertaking between Framatome, Siemens and Cogéma (→ *point 233*)) were thoroughly examined by the Commission.

610. The 1999 annual report of the Euratom Supply Agency was published in April⁽²⁾.

State aid to the coal industry

611. State aid schemes are covered in Section 6 ('Competition policy') of Chapter III (→ *points 235 et seq.*).

Euratom safeguards

612. Pursuant to Chapter 7 of the Euratom Treaty concerning the verification of the use of nuclear materials, the Euratom Safeguards Office conducted physical and accounting checks of average stocks of 530 tonnes of plutonium, 9.8 tonnes of highly enriched uranium, 313 000 tonnes of low-enrichment, natural and depleted uranium and thorium and heavy water. These materials were held in the 800 or so nuclear installations in the Community and gave rise to more than 1 million operator entries concerning physical movements and

⁽¹⁾ 1998 General Report, point 425; 1999 General Report, point 393.

⁽²⁾ Available from the Euratom Supply Agency and on the Europa server on the Internet http://europa.eu.int/comm/Euratom/docum_en.html.

stocks. As in the past, this information was analysed and transmitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) pursuant to the agreements in force. The nuclear materials and equipment subject to external commitments under agreements concluded with third countries (Australia, Canada and the United States) were checked in accordance with those agreements. The anomalies and irregularities detected by the Office were followed up rigorously by additional inspections. From the verifications carried out, and an analysis of the statements given by operators, there would not seem to have been any diversion of nuclear materials.

613. The number of man-days of inspection throughout the EU amounted to approximately 8 500. This figure mainly reflects the inspections carried out in the major facilities using plutonium, in nuclear reactors, and in the major storage facilities, as well as the more technical tasks carried out. The number of man-days is slightly down on the previous year as a result of rationalisation and prioritisation.

614. With regard to the implementation of the new partnership approach (NPA) the basis for which was established by the Commission and the IAEA ⁽¹⁾, the inspection procedures agreed with the IAEA are now being used systematically in many facilities in the 13 Member States of the European Union without nuclear weapons. The new approach is also being implemented in the areas of logistics and the training of inspectors.

615. The Safeguards Office continued to hold talks with the authorities in the Member States with a nuclear programme and those in various third countries, in particular Australia, Canada, the United States, and the Argentine–Brazilian Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC). The contacts with the Member States provide an opportunity for discussing inspections and explaining the arrangements for implementing the regulatory provisions, and those with third countries mainly concern the implementation of agreements with them.

616. The office continued ⁽²⁾ to cooperate with Russia on nuclear materials control and accounting, although on a smaller scale. Projects were completed in such a way as not to lose the benefit of earlier investments and the expertise built up. Experts from the office were actively involved in several cooperation measures set up by the JRC and the Member States. Lastly, the office brought together experts from the accession candidate countries to explain the specific features of Euratom and work out a programme to prepare them for their future involvement in the system.

⁽¹⁾ Twenty-sixth General Report, point 721.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 491.

Nuclear safety

Safety of nuclear plant

617. In cooperation with the Nuclear Regulators Working Group (NRWG), the Commission continued to identify those areas of nuclear safety where harmonisation or common approaches would be beneficial. Several studies were published in this connection, concerning issues such as safety practices in Europe in the application of the leak-before-break concept, and current practices relating to risk-informed in-service and testing inspection. In anticipation of their accession to the European Union, regulators from candidate countries from central and eastern Europe have become members of the NRWG, which now constitutes a forum of nuclear safety authorities ⁽¹⁾ (Switzerland participates as an observer) with the aim of increasing harmonisation in practices and methods throughout Europe at large. A new experts group, the ENIS-G (European Nuclear Installation Safety Group), was created in 1999 to support the Commission in the implementation of two Council resolutions of 1975 ⁽²⁾ and 1992 ⁽³⁾ on the technological problems of nuclear safety. This new group brings together the representatives of nuclear power plant operators and nuclear regulators both of the Member States and of the candidate countries.

618. In a communication adopted on 6 September ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission set out the broad lines of a new EU strategy on nuclear safety in central and eastern Europe and the new independent States of the former Soviet Union. This strategy consists of supporting these countries in their efforts to improve operating safety and strengthen the regulatory framework, close and decommission, as soon as possible, the reactors which cannot be upgraded to an internationally acceptable standard at a reasonable cost and replace them by alternative energy sources, while modernising the nuclear plants of more recent design. In the central and east European accession candidate countries, the Commission's priority is to enforce the agreements with Lithuania, Bulgaria and Slovakia concerning the closure of certain non-upgradable sites at the Ignalina, Kozloduy and Bohunice plants, and improve the level of safety at other plants. In the Soviet Union, the strategy is to develop a safety culture among regulatory authorities and plant operators.

619. In December, in accordance with its commitments, and to coincide with the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on 15 December, the Commission approved a grant of EUR 25 million from the Tacis budget for 2000, to

⁽¹⁾ COM(1998) 134; 1998 General Report, point 538.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 185, 14.8.1975; Ninth General Report, point 302.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 172, 8.7.1992; Twenty-sixth General Report, point 729.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 493; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.50.

cover part of the temporary cost of the resulting power shortfall, and a Euratom loan of USD 585 million for the completion of the Khmel'nitsky and Rivne reactors to a safety level acceptable in the EU. These reactors are to replace Chernobyl's power generation capacity. In the same month the EBRD granted a loan of USD 215 million for the same purpose.

620. The Commission continued to provide active support for the coordination of international technical assistance (G24) to the central and east European countries and the independent States of the former Soviet Union in the field of nuclear safety⁽¹⁾.

621. In a resolution adopted on 14 June⁽²⁾, the European Parliament welcomed the Commission's action programme (1999–2002) concerning the decommissioning of obsolete Joint Research Centre nuclear installations and waste management⁽³⁾. In two resolutions adopted on 7 September, it expressed its concerns about the nuclear power plant in Temelin (Czech Republic)⁽⁴⁾ and its sorrow following the sinking of the Kursk submarine⁽⁵⁾. In addition, on 14 December it adopted a resolution⁽⁶⁾ on the presence of a British submarine at Gibraltar, and stressed the need to keep the public informed.

Radiation protection

622. Information concerning radiation protection is given in Section 4 (Environment) of this chapter (→ *points 569 et seq.*).

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 487.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.36.

⁽³⁾ COM(1999) 114; 1999 General Report, point 485.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.52.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.51.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

Section 6

Transport ⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

623. *Transport safety was one of the European Union's priorities in 2000, with aviation (proposal to create a European Aviation Safety Agency), maritime transport (package of Community measures proposed following the wreck of the oil tanker Erika) and inland transport all covered. In addition, initiatives relating to public service obligations in road, rail and inland waterway transport and the protection of air passengers were adopted. The Commission also adopted several proposals concerning measures identified as having priority in a communication on road safety.*

General strategy

624. The Lisbon European Council of 23 and 24 March called on the Commission, the Council and Member States to speed up the liberalisation of the transport sector ⁽²⁾.

625. The Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation on action by Member States concerning public service requirements and the award of public service contracts in passenger transport by rail, road and inland waterway on 26 July (Table I). The objective of this proposal, which is intended to replace Regulation (EEC) No 1191/69 ⁽³⁾, is to increase competition by launching more calls for tender for transport services. It advocates mechanisms to ensure that competition goes hand in hand with an improvement in quality, public transport services are better integrated and employees are adequately protected in the event of a change of operator.

⁽¹⁾ Further information can be obtained on the following web site:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy_transport/index_en.html.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.9.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 156, 28.6.1969; amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1893/91 (OJ L 169, 29.6.1991; Twenty-fifth General Report, point 695).

Transport and the environment

626. On 28 March ⁽¹⁾, the Council endorsed the communication on air transport and the environment ⁽²⁾ which the Commission had presented in 1999 and called on the latter to continue its work on this basis. The European Parliament also gave its support to the proposed initiatives on 7 September ⁽³⁾.

627. Environmental aspects of transport are also dealt with in the subsections on 'Inland transport' (*→ points 635, 639 and 641*), 'Maritime transport' (*→ points 644 et seq.*) and 'Air transport' (*→ point 653*) of this section.

Clean urban transport

628. The Economic and Social Committee expressed its concern at the level of congestion in urban areas and suggested various types of remedial measures in an opinion adopted on 27 April ⁽⁴⁾.

Trans-European transport networks

629. The trans-European transport networks are dealt with in Section 12 ('Trans-European networks') of Chapter III (*→ point 377*).

Promotion of research and technological development

630. Research and technological development in the transport sector is dealt with in Section 8 ('Research and technology') of Chapter III (*→ point 299*).

Infrastructures, traffic management and navigation systems

631. Following up its 1999 communication on the development of the integrated European satellite navigation system Galileo ⁽⁵⁾, the Commission examined, together with the European Space Agency and the industry, the conditions required to develop the structure and finance the system. Europe's requests for the necessary frequencies for the Galileo project were accepted at a conference

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.55.

⁽²⁾ COM(1999) 640; 1999 General Report, point 417.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.66.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.4.26.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(1999) 54; 1999 General Report, point 399.

in Istanbul organised by the International Telecommunications Union. On 26 June⁽¹⁾, the Council called on the Commission to prepare a cost/benefit analysis of the project. In a communication adopted on 22 November⁽²⁾, the Commission confirmed the strategic and economic importance of the project. The Nice European Council⁽³⁾ took note of it and indicated that, after the validation period, during which funding would be provided by the Community and the European Space Agency, private funding will be needed in order to carry out and manage the project. On 21 December, the Member States undertook to reach a final decision at the Council meeting in April 2001⁽³⁾ as to whether or not to carry out the Galileo project.

Inland transport⁽⁴⁾

Rail transport

632. On 22 November, acting under the conciliation procedure, the European Parliament and the Council reached agreement on a joint text concerning a set of measures (infrastructure package) to liberalise the rail transport sector. There are three separate proposals: a directive amending Directive 91/440/EEC⁽⁵⁾ on the development of the Community's railways, which would increase the transparency of the various activities of the rail industry by ensuring that separate accounts are kept for infrastructure management and rail services (Table I); a directive amending Directive 95/18/EC⁽⁶⁾, which would extend the provisions relating to the licensing of railway undertakings to all the undertakings concerned established in the Community (Table I); a directive on the allocation of railway infrastructure capacity and the levying of charges for the use of railway infrastructure and safety certification to replace Directive 95/19/EC⁽⁶⁾ (Table I).

633. On 10 November, the Council adopted a common position on the proposal for a directive on the interoperability of the trans-European conventional rail system (Table I).

634. In a resolution adopted on 17 May⁽⁷⁾ on the Commission's report⁽⁸⁾ on the implementation and effects of Directive 96/48/EC on the interoperability of the trans-European high-speed rail system⁽⁹⁾, the European Parliament noted that meas-

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.44.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 750; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.49.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/transport/themes/land/english/lt_en.html.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 52, 27.2.1991; Twenty-fifth General Report, point 696.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 143, 27.6.1995; 1995 General Report, point 392.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.45.

⁽⁸⁾ COM(1999) 414; 1999 General Report, point 405.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 235, 17.9.1996; 1996 General Report, point 327.

urable progress had been achieved in developing technical specifications for interoperability (TSIs) since the adoption of Directive 96/48/EC and that the conditions for a genuine opening-up of the railway equipment market and the appearance of new forms of commercial operation had at last been achieved. However, it deplored the fact that no TSI had been adopted even though interoperability was considered fundamental to the mobility of persons and the efficiency of trans-European railway systems. Further TSIs were prepared in the course of the year by the European Association for Railway Interoperability (EARI).

635. On 10 October, the European Parliament and the Council amended Directive 96/49/EC⁽¹⁾ on the approximation of the laws of the Member States with regard to the transport of dangerous goods by rail in order to make provision for certain derogations (Table I).

636. On 26 July, the Commission decided to grant subsidies totalling EUR 5.65 million to 21 innovative projects concerning the railways, maritime transport and inland navigation in the framework of the programme of pilot actions for combined transport (PACT).

Road transport

637. In its communication 'Towards a safer and more competitive high-quality road transport system in the Community'⁽²⁾ of 21 June, the Commission set out a package of measures to improve the safety and efficiency of road transport while ensuring fair competition. These concern the regulation of drivers' working time, the regularity of their employment conditions, their professional training and the monitoring of road transport. Following up this communication, on 22 November the Commission adopted a first package of social measures designed to ensure that drivers are regularly employed, to regulate the working time of mobile workers, and to harmonise the restrictions imposed on heavy goods vehicles at weekends (Table I).

638. On 17 March, the Commission adopted a communication on priorities in EU road safety⁽³⁾, which was welcomed by the Council on 26 June⁽⁴⁾, the Committee of the Regions on 21 September⁽⁵⁾ and the Economic and Social Committee on 19 October⁽⁶⁾. In this field, on 7 December the Commission also proposed to amend Directive 91/671/EEC⁽⁷⁾ on the approximation of the laws

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 235, 17.9.1996; 1996 General Report, point 382.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 364; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.47.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 125; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.48.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.49.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.61.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.39.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 373, 31.12.1991; Twenty-fifth General Report, point 704.

of the Member States relating to compulsory use of safety belts in vehicles of less than 3.5 tonnes (Table I). On 6 June, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a directive on the roadside inspection of commercial vehicles designed in particular to check that they have been properly maintained and to improve their environmental performance (Table I).

639. On 28 February, the Commission proposed amending Directive 95/50/EC⁽¹⁾ on uniform procedures for checks on the transport of dangerous goods by road (Table I). It presented a report on Member States' application of the directive on 6 September⁽²⁾. On 10 October, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Directive 2000/61/EC amending Directive 94/55/EC⁽³⁾ on the approximation of the Member States' legislation concerning this type of transport (Table I).

640. On 23 March, the Commission proposed amending Directive 96/53/EC⁽⁴⁾ laying down maximum dimensions for certain road vehicles in respect of the length of rigid buses (Table I).

641. On 21 December, the Commission adopted a report⁽⁵⁾ on the transit of goods by road through Austria together with a proposal for a regulation relating to the system of ecopoints for heavy goods vehicles transiting through Austria. On 18 December the European Parliament and the Council adopted a regulation on the distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland (Table I).

642. By Directive 2000/56/EC of 14 September⁽⁶⁾ the Commission adapted to technical progress Directive 91/439/EEC⁽⁷⁾ on driving licences.

Inland waterway transport

643. The Commission laid down practical arrangements to apply Regulation (EC) No 718/1999⁽⁸⁾ on a Community-fleet capacity policy to promote inland waterway transport, such as the reduction of the 'old-for-new' ratios for dry cargo carriers, tanker vessels and pusher craft⁽⁹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 249, 17.10.1995; 1995 General Report, point 398.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 517; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.59.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 319, 12.12.1994; 1994 General Report, point 373.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 235, 17.9.1996; 1996 General Report, point 386.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 862; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 237, 21.9.2000.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 237, 24.8.1991; Twenty-fifth General Report, point 221.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 90, 2.4.1999; 1999 General Report, point 410.

⁽⁹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1532/2000 (OJ L 175, 14.7.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.51).

Maritime transport ⁽¹⁾

644. On 21 September, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a proposal for a directive on port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues, with the aim of protecting the marine environment from operational pollution by ships, irrespective of their flag (Table I). The measures envisaged consist in requiring ports to draw up plans for the management and collection of these wastes and residues and to provide ships with an efficient, speedy service at reasonable cost, in order to remove any incentive for dumping at sea. The directive lays down penalties for non-compliance and provides for information to be transmitted to all Community ports at which the ship may call. On 19 October, the Commission proposed the establishment of requirements and harmonised procedures for the safe loading and unloading of bulk carriers (→ point 646).

645. Through the adoption on 21 March of a communication on the safety of the seaborne oil trade ⁽²⁾, together with legislative proposals (Table I), the Commission sought to address the concerns raised by the sinking of the oil tanker *Erika* in December 1999, which were echoed by the European Parliament in a resolution of 20 January ⁽³⁾. The Commission proposed a first package of short-term measures to strengthen controls in ports (refusal of access to sub-standard ships, more stringent inspections, greater transparency), to monitor more closely the activity of the classification societies to which Member States delegate their powers to verify the quality of the structure of ships, and to generalise the ban on single-hull tankers. On 27 September ⁽⁴⁾ the Commission adopted a report advocating the establishment of a Community maritime traffic monitoring, control and information system, a European oil pollution compensation fund (COPE) and a European Maritime Safety Agency. On 8 December it adopted a communication ⁽⁵⁾ setting out a second package of measures to improve maritime safety, together with legislative proposals (Table I) aimed at the establishment of a Community maritime traffic monitoring, control and information system, a European oil pollution compensation fund and a European Maritime Safety Agency. On 21 December, the Council reached broad agreement ⁽⁶⁾ on the first package of measures proposed by the Commission. It agreed common positions on the proposals concerning ship inspection organisations and port State control; if the negotiations within the IMO (International Maritime Organisation) in April 2001 are unsuccessful, it undertook to adopt a common position on the proposal concerning the accelerated introduction of double-hull oil tankers. It also took note with interest of the second package of

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/transport/themes/maritime/english/mt_en.html.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 142; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.51.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.4.50.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 603, Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.65.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 802; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

measures proposed by the Commission, while questioning the compatibility of some of the provisions with international maritime legislation.

646. On 6 June, the Commission proposed consolidating the legislation on the minimum level of training of seafarers (Table I). On 22 May, the Commission adopted a proposal for a directive aimed at reducing the risk of accidents caused by incorrect loading and unloading of bulk carriers by introducing harmonised procedures for cooperation and communication between bulk carriers and terminals (Table I). It also proposed, on 15 September, additional measures on maritime safety such as replacing the various committees referred to in the regulations and directives in force in this area by a single maritime safety committee (Table I).

647. In support of its regulatory policy, the Commission signed a memorandum of understanding with several countries in May on the establishment of the Equasis database, which is intended to provide information to all interested parties in the maritime community on the safety and quality of ships.

648. On 7 July⁽¹⁾, the European Parliament welcomed the communication which the Commission had presented in 1999 on the development of short-sea shipping⁽²⁾, stressing the importance in particular of environmental measures. Parliament adopted a resolution on the *Express Samina* ferry disaster in Greece on 5 October⁽³⁾.

Air transport⁽⁴⁾

649. In application of Directive 96/67/EC⁽⁵⁾ on access to the groundhandling market at Community airports, the Commission adopted three decisions in January authorising the airports of Düsseldorf⁽⁶⁾, Funchal⁽⁶⁾ and Oporto⁽⁶⁾ to limit such access for a temporary period owing to specific space and capacity restraints.

650. The Commission's 1999 communication 'The European airline industry: From single market to worldwide challenges'⁽⁷⁾ was the subject of an Economic and Social Committee opinion on 26 January⁽⁸⁾ and a European Parlia-

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.53.

⁽²⁾ COM(1999) 317; 1999 General Report, point 413.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.40.

⁽⁴⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/transport/themes/air/english/at_en.html.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 272, 25.10.1996; 1996 General Report, point 398.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 39, 14.2.2000.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(1999) 182; 1999 General Report, point 414.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ C 75, 15.3.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.4.57.

ment resolution on 4 May⁽¹⁾. Parliament also gave its opinion on the Commission's communication on the single European sky⁽²⁾. On 13 December, the Commission took note of a report containing recommendations on this subject by a high-level group composed of representatives of Member States and of observers from Switzerland and Norway. The Commission also set up a parallel industrial and social advisory group comprising users and partners of air traffic management services, which acted in close liaison with the former.

651. On 21 June, the Commission adopted a communication on the protection of air passengers⁽³⁾, in which it announced the launch of an information campaign including the posting of a passenger rights charter at all Community airports. It also announced its intention to propose new Community legislation to extend these rights, notably relating to the nature of the transport contract and information to passengers, and called on airlines and airports to draw up, in cooperation with users, voluntary commitments to improve the quality of their services. In a resolution adopted on 2 October⁽⁴⁾, the Commission welcomed the Commission communication. In addition, the Commission proposed amending Regulation (EC) No 2027/97⁽⁵⁾ on air carrier liability in the event of accidents, in order to bring it into line with the Montreal Convention to which the Community has decided to accede⁽⁶⁾, and presented a proposal for a decision authorising the Community to approve this convention on 14 July (Table III).

652. On 27 September, the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation on establishing common rules in the field of civil aviation and creating a European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) (Table I) on which the Council adopted conclusions⁽⁷⁾ on 20 December. Legislative action on harmonising the rules applicable to aviation safety also continued, with the adoption by the Commission on 24 March of a proposal for a regulation concerning the conditions for the authorisation of air transport operators (Table I). On 28 December, the Commission also adopted a proposal for a regulation adapting the rules already in force on scientific and technical progress⁽⁸⁾ and on 19 December it adopted a proposal for a directive on occurrence reporting in civil aviation (Table I).

653. The Commission continued its contribution to the work of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in developing new emission and noise standards⁽⁹⁾. On 28 March⁽¹⁰⁾, the Council reaffirmed its commitment to

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.49.

⁽²⁾ COM(1999) 614; 1999 General Report, point 416.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 365; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.55.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 293, 14.10.2000; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.44.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 285, 17.10.1997; 1997 General Report, point 489.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(1999) 435; 1999 General Report, point 419.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 333, 29.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁹⁾ COM(2000) 821; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.53.

the adoption of a new standard in the ICAO and the progressive withdrawal of the noisiest aircraft. Parliament also expressed an opinion on this subject in a resolution of 30 March ⁽¹⁾, and on night flights and noise nuisance in the vicinity of airports on 14 April ⁽²⁾. Regulation (EC) No 925/1999 ⁽³⁾ entered into force on 4 May following the failure of discussions with the United States, which has lodged a formal complaint with the ICAO.

Multimodal transport

654. Following the Commission's report in 1999 on progress in the implementation of the action programme on intermodality and intermodal freight transport ⁽⁴⁾, the Council adopted a resolution on 14 February ⁽⁵⁾ urging the Commission to continue implementing the programme and calling on the Commission, together with Member States, to step up efforts to promote this type of transport.

State aid

655. State aid is dealt with in Section 6 ('Competition policy') of Chapter III (→ *points 235 et seq.*).

International cooperation

656. Various negotiations in the road transport sector were concluded in the course of the year. On 24 October, the Commission adopted a proposal concerning the signature of a memorandum of understanding on the development of the Black Sea pan-European transport area, designed to promote the international transport of passengers and goods in a regionally integrated multimodal transport network (Table III). Agreements on goods transport were signed with Bulgaria and Hungary, and initialled with Romania on 26 October (→ *point 713*). On 4 December, the Commission proposed the signature of a multilateral agreement on passenger transport between the European Union and 14 third countries essentially designed to liberalise access to the market for certain occasional bus and coach services between the territories of the contracting parties (Table III).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.54.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.4.32.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 115, 4.5.1999, 1999 General Report, point 417.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(1999) 519; 1999 General Report, point 404.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 56, 29.2.2000.

657. The Economic and Social Committee stressed the importance of setting up mechanisms for consulting economic and social groups in the formulation of a pan-European transport policy in an opinion adopted on 1 March ⁽¹⁾.

658. The Commission adopted a communication on promoting sustainable transport in development cooperation on 6 July (→ *point 846*).

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 117, 26.4.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.43.

Section 7

Health and consumer protection

Priority activities and objectives

659. *With the adoption of its White Paper on food safety, the Commission set out an integrated 'farm to table' strategy reflecting one of its policy priorities, namely to increase food safety in the European Union and boost consumer confidence. It consolidated this strategy with a package of legislative proposals, including the creation of a European Food Authority, and a communication clarifying the conditions for applying the precautionary principle in risk management. The Nice European Council gave its backing to these initiatives. Moreover, the Commission drew up a new strategy for implementing the provisions of the Amsterdam Treaty strengthening public health policy.*

Food safety

General

660. On 12 January ⁽¹⁾, the Commission adopted a White Paper on food safety advocating a comprehensive, integrated approach aimed at achieving the highest possible level of consumer health protection. Besides establishing a European Food Authority composed of independent experts, whose tasks include collection and dissemination of scientific information, risk assessment, forward-looking crisis management and operation of rapid alert systems, the Commission envisages a programme of legislative measures shoring up the principles of food safety, such as the responsibility of foodstuff and feed manufacturers, the traceability of products, risk analysis and application of the precautionary principle, entailing stringent Community rules and appropriate checks at all stages of the production chain, 'from farm to table'. Another aspect emphasised by the Commission is the need to encourage dialogue with consumers and to provide them with information through the labelling of products. The final point made by the Commission is that the Community should play an active role within international organisations to ensure that international rules are conducive to a high

⁽¹⁾ COM(1999) 719; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.4.59;
http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/library/pub/index_en.html.

level of health protection. The White Paper was endorsed by the Committee of the Regions⁽¹⁾, the Economic and Social Committee⁽²⁾ and the European Parliament⁽³⁾.

661. With a view to implementing this strategy, the Commission adopted, on 8 November, a proposal for a regulation (Table I) laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing a European Food Authority and setting out procedures for ensuring the safety of foodstuffs. The Nice European Council, in December⁽⁴⁾, duly noted this initiative, while emphasising that food safety policy must apply to the whole food chain, for humans and animals alike. Pointing out that the new European Food Authority must operate at the highest possible level of scientific excellence, independence and transparency, thus helping to prevent crises, the European Council called upon the Council and Parliament to work speedily so that the new body could become operational from the beginning of 2002.

662. The Commission also adopted, on 14 July, four proposals for regulations and a proposal for a directive (Table I) on the hygiene of foodstuffs, covering the entire food chain (Table I). On 8 May, moreover, the Commission adopted a proposal for a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to food supplements, aimed at guaranteeing a high level of public health and removing the existing obstacles to intra-Community trade in such products (Table I).

663. As regards the labelling of foodstuffs containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs), the Commission adopted, on 10 January, Regulation (EC) No 49/2000⁽⁵⁾ introducing a threshold of 1 % for the adventitious contamination of standard food products, with no specific labelling requirement applying below that limit, and Regulation (EC) No 50/2000⁽⁵⁾ on consumer information about additives and flavourings produced from GMOs.

664. In a communication adopted on 2 February⁽⁶⁾, the Commission outlined its intentions for applying the precautionary principle, dealing with both health-related aspects and potentially dangerous effects on the environment. The Commission believes that recourse to the precautionary principle may prove necessary when scientific data are insufficient or inconclusive and when there are grounds for concern that potentially dangerous effects on the environment or on health may be inconsistent with the high level of protection sought by the European Union. Anxious to avoid any form of disguised protectionism, the Commission is adamant that the

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.4.34.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.52.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.49.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 6, 11.1.2000.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 1; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.4.60.

measures taken must be proportionate to the desired level of protection, non-discriminatory and consistent, and should be re-evaluated in the light of new scientific knowledge. The Economic and Social Committee meanwhile, in an opinion issued on 12 July⁽¹⁾, expressed certain reservations about using the precautionary principle. In a resolution adopted on 4 December⁽²⁾, the Council welcomed the Commission's initiative and broadly endorsed it. The Council laid down a number of guidelines aimed at clarifying the arrangements for applying the principle, such as the responsibilities of public authorities and the involvement of civil society. The Nice European Council took note of this resolution⁽²⁾. A further resolution, adopted by Parliament on 14 December⁽²⁾, called for a clearly defined approach to applying the principle and urged the Commission to uphold this approach within international organisations.

665. On 12 January⁽³⁾, the Commission adopted its annual report on the results of visits carried out with a view to evaluating the equivalence and effectiveness of the official food control systems operated by the Member States, in accordance with Directive 93/99/EEC⁽⁴⁾.

666. With increasing involvement on the part of Member States, the number of notifications received under the rapid information system for foodstuffs, in accordance with Directive 92/59/EEC on general product safety⁽⁵⁾ continued to rise in relation both to products on the market and to products rejected after checks carried out at borders.

667. The Scientific Steering Committee and the eight sectoral scientific committees, set up in November 1997⁽⁶⁾, adopted a large number of opinions, all of which were published on the Europa server⁽⁷⁾ on the Internet. The Scientific Steering Committee looked mainly at problems associated with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), e.g. quantitative assessment of the residual risk for products derived from bovine material (gelatine, tallow, boned meat), the geographical risk of Member States and certain third countries, the safety of ruminants' blood, the risk of individual exposure to the BSE agent and the slaughter of certain animals as strategic elements for controlling transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs). The Scientific Steering Committee also adopted three 'framework opinions' relating to: the management, from a scientific point of view, of emergent risks; the harmonisation of methods for risk assessment; and the evaluation of potential risks in rapidly developing areas (e.g. genetically modified plants). The eight sectoral scientific committees drew up more than a hundred opinions cover-

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 268, 19.9.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.63.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ COM(1999) 751; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.4.61; http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sfp/oc_index_en.html.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 290, 24.11.1993; Twenty-seventh General Report, point 76.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 228, 11.8.1992; Twenty-sixth General Report, point 634.

⁽⁶⁾ 1997 General Report, point 685.

⁽⁷⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/sc/index_en.html.

ing the entire spectrum of public health, consumer protection and the environment, focusing particularly on food-related issues such as dioxin, certain toxins in food, various new food products, certain food additives, numerous plastic materials in contact with foodstuffs, certain nutriment (toxicity levels), essential characteristics of food for sportspersons, certain food-related zoonoses, and hormone residues in meat; in non-food and other areas, the opinions had to do mainly with plant protection products, genetically modified organisms, guidelines for evaluating plant protection products, phthalates in toys and teething rings, the list of chemical substances to be evaluated as a priority in connection with the framework directive on water (→ *point 548*), endocrine disrupters, lead, cadmium in fertilisers, guidelines for placing biocidal products on the market, the quality and safety of human blood, and latex-related allergies; as regards cosmetics, the main interest lay in the validation of alternatives to animal experimentation, the toxicological evaluation of certain ingredients, updating of the cosmetic ingredients inventory, and certain perfume ingredients.

668. Other activities relating to food safety are dealt with in the following subsection entitled ‘Veterinary and plant health legislation’.

Veterinary and plant health legislation

669. The Commission took various initiatives to update control measures in relation to animal health. It adopted a proposal for a directive on measures to control classical swine fever (Table II), as well as a proposal to harmonise the conditions governing the movement of dogs and cats accompanying their owners in the Community (Table I). Following the occurrence of epizootic diseases in the Community and third countries, a number of measures were taken to safeguard public and animal health, particularly with regard to classical swine fever in the United Kingdom⁽¹⁾, avian influenza⁽²⁾ and Newcastle disease in Italy⁽³⁾, bluetongue in Greece⁽⁴⁾, Italy⁽⁵⁾, France⁽⁶⁾ and Spain⁽⁷⁾, foot-and-mouth disease in Greece⁽⁸⁾, West Nile fever in France⁽⁹⁾ and the United States⁽¹⁰⁾. Many

⁽¹⁾ Decisions 2000/515/EC (OJ L 207, 17.8.2000), 2000/528/EC (OJ L 222, 2.9.2000 and OJ L 214, 25.8.2000), 2000/542/EC (OJ L 231, 13.9.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.70), 2000/543/EC (OJ L 231, 13.9.2000), 2000/650/EC and 2000/651/EC (OJ L 272, 25.10.2000), 2000/705/EC (OJ L 288, 15.11.2000), 2000/720/EC (OJ L 291, 18.11.2000) and 2000/783/EC (OJ L 309, 9.12.2000).

⁽²⁾ Decision 2000/149/EC (OJ L 50, 23.2.2000).

⁽³⁾ Decision 2000/419/EC (OJ L 158, 30.6.2000).

⁽⁴⁾ Decisions 2000/350/EC (OJ L 158, 30.6.2000) and 2000/485/EC (OJ L 195, 1.8.2000).

⁽⁵⁾ Decisions 2000/598/EC (OJ L 253, 7.10.2000), 2000/685/EC (OJ L 283, 9.11.2000) and 2000/743/EC (OJ L 300, 29.11.2000).

⁽⁶⁾ Decisions 2000/671/EC (OJ L 279, 1.11.2000) and 2000/734/EC (OJ L 295, 23.11.2000).

⁽⁷⁾ Decisions 2000/624/EC (OJ L 260, 14.10.2000) and 2000/715/EC (OJ L 290, 17.11.2000).

⁽⁸⁾ Decisions 2000/486/EC (OJ L 195, 1.8.2000), 2000/538/EC (OJ L 229, 9.9.2000), 2000/550/EC (OJ L 234, 16.9.2000), 2000/643/EC (OJ L 271, 24.10.2000) and 2000/758/EC (OJ L 304, 5.12.2000).

⁽⁹⁾ Decisions 2000/552/EC (OJ L 234, 16.9.2000) and 2000/689/EC (OJ L 285, 10.11.2000).

⁽¹⁰⁾ Decisions 2000/551/EC (OJ L 234, 16.9.2000), 2000/695/EC (OJ L 286, 11.11.2000) and 2000/713/EC (OJ L 290, 17.11.2000).

decisions were adopted with a view to laying down the conditions governing the importation of live animals and animal products into the Community. The Commission also proposed a Community contribution to tests relating to bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the eradication in certain Member States of rabies, bovine, ovine and caprine brucellosis, tuberculis, leucosis, scrapie, salmonella in poultry, and African and classical swine fever⁽¹⁾. With Directive 2000/75/EC of 20 November⁽²⁾, the Council laid down specific provisions for the control and eradication of bluetongue. On 19 December, it amended Decision 90/424/EEC⁽³⁾ on expenditure in the veterinary field (Table II) and extended the validity of Decision 95/408/EC⁽⁴⁾ concerning the importation of certain products of animal origin, fishery products and live bivalve molluscs⁽⁵⁾. On 5 December, the Commission presented a communication on the availability of veterinary medicinal products⁽⁶⁾.

670. For the purpose of combating bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs), the Commission established, on 5 June, a new surveillance system based on the use of rapid tests⁽⁷⁾, designed to achieve, from 1 January 2001 onwards, more effective detection of BSE in all the Member States. On 29 June, it harmonised the rules, which entered into force on 1 October, for removing from the human food and animal feed chains tissues presenting a particular risk as regards TSEs⁽⁸⁾. On 16 November⁽⁹⁾, the Council asked the Commission to set up speedily, together with the Member States, a group of experts responsible for reviewing the research carried out into BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and to recommend new measures. In its conclusions of 20 November⁽¹⁰⁾, the Council confirmed the importance of traceability measures and the withdrawal of risk material, and emphasised the need to find the resources for co-financing of test programmes at Community level. On 4 December⁽¹¹⁾, the Council decided to prohibit, from 1 January until 1 July 2001, the use of meat-and-bone meal derived from animal proteins (with the exception of fishmeal) for feeding animals kept for the production of food; it also confirmed the need to process and dispose of such meal. In conclusions adopted on 4 December⁽¹²⁾, the Council advocated that certain types of animal be prevented from entering the food chain and that a combina-

⁽¹⁾ Decisions 2000/639/EC and 2000/640/EC (OJ L 269, 21.10.2000), 2000/773/EC and 2000/774/EC (OJ L 308, 8.12.2000).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 327, 22.12.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.65.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 224, 18.8.1990; Twenty-fourth General Report, point 96; last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1258/1999 (OJ L 160, 26.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 501).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 243, 11.10.1995; 1995 General Report, point 110.

⁽⁵⁾ Decision 2001/4/EC (OJ L 2, 5.1.2001; Bull. 12-2000).

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 806; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁷⁾ Decision 2000/374/EC (OJ L 135, 8.6.2000).

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2000) 378; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.61.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.60.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.61.

⁽¹¹⁾ Decision 2000/766/EC (OJ L 306, 7.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000).

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

tion of measures be taken to support the market. The Nice European Council⁽¹⁾ was in favour of implementing all these provisions swiftly and rigorously in order to give consumers a lasting guarantee of safety. On 14 December⁽¹⁾, the Council adopted new conclusions on this subject and, on 19 December, reached agreement on a common position on a proposal for a regulation aimed at the introduction of a general legal basis as regards TSEs, consolidating all the provisions adopted at Community level (Table I). On 16 November, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on BSE and the safety of animal feed⁽²⁾.

671. On 10 April, Parliament and the Council laid down the main criteria for ensuring the correct operation of national databases recording the movement of bovine animals and swine (Table I). On 17 July, they established a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products; by repealing Regulation (EC) No 820/97, the aim is to enhance the controls carried out by the Commission and to introduce, as from 1 September, a compulsory beef labelling system to be implemented in all the Member States in two stages (Table I).

672. Following the completion of an analytical programme carried out in Belgium for the detection of PCBs and dioxins on farms and in their produce, the Commission decided to lift the remaining restrictions on products derived from animals slaughtered after 20 September 1999⁽³⁾. Moreover, a proposal put forward by the Commission on 24 May (Table I) sought to ban definitively the use of oestradiol 17 β in farm animals and to allow its administration only to non-farm animals purely for therapeutic purposes, and to continue provisionally to prohibit five other hormones until more complete scientific information is available, although they may be used for therapeutic purposes and zootechnical treatment.

673. With regard to animal nutrition, Parliament and the Council amended, on 10 April, Directive 79/373/EEC on the marketing of compound feeding-stuffs⁽⁴⁾ and Directive 96/25/EC on the circulation of feed materials, with the aim of widening their scope as regards the materials produced and improving traceability (Table I). On 14 December, they adopted Directive 2000/77/EC clarifying the principles governing the organisation of official inspections in the field of animal nutrition (Table II). On 19 December, the Council agreed on significant amendments to the labelling provisions of Directive 79/373/EEC so as to ensure that stock farmers are informed about the exact composition of feedingstuffs (Table I). In order to be in a position to take immediate protective measures in the event of serious contamination and with a view to extending the

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.4.62.

⁽³⁾ Decisions 2000/150/EC (OJ L 50, 23.2.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.4.66) and 2000/301/EC (OJ L 97, 19.4.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.4.36).

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 86, 6.4.1979.

rapid information system to animal feed, the European Parliament and the Council also adopted, on 14 December, (Table I), amendments to Directive 95/53/EC governing official inspections⁽¹⁾ and Directive 1999/29/EC on undesirable substances and products in animal nutrition⁽²⁾. Furthermore, it amended Decision 91/516/EEC establishing a list of ingredients whose use is prohibited in compound feedingstuffs⁽³⁾, with regard to the use of sewage sludge⁽⁴⁾. It additionally adopted six regulations⁽⁵⁾ adapting to scientific and technical progress Directive 70/524/EEC concerning additives in feedingstuffs⁽⁶⁾.

674. In the field of plant health, the Council adopted, on 8 May, Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread in the Community, consolidating Directive 77/93/EEC (Table II). On 7 February, the Commission proposed recasting Directive 68/193/EEC on the marketing of material for the vegetative propagation of the vine (Table II) and adopted, on 28 April⁽⁷⁾, 22 June⁽⁸⁾, 25 July⁽⁹⁾ and 29 September⁽¹⁰⁾, four directives fixing maximum levels for pesticide residues in products of plant origin; on 1 March, it adopted a report to the Council⁽¹¹⁾ on the monitoring of pesticide residues and, on 28 March⁽¹²⁾, a regulation setting out the implementing rules necessary for the proper functioning of such monitoring. Throughout the year, moreover, it took steps to apply⁽¹³⁾ or adapt the annexes⁽¹⁴⁾ to Directive 91/414/EEC⁽¹⁵⁾ concerning the evaluation and authorisation of plant protection products.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 265, 8.11.1995; 1995 General Report, point 111.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 115, 4.5.1999; 1999 General Report, point 578.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 281, 9.10.1991.

⁽⁴⁾ Decision 2000/285/EC (OJ L 94, 14.4.2000).

⁽⁵⁾ Regulations (EC) No 654/2000 (OJ L 79, 30.3.2000), No 739/2000 (OJ L 87, 8.4.2000), No 1353/2000 (OJ L 155, 28.6.2000), No 1887/2000 (OJ L 227, 7.9.2000), No 2437/2000 (OJ L 280, 4.11.2000) and No 2697/2000 (OJ L 319, 16.12.2000).

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 270, 14.12.1970.

⁽⁷⁾ Directive 2000/24/EC (OJ L 107, 4.5.2000).

⁽⁸⁾ Directive 2000/42/EC (OJ L 158, 30.6.2000).

⁽⁹⁾ Directive 2000/48/EC (OJ L 197, 3.8.2000).

⁽¹⁰⁾ Directive 2000/57/EC (OJ L 244, 29.9.2000).

⁽¹¹⁾ COM(2000) 98; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.58.

⁽¹²⁾ Regulation (EC) No 645/2000 (OJ L 78, 29.3.2000).

⁽¹³⁾ Amendment of the detailed rules for implementing the first stage of the evaluation programme: Regulation (EC) No 2266/2000 (OJ L 259, 13.10.2000); establishment of the detailed rules for implementing the second and third stages of the evaluation programme: Regulation (EC) No 451/2000 (OJ L 55, 29.2.2000).

⁽¹⁴⁾ Non-inclusion as an active substance in Annex I to the directive and withdrawal of authorisations for plant protection products containing this substance: Decision 2000/233/EC (OJ L 73, 22.3.2000) (pyrazophos); Decision 2000/234/EC (OJ L 73, 22.3.2000) (monolinuron); Decision 2000/626/EC (OJ L 263, 18.10.2000) (chlozolinate); Decision 2000/725/EC (OJ L 292, 21.11.2000) (tecnazene); inclusion in Annex I to the directive: Directive 2000/10/EC (OJ L 57, 2.3.2000) (fluroxyppyr); Directive 2000/49/EC (OJ L 197, 3.8.2000) (metsulfuron-methyl); Directive 2000/50/EC (OJ L 198, 4.8.2000) (prohexadione-calcium); Directive 2000/66/EC (OJ L 276, 28.10.2000) (triasulfuron); Directive 2000/67/EC (OJ L 276, 28.10.2000) (esfenvalerate); Directive 2000/68/EC (OJ L 276, 28.10.2000) (bentazone).

⁽¹⁵⁾ OJ L 230, 19.8.1991.

Animal welfare

675. On 6 December, the Commission adopted a report⁽¹⁾ concerning the protection of animals during transport. Under the Community's remit within the Council of Europe, the Commission took part in November in negotiations within the framework of the standing committee of the European Convention on the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes.

Public health

General

676. On 16 May, the Commission adopted a communication on health strategy⁽²⁾ together with a proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision adopting a programme of action in the field of public health (Table I), with a view to meeting the objectives and requirements laid down in Articles 3 and 152 of the EC Treaty, and enabling the Community to face up to its obligations more effectively by means of clear objectives and policy instruments. The new framework encompasses other measures in relation to veterinary and plant-health legislation, dealing with standards of quality and safety of organs and substances of human origin, blood and blood derivatives. A further aim is to ensure that all relevant Community policies contribute to a high level of health protection. A European health forum will be set up to give all those involved an opportunity to play a part in the development of health policy and to address the concerns of the general public. The public health programme concentrates on three priorities: improving information on and knowledge of health (introduction of a comprehensive information system); responding rapidly to threats to health (development of a suitable mechanism); and addressing health determinants (promotion and prevention measures).

677. Following the Council's authorisation to open negotiations⁽³⁾, in the context of the World Health Organisation, on an international framework convention for tobacco control and related protocols, the Commission took part in the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating body, held in Geneva from 16 to 21 October (Table III). On 14 December, Mr Byrne signed, on behalf of the Commission, an agreement with the WHO aimed at stepping up and intensifying cooperation between the two institutions with regard to health.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 809; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 285; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.4.50.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 558.

678. On 13 December, the Commission adopted a proposal for a directive setting high standards of quality and safety for the collection, testing, processing, storage and distribution of human blood and blood components.

679. On 7 September ⁽¹⁾, the Commission adopted a report on the first year of operation of the Community network for the epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases, which was created by Decision 98/2119/EC ⁽²⁾. Various surveillance systems (e.g. legionellosis, salmonellosis, tuberculosis) already operate in the Community, and comparable systems covering other major communicable diseases are being introduced. The early warning and response system, now up and running, is capable of dealing with disease outbreaks from any source. The Commission has also identified the need for a rapid response capacity at Community level to provide assistance in the event of disease outbreaks both within and outside the European Community.

680. In a resolution adopted on 14 December ⁽³⁾, the Council invited the Commission to study ways of promoting better nutrition within the European Union and asked the Member States to take a number of measures within the context of their national nutritional health policies. In another resolution adopted on the same date, concerning paediatric medicinal products ⁽³⁾, the Council invited the Commission to make appropriate proposals in the form of incentives, regulatory measures or other supporting measures to ensure that medicinal products for children are adapted to the specific needs of that population group, taking account of the ethical aspects of clinical trials. On 27 November, the Commission adopted a proposal for a recommendation to the Council inviting the Member States to take steps to deal with problems arising from the drinking of alcohol by children and adolescents ⁽⁴⁾.

Implementation of programmes

681. Within the framework of the action plan to combat cancer (1996–2000) ⁽⁵⁾, 41 new projects were adopted, with funding amounting to EUR 13.6 million.

682. Within the framework of the Community action programme for the prevention of drug dependence (1996–2000) ⁽⁶⁾, four new projects were financed, involving a total of EUR 5.3 million.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 471.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 268, 3.10.1998; 1998 General Report, point 627.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 736.

⁽⁵⁾ Decision No 646/96/EC (OJ L 95, 16.4.1996; 1996 General Report, point 606).

⁽⁶⁾ Decision No 102/97/EC (OJ L 19, 22.1.1997; 1996 General Report, point 610).

683. Within the framework of the Community action programme on pollution-related diseases (1999–2001)⁽¹⁾, the financing of eight projects totalled EUR 1.3 million.

684. Within the framework of the Community action programme on rare diseases (1999–2003)⁽²⁾, nine projects were accepted, with funding totalling EUR 1.22 million.

685. Within the framework of the Community action programme for the prevention of AIDS and other communicable diseases (1996–2000)⁽³⁾, 38 projects received funding totalling EUR 10.85 million.

686. Within the framework of the Community action plan on health promotion, information, education and training (1996–2000), 18 new projects were selected, with funding totalling EUR 3.755 million⁽⁴⁾.

687. Within the framework of the Community action plan on health monitoring (1997–2001), 13 new projects were funded, with funding totalling EUR 3.56 million⁽⁵⁾.

688. Within the framework of the Community action plan for injury prevention (1999–2003) financing of 21 projects totalled EUR 2.6 million⁽⁶⁾.

689. On 25 July, the Commission adopted a proposal for a decision extending certain Community action programmes in the field of public health. The European Parliament and the Council approved this proposal in December.

Consumer protection

General

690. The Internet-based consumer assistance service⁽⁷⁾ experienced an increase of over 100 % in the messages received compared with 1999 and provided swift responses to a wide variety of requests. In conjunction with this site, a special subscription service enabled 6 765 subscribers to receive daily updates of Community news relating to health and consumer protection.

⁽¹⁾ Decision No 1296/1999/EC (OJ L 155, 22.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 566).

⁽²⁾ Decision No 1295/1999/EC (OJ L 155, 22.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 564).

⁽³⁾ Decision No 647/96/EC (OJ L 95, 16.4.1996; 1996 General Report, point 607).

⁽⁴⁾ Decision No 645/96/EC (OJ L 95, 16.4.1996; 1996 General Report, point 612).

⁽⁵⁾ Decision No 1400/97/EC (OJ L 193, 22.7.1997; 1997 General Report, point 670).

⁽⁶⁾ Decision No 372/1999/EC (OJ L 46, 20.2.1999; 1999 General Report, point 565).

⁽⁷⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/consumers/index_en.html.

Safety of products and services

691. On four occasions⁽¹⁾, the Commission extended the temporary emergency decision⁽²⁾ which it had adopted on 7 December 1999, on the basis of Article 9 of Directive 92/59/EEC on general product safety⁽³⁾, obliging the Member States to ban certain childcare articles and toys made of soft PVC containing phthalates, pending the adoption and implementation of the proposed new directive. (Table I). On the basis of a report⁽⁴⁾, the Commission proposed, on 29 March, amending Directive 92/59/EEC with a view to supplementing, reinforcing, simplifying and clarifying some of its provisions in the light of recent significant developments regarding consumer product safety, bearing in mind the difficulty of adopting Community legislation for every product (Table I).

Consumer representation, information and education

692. Following the implementation of Decision No 283/1999/EC⁽⁵⁾, establishing a general framework for activities in favour of consumers, a total of EUR 4.7 million went towards the funding of 36 consumer information and education projects, while the sum of EUR 1.6 million was granted to European consumer organisations.

693. On 4 May, the Commission adopted Decision 2000/323/EC⁽⁶⁾, setting up a new Consumer Committee and amending Decision 95/260/EC⁽⁷⁾, thereby giving the members a three-year term of office. The Committee members and alternates were appointed on 6 September.

694. The network of European consumer information and advice centres was extended to Finland, where a new info-centre was opened in Helsinki. The Bolzano (Italy) info-centre was, however, closed down, to be replaced by a new centre in Rome. At a meeting in February, as part of the transatlantic dialogue, European and American consumer organisations adopted 23 joint recommendations⁽⁸⁾. The information campaign on food safety, launched in 1998⁽⁹⁾, came to an end. A new campaign launched by the Commission, geared to food safety education, is scheduled to run until 30 June 2001. The 2000–01 European Young Consumer Competition, aimed at pupils of secondary schools and the

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 68, 16.3.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.71; OJ L 139, 10.6.2000; OJ L 226, 6.9.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.4.74; OJ L 306, 7.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ Decision 1999/815/EC (OJ L 315, 9.12.1999; 1999 General Report, point 581).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 228, 11.8.1992; Twenty-sixth General Report, point 634.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 140; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.69.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 34, 9.2.1999; 1999 General Report, point 553.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 111, 9.5.2000.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 162, 13.7.1995; 1995 General Report, point 645.

⁽⁸⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/consumers/policy/tacd/index_en.html.

⁽⁹⁾ 1998 General Report, point 637.

last two years of primary school, was launched in September on the theme of 'Nutrition — How to promote a balanced diet'. Prizes for the 1999–2000 competition were awarded on 6 July.

Protection of consumers' economic and legal interests

695. Two reports published by the Commission ⁽¹⁾ dealt with consumer complaints in respect of distance selling and comparative advertising, and with the implementation of Directive 93/13/EEC ⁽²⁾ on unfair terms in consumer contracts.

696. With a view to applying legislation more effectively and providing better follow-up, the Commission reinforced initiatives dealing with alternative systems for settling consumer disputes. The Council meanwhile adopted, on 13 April, a resolution ⁽³⁾ asking the Member States to help set up the European extra-judicial network for cross-border disputes. The Economic and Social Committee for its part adopted, on 12 July, an information report on household over-indebtedness ⁽⁴⁾.

697. The compendium of European consumer legislation was made generally available on the Internet ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 127; COM(2000) 248.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 95, 21.4.1993; Twenty-seventh General Report, point 381.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.4.40.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.69.

⁽⁵⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/health_consumer/library/legislation/index_en.html.

Chapter V

Enlargement

Section 1

Priority activities and objectives

698. *In June, the Feira European Council confirmed the basic principles laid down in Helsinki in 1999 regarding the conduct of negotiations and said that, for the most advanced of the candidate countries with which negotiations had started in February (Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania and Slovakia), it should be possible to open negotiations in all the areas covered by the acquis as early as possible in 2001. With these countries, between 9 and 17 chapters were opened in the negotiations, and some of them were provisionally concluded. The impetus of the negotiations was maintained for Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia, since all the remaining chapters of the acquis were opened for discussion. In November, the Commission presented its regular reports on the progress made by each of the 13 candidate countries towards accession. The reports were accompanied by a strategy paper on enlargement to ensure that the EU would be prepared to open up to new members at the end of 2002. At the beginning of December, the Council welcomed the regular reports, broadly approved the strategy paper and reached an initial 'accession partnership' with Turkey. The European Council held in Nice reaffirmed the political priority of the enlargement process, approved the adoption of the strategy paper and was in favour of the adoption of the document for Turkey. A fourth European conference, at ministerial level, was held in November and another, at Heads of State or Government level, in December.*

Section 2

European conference

699. The fourth European conference of the 15 EU Member States, all the countries applying for membership and Switzerland was held at ministerial level in Sochaux, France, on 23 November with Turkey attending for the first time. The meeting dealt with enlargement, but also included an exchange of views on the Intergovernmental Conference on the reform of the institutions (→ *points 1 et seq.*). A fifth European conference of Heads of State or Government of all the above countries was held in Nice on 7 December⁽¹⁾. It examined in greater detail the matters raised at ministerial level. The Nice European Council⁽¹⁾ judged that the European conference was a useful framework for a dialogue between EU Member States and the countries wishing to join the EU, and proposed that the countries involved in the stabilisation and association process and the European Free Trade Association countries should be invited to attend as prospective members.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

Section 3

Regular reports

700. On 8 November⁽¹⁾, the Commission adopted the regular reports for 2000 on the progress made towards accession by each of the 13 candidate countries, and also a strategy paper for enlargement, in which it presents its own thoughts on the prospects for the enlargement process and proposes a strategy for the subsequent conduct of the enlargement negotiations. In the regular reports, it evaluates the progress made by the countries concerned in relation to the accession criteria. On the basis of detailed analyses, it considers that all the countries, with the exception of Turkey, are still observing the political criteria set by the European Council in Copenhagen⁽²⁾, and have even consolidated the progress made in previous years. According to the Commission, a number of issues still need special attention, such as the operation of the legal system, the problem of corruption and trafficking in women and children or the situation of minorities such as the Roma. As regards the economic criteria, most of the candidate countries may be considered as having market economies which in the medium term can cope with the pressure of competition within the EU. Bulgaria does not yet meet each criterion but has made obvious progress, while Romania and Turkey need to step up their efforts to meet these criteria. Progress has also been made on the ability to assume the obligations arising from accession as regards adoption and implementation of the *acquis*. In particular, since the earlier reports, progress on the adoption of legislation has been quite good, but uneven in the institution building or strengthening needed to implement the *acquis*. In the strategy paper, the Commission proposes that steps be taken to enable the EU to receive new Member States from the end of 2002, depending on the ability of the candidate countries to assume the obligations involved in membership of the EU and to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion. The strategy defined in this way includes a 'road map' for dealing with the issues still in abeyance in the negotiations, including the requests for transitional arrangements, in accordance with an indicative timetable for the next 18 months.

701. In its conclusions of 5 December⁽³⁾, the Council welcomed these reports and the strategy paper. The European Council held in Nice⁽³⁾ reaffirmed the political priority it attaches to the success of the enlargement process and

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 700 to 713; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.5.1. Earlier reports: COM(1999) 500 to 513; 1999 General Report, point 591.

⁽²⁾ Twenty-seventh General Report, point 646; 1997 General Report, point 851.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

approved the abovementioned conclusions. Mr Prodi and Mr Verheugen presented the regular reports and strategy paper to Parliament the day of their adoption. In a resolution of 15 November⁽¹⁾, Parliament delivered its opinion on the 1999 regular report on Turkey⁽²⁾ and encouraged Turkey to intensify its democratisation efforts, abolish the death penalty and place the emphasis on implementing the pre-accession strategy.

702. After analysing the composite paper and the regular reports drawn up in 1999 by the Commission⁽³⁾, on 4 October, Parliament adopted a number of resolutions on the progress of the enlargement process in general and for each candidate country⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.5.2.

⁽²⁾ COM(1999) 513; 1999 General Report, point 591.

⁽³⁾ COM(1999) 500 to 513; 1999 General Report, point 591.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 10-2000, points 1.5.1. to 1.5.12.

Section 4

Accession negotiations

703. Four ministerial conferences were held in Brussels on 15 February⁽¹⁾ and 20 and 21 November to launch and then proceed with the negotiations with Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania and Slovakia, on 13 and 14 June in Luxembourg⁽²⁾ for the negotiations with all the candidate countries and in Brussels on 4 and 5 December⁽³⁾ for the negotiations with Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia. Each of the last three conferences was preceded by a preparatory conference at delegate level (28 March, 6 April, 25 and 26 May, 5 and 24 October, and 14 and 16 November). For Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia, the six remaining chapters of the *acquis* were all opened for negotiation in the first six months. For 11 chapters, it was decided that additional negotiations were not necessary at this stage. For Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania and Slovakia, between 9 and 17 chapters were opened for negotiation during the year while 20 chapters were provisionally concluded. Table 12 shows the status of the negotiations with all the candidate countries at the end of the year.

704. In line with the conclusions of the Helsinki European Council⁽⁴⁾, emphasising the link between progress in the negotiations and progress on the ground, the Commission launched an update screening of the *acquis* with the 12 countries involved in the negotiations. Its aim was twofold, namely to examine the progress made in adopting and implementing the *acquis* and to inform the candidate countries of the new *acquis* adopted in 1999, at the same time identifying any points which might prove difficult to accept. The Commission also launched a procedure for keeping track of compliance with undertakings given during the negotiations with the 12 candidates. Following this exercise, the Commission presented to the Council, at the same time as the monitoring reports (→ *point 700*) concerning each candidate country, the regular reports, thereby giving an overall view of the accession negotiations. The reports make it possible to evaluate the progress made by the candidate countries in meeting their commitments and as regards the requirements still to be met, with emphasis on the problems identified or expected in this respect.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.5.1.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.5.2.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 595.

TABLE 12

Status of the accession negotiations at 31 December 2000

Chapter	Country											
	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Estonia	Hungary	Poland	Slovenia	Bulgaria	Latvia	Lithuania	Malta	Romania	Slovakia
1. Free movement of goods	x	x	x	o	o	o	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Free movement of people	o	o	o	o	o	o	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Free movement of services	o	o	o	o	x	x	—	o	o	—	—	o
4. Free movement of capital	o	o	x	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	—	o
5. Company law	x	o	x	o	o	x	o	o	o	x	—	—
6. Competition	o	o	o	o	o	o	—	o	o	o	o	o
7. Agriculture	o	o	o	o	o	o	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Fisheries	x	x	x	x	o	x	—	o	—	o	—	x
9. Transport	o	o	o	o	o	o	—	o	o	o	—	o
10. Taxation	o	o	o	o	o	o	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Economic and monetary union	x	x	x	x	x	x	—	x	—	x	—	—
12. Statistics	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
13. Social policy	x	o	x	x	o	x	—	—	o	o	—	—
14. Energy	o	o	o	x	o	o	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Industrial policy	x	x	x	x	x	x	—	x	x	x	—	x
16. Small and medium-sized enterprises	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
17. Science and research	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
18. Education and training	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
19. Telecommunications and information technology	x	x	x	x	x	x	o	—	o	x	o	o
20. Culture and audiovisual policy	x	o	x	o	x	o	x	o	o	x	o	x
21. Regional policy	o	o	o	o	o	o	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Environment	o	o	o	o	o	o	—	—	o	—	—	—
23. Consumer and health protection	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	—	x	—	x
24. Justice and home affairs	o	o	o	o	o	o	—	—	—	—	—	—
25. Customs union	x	x	o	o	o	o	—	—	—	—	—	o
26. External relations	x	x	x	x	x	o	x	x	x	x	x	x
27. Common foreign and security policy	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
28. Financial control	x	o	o	x	x	x	—	—	—	—	—	—
29. Budget	o	o	o	o	o	o	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Institutions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chapters open	29	29	29	29	29	29	11	16	16	17	9	16
Chapters closed at 31.12.2000	17	13	16	14	13	14	8	9	7	12	6	10

o: chapter open, being negotiated.

x: chapter provisionally closed.

—: chapter not yet open.

705. To back up the enlargement process both in the countries of the European Union and in the candidate countries, on 10 May the Commission adopted a communication strategy on enlargement, to inform the citizens of the European Union and the people of the candidate countries of the costs and benefits involved. National and regional administrations will have a key role in implementing the strategy, on a decentralised basis.

Section 5

Pre-accession strategy ⁽¹⁾

Accession partnerships and general matters

706. On 17 July ⁽²⁾, the Council announced that it wished to discuss the economic situation of the candidate countries with particular regard to the efficiency of their financial system, the state of their public finances, their debt burden and their exchange strategy with a view to the eventual adoption of the euro.

707. In a resolution of 16 March ⁽³⁾, Parliament welcomed the Commission communication on countering racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in the candidate countries ⁽⁴⁾ and called for special financial measures under the Phare programme to back up initiatives in civil society to counter racism.

708. Along the lines of the measures adopted in December 1999 on accession partnerships for the central and east European candidate countries ⁽⁵⁾, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 555/2000 on 13 March; the regulation forms the legal basis for a similar process with Cyprus and Malta (Table II) and on 20 March ⁽⁶⁾ the Council formally laid down the principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions for the instruments to be used with these two countries.

709. On 8 November, the Commission proposed working out the principles, short and medium-term priorities and intermediate objectives and conditions in order to establish an accession partnership for Turkey (Table II). On 5 December, the Council reached an agreement on a proposal for the adoption of a basic regulation for Turkey similar to the one adopted for Cyprus and Malta (Table II).

710. In March, the Commission and Estonia signed a joint evaluation of the medium-term economic policy priorities. A second joint evaluation for Hungary was signed in April.

⁽¹⁾ Further information can be obtained on the following web site: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/index.htm>.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.5.4.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.5.1.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(1999) 256; 1999 General Report, point 597.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 596.

⁽⁶⁾ Decisions 2000/248/EC and 2000/249/EC (OJ L 78, 29.3.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.5.4).

Europe agreements and other agreements

711. On 11 April⁽¹⁾, the EC–Hungary Association Council decided on the transition to the second stage of the association with Hungary, in accordance with Article 6 of the Europe agreement. On 5 July⁽²⁾, the Commission proposed that the Council take the same decision concerning the Europe agreement with the Czech Republic. Since the first stage of the association with the Czech Republic was completed on 31 January, the Council considered on 4 December⁽³⁾ that the necessary conditions had been met for the Association Council to decide on the transition to the second stage and therefore adopted the position which the Community should take within the Association Council.

712. With a view to establishing new agricultural concessions, additional protocols to the Europe agreements were initialled on 14 April with Hungary, 4 May with the Czech Republic and Slovakia, 8 May with Latvia, 18 May with Bulgaria, 22 May with Slovenia, 26 May with Romania, 5 June with Lithuania, and 26 September with Poland (Table III).

713. The agreements establishing certain conditions for the carriage of goods by road and the promotion of combined transport were signed with Hungary on 12 July and with Bulgaria on 26 July (Table III). The main objective of the agreements is to facilitate road traffic and transit. An agreement was also initialled with Romania on 26 October (Table III).

714. The additional protocols to the Europe agreements concluded with Hungary, the Czech Republic and Latvia on conformity assessment and acceptance of industrial products were initialled in July and proposals for the signing and conclusion of the agreements were adopted by the Commission on 30 November and 28 November (Table III).

715. The Commission negotiated the participation of all the candidate countries in the European Environment Agency (→ *point 565*) (Table III).

716. The association councils set up by the Europe agreements took further decisions concerning the participation of the candidate central and east European countries in Community programmes. The decisions concern the participation of Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia in the ‘Youth’ Community action programme; Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia in the second stage of the education and training programmes, Latvia in the programme for small and medium-sized

⁽¹⁾ Decision No 1/2000 of the EC–Hungary Association Council (OJ L 114, 13.5.2000).

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 418; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.5.2.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

undertakings, Slovenia in the programme for promoting energy efficiency 'SAVE II'; Bulgaria in the 'MEDIA II' audiovisual programme.

717. On 20 July, the Council concluded an agreement with Cyprus on cooperation in the sphere of small and medium-sized undertakings (Table III). The Council also concluded, on 28 September, an agreement with Malta on its participation in Community programmes in the spheres of training, education and youth (Table III) and decided on 22 December to conclude a similar agreement with a view to enabling Cyprus to participate in these three programmes.

718. On 28 September, the Council took measures to enable candidate countries to participate eventually in the work of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (→ *point 481*).

719. More generally, with the aim of simplifying the procedures for candidate countries wishing to participate in Community programmes, on 10 November⁽¹⁾ the Commission proposed to the Council that it adopt a series of 10 decisions in order to enable the association councils of the central and east European countries to adopt framework decisions or the participation of those countries in the Community programmes open to them. It also proposed that the Council authorise it to negotiate three framework agreements with Cyprus, Malta and Turkey concerning the participation of those countries in the programmes.

720. The meetings of the association councils and committees and parliamentary association committees also set up by Europe agreements are dealt with in the subsection 'Bilateral issues' of this section (→ *points 729 et seq.*).

Financial and technical assistance

721. The provision of aid to the candidate countries of central and eastern Europe under Phare took place in accordance with the guidelines revised in 1999⁽²⁾. Approximately 70 % of the aid went on investments designed to improve the regulatory framework and economic and social cohesion, thereby helping adoption of the *acquis*, and 30 % on institution building, the main instrument of which was town twinning (secondment of experts from Member State governments and agencies to the candidate countries to help on specific projects). The latter percentage includes support for the participation of candidate countries in Community programmes (→ *point 716*). In addition, a special amount (EUR 20 million) was earmarked for aid for developing civil society.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 725; Bull. 11-2000, points 1.5.4. and 1.5.5.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 606.

Lastly, specific sums were granted to Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia for nuclear safety.

722. The initial Phare budget was EUR 1.577 billion in 2000. The operations financed (in million EUR) were:

- national programmes: 1 221, of which Bulgaria 123, Czech Republic 83, Estonia 30, Hungary 101, Latvia 32, Lithuania 84, Poland 428, Romania 247, Slovakia 67 and Slovenia 26;
- cross-border cooperation: 159;
- regional and horizontal programmes: 183;
- clean-up of the Danube in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: 7.5;
- others: 6.

723. On 31 March, the Commission adopted its annual report on the Phare programme for 1998⁽¹⁾.

724. After drawing up, on 26 January⁽²⁾, as a follow-up to the procedure adopted in 1999⁽³⁾, the financial management principles of the special accession programme for agriculture and rural development (Sapard), on 7 June the Commission adopted a regulation on the implementation of the operations and laying down the conditions under which the management of aid is delegated to the agencies accredited for that purpose in the 10 beneficiary countries. It also negotiated bilateral agreements with the beneficiary countries in order to lay down certain conditions arising from those rules. On the basis of the rural development plans presented by these countries and negotiated with the Commission, in October and November, the Commission adopted the programmes for Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia and, in December, the programme for Romania. With the aim of helping to implement the *acquis* regarding the common agricultural policy and supporting the competitiveness of the sectors concerned, job creation and sustainable economic development in rural areas, the measures financed for this purpose focus on investment in farms, improving the processing and marketing of agricultural products and fishery products, developing and improving rural infrastructure, developing and diversifying economic activities, particularly with the aim of creating alternative sources of income, renovating and developing villages and protecting and conserving the rural heritage. Priority is given to

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 183; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.5.3. Information on the Phare programme is also available via the Internet, on the Europa server: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/pas/phare.htm>.

⁽²⁾ SEC(2000) 97; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.5.6.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 605.

operations designed to improve the effectiveness of the market, quality standards and health standards, with attention being paid to environmental conservation. The instrument was allocated EUR 529 million for 2000.

725. Operations were launched under the instrument for structural policies for pre-accession (ISPA)⁽¹⁾ for projects relating to transport (corridors interconnecting the candidate countries and linking them with trans-European networks) and the environment (treatment of wastewater, water supply, waste management and combating atmospheric pollution). For 2000, EUR 1.058 billion was earmarked for the ISPA. Among the many activities funded, the sum of EUR 7.5 million was granted in particular for cleaning up the waters of the Danube in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, on a level with the contribution to the project from the Phare programme (→ *point 722*). In addition, EUR 20 million was specifically given over to technical assistance.

726. In 2000, EUR 9 million was allocated to Cyprus and EUR 6 million to Malta under the heading of specific aid.

727. On 10 April, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 764/2000 regarding the implementation of measures to intensify the EC–Turkey customs union (Table II), with a reference amount of EUR 15 million for the period 2000–02. On 5 December, the Council approved a package of EIB loans totalling EUR 450 million to help Turkey implement the customs union agreement with the EU (Table II).

728. The information on macrofinancial aid for certain candidate countries is in Section 1 ('Economic and monetary policy') of Chapter III (→ *point 68*).

Bilateral issues

729. The EC–Bulgaria Association Council and Association Committee met in Luxembourg on 10 October⁽²⁾ and in Brussels on 20 July. The Joint Parliamentary Committee met in Strasbourg on 6 and 7 July and in Sofia on 5 and 7 November. The third meeting of the Joint Economic and Social Committee was held in Sofia and Veliko Tarnovo on 24 and 25 March. Mr Prodi and Mr Verheugen visited Bulgaria in January, while the Bulgarian Prime Minister, Mr Ivan Kostov, met Mr Prodi at the Commission in November. Mr Fischler met Mr Ventsislav Varbanov, the Bulgarian Minister for Agriculture, in Brussels in January and in Sofia in May.

⁽¹⁾ http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbpro/ispa/ispa_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.5.14.

730. The EC–Estonia Association Council and Association Committee met in Brussels on 14 February⁽¹⁾ and 9 June respectively. The Joint Parliamentary Committee met in Tallinn on 27 and 28 March and in Strasbourg on 4 and 5 October. The Estonian Prime Minister, Mr Mart Laar, visited the Commission on 21 January and Mr Verheugen went to Tallinn on 31 March.

731. The EC–Hungary Association Council met in Brussels on 19 September⁽²⁾, and the Association Committee in April. The Joint Parliamentary Committee met on 24 and 25 May as well as on 11 and 12 October. Mr Verheugen visited Hungary in February and May, Mr Byrne in October and Mr Fischler in November. Mr Janos Martonyi, Hungarian Foreign Minister, met Mr Verheugen in September. Mr Ferenc Madl, Hungary’s newly elected president, visited Brussels on 10 October and had talks with Mr Prodi. Mr Fischler saw Mr Jozsef Torgyan, the Agriculture Minister, in June and Mr Martonyi in September. He himself went to Budapest on 30 November and 1 December.

732. The EC–Latvia Association Council and Association Committee met in Brussels on 15 February⁽³⁾ and 16 June. The Joint Parliamentary Committee convened in Brussels on 31 January and 1 February, then in Riga on 18 and 19 September. Mr Prodi and Mr Verheugen went to Latvia in February, and Mr Ansis Ataols Berzins, the Latvian Prime Minister, visited the Commission in May. The Latvian President, Mrs Vaira Vike-Freiberga, visited the Commission in November. On 4 December, the Council adopted its position with a view to an Association Council decision on cooperation between the Latvian and Community competition authorities⁽⁴⁾.

733. The EC–Lithuania Association Council and Association Committee met in Brussels on 15 February⁽⁵⁾ and 15 June. The Joint Parliamentary Committee convened in Brussels in February and November and in Vilnius and Neringa in June. Mr Prodi and Mr Verheugen went to Vilnius in February. Mr Andrius Kubilius, the Lithuanian Prime Minister, visited the Commission in March. In June, Mr Verheugen visited Vilnius again for the donors’ conference on the decommissioning of the Ignalina power plant.

734. The EC–Poland Association Council and Association Committee met in Luxembourg on 10 October⁽⁶⁾ and in Brussels in June respectively. The Joint Parliamentary Committee met in Warsaw in June. Mr Jerzy Buzek, the Polish Prime Minister, met Mr Prodi in Brussels in April. President Aleksander Kwasniewski saw Mr Prodi at the Commission in November. Mr Fischler

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.5.2.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.5.6.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.5.4.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.5.3.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.5.15.

went to Poland in June and September, Mr Barnier in September and Mr Byrne in October.

735. The EC–Czech Republic Association Council and Association Committee met in Brussels in September⁽¹⁾ and in Prague in June. The Joint Parliamentary Committee convened in April. Mr Fischler saw Mr Jan Fencel, the Czech Agriculture Minister, in June. Mr Verheugen went to Prague in June and Mr Byrne in December.

736. The EC–Romania Association Council and Association Committee met in Brussels on 21 March⁽²⁾ and 27 October. The Joint Parliamentary Committee convened in Bucharest from 24 to 26 May. Mr Prodi and Mr Verheugen went to Bucharest on 13 and 14 January. Mr Petre Roman, the Romanian Foreign Minister, met Mr Verheugen in Brussels on 5 September.

737. The EC–Slovakia Association Council and Association Committee met in Luxembourg on 14 June⁽³⁾ and in Brussels on 15 December. The Association Council decided to set up a joint consultative committee with the EU's Economic and Social Committee. The Joint Parliamentary Committee convened in Bratislava on 20 March and in Brussels on 10 and 11 October. Mr Verheugen went to Slovakia in January and met Mr Pavol Hamzik, the Deputy Prime Minister, in September. Mr Fischler saw Mr Pavel Koncos, the Agriculture Minister, in June.

738. The EC–Slovenia Association Council and Association Committee met in Luxembourg on 14 June⁽⁴⁾ and in Brussels on 23 March. The Joint Parliamentary Committee convened in Brussels on 27 and 28 March and in Ljubljana on 12 and 13 July. Mr Verheugen went to Slovenia in July. Mr Fischler saw Mr Ciril Smrkolj, Agriculture Minister, in February. Mr Andrej Bajuk, the Slovenian Prime Minister, visited the Commission in September.

739. Mr Verheugen went to Cyprus on 23 and 24 March. The Cypriot Foreign Minister, Mr Ioannis Kassoulides, visited the Commission in December⁽⁵⁾.

740. The meeting of the EC–Malta Joint Parliamentary Committee was held in Malta in May. Mr Prodi and Mr Verheugen went to Valetta in March.

741. The EC–Turkey Association Council met in Luxembourg⁽⁶⁾ on 11 April. The Joint Parliamentary Committee convened in Ankara on 22 and 23 February,

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.5.7.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3/2000, point 1.5.5.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.5.3.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.5.4.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.5.1

in Brussels on 5 and 6 June and in Antalya on 22 and 23 November. Mr Verheugen went to Turkey in March and July. Mr Ismail Cem, the Turkish Foreign Minister, visited the Commission in September, meeting Mr Prodi and Mr Verheugen. Mr Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish Deputy Prime Minister, met Mrs de Palacio, Ms Diamantopoulou, Mr Verheugen and Mr Liikanen in Brussels in October.

Section 6

Regional cooperation

742. The Commission took part in meetings of the central European initiative⁽¹⁾ in Hungary, at the level of Heads of State or Government in Budapest and of the foreign ministers in Szeged. The Commission was also represented at the summit of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in Kolding, Denmark, and at the ninth session of the foreign ministers of this organisation in Bergen, Norway, where decisions concerning a new structure and new working methods were taken. On the basis of a proposal by the Commission, the Feira European Council approved a plan of action for the northern dimension in the EU's external and cross-border policies for 2000–03⁽²⁾ (→ *point 953*).

⁽¹⁾ 1996 General Report, point 810.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point I.55.

Chapter VI

Role of the Union in the world

Section 1

Common foreign and security policy (CFSP) ⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

743. *The European Union institutions worked hard on implementing the Amsterdam Treaty provisions on the CFSP and the conclusions of the Helsinki European Council, in particular with a view to setting up a common European security and defence policy. The Union continued to develop and intensify political dialogue with individual countries or groups of countries, while seeking in this context to promote peace processes and human rights at regional and world level through the provision of humanitarian aid. It adopted 11 joint actions and 17 common positions under Articles 14 and 15 of the Treaty on European Union. It also adopted a third common strategy — on the Mediterranean — in accordance with Article 13 of the Treaty. To support peace efforts throughout the world, the EU also expressed its opinions and adopted positions in a large number of statements and made numerous representations in association with various governments and international organisations.*

General matters

744. At the request of the Helsinki European Council ⁽²⁾, the Council decided on 14 February to set up an interim political and security committee ⁽³⁾ and interim military body ⁽⁴⁾ and provisionally second national military experts to its

⁽¹⁾ Further information about the CFSP can be obtained on the following web site: <http://ue.eu.int/pesc/default.asp?lang=en>.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 636.

⁽³⁾ Decision 2000/143/CFSP (OJ L 49, 22.2.2000).

⁽⁴⁾ Decision 2000/144/CFSP (OJ L 49, 22.2.2000).

General Secretariat. These new interim bodies were set up in order to pave the way for the establishment of the permanent political and military bodies agreed by the Helsinki European Council (the permanent political and security committee, military committee and EU military staff office). A civilian crisis management committee was also set up in June.

745. In response to requests by the Helsinki European Council⁽¹⁾ and by Parliament⁽²⁾, the Commission proposed on 11 April the establishment of a rapid reaction facility designed to enhance the EU's civilian capacity to intervene speedily and effectively in crisis points outside the EU (Table II). The proposal is intended to provide support for initial action on worldwide crisis prevention and for crisis management activities where urgent financing requirements cannot be met by existing budgetary procedures.

746. On 22 May, the Council adopted a regulation to provide a legal basis for the financing of bodies, set up by the international community after conflicts, to be responsible for the interim civilian administration of the regions concerned or for implementing the peace agreements (→ *point 900*).

747. In a resolution of 6 September⁽³⁾, Parliament asked to be fully involved in defining the priorities for the Union's external action.

Common foreign policy

748. The Feira European Council adopted a new common strategy, under Article 13 of the Treaty on European Union, on the Mediterranean region (→ *point 913*).

749. As regards common positions and joint actions⁽⁴⁾, the Council:

- defined six common positions and adopted six joint actions concerning the western Balkans: Common Positions 2000/56/CFSP, 2000/176/CFSP, 2000/454/CFSP, 2000/599/CFSP, and 2000/696/CFSP on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; 2000/387/CFSP on the process on stability and good neighbourliness in south-east Europe; Joint Actions 2000/388/CFSP and 2000/798/CFSP on Albania; 2000/175/CFSP on Kosovo; 2000/793/CFSP, 2000/717/CFSP and 2000/811/CFSP on south-east Europe (→ *points 893 et seq.*);

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 636.

⁽²⁾ In its resolution on the Commission's legislative programme for 2000 (Bull. 3-2000, point 1.10.13).

⁽³⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.1.

⁽⁴⁾ Joint actions and common positions concerning a specific geographical area are covered more fully in the section on the geographical area in question; this section simply lists them and gives references to the appropriate sections.

- adopted Joint Action 2000/456/CFSP on Georgia (→ *point 942*);
- adopted two Joint Actions 2000/298/CFSP and 2000/794/CFSP on the Middle East peace process (→ *points 920 and 922*);
- defined six common positions and adopted one joint action concerning Africa: Common Positions 2000/391/CFSP on Angola, 2000/230/CFSP, 2000/420/CFSP and 2000/584/CFSP on Ethiopia and Eritrea, 2000/455/CFSP on Sierra Leone and 2000/558/CFSP on Rwanda and Joint Action 2000/792/CFSP on the African Great Lakes region (→ *points 1033 et seq.*);
- defined three common positions concerning Asia: Common Positions 2000/55/CFSP on Afghanistan as well as 2000/346/CFSP and 2000/601/CFSP on Myanmar (→ *points 986 and 989*).

750. The Council also adopted several decisions implementing, extending or repealing joint actions and common positions⁽¹⁾.

751. Throughout the year the EU made numerous representations to governments regarding human rights, in support of humanitarian action or in the field of non-proliferation and the prevention of armed conflict. The Union's external relations policy also entailed continuing political dialogue with associated countries, non-member States and various international organisations.

Common security and defence policy

752. In June, the Feira European Council⁽²⁾ welcomed the progress made towards fulfilling the objectives set by the Helsinki European Council⁽³⁾ on establishing a common European security and defence policy, in particular as regards the creation of interim bodies and crisis management (→ *point 744*). The European Council held in Nice in December⁽⁴⁾ approved a presidency report concerning this policy and stressed that the objective was that the European Union should quickly be made operational in this area.

753. In a resolution adopted on 16 June⁽⁵⁾, Parliament welcomed the progress made in relation to civilian crisis management but also advocated the setting-up of a rapid-reaction force.

⁽¹⁾ These decisions are covered in the section on the relevant geographical area.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, points I.6 to I.9.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 636.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.9.

754. The procedures for the transfer to the European Union, decided by the Cologne European Council⁽¹⁾, of the functions of the Western European Union (WEU) needed by the former in order to carry out its new tasks in the area of crisis management were the subject of discussion throughout the year within the WEU, particularly at its two ministerial councils. At the first ministerial council in Oporto on 15 and 16 May, ministers also congratulated NATO for its work on implementing the decisions taken at the Washington Summit on a European security and defence identity and noted with satisfaction that the non-EU Member State members of NATO would be involved in the preparation of guidelines for the EU military crisis management project. At the second meeting on 13 November in Marseille, it was decided that the WEU's residual structures and functions would remain in place until 1 July 2001 to enable the Member States to fulfil their commitments under Articles V and IX of the modified Brussels Treaty, while the transfer of other WEU responsibilities would follow its course, e.g. setting up the WEU Satellite Centre and Institute for Security Studies in the form of EU agencies.

755. As part of the EU's commitment to nuclear non-proliferation, the Council adopted a common position on 13 April aimed at promoting the success of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference⁽²⁾. This was also the subject of a resolution by Parliament on 22 May⁽³⁾ and of a statement by the Union on 5 March (→ *point 788*). Throughout the year the Commission carried on the programme of cooperation with Russia provided for in Joint Action 1999/878/CFSP⁽⁴⁾, aimed at the dismantling or destruction of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

756. The second Conference⁽⁵⁾ of the Parties to the Ottawa Convention⁽⁶⁾ on the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and their destruction was held in Geneva from 11 to 15 September with the support of the European Union, which contributed a total of EUR 11.4 million in 2000 to efforts to combat anti-personnel mines. On 14 March, the Commission approved a communication and a proposal for a regulation on stepping up EU aid for combating anti-personnel landmines (→ *point 859*). In a resolution on 25 October⁽⁷⁾, Parliament also called upon the EU to step up action in this area.

757. In the context of the implementation of the European code of conduct on arms exports⁽⁸⁾, the Council adopted a joint action on 22 June concerning the control of technical assistance related to certain military end-uses⁽⁹⁾. In June,

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 635.

⁽²⁾ Common Position 2000/297/CFSP (OJ L 97, 19.4.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.2).

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.3.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 331, 23.12.1999; 1999 General Report, point 798.

⁽⁵⁾ First conference: 1999 General Report, point 640.

⁽⁶⁾ 1998 General Report, point 670.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.3.

⁽⁸⁾ 1998 General Report, point 673.

⁽⁹⁾ Joint Action 2000/401/CFSP (OJ L 159, 30.6.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.8).

the Member States also adopted a common list of military equipment covered by the code. The system set up by the code for notifying refusals worked well, with each Member State sending all its partners a confidential annual report on its defence exports and on the implementation of the code and these reports serving as a basis for the Council's annual report on arms exports. The Council's first annual report in 1999⁽¹⁾ was the subject of a resolution by Parliament on 5 October⁽²⁾ which welcomed the greater transparency. The second report, adopted on 4 December⁽³⁾, highlighted the progress achieved in the code's latest year of application. On 20 November⁽⁴⁾, the Council amended its common position of 1996⁽⁵⁾ concerning arms exports to the former Yugoslavia and, on the same day⁽⁶⁾, extended and amended its 1999 decision⁽⁷⁾ on combating the accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons in Cambodia. On 14 December⁽⁸⁾, it also decided to implement its joint action of 1999⁽⁹⁾ on combating the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons in South Ossetia.

758. Following a final update on 20 March⁽¹⁰⁾, the joint action on the control system for exports of dual-use goods⁽¹¹⁾ was repealed on 22 June⁽¹²⁾ in the light of the Court of Justice's opinion that the only basis for such controls should be an act based on the EC Treaty⁽¹³⁾. Additional information on the system can be found in Section 3 ('Common commercial policy') of this chapter (→ *point 825*).

759. In the field of the fight against terrorism, the EU continued to implement its programme of assistance to the Palestinian Authority⁽¹⁴⁾ despite delays caused by the continuing tension in the region. There was also progress on cooperation with the EU's Mediterranean partners on counter-terrorism. The Union participated actively in the talks on the UN conventions on the fight against terrorism, particularly the two most recent ones: the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the Convention on the Suppression of Terrorist Bombing.

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 641.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.2.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ Common Position 2000/722/CFSP (OJ L 292, 21.11.2000; Bulletin 11-2000, point 1.6.8).

⁽⁵⁾ Common Position 96/184/CFSP (OJ L 58, 7.3.1996; 1996 General Report, point 658).

⁽⁶⁾ Decision 2000/724/CFSP (OJ L 292, 21.11.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.9).

⁽⁷⁾ Decision 1999/730/CFSP (OJ L 296, 16.11.1999; 1999 General Report, point 641).

⁽⁸⁾ Decision 2000/803/CFSP (OJ L 326, 22.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000).

⁽⁹⁾ Joint Action 1999/34/CFSP (OJ L 9, 15.1.1999; 1999 General Report, point 641; 1998 General Report, point 673).

⁽¹⁰⁾ Decision 2000/243/CFSP (OJ L 82, 1.4.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.2).

⁽¹¹⁾ Decision 94/942/CFSP (OJ L 367, 31.12.1994; 1994 General Report, point 745).

⁽¹²⁾ Decision 2000/402/CFSP (OJ L 159, 30.6.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.7).

⁽¹³⁾ Cases C-70/94 [1995] ECR I-3189; C-83/94 [1995] ECR I-3231; C-124/95 [1997] ECR I-81.

⁽¹⁴⁾ 1997 General Report, points 725 and 923; 1998 General Report, point 675.

Presidency and EU statements ⁽¹⁾

Candidate countries

760. In June, the European Union welcomed the Estonian Parliament's adoption of amendments to the Language Law and the decision of the Estonian Government to adopt in March the State integration programme for 2000–07 ⁽²⁾; it also welcomed in September the adoption of the implementing regulations of the Latvian Language Law ⁽³⁾.

761. In February, the European Union, which opposes the death penalty in all cases, welcomed the decision by Cyprus to ratify Protocol 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights concerning the abolition of the death penalty ⁽⁴⁾. Considering the status quo in Cyprus unacceptable, it supported the UN Secretary-General's efforts to achieve a negotiated, comprehensive, just and lasting settlement ⁽⁵⁾. In March, it regretted the fact that Akin Birdal had again been detained by the Turkish authorities and found that this constituted a serious setback for freedom of expression in Turkey and was not in accordance with the spirit of the Helsinki conclusions ⁽⁶⁾.

762. The central and east European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area, aligned themselves with numerous declarations made by the Union in the CFSP context and certain positions adopted by the EU.

Western Balkans

763. In January, the EU applauded the conduct of the elections in Croatia ⁽⁷⁾ and, in February, welcomed the election of Mr Stipe Mesic as the new President ⁽⁸⁾. It also decided to rapidly put into place the joint EU–Croatia Consultative Task Force in order to start preparing the ground for future contractual relations within the framework of the 'stabilisation and association process' ⁽⁹⁾. It also welcomed the decision by the Croatian Government to extradite to the

⁽¹⁾ The following points are a summary of the positions set out in Presidency statements on behalf of the European Union and statements by the European Union on international political issues. The full versions of the statements are to be found in the *Bulletin of the European Union*.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.13.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.11.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.10.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.9.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.12.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.12.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.14.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.13.

Hague Mr Mladen Naletilic to answer charges of crimes against humanity⁽¹⁾. During the peace implementation conference for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU restated its full commitment to the peace process there and commended the remarkable work accomplished by the High Representative⁽²⁾. The EU stated that it was concerned at the increasing use of violence for political ends in Albania and called for the rule of law to be observed⁽³⁾.

764. With regard to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), the European Union expressed grave concern in March and again in May at the persistent violation by the Serbian authorities of the right of free expression⁽⁴⁾, in July and September expressed its support for the freelance journalist Miroslav Filipovic⁽⁵⁾ and welcomed the release of Flora Brovina in November⁽⁶⁾. During the run-up to the elections in Serbia, it voiced its hopes in July⁽⁷⁾ for democratic change in Belgrade and, in a message to the Serbian people in September⁽⁸⁾, emphasised that such a choice would lead to a radical change in EU policy vis-à-vis Serbia. It also supported the sending of 'democracy witnesses' during the elections⁽⁹⁾ and recognised⁽¹⁰⁾ and welcomed Mr Kostunica's victory. In October⁽¹¹⁾, it announced the lifting of the sanctions against the FRY, with the exception of those affecting Milosevic and those associated with him, and various EU-FRY cooperation measures and, in November, welcomed the FRY's admission to the United Nations. In December the EU welcomed the fact that the general elections in Serbia had been conducted properly and that victory had been achieved by the forces of democracy⁽³⁾. On the subject of Kosovo, the EU expressed serious concern in February at the violent events in Mitrovica⁽¹²⁾ but, in May, welcomed the adoption by UNMIK of the regulation governing the issue of travel documents for residents of Kosovo⁽¹³⁾. In August, it approved UNMIK's decision to take over responsibility for the Zvecan lead-smelting factory⁽¹⁴⁾ and also condemned the attack perpetrated in Pristina inside the OSCE mission building⁽¹⁵⁾. It also welcomed the good conduct and remarkably high turnout at the local elections in October⁽¹⁶⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.5.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.7.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.13; Bull. 5-2000, points 1.6.23 to 1.6.25.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.23; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.19.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.17.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.24.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.20.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.21.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.22.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.22.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.25.

⁽¹³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.22.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.25.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.26.

⁽¹⁶⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.16.

Maghreb, Mashreq and the Middle East

765. The European Union voiced its deep concern in February at the flare-up of hostilities in southern Lebanon and expressed regret at the casualties of the Israeli air-raids on Lebanese infrastructure⁽¹⁾. In May, it appealed to all sides to refrain from further escalation and observe the terms of the ceasefire of April 1996⁽²⁾, while also welcoming the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from southern Lebanon and expressing the hope that this move would facilitate reconciliation and rehabilitation in the region⁽³⁾.

766. The European Union deplored the escalation of tension and violence in the occupied territories in May and urged all parties concerned to exercise restraint, appealing to Israel and the Palestinian Authority to intensify their efforts with a view to urgently concluding the framework agreement envisaged in the Sharm-el-Sheikh Memorandum⁽⁴⁾. Having noted in September⁽⁵⁾ the right of the Palestinian people to build a sovereign, democratic, viable and peaceful State, the Union expressed its grave concern several times in October⁽⁶⁾ at the resumption of bloody confrontations and, in November, while stating its own willingness to contribute, called on those in positions of authority to stop the spiral of violence and resume the dialogue and the peace talks⁽⁷⁾.

767. Having strongly deplored the mortar attack in Tehran in February⁽⁸⁾, the European Union congratulated the people of Iran on their commitment to the democratic process as shown by their massive turnout at the first round of the parliamentary elections⁽⁹⁾. In July, however, it expressed concern at the verdict in the trial of the Iranian Jews⁽¹⁰⁾ and, in September, noted the decision of the Court of Appeal⁽¹¹⁾.

768. The EU welcomed the ratification of the Treaty on the demarcation of the sea and land borders between Saudi Arabia and Yemen in June⁽¹²⁾ and between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in July⁽¹³⁾ and expressed satisfaction at OPEC's decision to increase oil production in September⁽¹⁴⁾. However, it expressed regret at the attack on the UK embassy in Yemen in October⁽¹⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.22.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.14.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.15.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.16.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.12.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 10-2000, points 1.6.18 to 1.6.20.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.15.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.20.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.21.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.15.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.10.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.10.

⁽¹³⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.6.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.15.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.26.

Independent States of the former Soviet Union

769. Deploring the execution of six men in Uzbekistan, in January the European Union noted its opposition to the death penalty in all cases⁽¹⁾ and welcomed the decision by the Government of Turkmenistan to abolish capital punishment⁽²⁾. It also welcomed the decision adopted on 30 December 1999 by Ukraine's Constitutional Court establishing that the country's criminal code provisions regarding the death penalty were unconstitutional⁽³⁾. In February, it applauded the decision by Ukraine's Parliament to abolish the death penalty and ratify Protocol 6 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms⁽⁴⁾.

770. In March, the Union deplored the disproportionate use of force by the Belarusian authorities to suppress a march organised by the opposition in Minsk to commemorate independence day⁽⁵⁾. In May, it expressed regret at the sentence imposed on Mr Mikhail Chigir⁽⁶⁾ and, in June, at the sentences on Mr Nikolai Statkevich and Mr Valery Shchukin⁽⁷⁾. Despite certain positive measures, the Union deplored the failure of the Belarusian authorities to take sufficient account of the joint recommendations of the OSCE, the EU and the Council of Europe concerning the elections of 15 October⁽⁸⁾.

771. The EU congratulated Mr Vladimir Putin on his election as President of the Russian Federation⁽⁹⁾ and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze⁽¹⁰⁾ on his re-election as President of Georgia, expressing the hope that they would give fresh impetus to partnership relations with the Union and continue to follow the path of decisive economic and democratic reforms in their respective countries. Regretting the arrest of leaders of the 'Agzyrbilik' organisation on charges of hooliganism and attempted homicide, the European Union urged the Government of Turkmenistan to urgently review their cases and abide by the principles set out by the OSCE⁽¹¹⁾. In April, it welcomed the decision of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine on the constitutionality of holding the all-Ukrainian Referendum on the People's Initiative as an encouraging sign that the Ukrainian democratic institutions were working well⁽¹²⁾. It regretted, however, that the presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan on 29 October had not been conducted in accordance with OSCE principles⁽¹³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.23.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.30.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.31.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.32.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.3.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.4.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.11.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.4.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.8.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.10.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.11.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.18.

⁽¹³⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.21; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.13.

United States

772. The European Union, which opposes the death penalty in all cases, welcomed the decision by Governor George Ryan of Illinois to declare a moratorium on all pending executions in the State and encouraged all States in the US with capital punishment to consider taking a similar measure with a view to abolishing the death penalty throughout the country ⁽¹⁾.

Asia

773. While recognising that the trial of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr Nawaz Sharif, seemed to have been conducted in a transparent and fair manner, the EU expressed concern, in April, at some aspects of its wider judicial context ⁽²⁾. In September, it condemned the bomb attack in Islamabad ⁽³⁾, but in December ⁽⁴⁾ it welcomed the Indian authorities' decision to extend the unilateral ceasefire in Kashmir for a month after the end of Ramadan and Pakistan's statement that it would exercise 'maximum restraint' and withdraw some of its troops along the line of control. In July, the EU also condemned the resumption of hostilities in Afghanistan ⁽⁵⁾ but in May it welcomed the decision by the Nepalese Government to extend the mandate of the Deuba Commission, set up to create a cross-party consensus among the country's democratic groups and pave the way for negotiations with the Maoist insurgents ⁽⁶⁾. In the light of the intensification of the conflict in Sri Lanka, the EU appealed to both parties in May to cease hostilities and begin negotiations with a view to securing a peaceful resolution of this tragic, long-running conflict ⁽⁷⁾, later reaffirming its support for the Norwegian mediation initiative ⁽⁸⁾. It also strongly condemned the terrorist attacks which, in June, killed the Minister for Industrial Development and 21 other innocent people ⁽⁹⁾ and, in October, on the eve of the elections, one of the candidates, Mr Mohammed Latif Baithullah, along with 18 others ⁽¹⁰⁾. In December ⁽⁴⁾, it encouraged civil society and the political forces to reach a national consensus on a peace plan.

774. In April, the EU welcomed the resumption of dialogue between the United Nations and the Cambodian authorities on the proposed Khmer Rouge Tribunal ⁽¹¹⁾ and the decision by President Estrada to declare a moratorium on

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.16.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.13.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.16.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.4.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.17.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.21.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.19.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.19.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.25.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.6.

executions in the Philippines⁽¹⁾. However, in May, it deeply regretted that the Burmese authorities had still not respected the democratic verdict of the people 10 years after the 1990 elections in which the democratic party, the National League for Democracy, won by such a convincing margin⁽²⁾, and, in September, expressed its grave concern at the political situation in Rangoon and the situation of Aung San Suu Kyi⁽³⁾. The EU gave a favourable reception to the appointment of Tan Sri Razali Ismail as the UN Secretary-General's special envoy⁽⁴⁾ but expressed regret, in October, at the Burmese authorities' decision to postpone the visit by the troika⁽⁵⁾. On 27 December, it welcomed the decision of Laos to sign the international pact relating to economic, social and cultural rights⁽⁶⁾.

775. In January, the Union welcomed the steps taken by the new Government of Indonesia and President Wahid to strengthen democracy and restore the vitality of the economy⁽⁷⁾ and, in October, congratulated it on the progress achieved in that direction⁽⁸⁾. In February, it welcomed the publication of the report by the International Commission of Inquiry on gross violations of fundamental human rights and humanitarian law in East Timor and the report by the Indonesian Human Rights Commission and called for the perpetrators of those violations to be brought to justice⁽⁹⁾. In September, however, it spoke of its concern at the violence in Timor, the Moluccas and Aceh⁽¹⁰⁾ and condemned the aggression perpetrated against a UNHCR team in West Timor⁽¹¹⁾. In August, it noted with concern the verdict in the second trial of Anwar Ibrahim in Malaysia⁽¹²⁾.

776. The EU welcomed the proposals made in Berlin on 9 March by President Kim Dae-Jung relating to peace in the Korean peninsula and the reunification of the two Koreas and called on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respond positively and in a constructive manner⁽¹³⁾. It also welcomed, in April, the simultaneous announcement of a summit meeting between South Korean President, Kim Dae-Jung, and the Chairman of the National Defence Committee of North Korea, Kim Jong Il⁽¹⁴⁾, and in September, the start of work on the reconnection of the rail networks of the north and south of the peninsula⁽¹⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.16.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.5.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 9-2000, points 1.6.13 and 1.6.14.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.5.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.6.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.19.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.17.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.29.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.9.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.24.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.16.

⁽¹³⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.7.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.14.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.6.

Latin America and the Caribbean

777. The European Union applauded the initiative of the Brazilian President in organising a summit of South American Heads of State and gave it full support⁽¹⁾.

778. The EU closely monitored the electoral process in Peru and, in April, urged the authorities to adopt measures to ensure that the Peruvian people could express their will in freedom and democracy⁽²⁾; however, noting the results of the election, in June it voiced deep concern over the number of reported irregularities and anomalies⁽³⁾. In July, it offered its full support to the action taken by the Organisation of American States to promote the strengthening of democracy in Peru⁽⁴⁾. In August, however, it deplored the violence that accompanied the investiture of President Alberto Fujimori in Lima⁽⁵⁾ and, in September, noted President Fujimori's decision to call fresh elections in which he would not stand as a candidate⁽⁶⁾. The EU, having again expressed its concern at the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Colombia following the acts of violence and atrocities in Gigante and Chiquinquirá⁽⁷⁾, welcomed the start of peace talks between the Government of Colombia and the FARC⁽⁸⁾ and, in November, reaffirmed its support for the peace process. The Union expressed its support for the President of Paraguay, Luis González Macchi, while condemning all attempts to alter by force the constitutional order in the country⁽⁹⁾.

779. As regards Central America, the Union welcomed the agreement signed in San Salvador on 7 February between Honduras and Nicaragua under which the two parties decided to submit to the International Court of Justice the dispute that arose following the ratification of the Ramírez-López Treaty on the demarcation of maritime borders between Colombia and Honduras⁽¹⁰⁾. On the second anniversary of the brutal and appalling murder of Bishop Gerardi in Guatemala, the Union welcomed President Portillo's decision to name the day the 'Day of Dignity for the Victims of Violence' and his determination to ensure that those genuinely responsible for the murder be brought to justice⁽¹¹⁾.

780. In July, the EU congratulated Mr Vicente Fox Quesada on his victory in the Mexican presidential elections⁽¹²⁾ and expressed satisfaction in August at the

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.4.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.15.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.15.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.20.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.21.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.17.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.8.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.8.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.18.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.18.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.11.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.17.

smooth conduct of the elections in Chiapas⁽¹⁾. In December, it welcomed the initiatives of the new government and the Zapatista national liberation army in creating the conditions needed for the peace dialogue to be resumed in order to solve the conflict in Chiapas⁽²⁾.

781. The Union noted with regret, in March, the postponement of the legislative and local elections in Haiti⁽³⁾ but, in July, endorsed the action taken by the OAS observer mission and the observations of the UN Secretary-General concerning the conduct of the elections⁽⁴⁾. In December⁽²⁾, it noted the election of Mr Jean-Bertrand Aristide as President, and expressed its regret at the wave of violence which preceded the elections and the fact that the efforts of the Organisation of American States had not resulted in an agreement.

Africa

782. With regard to the Great Lakes region, in February, the European Union welcomed the positive signs of a revitalised peace process in Burundi and expressed its full support to the new facilitator, Nelson Mandela⁽⁵⁾. In March, it expressed concern at the circumstances of the death of Gabriel Gisabwamana, a member of the Burundian National Assembly⁽⁶⁾, while in August⁽⁷⁾, September⁽⁸⁾ and October⁽⁹⁾, it welcomed developments in the peace negotiations in Burundi. It expressed concern on learning that, in Rwanda, Archbishop Emmanuel Kataliko had been prevented from returning to the see of his archdiocese at Bukavu and had been banished to Butembo⁽¹⁰⁾. The Union welcomed the conduct of the referendum in Uganda on 29 June⁽¹¹⁾, noted the agreements signed by representatives of the army and militias in Brazzaville (Congo) and expressed satisfaction at the appointment of President Bongo of Gabon as mediator⁽¹²⁾. In April, the EU expressed its deep concern at the continuing tension in the Democratic Republic of Congo and once again urged all parties to the conflict to halt immediately all military activities and respect their commitments under the Lusaka Agreement⁽¹³⁾. It reiterated its commitment to the agreement in August⁽¹⁴⁾ and September⁽¹⁵⁾. It welcomed the conditions under

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.18.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.6.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.14.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.9.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.4.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.7.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.5.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.8.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.26.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.19.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.24.

⁽¹³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.16.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.22.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.18.

which the elections were held in Tanzania in November but expressed concern at the situation in Zanzibar⁽¹⁾.

783. The EU stated, in January, that UNITA under the leadership of Dr Jonas Savimbi, by failing to comply with key provisions of the Lusaka Protocol, bore the prime responsibility for the war in Angola⁽²⁾. It noted that the constitutional referendum held in February in Zimbabwe had confirmed the people's commitment to participate in the political life of the country and hoped that the elections would be conducted in similar conditions⁽³⁾, but learnt with concern, in March, of the moves by groups of ex-combatants to illegally occupy more than 200 farms in Zimbabwe⁽⁴⁾. While welcoming the conduct of the elections⁽⁵⁾, it again expressed concern at the raids by the Zimbabwean police on opposition party offices⁽⁶⁾. The EU condemned the use of violence as a means to achieve political ends in Mozambique and strongly deplored the excesses which accompanied the demonstrations in the north of the country in November⁽⁷⁾.

784. In January, the EU welcomed the recent steps towards normalisation of bilateral relations between Sudan and its neighbours, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Uganda, and reaffirmed the importance of a constructive dialogue aiming at stability and cooperation in the region⁽⁸⁾. In March it expressed its grave concern at the conditions imposed by the SPLM/SRRA on NGOs working in southern Sudan⁽⁹⁾, in May welcomed the announcement by the Sudanese President that he had ordered the cessation of aerial bombing in southern Sudan⁽¹⁰⁾, and in June expressed its full agreement with the conclusions of the sixth meeting of the committee on Sudan of the IGAD partners' forum. In June⁽¹¹⁾ and August⁽¹²⁾, respectively, it noted with grave concern the offensive launched by the SPLM and the bombing of civilian targets by the Sudanese airforce. It welcomed the designation of a transitional national assembly in Somalia in August⁽¹³⁾ and, in September, wished the newly elected Somali president every success⁽¹⁴⁾. It also welcomed the signing, on 7 February, by the armed FRUD and the Government of Djibouti of the framework agreement for reform and civil concord which envisaged the suspension of hostilities between government and rebel forces⁽¹⁵⁾. In May, having called on the Governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia to enter into

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.20.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.8.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.33.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.14.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.30.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.25.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.14.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.28.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.10.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.20.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.18.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.28.

⁽¹³⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.27.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.23.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.15.

further negotiations on the basis of the statement of 5 May of the OAU Presidency⁽¹⁾, the Union condemned the resumption of hostilities between the two countries and⁽²⁾, in June, welcomed the outcome of the proximity talks in Algiers under Algerian chairmanship⁽³⁾. After deploring the reprisals against Eritrean and Ethiopian civilians in September⁽⁴⁾, it approved the setting-up of a UN Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) in November⁽⁵⁾ and, in December⁽⁶⁾, welcomed the signing in Algiers of the peace agreement between the two countries.

785. Having noted with deep concern the military coup and the dissolution of political and legal institutions in Côte d'Ivoire on 24 December 1999 and urged all parties to restore peacefully and rapidly democratic constitutional rule in the country⁽⁷⁾, the EU regretted the acts of violence committed in July against the civilian population and businesses⁽⁸⁾ but welcomed the constitutional referendum of 23 and 24 July⁽⁹⁾ and the conciliation meeting organised in September by the President of the OAU⁽¹⁰⁾. It subsequently condemned the climate in which the presidential elections of 22 October⁽¹¹⁾, won by Mr Laurent Gbagbo, were conducted and called on the Ivorian authorities to strengthen the democratic process with a view to the elections. In December⁽⁶⁾, the EU regretted that the electors' freedom of choice had been limited and that some of them had not been able to express their views.

786. In February, prior to the holding of the year 2000 presidential elections in Senegal, the EU welcomed the tradition and democratic zeal of Senegalese society and called on all the parties concerned to ensure that the electoral process was conducted in a fair, transparent and peaceful manner⁽¹²⁾. In March, it commended the free, fair and transparent way the elections had been held⁽¹³⁾. However, it expressed concern at the confrontations in Gambia between students and security forces⁽¹⁴⁾ and later between members of an opposition party and representatives of the ruling party⁽¹⁵⁾. It took note of the official announcement by the Public Prosecutor of the Republic of Guinea of the opening of the trial of Mr Alpha Condé and expressed the hope that it would be conducted fairly and transparently, in full accordance

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.9.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.10.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.12.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.8.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.10.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.11.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.9.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.10.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.7.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, points 1.6.11 to 1.6.15.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.27.

⁽¹³⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.9.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.9.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.13.

with the law⁽¹⁾. In January, it welcomed the return of constitutional and democratic order to Guinea-Bissau through the holding of free and fair legislative and presidential elections⁽²⁾, but later expressed concern at the ongoing climate of tension and insecurity in the country as a result of indiscipline in some sectors of the armed forces⁽³⁾. It also welcomed confirmation of the date for the local elections in Equatorial Guinea⁽⁴⁾ and the promulgation of the new electoral code⁽⁵⁾ and the establishment of the Independent National Electoral Committee⁽⁶⁾ in Togo. However, it strongly condemned the actions taken by the Revolutionary United Front in Sierra Leone in direct violation of the Lomé Peace Agreement⁽⁷⁾ and expressed concern at the effects of violations of UN arms embargoes on conflicts in Africa, particularly in Sierra Leone and Angola⁽⁸⁾.

Pacific region

787. The European Union expressed its concern in July at the development of the situation in Fiji, which was unconstitutional, unstable and precarious⁽⁹⁾. In June, it had likewise condemned the attempt to overthrow the democratically elected Government of the Solomon Islands and called for the immediate and safe release of the Prime Minister and others held by the Malatian Eagle Force⁽¹⁰⁾.

General

788. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force on 5 March 1970, the European Union reiterated its firm support for this Treaty⁽¹¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.12.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.17.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.11.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.12.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.17.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.29.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.19.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.17.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.12.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.14.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.15.

Section 2

International organisations and conferences

United Nations and specialised agencies⁽¹⁾

General Assembly

789. The 55th session of the UN General Assembly (the ‘Millennium Assembly’) opened in New York on 5 September⁽²⁾. Mr Harri Holkeri, former Prime Minister of Finland, was elected President. A Millennium Summit was held from 6 to 8 September⁽³⁾, as an integral part of the General Assembly, to discuss the role of the United Nations in the 21st century. The European Union was represented by Mr Jacques Chirac, President of the European Council, and by Mr Romano Prodi, President of the Commission. The summit debated the major challenges facing the international community and finished with the adoption of a Millennium Declaration on the future role of the United Nations. During the ministerial week, the European Union was represented by Mr Hubert Védrine, President of the Council, and by Mr Chris Patten. In the address he made on behalf of the EU, Mr Védrine drew particular attention to the fact that follow-up to the Millennium Summit, which made alleviating poverty and maintaining peace priority objectives for the 21st century, would have to be thorough. In that connection, he pointed out that the Union’s foreign policy focused on preserving peace, boosting international security and defending human rights. He added that the Union, in its desire to play a full role on the international stage, had set up new decision-making bodies for political and military matters, thus expanding the crisis-management resources at its disposal. Mr Védrine also called for cooperation with the United Nations to be stepped up, reiterating the EU’s support for the Secretary-General, the UN’s reform efforts and the need to find a solution to the organisation’s lingering financial problems. On the sidelines of the session, Mr Patten attended meetings at ministerial level with representatives of many countries and regional groupings.

⁽¹⁾ For the activities of the specialised development agencies see Section 4 (‘Development cooperation’) of this chapter (→ *points 861 to 866*).

⁽²⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.27. Additional information can be found on the UN web site: <http://www.un.org/millennium/index090400.html>.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.26.

Economic and Social Council and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)

790. The 55th annual session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe took place in Geneva from 2 to 5 May. Discussions focused on the 10 years of transition in central and eastern Europe, the revival of south-east Europe's economies, the contribution that regional cooperation could make to addressing certain major problems, and economic policy and regional cooperation strategies. The Commission raised the issue of how to plan and organise international technical and financial assistance, and of where such assistance could be targeted with greatest effectiveness. The ECE also organised, on 6 and 7 December in Geneva, a meeting in preparation for the high-level conference on the financing of development, scheduled for 2002. During the meeting, the Commission made a presentation concerning the contribution of the Community assistance in this connection.

Commission on Sustainable Development and Convention on Climate Change

791. Activities relating to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Convention on Climate Change are covered in Section 4 ('Environment') of Chapter IV (→ *points 574 and 578*).

Convention on the Law of the Sea and the International Seabed Authority

792. As a party to the Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Community took part in the meeting of States Parties to the Convention held in New York from 22 to 26 May and, as a member of the International Seabed Authority, it took part in the authority's sixth session, held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 20 to 31 March and from 3 to 14 July.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (IBRD)

793. In conjunction with the general assemblies of the IMF and the World Bank, the European Union, represented by Mr Laurent Fabius, President of the Council, and Mr Solbes Mira, attended a number of meetings in Prague in September. Commission representatives also took part as observers in meetings of the Group of Ten, the IMF International Monetary and Financial Committee and the Development Committee.

World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)

794. The Community, represented by the Commission and its Member States, continued to play an active role in WIPO, in particular at the diplomatic conference from 7 to 20 December on artists' rights in respect of their audiovisual performances. On 16 March, the Council approved the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty⁽¹⁾.

World Trade Organisation (WTO) and World Customs Organisation (WCO)

795. The activities of these organisations are covered in Section 3 ('Common commercial policy') of this chapter (→ *points 807 to 814*).

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

796. The OSCE's main meeting was the Ministerial Council meeting on 27 and 28 November⁽²⁾, attended by the Heads of State or Government and foreign ministers of the 55 participating States. Representatives of the European Union, the OSCE's Mediterranean partners (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia), the partners for cooperation (Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand), UN agencies and other international organisations and regional and sub-regional groupings also attended. The Ministerial Council adopted a declaration on the events in south-eastern Europe and a number of decisions on OSCE operational issues.

797. Mr Patten addressed the OSCE Permanent Council on 23 November. He highlighted the many areas in which the Union and the OSCE worked together for the sake of consistent results. He had talks with OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Benita Ferrero-Waldner, and with OSCE Secretary-General Ján Kubiš.

798. The OSCE Economic Forum meeting held in Prague from 11 to 14 April was devoted to 'Economic aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation: the challenges of transformation' and a review of the implementation of economic commitments. A seminar on 'Experiences with post-conflict rehabilitation efforts' was held in Tbilisi in January. Human dimension seminars were held to discuss human rights and inhuman treatment or punishment (March, Vienna), children and armed conflicts (May, Warsaw), trafficking in human beings (June, Vienna) and migration and internal displacement (September, Vienna). The Human

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.3.41.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.22.

Dimension Implementation Meeting was held in Warsaw in October. A seminar on optimising interinstitutional relations in the economic and environmental field was held in Vienna on 5 and 6 October as a follow-up to the eighth Economic Forum meeting. In preparation for the ninth Economic Forum, a seminar on transparency and good governance in economic matters took place in Almaty in November. A Mediterranean seminar on OSCE experience in the field of confidence- and security-building measures and its relevance for the Mediterranean region was held in Portorož in October. The Commission took part in the 19 July OSCE Permanent Council meeting, which was commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Helsinki Declaration. It was also represented at the Parliamentary Assembly session held in Bucharest in July.

799. As in 1999, OSCE activities in preventive diplomacy, crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction focused on former Yugoslavia (especially Kosovo) and on the Caucasus, but the OSCE was also present in Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Moldova, Ukraine and Tajikistan. The OSCE continued to seek a peaceful settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh and observe the situation in Georgia and Chechnya (Russian Federation). It was also involved in the democratisation process in Belarus. The OSCE, along with the European Commission and UN agencies, has been playing an important role in the UN mission in Kosovo. The OSCE's Chairman-in-Office visited Kosovo, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Caucasus and central Asia, accompanied by a team of experts in the OSCE's main fields of activity. The Commission was invited to take part in these visits.

800. The Commission took part, on 11 and 12 December in Tokyo, in the OSCE–Japan 2000 conference on global security in central Asia, sharing the Asian experience with that of the OSCE during which it addressed environmental issues. It also took part in the OSCE's activities throughout the year, contributing to its work on the economic and human dimensions, and on relations with the Mediterranean countries.

Western European Union (WEU)

801. The activities of the WEU are now covered in Section 1 ('Common foreign and security policy') of this chapter (→ *point 754*).

Council of Europe

802. The Community, represented by the Commission, took part in the work of the Council of Europe, particularly the 106th and 107th sessions of the

Committee of Ministers held in Strasbourg on 11 May and 9 November, and in the annual quadripartite meetings held in Strasbourg on 14 March⁽¹⁾. In addition to the usual cooperation on legal, cultural, youth and human-rights matters, the Commission was represented at the eighth ministerial session of the EUR-OPA agreement on major hazards (Athens, 21 and 22 February), the ministerial conferences on sport (Bratislava, 30 and 31 May), media (Cracow, 15 and 16 June) and education (Cracow, 15 and 17 October). For its part, the Council of Europe took part in the stability pact for south-east Europe and was also involved in drawing-up the European Charter of Fundamental Rights (→ *point 15*).

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

803. At the annual ministerial meeting of the OECD Council in Paris on 26 and 27 June⁽²⁾, ministers underlined the need for a new round of trade talks to be launched in the WTO framework as soon as possible (→ *point 807*). Discussions also covered the macroeconomic outlook for the OECD member countries and globalisation, in terms of its effect on their economies, the opportunities it offers, and the challenges it presents from the point of view of governance. Ministers welcomed the updated *Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises* and the considerable progress made in eliminating harmful tax practices. On 28 July, Slovakia, which had attended the meeting as an observer, was invited to join the organisation as its 30th member.

804. On 27 June, the Commission and the Member States joined the OECD member countries' ministers and those of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Slovakia in adopting the revised *Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises*, which update and expand on the 1976 guidelines, chiefly by giving international investors greater responsibility and responding to the concerns of civil society regarding multinationals' corporate behaviour.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

805. The EBRD's activities are described in Section 1 ('Economic and monetary policy') of Chapter III (→ *points 85 et seq.*).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.16.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.20; <http://www.oecd.org/agr/News/index.htm>.

Section 3

Common commercial policy ⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

806. *The European Union played an active part in efforts to kick-start the multilateral trade negotiations after the failure of the Seattle Conference. It also concluded an agreement with China concerning that country's membership of the WTO. At EU level, changes were made to the regulations relating to the Community Customs Code, anti-dumping and dual-use goods and technologies.*

World Trade Organisation (WTO) ⁽²⁾

807. Following the failure of the third WTO ministerial conference in Seattle in December 1999 ⁽³⁾, the EU worked with its trading partners to rebuild confidence and cooperation within the WTO and pave the way for a new trade round. In summit and ministerial meetings with the US, Canada, Japan, the G8 and other industrialised countries (→ *point 956*), or in the Asia–Europe Meeting (ASEM) context (→ *point 980*), consensus was reached on the need to launch a broad-based and inclusive trade round as early as possible, encompassing further trade liberalisation, tighter rules, promotion of sustainable development and consideration of the needs of developing countries. With that in mind, and to address developing countries' concerns, WTO members took measures to improve market access for the least advanced countries, extend the transitional periods envisaged in certain WTO agreements and improve technical assistance. A work programme intended to help the developing countries to implement WTO obligations was also launched.

808. Negotiations on the provisions to be re-examined under the WTO agreement on agriculture ⁽⁴⁾ got under way in March. WTO members submitted their proposals on the negotiation arrangements and took stock of what had been achieved since implementation of the agreement. The Committee of the Regions

⁽¹⁾ Further information about the common commercial policy can be obtained on the following web site: http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/trade/index_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ <http://www.wto.org/index.htm>.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 676.

⁽⁴⁾ 1994 General Report, point 985.

adopted, on 14 June, an own-initiative opinion on the EU's position in these negotiations⁽¹⁾.

809. Negotiations on the provisions to be re-examined as part of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) started in January. In May, the WTO adopted a 'road map' decision marking out the next stages of the negotiations. More precise guidelines for the negotiations, including deadlines, are under discussion. In these negotiations, the Council for Trade in Services meets in 'special' (or negotiating) session every two to three months. In parallel, negotiations have also intensified in the 'services' working groups on domestic regulations, rules (safeguards, subsidies and public procurement), specific commitments and financial services.

810. The European Union participated actively throughout the year in the various WTO working groups and committees, notably the Working Group on Trade and Investment, to which the Community submitted three written contributions ('International rules on investment and their impact on national policies', 'Flexibility and non-discrimination', 'Survey of the position of the European business community as regards the international rules on investment', to the Rules of Origin Committee, which continued its work on harmonisation, at world level, of the non-preferential rules of origin, and to the Committee on Technical Obstacles to Trade, to which it submitted contributions on international standardisation, notification, labelling and technical assistance. Under the Agreement on Technical Obstacles to Trade, the Commission also sent the WTO 16 notifications of Community texts. It reacted in 7 cases of third country notifications. This system allows for preventive control of measures liable to hinder EC trade with third countries.

811. The bilateral agreement between the Community and China on the latter's accession to the WTO was signed on 19 May (Table III). This agreement, covering all sectors subject to WTO regulations such as telecommunications, financial services, distribution, professional services and industrial and agricultural products, is the outcome of 14 years of negotiations. Together with the US-China agreement of November 1999, it sets the scene for the historic accession of China to the WTO.

812. The European Union also approved WTO membership applications from Croatia, Lithuania, Albania and Oman, the latter two countries having joined during the year along with Georgia and Jordan.

813. In 2000, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body set up 10 special panels, including three at the initiative of the European Union, concerning the United

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 317, 6.11.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.23.

States (Section 211 of the 'Omnibus Appropriations Act'), India (measures in the automobile sector) and Argentina (anti-dumping measures on imports of ceramic tiles). It adopted appellate reports in nine cases initiated by the Community. The recommendations contained in each of these reports favoured the Community. These cases led to the condemnation of the US tax treatment of 'foreign sales corporations', the 1916 US Anti-Dumping Act, the imposition by the US of countervailing duties on certain steel products, Section 110(5) of the US Copyright Act, safeguard measures adopted by the Republic of Korea and Argentina, the Chilean taxes on alcoholic beverages, measures affecting the Canadian automotive industry and Canadian legislation on patent protection of pharmaceutical products. In the cases concerning the Community banana importation regime and the Community ban on imports of meat treated with the hormones, the work of the various Community institutions and discussions with the various interested parties continued with a view to getting third country sanctions against Community imports lifted ⁽¹⁾.

World Customs Organisation (WCO) ⁽²⁾

814. The WCO continued its technical work on the harmonisation of non-preferential origin rules ⁽³⁾. It also adopted a recommendation on the insertion into national statistical classifications of subheadings intended to facilitate the collection and comparison of trade data for handmade products (craft products) in order to encourage trade in them at international level. The recommendation amending the nomenclature annexed to the International Convention on the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System, adopted in 1999 ⁽⁴⁾, was definitively approved by the contracting parties on 1 January and will enter into force on 1 January 2002.

Operation of the customs union, customs cooperation and mutual assistance ⁽⁵⁾

815. Parliament and the Council modified, on 16 November, Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing the Community Customs Code, notably to protect the good faith of traders under the preferential arrangements, facilitate the use of computerised declarations and make the operation of economic customs arrangements more flexible (Table I). The Council examined, in its conclusions

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 679.

⁽²⁾ <http://www.wcoomd.org/>.

⁽³⁾ 1998 General Report, point 714; 1999 General Report, point 681.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 681.

⁽⁵⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/taxation_customs/customs/customs.htm.

of 5 June⁽¹⁾, following on from a report by the Court of Auditors⁽²⁾, the system of securities and guarantees written into the Customs Code. The Commission made two amendments to the Customs Code implementing provisions⁽³⁾.

816. The amendment to the action programme for customs in the Community (Customs 2000), adopted in 1999 to extend it and widen its scope, entered into force on 19 January (Table I).

817. On tariffs, Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87⁽⁴⁾ on the Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature and the Common Customs Tariff (CCT) was amended several times, notably on 31 January, by Council Regulation (EC) No 254/2000⁽⁵⁾, which mainly seeks to rationalise the presentation of customs duties to be applied and simplify the use of the CCT by administrations and economic operators. The TARIC multilingual database enables national administrations, through daily electronic transmissions, to obtain the necessary information for uniform application of all tariff measures. On 25 April the Commission published the printed version of TARIC for year 2000⁽⁶⁾. It also placed on the Europa server (→ *point 1224*) the new tariff data dissemination system. This system enables interactive consultation of TARIC, quotas and tariff ceilings (in QUOTA) and the European customs inventory of chemicals (in ECICS). As part of the SLIM exercise (→ *point 138*) it published a code of conduct for the management of the Combined Nomenclature⁽⁷⁾. It also published the nomenclature applicable from 1 January 2001⁽⁸⁾.

818. On 8 September, the Commission set out the conditions⁽⁹⁾, in the context of preferential tariff arrangements, for informing economic operators and Member States' administrations of cases of reasonable doubt as to the origin of goods. It also amended or adopted the rules of origin applicable to various countries⁽¹⁰⁾.

819. In the field of free movement of goods, the convention on the simplification of formalities for the movement of goods⁽¹¹⁾ and the convention concerning a common transit procedure⁽¹²⁾ were amended⁽¹³⁾ in order to complete the legislative com-

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.24.

⁽²⁾ Special Report 8/99.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1602/2000 (OJ L 188, 26.7.2000): modernisation of the GSP and reform of end use; Regulation (EC) No 2787/2000 (OJ L 300, 27.12.2000): legislative component of transit reform.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 256, 7.9.1987.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 28, 3.2.2000.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 115, 25.4.2000. A version on CD-ROM, in four language combinations, is also available.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ C 150, 30.5.2000.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 264, 18.10.2000.

⁽⁹⁾ COM(2000) 550; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.29.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Applicant countries of central and eastern Europe, EFTA countries, Cambodia, Laos, Mexico, Nepal and certain ACP countries (Fiji, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea and Seychelles).

⁽¹¹⁾ OJ L 134, 22.5.1987; Twenty-first General Report, point 177.

⁽¹²⁾ OJ L 226, 13.8.1987; Twenty-first General Report, point 177.

⁽¹³⁾ Decision No 1/2000 of the EC/EFTA Joint Committee on Simplification of Formalities and Decision No 1/2000 of the EC/EFTA Joint Committee on Common Transit (SEC(2000) 1925 and SEC(2000) 1926).

ponent of the overall reform laid down in the Commission's 1997 action plan⁽¹⁾. Agreements with Switzerland (Table III), the Czech Republic (Table III) and Norway (Table III) on the extension of the common communications network/common system interface (CCN/CSI) as part of the Convention on Common Transit Procedure were signed on 13 April and 28 August respectively and entered into force on 13 April, 14 April and 28 August. In May, the Commission submitted a report on the rules applicable to the movement of cultural goods (→ *point 142*).

Commercial policy instruments⁽²⁾

820. The Commission adopted on 11 July its 18th annual report to Parliament on the Community's anti-dumping and anti-subsidy activities in 1999⁽³⁾, the scope of which was widened to give an overview of the application of the regulation on obstacles to trade⁽⁴⁾, safeguard measures adopted by third countries and action taken as part of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism.

821. The Council amended, on 9 October⁽⁵⁾, Regulation (EC) No 384/96⁽⁶⁾ on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Community. The aim is to maintain the special anti-dumping arrangements applied to Russia and China; extend the special market economy regime to Ukraine, Vietnam and Kazakhstan; extend the special market economy regime to those countries currently classed as non-market economies (NMEs) for anti-dumping purposes but who are WTO members, and to any other NME country upon accession to the WTO.

822. In the field of anti-dumping, the Council imposed definitive duties in 31 cases; these measures⁽⁷⁾ concerned imports of certain seamless pipes and tubes of iron or non-alloy steel originating in Croatia and Ukraine⁽⁸⁾, synthetic staple fibres of polyester originating in Australia, Indonesia and Thailand⁽⁹⁾, imports of certain malleable cast-iron tube or pipe fittings originating in Brazil, China, the Czech Republic, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand⁽¹⁰⁾, imports of styrene-butadiene-styrene thermoplastic rubbers originating in Taiwan⁽¹¹⁾, solutions of urea and ammonium nitrate originating in Algeria, Belarus, Lithuania, Russia

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 176, 10.6.1997; COM(97) 188; 1997 General Report, point 767.

⁽²⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/policy/index_en.htm.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 440; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.36.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EC) No 3286/94 (OJ L 349, 31.12.1994), as amended by Regulation (EC) No 356/95 (OJ L 41, 23.2.1995); 1995 General Report, point 745).

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2238/2000 (OJ L 257, 11.10.2000; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.30).

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 56, 6.3.1996; 1996 General Report, point 711.

⁽⁷⁾ For further information on specific cases, see the 19th annual report to Parliament on the Community's anti-dumping and anti-subsidy activities (2000). *The Bulletin of the European Union* also provides reports, without commentary, on the various stages (notices, undertakings, duties) of ongoing proceedings.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 45, 17.2.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.41.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 175, 14.7.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.43.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 208, 18.8.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.39.

⁽¹¹⁾ OJ L 238, 22.9.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.33.

and Ukraine⁽¹⁾, television camera systems originating in Japan⁽²⁾ and certain cathode-ray colour television picture tubes originating in India and the Republic of Korea⁽³⁾, certain types of polyethylene terephthalate originating in India, Malaysia and Thailand⁽⁴⁾, certain electronic weighing machines originating in China, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan⁽⁵⁾, and discontinuous polyester fibres originating in India and the Republic of Korea⁽⁶⁾. Following reviews, the Council confirmed or amended definitive duties in 26 proceedings and terminated 14 proceedings without renewing the measures. The Commission published notices of initiation concerning 31 new investigations and 28 intermediate reviews or measures about to expire. It also adopted definitive duties on the imports of certain flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel originating in Bulgaria, India, South Africa, Taiwan and Yugoslavia⁽⁷⁾ and of hot-rolled flat products of non-alloy steel originating in China, India and Romania⁽⁸⁾, and coke with a diameter of more than 80 millimetres originating in China⁽⁹⁾. It adopted 38 provisional measures and closed 23 investigations without taking measures.

823. As regards anti-subsidy measures, the Council imposed definitive countervailing duties on synthetic polyester fibres originating in Australia, Indonesia and Taiwan⁽¹⁰⁾, on stainless-steel fasteners originating in Malaysia and the Philippines⁽¹¹⁾, and on styrene-butadiene-styrene thermoplastic rubbers originating in Taiwan⁽¹²⁾, and certain types of polyethylene terephthalates originating in India, Malaysia and Thailand⁽¹³⁾. The Commission imposed definitive countervailing duties on imports of certain flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel originating in India and Taiwan⁽¹⁴⁾. Three accelerated reviews and one intermediate review were opened. The Council and the Commission also adopted 10 provisional measures and terminated 10 investigations without taking measures, one following an interim review.

824. Under the barriers to trade regulation⁽¹⁵⁾, the Commission opened examination procedures relating to Colombia's VAT regime on imported motor vehicles⁽¹⁶⁾ and South Korea's shipbuilding subsidies⁽¹⁷⁾. Under the WTO dispute

(1) OJ L 238, 22.9.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.34.

(2) OJ L 244, 29.9.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.35.

(3) OJ L 244, 29.9.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.31.

(4) OJ L 301, 30.11.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.25.

(5) OJ L 301, 30.11.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.26.

(6) OJ L 332, 28.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

(7) OJ L 31, 5.2.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.54.

(8) OJ L 202, 10.8.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.50.

(9) OJ L 316, 15.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

(10) OJ L 113, 12.5.2000; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.46.

(11) OJ L 175, 14.7.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.60.

(12) OJ L 238, 22.9.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.49.

(13) OJ L 301, 30.11.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.33.

(14) OJ L 31, 5.2.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.57.

(15) Regulation (EC) No 3286/94 (OJ L 349, 31.12.1994), as amended by Regulation (EC) No 356/95 (OJ L 41, 23.2.1995; 1995 General Report, point 745).

(16) OJ C 236, 18.8.2000.

(17) OJ C 345, 2.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

settlement procedure, several decisions on barriers to trade were favourable to the Community (→ *point 813*). The Union availed itself of this procedure in the light of Chile's ban on unloading of swordfish catches in Chilean ports⁽¹⁾. Following the procedure relating to changes made by the United States to its rules of origin for textile products⁽²⁾, the United States adopted new legislation reverting to the previous rules of origin and the procedure was terminated⁽³⁾. The procedures pertaining to certain practices maintained by South Korea in the field of the cosmetic and pharmaceutical products⁽⁴⁾ prompted a change of legislation providing for control and monitoring of the new situation. The Commission decided to suspend the procedure concerning pharmaceutical products⁽⁵⁾. The procedure relating to practices maintained by Brazil adversely affecting trade in cognac⁽⁶⁾ resulted in protection of the registered designation of origin, so it was terminated.

825. The Council adopted, on 22 June, Regulation (EC) No 1334/2000⁽⁷⁾ revising the Community regime for the control of exports of dual-use goods and technology in order to facilitate legal trade while tightening control of exports of sensitive products and intensifying the fight against fraud. The bulk of trade in dual-use goods and technologies will now be subject to simplified procedures, which will help boost European operators' competitiveness. At the same time, control of these exports will be more effective as the supervisory authorities will be able to concentrate on the most sensitive requests for authorisation. Administrative cooperation and exchanges of information will be increased. Further amendments were made by the Council, which on 22 December adopted Regulation (EC) No 2889/2000⁽⁸⁾.

Treaties, trade agreements and agreements on mutual recognition

826. On 10 July, the additional protocols to the Europe agreements with the Czech Republic, Hungary and Latvia concerning conformity assessment and acceptance of industrial products (→ *point 714*) were initialled. The agreement with Israel on good laboratory practices entered into force on 1 May (Table III). In December⁽⁹⁾, the Council pronounced on the implementation of its resolution

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 96, 18.4.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.34.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 351, 22.11.1996; 1996 General Report, point 715; 1997 General Report, point 776; 1999 General Report, point 691.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 278, 31.10.2000.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 154, 19.5.1998; OJ C 218; 30.7.1999, 1998 General Report, point 724; 1999 General Report, point 691.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 281, 7.11.2000.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ C 103, 2.4.1997; 1997 General Report, point 776.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 159, 30.6.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.26.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 336, 30.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

on the management of mutual recognition agreements⁽¹⁾ and called on the Commission to continue its efforts to meet these requirements.

Market access

827. The Commission launched the programme for eliminating barriers to trade approved in 1999⁽²⁾. It drew up a list of priority cases which will be the subject of negotiations with third countries. It will also make full use of the various appeals procedures at its disposal, in particular the WTO dispute settlement mechanism. The Commission also organised in Brussels on 28 November the third symposium on market access strategy.

828. The interactive database on market access⁽³⁾ now covers 58 countries as regards the sectoral reports and 82 countries as regards the customs duties applicable. The exporters' guide, which affords the public easy access to import formalities for each product, covers 25 countries.

Trade and the environment

829. The Commission continued participating actively in the deliberations of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment and other international forums.

Individual sectors

Steel

830. The Council agreed, on 27 December, to renew for 2001 the double checking system without quantitative limits applicable to certain steel products originating in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania, Poland and Slovakia.

831. On 30 March⁽⁴⁾, as a reaction to the introduction and maintenance of a tax on exports of Russian scrap metal, which is an ongoing infringement of that country's commitments under the bilateral iron and steel agreement⁽⁵⁾, the Com-

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 693.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 694.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 695; <http://mkaccdb.eu.int>.

⁽⁴⁾ Decision No 659/2000/ECSC (OJ L 80, 31.3.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.29).

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 300, 4.11.1997; 1997 General Report, point 789.

munity reduced by 12 % for 2000 the quantitative limits applicable to Community imports of certain steel products from Russia, and on 7 December⁽¹⁾ it approved the extension of this measure for 2001. Under the Tacis programme (→ *points 936 to 939*), the Community continued helping Russia to implement the provisions of the agreement on competition, State aid and environmental protection. Under the agreement signed with Kazakhstan on 15 December 1999⁽²⁾, the Commission launched a programme of assistance similar to that with Russia.

Textiles

832. The Council adopted, on 9 November, Regulation (EC) No 2474/2000⁽³⁾ establishing the list of textiles and clothing products to be integrated into GATT in 2002 in accordance with the WTO agreement on textiles and clothing with a view to gradual liberalisation of trade. On 26 July⁽⁴⁾, the Commission adopted a proposal for a review and update of Regulation (EC) No 3030/93⁽⁵⁾ on common rules for imports of certain textile products from third countries.

833. The Council adopted, on 14 February, the decision on the conclusion of the agreement in the form of exchange of letters amending in the textile field the association agreement with Malta⁽⁶⁾ (Table III). The Council adopted, on 19 June, a decision concerning the signing and conclusion of textile agreements with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Nepal, China, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine (Table III), the provisional application of which was approved in December 1999⁽⁷⁾. The agreement with Kazakhstan was signed on 27 June. An agreement with China renewing from 2001⁽⁸⁾, taking account of the country's WTO membership negotiations, the 1998 agreement⁽⁹⁾ on trade in textile products covered by the 1995 multifibre arrangements and agreement⁽¹⁰⁾ on trade in textile products not covered by this arrangement was initialled on 19 May. The Council approved its provisional application on 23 November (Table III). An agreement with Vietnam, renewing until 31 December 2002 the bilateral agreement concerning trade in textiles and clothing, was initialled on 31 March and signed on 10 October (Table III). This

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 342, 31.12.1999; 1999 General Report, point 698.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 286, 11.11.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.37.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 476; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.66.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 275, 8.11.1993; Twenty-seventh General Report, point 885, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1591/2000 (OJ L 186, 25.7.2000).

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 61, 14.3.1971.

⁽⁷⁾ 1999 General Report, point 700.

⁽⁸⁾ The agreement concluded on 19 June applies only to 2000.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 380, 31.12.1988; 1998 General Report, point 739.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 261, 30.10.1995; 1995 General Report, point 767.

agreement also contains a clause in the event of Vietnam joining the WTO before the expiry date. The Commission proposed, on 28 November, signing and provisionally applying the agreement on trade in textile products with Croatia, initialled on 8 November. It initialled a similar agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sri Lanka on 24 November and 5 December respectively (Table III).

Shipbuilding

834. On 3 May, the Commission adopted a report on the situation in world shipbuilding⁽¹⁾, concluding that in the absence of an international agreement⁽²⁾ this market was facing a serious crisis due to the extremely low prices offered by South Korean shipyards. This approach was confirmed by the Council on 18 May⁽³⁾ and the Commission started a bilateral dialogue with the Republic of Korea in order to put an end to those practices. An agreement in the form of minutes was therefore concluded on 22 June (Table III). It contains commitments by the Republic of Korea on transparency, non-subsidies and commercially viable prices. It was not possible during the ensuing consultations to verify whether those commitments were being met, with the Republic of Korea refusing to take specific measures on commercially viable prices, so the Commission decided to open an investigation which might lead to a case being brought before the WTO in order to penalise the South Korean subsidies. While welcoming the Commission's determination, on 5 December⁽⁴⁾ the Council urged it and the Member States to continue cooperating with the industry on competitiveness issues. In its third report, adopted on 15 November⁽⁵⁾, the Commission confirmed the trends highlighted in its May report. On 14 December⁽⁴⁾, Parliament welcomed the Commission's May report and called on it to bring a case before the WTO.

Automobiles

835. Within the framework of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism, the Community started consultations with India on its measures affecting investment. Following the Community's complaint against Canada⁽⁶⁾, the WTO dispute settlement body adopted the appellate body report which found in favour of the Community. In order to improve market access for EU exports, the Commission continued its discussions with Colombia, the Republic of Korea and

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 263; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.50.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 699.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.51.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 730; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.41.

⁽⁶⁾ 1998 General Report, point 741.

Brazil⁽¹⁾ and started consultations with Japan on the basis of WTO rules on technical barriers to trade in connection with Japan's new legislation to reduce the CO₂ emissions.

Other products

836. As Russia had imposed a discriminatory duty on imports of alcoholic beverages, the Commission proposed, on 5 October, suspending the Common Customs Tariff and applying an autonomous tariff for certain vodka and ethyl alcohol products from that country⁽²⁾.

Services

837. The Community took an active part in the GATS 2000 negotiations to liberalise trade in services, in WTO working parties on services (→ *point 809*) and in the reviews of the MFN exemptions and the annex on air transport services. It also contributed to the relaunch of the WTO work programme on e-commerce which will help clarify the application of existing rules to this new means of supplying services.

838. In telecommunications, the Commission monitored market liberalisation in third countries in line with the undertakings made at the WTO in 1997 by more than 70 countries. Problems with the United States, Japan and Sri Lanka were the subject of a number of démarches and discussions with those countries.

839. Negotiations on the liberalisation of services and on the mutual opening-up of public procurement between the Community and Turkey started in April (Table III). Negotiations with the United States on mutual recognition of professional services and insurance continued throughout the year⁽³⁾.

840. In September the Commission satisfactorily resolved a dispute with the Australian authorities, who were denying television press agencies access to the site of the Olympic Games in Sydney.

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 703.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 616; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.46.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 707.

Section 4

Development cooperation ⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

841. *The Commission proposed a redefinition of the Community's development policy in the light of the global challenges that have arisen, refocusing it on alleviating poverty. Some of the resulting guidelines appear in a joint statement of general policy from the Commission and the Council. Initiatives for better coordination of aid within the European Union, better integration of the environmental dimension into the process of development (including sustainable management of tropical forests) and campaigns against anti-personnel mines and the major communicable diseases were also taken.*

Overview

842. On 26 April, the Commission adopted a communication on the European Community's development policy ⁽²⁾. It outlined a framework for the Community's development policy to enable it to face up to new challenges such as sustainable development, globalisation and the crises and conflicts giving ever more cause for concern in the developing countries. It examined how the Community could do more to take account of the interests of developing countries; this would involve combining the political, trade and development dimensions, ensuring the coherence and coordination of the international activities of the Community and the Member States, and improving their implementation. The Commission emphasised the importance of refocusing Community development policy on poverty reduction and set out an integrated framework for Community development activities, identifying six priority areas where Community action could offer added value: trade for development, regional integration and cooperation, support for macroeconomic policies, transport, food security and sustainable rural development, boosting institutional capacity, good governance and the rule of law. The Council welcomed this initiative in conclusions adopted on 18 May ⁽³⁾. On 10 November ⁽⁴⁾, the Council and Commission adopted a

⁽¹⁾ Further information about development cooperation can be obtained on the following web site:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/index_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 212; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.36.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.53.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.43.

statement of general policy which reaffirms the Community's solidarity with developing countries and echoes the broad lines of the communication. The Nice European Council welcomed this joint initiative in December⁽¹⁾.

843. In accordance with the Council's request of March 1998⁽²⁾ the Commission presented a report (on 1 March⁽³⁾) on measures to coordinate development cooperation based on the findings of a survey carried out among Commission delegations in all developing countries. In the light of a number of apparent weaknesses, the report advocated stepping up information exchanges, harmonising the intervention strategies of the Commission and the Member States and giving a greater coordination role to the partner country. In its conclusions of 18 May⁽⁴⁾, the Council made concrete recommendations intended to address these concerns. Parliament, meanwhile, adopted a resolution on the coherence of policies on 17 February⁽⁵⁾ and a resolution on complementarity between Community and Member State policies on development cooperation on 21 September⁽⁶⁾. On 30 March⁽⁷⁾, the Economic and Social Committee delivered an opinion stressing the importance of fundamental reform of EU development aid policy and making recommendations regarding coordination and management.

844. In the context of its own reforms, the Commission adopted a communication on 16 May in which it proposed ways of revising the management of the EU's external aid (→ *point 1207*). On 9 October⁽⁸⁾, the Council adopted conclusions on the effectiveness of the Union's external action in which it called for measures including streamlining of procedures and increasing the transparency of aid programmes. On 10 November⁽⁹⁾, it gave its views on the evaluation of Community development instruments and programmes, updating its May 1999 conclusions on that subject⁽¹⁰⁾, and endorsed the Commission's adoption of a standard framework for country strategy papers⁽¹¹⁾, in keeping with the aim of maintaining coherence in Community activities.

845. In a resolution of 18 May⁽¹²⁾, Parliament asked the European Union and its Member States to promote a strategy to provide faster debt relief or debt cancellation for the poorest countries, based on respect for democratic principles and good governance.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-1998, point 1.3.41.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.31.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.54.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 339, 29.11.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.64.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.52.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ C 140, 18.5.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.32.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.47.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.46.

⁽¹⁰⁾ 1999 General Report, point 709.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.44.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.52.

846. In a communication of 6 July⁽¹⁾, the Commission set out guidelines for sustainable transport in development cooperation. This new sectoral approach applies to all modes of transport and to services assisting the movement of goods and people.

847. A Commission communication of 8 November on the contribution of fisheries to poverty reduction⁽²⁾, intended to reorient the Community's activities so as to promote sustainable development and exploitation of aquatic resources to benefit the most disadvantaged in developing countries, set three aims: to apply European development policy guidelines and objectives for alleviating poverty among groups dependent on fishing, to improve cohesion between development policy and other European policies and to encourage complementarity between EU Member States.

Development, environment and tropical forests

848. On 7 November, the Council and Parliament adopted a regulation on measures to promote the integration of the environmental dimension into the development process of developing countries, accompanied by an allocation of EUR 93 million for 2000–06 (Table I), and a regulation on measures to promote conservation and sustainable management of tropical and other forests in developing countries, accompanied by an allocation of EUR 249 million, for the same period (Table I).

849. On 10 May⁽³⁾, the Commission presented a communication responding to the commitments made at the Cardiff European Council⁽⁴⁾ in which it outlined a strategy to ensure that the environment was a key element in EU support for the developing countries. On 19 October⁽⁵⁾, the Economic and Social Committee welcomed this initiative and made proposals regarding the matter. In its conclusions of 10 November⁽⁶⁾, the Council stressed that climate change should be an integral part of the EU agenda for development cooperation, with the aim of securing maximum complementarity with poverty-alleviation activities.

Generalised preferences

850. On 25 July⁽⁷⁾, the Commission extended to Moldova the special incentive arrangements concerning labour rights under Regulation (EC) No 1154/98⁽⁸⁾.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 422; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.59.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 724; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.45.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 264; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.57.

⁽⁴⁾ 1998 General Report, point 484.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.48.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.49.

⁽⁷⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1623/2000 (OJ L 194, 31.7.2000).

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 160, 4.6.1998; 1998 General Report, point 754; 1999 General Report, point 714.

851. On 20 September, the Commission made a proposal to amend Regulation (EC) No 2820/98 applying a multiannual scheme of generalised tariff preferences so as to extend duty-free access without any quantitative restrictions to products originating in the least-developed countries⁽¹⁾.

Commodities and world agreements

852. The International Coffee Council met in May and September in ordinary session, and held extraordinary sessions in January and July within the negotiating group mandated to produce a new agreement. It formally adopted the new agreement on 28 September.

853. The International Cocoa Council met in March and September in ordinary session, and held extraordinary sessions in January and July within the working party seeking to negotiate a new agreement.

854. The International Jute Council met in April in ordinary session, and held extraordinary sessions in February⁽²⁾, June and October. The April Council meeting decided to wind up the organisation and terminate the agreement. Discussions are under way to negotiate a new instrument which would allow international cooperation in this field to continue.

855. The International Tropical Timber Council met in ordinary session in May and November. The future of the International Tropical Timber Agreement is now being discussed.

North–South cooperation against drug abuse and AIDS

856. Pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 2046/97⁽³⁾, EUR 5.6 million was granted in 2000 for North–South cooperation projects to combat drugs and drug abuse. The projects selected cover institution-building, technical assistance with alternative development, and operations to reduce both supply and demand for drugs in various regions of the world. On 7 September⁽⁴⁾, Parliament adopted a resolution on the international AIDS conference in Durban.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 561; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.55.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.67.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 287, 21.10.1997; 1997 General Report, point 814.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.56.

North–South cooperation on health issues

857. Assistance to the health sector in developing countries amounted in 2000 to around EUR 500 million. In accordance with the guidelines set out in the Commission's communication on cooperation with the developing countries in the field of health⁽¹⁾, this aid was largely devoted, as in previous years, to supporting the development of national health systems.

858. On 20 September⁽²⁾, the Commission adopted a communication on accelerated action targeted at major communicable diseases within the context of poverty reduction. This policy framework centred on affording the operations optimum impact, establishing a price policy for medicines and investing in research and development. The Council also commented on communicable diseases and poverty on 10 November in a resolution⁽³⁾ which was welcomed by the Nice European Council in December⁽⁴⁾.

Cooperation on eradicating anti-personnel mines

859. On 14 March⁽⁵⁾, the Commission adopted a communication outlining the challenge presented to the international community by the campaign against anti-personnel landmines. It listed the various operations mounted by the EU in the framework of development cooperation, humanitarian aid, research and development, relations with the ACP countries (European Development Fund) and under various Community budget headings, including aid for reconstruction, aid for refugees, aid for rehabilitation and the specific heading for anti-personnel mines. It also called for a special Community budget heading for improved international coordination and for military cooperation. Furthermore, it proposed a regulation providing the foundation for a Community approach to the issue (Table I).

International forums

World Summit for Social Development

860. From 28 June to 1 July⁽⁶⁾, the UN General Assembly held a special session in Geneva entitled 'World summit for social development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalising world', with the aim of proposing new

⁽¹⁾ COM(94) 77; 1994 General Report, point 944.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 585; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.57.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.50.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 111; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.35.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.67.

initiatives to encourage fulfilment of the commitments made five years previously in Copenhagen ⁽¹⁾ in areas such as eradicating poverty, achieving full employment and the inclusion and involvement of all citizens. At the end of the meeting, the participants (including EU representatives) adopted a final document including a political declaration, a review and assessment of the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit and a number of further commitments. On 27 April ⁽²⁾, the Economic and Social Committee had provided a contribution to the summit.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad)

861. The EU took part in Unctad X ⁽³⁾, which was held in Bangkok in February. The conference ended with the adoption of a plan of action setting out Unctad's activities for the next four years.

862. On 4 May, Unctad Secretary-General Mr Ricupero visited Mr Prodi to lay the groundwork for the third UN Conference on the Least-Developed Countries, due to be held in Brussels in 2001.

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

863. The Community, a member of the FAO since 1991 ⁽⁴⁾, continued to take an active part in the organisation's activities, notably in discussions on drafting a long-term strategy framework and in the negotiations on various international agreements under FAO auspices.

World Food Programme (WFP)

864. In 2000, the EU allocated over 220 000 tonnes of foodstuffs to the WFP worth a total of EUR 90 million, including 170 000 tonnes of grain. It should be noted that, under the programme with the Government of Bangladesh, an allocation of 33 000 tonnes of cereals through the WFP brings the total contribution to the WFP to EUR 96 million.

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

865. The Commission allocated EUR 6.7 million for a standardisation and quality-standard project for joint implementation by UNIDO and the WAEMU (West African Economic and Monetary Union).

⁽¹⁾ 1995 General Report, point 779.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.37.

⁽³⁾ Previous meeting: General Report 1996, point 742.

⁽⁴⁾ Twenty-fifth General Report, point 994.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco)

866. Parliament's 13 April resolution on the World Education Forum held in Dakar⁽¹⁾ included a call to Unesco to work with developing countries and donors to develop effective qualitative targets in areas such as teacher training and gender equality.

EC Investment Partners (ECIP)

867. On 13 March⁽²⁾, the Commission presented the 1998 activity report for this financial instrument. As Regulation (EC) No 213/96⁽³⁾ which implements ECIP expired on 31 December 1999, the Commission proposed on 31 January a regulation regarding the gradual closure and liquidation of the portfolio of existing projects. The Council issued a common position on this on 10 November (Table I).

Cooperation through non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and decentralised cooperation

868. On 18 January⁽⁴⁾, the Commission adopted a discussion paper on building a stronger partnership with NGOs. It identified some problems and proposed ways to tackle them (particularly by improving information for NGOs). The Economic and Social Committee endorsed this approach in an opinion delivered on 13 July⁽⁵⁾.

869. In 2000, EUR 200 million was granted under Regulation (EC) No 1658/98⁽⁶⁾ for cooperation projects with NGOs (of which 179 were in developing countries and 21 were for awareness campaigns in Europe), and EUR 3 million was granted under Regulation (EC) No 1659/98 for decentralised cooperation projects.

Rehabilitation aid

870. In 2000, EUR 131.5 million was granted under Regulation (EC) No 2258/96⁽⁷⁾ on rehabilitation and reconstruction operations in the develop-

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.4.8.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 135; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.36.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 28, 6.2.1996; 1996 General Report, point 754.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 11; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.70.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 268, 19.9.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.70.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 213, 30.7.1998; 1998 General Report, point 770.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 306, 28.11.1996; 1996 General Report, point 761.

ing countries, of which EUR 16.4 million went to ACP countries, EUR 3.8 million to Asian countries, EUR 48.2 million to Latin American countries, EUR 19.9 million to Timor, EUR 33.3 million for the Mediterranean countries and EUR 9.9 million for the countries of central Asia and the Caucasus. For the ACP countries, the priority sectors remained rural development, health, education and transport.

Food security and food aid

871. The appropriations available in the 2000 budget for food aid and food security operations in developing countries totalled EUR 463.4 million, of which EUR 301 million went on purchasing foodstuffs, food security support schemes and the foreign currency facility, and EUR 157 million on logistics. A breakdown of this aid is given in Table 13.

872. On 13 March, the Council adopted a regulation⁽¹⁾ apportioning the Community's share of the quantities of grain provided for under the Food Aid Convention 1995⁽²⁾ for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. On 13 June, it decided to conclude the new convention signed on 29 June 1999 (Table III).

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 606/2000 (OJ L 73, 22.3.2000; Bulletin 3-2000, point 1.6.37).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 21, 27.1.1996.

TABLE 13

Food security and food aid programmes, 2000

Region or organisation	Cereals (tonnes)	Oil (tonnes)	Sugar, milk and pulses (tonnes)	Other products (million EUR)	Cost for all products (including transport) (million EUR)	Inputs and tools (million EUR)	Support action + storage + information systems (million EUR)	Foreign currency facilities (million EUR)	Monitoring and technical assistance (million EUR)
<i>Direct aid</i>									1.5
Europe								15.0	7.8
Africa	125 000				30.8		25.2	19.2	1.2
Latin America							13.3	2.5	3.5
Asia	30 000				6.0		28.7		
Mediterranean and the Middle East						10.3		9.0	2.0
Caucasus								9.5	0.5
Central Asia								9.5	0.5
Total direct aid	155 000				36.8	10.3	67.2	64.7	17.0
<i>Indirect aid</i>									
Various NGOs							60.0		
NGO — Euronaid	41 000	2 000	3 300	3.5	22.6	3.4			
Horn of Africa	70 000				22.1				
WFP ⁽¹⁾	154 000	7 500	1 000	8.5	90.0				
FAO — Pakistan							1.8		
ICRC									
UNRWA		1 915	4 933		5.1		8.7		
Total indirect aid	265 000	11 415	9 233	12.0	139.8	3.4	70.5		
Monitoring and technical assistance									48.3
Grand total	420 000	11 415	9 233	12.0	176.6	13.7	137.7	64.7	64.5

⁽¹⁾ An allocation of 30 000 tonnes of cereal for Bangladesh (included in direct aid) via the WFP brings the overall contribution to the WFP to EUR 96 million (→ point 864).

Section 5

Humanitarian aid

General strategy

873. In the wake of its communication of 26 October 1999 entitled 'Assessment and future of Community humanitarian activities'⁽¹⁾, and in line with the internal reform on which it had embarked (→ *points 1203 et seq.*), the Commission made significant changes in 2000 to the set-up and working methods of the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) to refocus it on its central activity — financing humanitarian aid — with the aim of concentrating on results and giving its evaluation and verification functions a higher profile. ECHO accordingly assigned a team to verification and *ex-post* auditing, developed an initial audit programme, and boosted it by calling on more outside expertise. With regard to evaluation, the most significant study was the analysis of ECHO's response to the Kosovo crisis. Parliament, meanwhile, adopted a resolution on 5 September⁽²⁾ regarding the Commission's communication. On 1 December, the Commission adopted the annual report on humanitarian aid in 1999⁽³⁾.

874. The new framework partnership contract (FPC), in force since 1999⁽⁴⁾, underwent some technical adjustments. Since its operation has been extended until the end of 2001, a more in-depth revision can be finalised. ECHO also began looking at how the FPC might need to be changed in its contractual relations with UN agencies in the light of the agreement concluded between the Commission and the UN in 1999⁽⁵⁾. ECHO also signed 24 new framework contracts after examining some 121 applications from humanitarian organisations.

875. In the field of education and training, the priorities for ECHO's programme of grants for training, studies and humanitarian networks have been (i) to increase the specialist knowledge and capabilities of those working in this sector, (ii) to help promote understanding of humanitarian issues and (iii) to draw up appropriate policies. The areas chosen in this connection were evaluating the impact of humanitarian aid, establishing performance indicators for humanitar-

⁽¹⁾ COM(1999) 468; 1999 General Report, point 738.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.58.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 784; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 740.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 659.

ian operations and integrating the human rights dimension into humanitarian aid. Four proposals for training projects, representing a total contribution of around EUR 600 000, and six proposals for studies and networks, representing a total contribution of around EUR 400 000, were selected for ECHO financing.

876. In the field of information and communication, ECHO launched a new strategy based on an overall communication concept for humanitarian issues, a greater role on the ground and developing new communication instruments, such as ECHO's web site ⁽¹⁾.

Humanitarian aid operations

877. Over the year the Commission allocated EUR 527 million in humanitarian aid through ECHO.

878. The parts of Turkey affected by the earthquakes in the second half of 1999 had humanitarian aid and rehabilitation operations extended under last year's EUR 30 million financing decisions ⁽²⁾.

879. In the western Balkans, humanitarian aid commitments were EUR 98.7 million, added to the funds already allocated in 1999, for which disbursement (around EUR 50 million) continued in connection with projects implemented in 2000. In Kosovo, the aid (EUR 28.8 million) was targeted at the most vulnerable from the welfare point of view and at minorities living in enclaves. Projects involved food and non-food aid, health care, shelter, water supplies and drainage, plus education, counselling services and revenue generation. Humanitarian aid for Serbia proper (EUR 50.4 million), for Montenegro (EUR 9.2 million), for refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia whose cases were still pending, for displaced people in Kosovo and for the growing number of needy welfare cases involved food and non-food aid, equipment and heating fuel for institutions, shelter, emergency water supplies and drainage, medical and psychological help and assistance for returnees. ECHO notably provided emergency aid (EUR 3.7 million) for victims of flooding in Vojvodina (Serbia). In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, ECHO's strategy of gradual withdrawal operated in tandem with continued support for refugees from Kosovo whose cases are still pending and for the most vulnerable sections of the population (EUR 5.3 million). In Albania (EUR 3.4 million), ECHO's priority for the period which began with the Kosovo refugee crisis, has been to continue to help the structures which have taken the direct strain of the crisis to cope (primary

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/echo/index_en.html.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 742.

and secondary sanitation installations, specialist institutions and primary schools) by providing equipment, furniture and (where needed) training services.

880. In the countries of the southern Mediterranean, ECHO has stepped up its programme of assistance for Sahrawi refugees in Algeria by providing emergency food aid (EUR 4.935 million). A global plan worth EUR 9 million to cover food needs as a back-up to the World Food Programme and to cover the most pressing non-food needs was also approved. In the Middle East, ECHO allocated EUR 1.74 million for refugees and other vulnerable groups in Yemen and EUR 400 000 for vulnerable groups in Syria. ECHO also assisted the Palestinian refugees in the occupied territories (EUR 18 million), southern Lebanon (EUR 3.5 million) and Jordan (EUR 600 000).

881. Humanitarian aid for the new independent States of the former Soviet Union totalled EUR 39.855 million. As part of a gradual transition to other aid instruments more suited to the situation, ECHO was active in Tajikistan (EUR 12 million), the southern Caucasus (EUR 3.885 million) and Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (total of EUR 2.8 million). In the northern Caucasus, where ECHO has continued to provide assistance for the victims of the conflict in Chechnya despite access and safety problems, over EUR 20 million has been allocated for displaced and vulnerable individuals in Ingushetia, Dagestan and Chechnya, as well as Georgia (Pankisi valley). In Russia, ECHO has also continued its activities to help the most disadvantaged, mainly through social and medical institutions, and has carried out projects to combat and prevent tuberculosis (EUR 1.2 million). In Mongolia, ECHO's contribution to coping with the consequences of climatic disasters has been around EUR 2 million.

882. In Asia, ECHO provided aid in Indonesia (EUR 5.5 million for victims of the earthquakes and clashes in the Moluccas, for refugees from East Timor sheltering in West Timor and for the population of Irian Jaya), in Myanmar (Burma) (EUR 1.5 million) and in the camps housing refugees of Myanmar on the border between Myanmar and Thailand (EUR 4.5 million in total), in India (EUR 5.8 million for victims of the drought), in Sri Lanka (EUR 1.2 million), in Bangladesh (EUR 1.5 million), in Afghanistan (EUR 15 million for victims of the drought), in Pakistan (EUR 1.7 million), and in Iran (EUR 900 000).

883. In Latin America, ECHO provided aid in Colombia (EUR 6.5 million for displaced persons), Venezuela (6.75 million for the victims of the December 1999 flooding and landslide) and Cuba (EUR 2.41 million for the elderly and physically handicapped, and for disaster prevention), Nicaragua (EUR 1.84 million for the victims of Hurricane Mitch, who are still dependent on humanitarian aid, and for those affected by the earthquakes in July), Ecuador (EUR 1.865 million for victims of flooding in Quito, those displaced by the eruption

of the Tungurahua volcano and victims of outbreaks of malaria and dengue fever), Peru (EUR 1.3 million), and Honduras (EUR 1.5 million to continue aid for those affected by Hurricane Mitch).

884. Humanitarian aid to the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries totalled almost EUR 138.1 million. The main operations took place in the African Great Lakes region (EUR 62.63 million for Burundi, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania), Angola (EUR 13.5 million), Sudan (EUR 11 million), Sierra Leone (EUR 12 million for displaced persons and refugees), Mozambique (EUR 9.68 million for victims of flooding), Namibia (EUR 1.5 million to help Angolan refugees), Zambia (EUR 1.5 million to help Congolese refugees), Eritrea (EUR 2.475 million for food and for a health programme), Ethiopia (EUR 6.965 million), Somalia (EUR 1.36 million for health and nutrition), Kenya (EUR 2.44 million mainly for combating drought), Madagascar (EUR 1.61 million to fight a cholera epidemic), Mauritania (EUR 365 000 to help drought victims), Niger and Chad (EUR 1.2 million to fight a meningitis epidemic) and the Comoros (EUR 875 000). ECHO-Flight kept up its operations in the Horn of Africa and in West Africa (EUR 8.8 million).

885. Three action plans were adopted as part of the natural disaster prevention and preparedness programme (Dipecho). The action plan for the Caribbean (EUR 1.675 million) will help boost the prevention strategy in the region. A second action plan for South-East Asia (EUR 4 million) will help improve local capabilities and set up early-warning systems. A second action plan for Central America (EUR 3.5 million) is designed to improve disaster preparedness in order to lessen the impact of such events on one of the most disaster-prone parts of the world.

Section 6

European Economic Area, relations with the EFTA countries

European Economic Area

886. The EEA Council met in Brussels on 23 May⁽¹⁾ and 19 September⁽²⁾. It welcomed the fact that the EEA Agreement⁽³⁾ continued to operate well on the whole, and applauded the steps recently taken to improve its transparency. At that meeting, the Commission and the Council emphasised the importance they attached to eliminating the delays in incorporating into the EEA Agreement a number of Community legislative acts in the areas of energy and food. The EEA Joint Committee continued to transpose new Community legislation into the EEA Agreement and adopted a new financial arrangement for extra EFTA/EEA aid intended to help reduce social and economic disparities in Europe. The Joint Parliamentary Committee met in Oslo in May (and in Brussels in November).

Relations with the EFTA countries

887. The Joint Committee set up under the free trade agreement with Switzerland⁽⁴⁾ met on 23 October. On 20 July, the Council adopted negotiating directives aimed at giving Switzerland observer status within the European Environment Agency (→ *point 565*) and establishing a statistical cooperation agreement with Switzerland. On 14 July, the Commission adopted a recommendation for a decision concerning a cooperation agreement to combat fraud and other illegal activities which harm Swiss and European Community financial interests (Table III).

888. In line with the agreement signed in 1999⁽⁵⁾ and in force since 26 June 2000 (→ *point 443*), Norway and Iceland continued their involvement in Schengen cooperation after the latter's incorporation into the EU. On 29 May, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate an agreement on the mechanism for asylum applications with Norway and Iceland. The agreement was initialised on 28 November (→ *point 448*).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.63.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.60.

⁽³⁾ Agreement establishing the European Economic Area: 1994 General Report, point 778; Bulletin 1/2-1994, point 1.3.27.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 300, 31.12.1972; Sixth General Report, points 14 et seq.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 914.

Section 7

Relations with the western Balkans ⁽¹⁾

Priority activities and objectives

889. *The European Union continued its regional approach to the region through the stabilisation and association process, the stability pact for south-eastern Europe, launched in 1999, and technical and financial assistance. The Council adopted a new regulation on assistance in order to improve, streamline and speed up EU action in the region. Negotiations for a stabilisation and association agreement with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia started in March. Other key landmarks were the improvement of relations with Croatia and, in the wake of Vojislav Kostunica's election, with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The November Summit of Heads of State or Government in Zagreb confirmed the fresh impetus given to EU cooperation with the region.*

Regional dimension

890. Confirming the conclusions adopted in Lisbon in March ⁽²⁾, the European Council reiterated in Santa Maria da Feira (Portugal), in June ⁽³⁾, its objective of bringing the countries of the western Balkans into Europe's political and economic mainstream through the stabilisation and association process, involving a new type of association and agreement, political dialogue, the liberalisation of trade, and cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs. The High Representative for the CFSP and Secretary-General of the Council was invited to step up cooperation with those countries, in particular on justice and home affairs, and the European Council urged them to intensify their regional cooperation.

891. On 24 November, the Zagreb Summit brought together Heads of State or Government of the EU Member States, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Slovenia, and the President of the Commission ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Further information can be obtained on the following web site:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/intro/index.htm.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.21.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.43.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.57.

Mr Prodi advocated thoroughgoing political and economic reforms and regional cooperation among the countries of the Balkans as a way of bringing them closer to the EU. In December, the Nice European Council⁽¹⁾ confirmed that the process of stabilisation and association was at the very heart of the EU's policy for the countries concerned. It also said it would go on backing efforts to restore navigation on the Danube, considered a key element in the development of regional cooperation.

892. In a communication adopted on 2 February⁽²⁾, the Commission reviewed compliance with the conditions regulating ties with the countries of south-eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). It concluded that the FRY did not meet those conditions, that it was premature to envisage a stabilisation and association agreement with Bosnia and Herzegovina, that negotiations with Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would start in March with a view to concluding such an agreement, and that the prospects for negotiating one with Croatia would be examined in a feasibility study.

893. Under the stability pact for south-eastern Europe, launched in 1999⁽³⁾, the importance of which Parliament had underscored in a resolution of 13 April⁽⁴⁾, the Commission and the World Bank organised, on 29 and 30 March⁽⁵⁾, a regional donors' conference for south-eastern Europe, bringing together representatives of 47 countries and 36 international institutions. The conference reiterated the commitment of the countries of the region to work together to achieve the objectives of the stability pact in the fields of democratisation and human rights, economic reconstruction, development of the private sector and security. The donors committed EUR 2.4 billion, the EU's contribution amounting to EUR 1.1 billion, of which EUR 531 million from the Community budget. The second meeting of the stability pact's regional table was held in Thessaloniki on 8 June. It adopted as a framework for future action 'the agenda for stability', which gives pride of place to new regional initiatives such as the fight against corruption, investment, the media, trade issues and refugees' return and recognises the coordination role played by the European Commission and World Bank in the implementation and follow-up of the regional conference. The European Council applauded this new agenda for stability in Santa Maria da Feira in June⁽⁶⁾ and in Nice in December⁽¹⁾ and reaffirmed that accession prospects had been opened up for the countries concerned. Meanwhile, the Council adopted, on 16 June, Common Position 2000/387/CFSP⁽⁷⁾ designed to

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 49; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.76.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 133, 28.5.1999; 1999 General Report, point 758.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.41.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.45.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point I.53.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 144, 16.6.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.45.

incorporate the activities undertaken under Common Position 98/633/CFSP⁽¹⁾ (Royaumont process) into the stability pact, and in December, Joint Actions 2000/793/CFSP⁽²⁾ appointing Mr Hombach as the EU's Special Representative for the stability pact and 2000/811/CFSP⁽³⁾ on the European Union Monitoring Mission.

894. Assistance to the western Balkans is designed, in the immediate future, to meet humanitarian and reconstruction needs, in the short and medium term, to kick-start economic activity and social services, and in the long term, to develop public institutions and services that will strengthen democracy, the rule of law and the market economy ahead of eventual integration into Euro-Atlantic structures. The bulk of reconstruction aid and development assistance has been provided under the Phare programme (→ *points 721 et seq.*), in force since 1989 but to which some of the countries of the western Balkans have had access only since 1991, and the Obnova programme⁽⁴⁾, open to most countries of the region since 1996. Not all the countries benefit from both budget headings at the same time but funds from one or the other are available to all of them. Moreover, the region benefited from specific budget headings for humanitarian aid, the media, democracy and human rights, education, mine clearance, food security and macro-financial assistance. A summary of the aid allocated in 2000 to each country or region is given in Table 14.

TABLE 14
Assistance for the Balkans

	Phare	Obnova	Other programmes ⁽¹⁾	Total
Albania	35.450		3.400	38.850
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5.700	95.150	4.358	105.208
Croatia	1.500	16.840		18.340
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	21.200		5.350	26.550
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia		648.850	94.475	743.325
— Kosovo		439.900	34.835	474.735
— Montenegro		20.000	9.190	29.190
— Serbia		188.950	50.450	239.400
Regional cooperation	6.850	11.700	1.075	19.625

⁽¹⁾ Civil transition administration.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 302, 22.11.1998, 1998 General Report, point 839; 1999 General Report, point 759.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 318, 16.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 328, 23.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1628/96 (OJ L 204, 14.8.1996), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2454/1999 (OJ L 299, 20.11.1999; 1999 General Report, point 771).

895. On 5 December, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 2666/2000 concerning EU assistance to the western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) to improve, streamline and speed up EU action in the region (Table II). This new regulation, covering the period 2000–06, brings together, under a single legal basis and a single programme, the initiatives currently coming under the Phare and Obnova ('renewal') programmes, assigning more precise objectives to Community action and encouraging close regional cooperation among the recipient countries. Aid will go on reconstruction and stabilisation, support for democracy, the rule of law, human rights and the rights of minorities, and on support for economic development and reforms intended to create a market economy; it will be programmed in close cooperation with the countries' authorities who are expected to undertake to continue institutional, administrative and economic reforms founded on the observance of democratic principles, fundamental freedoms and minorities' rights. On 5 December, the Council also adopted Regulation (EC) No 2667/2000 on the creation of the European Agency for Reconstruction (Table II) repealing the 1999 regulation⁽¹⁾.

896. As part of the follow-up to the European Council meeting in Lisbon on 23 and 24 March⁽²⁾, the Council adopted, on 18 September, Regulation (EC) No 2007/2000 introducing exceptional trade measures for the countries and territories participating in the stabilisation and association process implemented by the EU to strengthen, rationalise and extend the autonomous trade preferences granted to the region ahead of the future stabilisation and association agreements⁽³⁾. The Council adopted, on 20 November, Regulation (EC) No 2563/2000 extending the measures to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in the light of recent political developments there, and to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia⁽⁴⁾.

897. On 17 July, the Council adopted Decision 2000/474/EC on a Community contribution of up to 85 % (EUR 22 million) to the cost of the project of the international fund created by the Danube Commission to restore shipping on the Danube by clearing the debris of three bridges destroyed by the 1999 NATO air strikes on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Table II).

Albania

898. Following the Commission's report on the scope for negotiating a stabilisation and association agreement with Albania⁽⁵⁾, a report on the measures

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 2454/1999 (OJ L 299, 20.11.1999; 1999 General Report, point 771).

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.21.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 240, 23.9.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.62.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 680; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.55.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(1999) 599; 1999 General Report, point 763.

taken or planned to deal with the problems raised was presented by Albania during a visit to Brussels on 20 March by Prime Minister Ilir Meta, who had talks with Mr Prodi and Mr Patten. The latter had been in Tirana on 6 March⁽¹⁾, where he met President Rexhep Meidani, Prime Minister Meta, Foreign Minister Paskal Milo, and members of the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. A political dialogue meeting was held in Brussels on 23 May, while the meeting of the Joint Committee of the EC–Albania trade and cooperation agreement⁽²⁾ took place in Tirana on 5 and 6 June. These two meetings focused on Albania's progress on the activity report and other bilateral and regional issues. On 27 June⁽³⁾, Mr Meta again came to the Commission where he saw Mr Patten. At the Summit in Zagreb on 24 November (→ *point 891*) the EU and Albania decided to create a high-level group to prepare the negotiation of a stabilisation and association agreement in order to encourage bilateral cooperation.

899. An action plan for Albania and the neighbouring region, initiated by the EU's high-level 'asylum and migration' working party, was adopted by the Council on 13 June⁽⁴⁾. The action plan was the subject of a Parliament resolution of 26 October⁽⁵⁾. The Council adopted, on 16 June⁽⁶⁾ and 14 December⁽⁷⁾ respectively, Joint Action 2000/388/CFSP and Joint Action 2000/798/CFSP extending to 31 December and supplementing Joint Action 1999/189/CFSP⁽⁸⁾ concerning a contribution by the European Union to the re-establishment of a viable police force in Albania. On 20 November, it adopted Decision 2000/723/CFSP⁽⁹⁾ repealing Decision 1999/320/CFSP⁽¹⁰⁾ concerning an EU contribution to the collection and destruction of weapons in Albania.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

900. The Council adopted, on 22 May, Regulation (EC) No 1080/2000 to establish a legal framework covering EU financial support for the United Nations Interim Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (OHR), as part of its policy of reconstruction, aid for the return of refugees and displaced persons, and economic and regional cooperation in Kosovo and in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Table II). On 8 and 9 March⁽¹¹⁾, Mr Patten went to Sarajevo and to Brcko where he met

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.47.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 343, 25.11.1992; Twenty-sixth General Report, point 759.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.48.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.4.4.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.4.4.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 145, 20.6.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.47.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 324, 21.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 63, 12.3.1999; 1999 General Report, point 762.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 292, 21.11.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.58.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 123, 13.5.1999; 1999 General Report, point 762.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.49.

President Alija Izetbegovic, Mr Edhem Bicakcic, President of the Federation, Mr Jadranko Prlic, Foreign Minister, and the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Wolfgang Petritsch. At the inauguration of the Brcko district (the statute of which had been left open by the Dayton agreement ending the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1995), Mr Patten stressed that the city could become a symbol for the rest of the country, showing that it was possible to create a multiethnic democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr Patten went back to Sarajevo on 19 April and again on 21 and 22 September to discuss the road maps setting out the reform measures to be accomplished before proceeding to the next stage of the stabilisation and association process. At the Zagreb Summit on 24 November (→ *point 891*), Bosnia and Herzegovina was invited to actively pursue these reforms.

Croatia

901. In the wake of the positive results of the January parliamentary⁽¹⁾ and presidential elections⁽²⁾ and the serious commitment of the new Croatian leaders, bilateral relations improved considerably with several high-level visits being arranged. Mr Prodi went to Croatia on 14 January⁽³⁾, followed by Mr Patten on 9 March⁽⁴⁾, 15 May⁽⁵⁾ and 22 September; on 14 February, Mr Ivica Racan, Croatian Prime Minister, visited the Commission, as did President Stjepan Mesic on 17 July and Agriculture Minister Bozidar Pankretic on 30 October. On 14 February, a joint EU–Croatia consultative task force was established to provide Croatia with know-how and technical assistance in preparing the negotiations for contractual relations in the shape of a stabilisation and association agreement. Following these first positive results on the way to the country's full democratisation, the Commission adopted, on 24 May⁽⁶⁾, a report on the feasibility of negotiating a stabilisation and association agreement. While concluding that the conditions were met for opening the negotiations, the Commission felt that Croatia had to do more to align on EU standards. On 13 December, this report was the subject of a Parliament resolution⁽⁷⁾. In June, the Commission and Croatia signed a bilateral agreement on the country's accession to the WTO, paving the way for membership in July. On 20 November, the Council adopted negotiating directives for a stabilisation and association agreement (Table III).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.12.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.14.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.78.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.50.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.71.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 311; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.70.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

902. The 'General Affairs' Council⁽¹⁾ discussed the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) at virtually all its meetings. The European Council, meeting in Lisbon in March and in Santa Maria da Feira in June⁽²⁾, stressed that a democratic FRY ready to cooperate and live in peace with its neighbours would be welcome in the European family of democratic nations. It supported the initiatives of civil society and democratic forces in Serbia to achieve this objective and exhorted them to strengthen their cooperation with a view to the FRY's eventual full participation in the stabilisation and association process. Parliament, for its part, repeatedly condemned the repression of regime opponents⁽³⁾ and declared its solidarity with all democratic forces in Serbia, in particular the independent media⁽⁴⁾. Mr Patten went to Belgrade on 23 and 24 October⁽⁵⁾ to meet the newly elected president, Vojislav Kostunica. The talks centred on the humanitarian aid granted to the country. Mr Prodi also went to Belgrade on 25 November straight after the Zagreb Summit (→ *point 891*). The Commission approved on 8 November⁽⁶⁾ an EUR 180 million emergency aid programme to provide Serbia with energy, medicines and food aid and to strengthen the Commission's programmes for schools, municipalities and the media. On top of that comes EUR 20 million for humanitarian aid for refugees and persons in difficulty.

903. The financial and other sanctions against the FRY were modified several times during the year in order to target the regime while minimising the effects on the Serb population and on Kosovo and Montenegro. The list of members or sympathisers of the Milosevic regime denied a visa for the territory of the European Union was regularly extended, by Decisions 2000/56/CFSP⁽⁷⁾, 2000/177/CFSP⁽⁸⁾, 2000/348/CFSP⁽⁹⁾, 2000/370/CFSP⁽¹⁰⁾ and 2000/495/CFSP⁽¹¹⁾. The Council adopted, on 24 January, Common Position 2000/56/CFSP⁽¹²⁾ supplementing Common Position 1999/318/CFSP⁽¹³⁾ setting out the conditions for the visa ban.

⁽¹⁾ Council conclusions on the situation in the western Balkans (Bull. 1/2-2000, points 1.6.74 and 1.6.75; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.44; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.40; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.64; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.46; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.78; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.61).

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.1; Bull. 6-2000, points 1.5.1 and 1.5.2.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.2.12; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.2.5.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.10.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.61.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.61.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 21, 26.1.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.82.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 56, 1.3.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.83.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 122, 24.5.2000; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.75.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 134, 7.6.2000.

⁽¹¹⁾ OJ L 200, 8.8.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.83.

⁽¹²⁾ OJ L 21, 26.1.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.82.

⁽¹³⁾ OJ L 123, 13.5.1999; 1999 General Report, point 769.

904. Following the 24 September elections and the investiture of the new President of the Republic, Mr Vojislav Kostunica, the Council adopted, on 9 October, Common Position 2000/599/CFSP⁽¹⁾ concerning support for a democratic FRY and the lifting of certain restrictive measures (ban on the sale of oil and on commercial or private flights); only the specific measures against Mr Milosevic and persons associated with him were maintained, in Common Position 2000/696/CFSP⁽²⁾, Decision 2000/697/CFSP⁽²⁾ and Council Regulation EC No 2488/2000⁽³⁾ adopted on 10 November. In this context the Council adopted, also on 9 October, Regulation (EC) No 2228/80⁽⁴⁾ repealing Regulation (EC) No 2111/1999⁽⁵⁾ prohibiting the sale and supply of petroleum and certain petroleum products to certain parts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Regulation (EC) No 2227/2000⁽⁶⁾ repealing Regulation (EC) No 2151/1999⁽⁷⁾ imposing a ban on flights between the territories of the Community and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia other than the Republic of Montenegro or the Province of Kosovo. By Common Position 2000/176/CFSP adopted on 28 February⁽⁸⁾, the Council had decided, so as not to penalise the Serb people, to suspend the ban on flights for a period of six months. This common position, implemented by Regulation (EC) No 607/2000 of 20 March⁽⁹⁾, was extended by Common Position 2000/454/CFSP of 18 July⁽¹⁰⁾, extending the suspension of the ban on flights until 31 March 2001, itself implemented by Council Regulation (EC) No 1746/2000 of 3 August⁽¹¹⁾. Exemptions from the oil embargo had already been made under the ‘energy for democracy’ and ‘asphalt for democracy’ programmes for Serb municipalities administered along democratic lines (Commission Regulation (EC) No 303/2000⁽¹²⁾ and Council Decisions 2000/82/CFSP⁽¹³⁾ and 2000/457/CFSP⁽¹⁴⁾). As for financial sanctions, Regulation (EC) No 1294/1999⁽¹⁵⁾ concerning a freeze of funds and a ban on investment in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) was amended by Council Regulations (EC) No 723/2000 of 6 April⁽¹⁶⁾ and (EC) No 2488/2000 of 10 November⁽³⁾, by Commission Regulation (EC) No 826/2000 of 25 April⁽¹⁷⁾, by Council Regulation (EC) No 1147/2000 of

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 261, 14.10.2000; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.57.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 287, 14.11.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.63.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 287, 14.11.2000; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.62.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 261, 14.10.2000; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.58.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 258, 5.10.1999; 1999 General Report, point 769.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 261, 14.10.2000; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.59.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 264, 12.10.1999; 1999 General Report, point 769.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 56, 1.3.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.84.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 73, 22.3.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.52.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 183, 22.7.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.81.

⁽¹¹⁾ OJ L 200, 8.8.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.82.

⁽¹²⁾ OJ L 35, 10.2.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.86.

⁽¹³⁾ OJ L 26, 2.2.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.85.

⁽¹⁴⁾ OJ L 183, 22.7.2000.

⁽¹⁵⁾ OJ L 153, 19.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 769.

⁽¹⁶⁾ OJ L 86, 7.4.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.42.

⁽¹⁷⁾ OJ L 101, 26.4.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.43.

29 May⁽¹⁾ and by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1094/2000 of 24 May⁽²⁾. On 18 May, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 1059/2000⁽³⁾ amending Regulation (EC) No 723/2000 in order to defer to 30 June the establishment of the 'white list' of companies established in the FRY to which Regulation (EC) No 1294/1999 does not apply. This list was drawn up by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1440/2000 of 30 June⁽⁴⁾. In a resolution of 14 December⁽⁵⁾, Parliament expressed its concern at the fate of political prisoners in the FRY and the instability in the border areas of Kosovo.

905. Against the backdrop of the severe economic and political pressure exerted by the Milosevic regime, the Council repeatedly stated that the EU would go on supporting the efforts of Montenegro on the path to democratic and economic reform⁽⁶⁾. On visits to Montenegro, Mr Patten reiterated the Union's support for democratisation⁽⁷⁾. The Council welcomed the outcome of the June elections in certain municipalities⁽⁸⁾ and condemned Belgrade's attempts to destabilise the reform process in Montenegro. The Council adopted, on 22 May, Decision 2000/355/EC allocating exceptional financial assistance of EUR 20 million to ease Montenegro's external financing requirements (Table II).

906. On Kosovo, where the European Union is easily the largest donor towards the reconstruction and peace efforts, the Council expressed throughout the year its support for the work of UNMIK and KFOR and urged all ethnic groups to take part in the common institutions and in the October municipal elections. Echoing Parliament's resolution of 15 June⁽⁹⁾, the Council stated its concern at the security situation, calling on local leaders to eschew violence. It invited Member States to strengthen the international police presence. Joint Action 1999/522/CFSP concerning the installation of the structures of UNMIK was extended by Joint Action 2000/175/CFSP, adopted on 28 February by the Council⁽¹⁰⁾. The Council adopted, on 22 May, Regulation (EC) No 1080/2000 on Community financial support for UNMIK (→ *point 900*). Mr Javier Solana, Secretary-General of the Council and High Representative for the CFSP, and Mr Patten and Mr Nielson, Members of the Commission, went several times to Pristina where they saw Bernard Kouchner, UN Special Representative at the head of UNMIK and representatives of the European Agency for the Reconstruction of Kosovo⁽¹¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 129, 30.5.2000; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.74.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 124, 25.5.2000; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.73.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 119, 20.5.2000; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.72.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 161, 1.7.2000.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.44; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.64.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.56; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.61.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.46.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.2.5.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 55, 29.2.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.89.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.44; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.52; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.63.

907. The European Agency for the Reconstruction of Kosovo⁽¹⁾, set up at the behest of the Cologne European Council⁽²⁾ to ensure swift and effective implementation of reconstruction programmes in Kosovo, started operations on 20 February, taking over from the task force for the reconstruction of Kosovo (TAFKO) present in Pristina since July 1999. The agency's job is to carry out a series of reconstruction projects, worth EUR 354 million, intended to restore decent living conditions (house rebuilding), lay the foundations for economic development (mine clearance, rehabilitation of public infrastructure such as electricity, water, transport, telecommunications), foster the development of the private sector and help restore a public administration (support for UNMIK).

908. The Council adopted, on 14 February, Decision 2000/140/EC allocating exceptional financial aid from the Community to Kosovo, in the form of a grant of up to EUR 35 million, the aim being to reduce the financial constraints on Kosovo and facilitate the creation of key administrative offices and a sound economic framework (Table II).

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

909. The Council adopted, on 24 January, negotiating directives for a stabilisation and association agreement with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Table III), which Parliament applauded in a resolution of 17 February⁽³⁾. Mr Patten symbolically launched the negotiation process with Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski in Skopje on 7 March⁽⁴⁾. FYROM is the first country in the region with which negotiations have been started for a stabilisation and association agreement, initialled in Zagreb on 23 November. Mr Patten went again to Skopje on 29 and 30 June⁽⁵⁾, where he had talks with Mr Trajkovski and with Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski.

910. The third meeting of the Cooperation Council established by the cooperation agreement between the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the European Community⁽⁶⁾ was held in Skopje on 13 April. The Cooperation Council highlighted the headway made by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on its political and economic reforms and the improvement in inter-ethnic relations. It also reviewed the activities under way in this country in the light of the last Commission report⁽⁷⁾. Under the cooperation agreement, several working parties met during the year; these technical meetings between the

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 299, 20.11.1999; 1999 General Report, point 771; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.87.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 771.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.77.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.48.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.49.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 348, 18.12.1997; 1997 General Report, point 911.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(1999) 300; 1999 General Report, point 766.

Commission and the relevant ministries broached matters such as agriculture and trade, in particular steel, statistics, customs and taxation, economic and financial issues and transport.

911. In a resolution adopted on 5 October ⁽¹⁾, Parliament welcomed the new law on higher education and the universities, a key political condition for inter-ethnic cooperation in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.55.

Section 8

Relations with the southern Mediterranean and the Middle East

Priority activities and objectives

912. *A highlight of the year was the adoption of a common strategy for the Mediterranean aimed at strengthening the partnership established five years previously in Barcelona. This fresh boost to the partnership, advocated in particular by the Commission, was also the centrepiece of the fourth Euro-Mediterranean conference of foreign ministers. Bilaterally, association agreements were concluded with Morocco and Israel. In the wake of the deteriorating situation in Jerusalem and the occupied territories, the Union on several occasions and at various political levels voiced its grave concern at the renewed clashes and urged a resumption of the peace process.*

General strategy

913. The European Council, meeting in Santa Maria da Feira (Portugal) on 19 and 20 June, adopted a common EU strategy⁽¹⁾ on the Mediterranean designed to strengthen the partnership established by the 1995 Barcelona Declaration⁽²⁾ and the follow-up to it. The strategy reflects the EU's resolve to pursue a coherent policy towards the region and constitutes its contribution to the consolidation of peace in the Middle East. This approach involves political dialogue, security, democracy, human rights and the environment and comprises economic, financial, social and cultural components.

914. The fourth Euro-Mediterranean conference of foreign ministers of the EU Member States and its Mediterranean partners⁽³⁾ took place in Marseille on 15 and 16 November⁽⁴⁾. Lebanon and Syria did not attend but Libya was present as a special guest. The discussions focused on strengthening the economic and financial components and the social, cultural and human dimensions

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 183, 22.7.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point I.46 and Annex V.

⁽²⁾ 1995 General Report, point 839; <http://www.euromed.net/key-docs/barcelona.htm>.

⁽³⁾ Algeria, Palestinian Authority, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.65. Previous conferences: Barcelona (1995 General Report, point 839); Valletta (1997 General Report, point 899); Stuttgart (1999 General Report, point 775).

of the partnership, which the Commission itself had underscored in a communication of 6 September aimed at giving fresh impetus to the Barcelona process⁽¹⁾. The participants welcomed the improvements to the basic regulation of the MEDA programme (→ *point 928*) and the prospects opened up by the EUR 12.75 billion the EU would be placing at its partners' disposal for the period 2000–06. In December⁽²⁾ the Nice European Council confirmed the EU's commitment to deepen the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and stressed the importance of the MEDA programme.

915. In its resolutions of 30 March⁽³⁾ and 15 November⁽⁴⁾, the European Parliament, with a view to kick-starting the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, called on the Council and the Commission to restore the balance between funding for the central and east European countries and funding for the Mediterranean partners, as decided by the Cannes European Council⁽⁵⁾ (5 to 3.5 ratio), and to return to the global approach defined in Barcelona, to boost the political, economic and financial support afforded to the region and foster the integration of sub-regional zones, to lay greater emphasis in multilateral and bilateral negotiations on the human rights clause enshrined in the Euro-Mediterranean agreements and to take measures within the relevant international bodies to reduce the external debt of the countries concerned. On 26 and 27 March an *ad hoc* EU troika team visited Tripoli to explain to the Libyan authorities the scope of the Barcelona *acquis*. In an opinion of 20 September⁽⁶⁾, the Committee of the Regions stressed the need for closer involvement of regional and local authorities in the development of the Mediterranean. That same day⁽⁷⁾, the Economic and Social Committee adopted a report on innovation policies in SMEs and craft industries ahead of the sixth Euro-Mediterranean summit of economic and social councils held in Naples on 2 and 3 November.

Maghreb

916. On 24 January, the Council concluded the Euro-Mediterranean agreement establishing an association with Morocco (Table III). Ratified by all EU Member States and concluded for an indefinite period, the agreement features among other things: regular political dialogue; the gradual establishment of a free trade area in line with WTO rules; provisions on freedom of establishment, liberalisation of services, free movement of capital and competition rules; strengthening economic cooperation; social and cultural cooperation; financial

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 497; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.64.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.57.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.66.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 6-1995, point I.57.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.65.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.66.

cooperation to boost Morocco's drive to achieve economic reform and social development ahead of the creation of a free trade area. At its first meeting in Luxembourg on 9 October ⁽¹⁾ the EU–Morocco Association Council mooted the possibility of establishing a free trade area between the parties and improving the effectiveness of the MEDA regulation; there was also an exchange of views on agricultural issues and on fisheries and immigration. On 16 October ⁽²⁾, Mr Fischler met King Mohamed VI, Prime Minister Abderrahmane Youssoufi and Fisheries Minister Said Chbaatou.

917. At its second meeting in Brussels on 24 January ⁽³⁾, the EU–Tunisia Association Council had a wide-ranging exchange of views on the association agreement ⁽⁴⁾ and its future prospects, in particular on the trade front, and on issues such as liberalisation of services and the agreement's social provisions. The EU acknowledged the headway Tunisia had made in the economic sphere and on human rights, while encouraging it to take further measures to achieve a pluralist democracy and strengthen the rule of law.

918. In its 16 March resolution ⁽⁵⁾ on the Western Sahara, the European Parliament reiterated its backing for the UN peace plan adopted by the various parties and for a referendum on self-determination. It expressed concern at the constant postponement of the referendum and urged the Moroccan Government and the Polisario Front to work with the UN towards holding the plebiscite. It called on the Commission to step up humanitarian aid to the Sahrawi refugees.

Mashreq, Palestinian Territories and Israel

919. In its conclusions of 24 January ⁽⁶⁾ and 14 February ⁽⁷⁾, the Council reiterated the Union's commitment, in conjunction with the parties concerned, to do all it could to support the peace process. It appealed to all parties to exercise utmost restraint and refrain from further acts of violence. The Feira European Council ⁽⁸⁾, sensing a real opportunity to achieve peace in the Middle East, encouraged Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to work to that end. Welcoming Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, it called on the parties concerned to cooperate with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.62.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.63.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.94.

⁽⁴⁾ Euro-Mediterranean association agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and Tunisia, of the other part (OJ L 97, 30.3.1998; 1998 General Report, point 848).

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.58.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.95.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.96.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 6-2000, points I.47 and I.48.

920. Following renewed clashes in Jerusalem and the occupied territories in the autumn, the European Parliament condemned, in a resolution of 5 October⁽¹⁾, the acts of provocation leading to the clashes and the use of force to resolve conflicts between Israelis and Palestinians. It called for the two sides to reach an agreement. Several EU presidency statements also expressed concern at the deteriorating situation (→ *point* 766). On 14 December, the Council adopted Joint Action 2000/794/CFSP⁽²⁾, appointing Miguel Angel Moratinos as special EU representative for the Middle East peace process and repealing Joint Action 96/676/CFSP⁽³⁾.

921. Nicole Fontaine, President of the European Parliament, visited Israel and the Palestinian Territories from 20 to 23 February⁽⁴⁾. In a speech to the Knesset, she said the Parliament's resolutions on peace in the Middle East had always underscored the key elements of the Oslo process. The peace process was also one of the main topics broached during Romano Prodi's visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories from 27 to 29 February⁽⁵⁾. At the Yad Vashem monument, Mr Prodi said Europe's wish was to be a Union of peace, liberty, respect for rights and identities, and security for all, irrespective of religion or skin colour. Mr Patten was in the Middle East from 1 to 7 April, where he saw leading officials of Egypt⁽⁶⁾, Israel and the Palestinian Territories⁽⁷⁾, Jordan⁽⁸⁾, Syria⁽⁹⁾ and Lebanon⁽¹⁰⁾, with whom he discussed the association agreements being negotiated or implemented, the 'Barcelona process' and the peace process in the region. On 7 September⁽¹¹⁾, Mr Youssef Boutros-Gali, Egyptian Minister for the Economy and Foreign Trade, saw Mr Patten and Mr Lamy at the Commission. On 15 December⁽¹²⁾ Mr Zaim, the Syrian Planning Minister, visited Mr Patten.

922. By Joint Action 2000/298/CFSP⁽¹³⁾, the Council decided, on 13 April, to extend Joint Action 97/289/CFSP⁽¹⁴⁾ for three years in order to continue supporting the Palestinian Authority in its drive to counter terrorist activities emanating from the territories under its control.

923. On 17 April, the Council concluded the Euro-Mediterranean agreement establishing an association with Israel (Table III). Ratified by all Member States

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.64.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 318, 16.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 315, 4.12.1996; 1996 General Report, point 840.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.97.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.98.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.48.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.50.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.46.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.47.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.49.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.68.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽¹³⁾ OJ L 97, 19.4.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.51.

⁽¹⁴⁾ OJ L 120, 12.5.1997; joint action amended by Decision 1999/440/CFSP (OJ L 171, 7.7.1999; 1999 General Report, point 783).

and concluded for an indefinite period, the agreement features: regular political dialogue; a strengthening of the free trade area (in place for industrial products since 1989) between the EC and Israel in line with WTO rules; provisions on freedom of establishment, liberalisation of services, free movement of capital and competition rules; strengthened economic cooperation on the broadest possible basis; social and cultural cooperation. The agreement entered into force on 1 June and the Association Council held its first meeting in Luxembourg on 13 June⁽¹⁾.

924. The EC–Palestinian Authority Joint Committee, set up under the interim association agreement on trade and cooperation⁽²⁾, met for the first time in Brussels on 23 May⁽³⁾. The key issues broached were free trade, customs cooperation, farm trade, rules of origin and barriers to trade. Other topics included competition policy, protection of intellectual property rights and bilateral aid.

Middle East countries

925. In a resolution of 13 April⁽⁴⁾, Parliament stressed that the embargo against Iraq was penalising the civilian population but had not, in nine years, weakened the Iraqi regime. It called on the European Union, for reasons of humanity, to take action to ensure that the UN Security Council clarified the terms of Resolution 1284 by specifying what was expected of the Iraqi Government and that it agrees to cooperate in applying UN resolutions so the embargo could be lifted.

926. At its 10th meeting in Brussels on 22 May⁽⁵⁾, the Joint EU–GCC Council approved recommendations expressing the parties' desire to continue the cooperation started under the 1988 agreement⁽⁶⁾. Foreign ministers of the EU and the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar) also decided to resume their negotiations for a second agreement, on free trade. The EU said it hoped the Gulf countries would be able to implement their customs union before 2005 — a condition for the entry into force of the free trade agreement with the Union.

927. On a visit to Brussels in February, Mr Ali Abdallah Salih, President of the Republic of Yemen, met Mr Prodi and Mr Patten.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.57.

⁽²⁾ Interim association agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), acting on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, West Bank and Gaza Strip, of the other part (OJ L 187, 16.7.1997; 1997 General Report, point 921).

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.81.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.54.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.82.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 54, 25.2.1989; Twenty-second General Report, point 934.

Financial and technical cooperation

928. In 2000, EUR 888 million was committed under the MEDA programme. On 26 November, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 2698/2000 amending the basic regulation⁽¹⁾ for this programme (Table III). The new regulation streamlines programming and implementation procedures. The budget for this MEDA II programme will be EUR 5.35 billion for the period 2000–06.

929. On 20 December⁽²⁾, the Commission adopted the report on the implementation of the MEDA programme (1999).

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1488/96 (OJ L 189, 30.7.1996; General Report 1996, point 813).

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 472; Bull. 12-2000.

Section 9

Relations with the independent States of the former Soviet Union and with Mongolia

Priority activities and objectives

930. *The EU continued using the instruments of cooperation and assistance for the independent States of the former Soviet Union and for Mongolia, such as the dialogue written into the partnership and cooperation agreements and the common strategies adopted for Russia and Ukraine to underpin economic development, guarantee the success of the political changes and strengthen the fundamental principles of democracy and human rights.*

Partnership and other agreements

931. Under the partnership and cooperation agreement with Russia, the third EU–Russia Cooperation Council meeting was held Luxembourg on 10 April⁽¹⁾ while the fourth meeting cooperation committee meeting took place in Moscow on 12 October. Two summits were held in the framework of the agreement, in Moscow on 29 May and in Paris on 30 October (→ *point 944*). The Council and the Member States concluded, on 10 July, the protocol enabling Austria, Finland and Sweden to become parties to the agreement (Table III).

932. Under the partnership and cooperation agreement with Ukraine, the third meeting of the Cooperation Council was held in Brussels on 23 May⁽²⁾. The Council and the Member States concluded, on 10 July, the protocol enabling Austria, Finland and Sweden to become parties to the agreement (Table III).

933. Under the partnership and cooperation agreement with Moldova, the second meeting of the Cooperation Council was held in Brussels on 25 January⁽³⁾. The Council and the Member States concluded, on 10 July, the protocol enabling Austria, Finland and Sweden to become parties to the agreement.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.55.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.85.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.100.

934. As the Council conclusions of 15 September 1997⁽¹⁾ concerning Belarus still apply, the process for ratifying the partnership and cooperation agreement with that country, signed in March 1995⁽²⁾, remains in abeyance, as does the entry into force of the interim agreement signed in March 1996⁽³⁾.

935. The Cooperation Council meetings with Kazakhstan⁽⁴⁾ and Kyrgyzstan⁽⁵⁾ held in Brussels on 11 July, and with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, held in Luxembourg on 10 October⁽⁶⁾, addressed the issues of reform, including democratisation, political instability in those regions and the development of bilateral trade and investment. The Council signed, on 27 June, the agreement on trade in textiles with Kazakhstan (→ *point 833*) and adopted, on 26 June, negotiating directives authorising the Commission to negotiate two agreements on nuclear cooperation between the Atomic Energy Community and Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (Table III).

Assistance for the independent States of the former Soviet Union and for Mongolia

Tacis

936. Under the new Tacis regulation which entered into force on 1 January⁽⁷⁾, EUR 454 million was allocated to the programme, of which 59 million for projects in the field of nuclear safety, and 70 million for cross-border cooperation and regional cooperation.

937. Following the European Council statement on Chechnya at the December 1999 Helsinki European Council⁽⁸⁾ and the Council conclusions of 24 January⁽⁹⁾, an action programme was adopted for the Russian Federation. Worth EUR 34 million, its aim is to promote democratic values and civil society, bolster the rule of law and the defence of individual rights and foster the independence of the media and inter-ethnic tolerance. After the Feira European Council⁽¹⁰⁾ and the Council meeting of 10 July⁽¹¹⁾, a second action programme for

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 1, 3.1.1998; 1997 General Report, points 933 and 944.

⁽²⁾ 1995 General Report, point 883.

⁽³⁾ 1996 General Report, point 852.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.87.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.88.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 10-2000, points 1.6.65 to 1.6.67.

⁽⁷⁾ Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 99/2000 (OJ L 12, 18.1.2000; 1999 General Report, point 792); http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/tacis/intro/index.htm.

⁽⁸⁾ 1999 General Report, point 799.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.102.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.44.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.90.

EUR 58 million was approved to support the new Russian Government's programme of socioeconomic reforms.

938. Following the signing in November 1999⁽¹⁾ with Belarus of a special Tacis programme worth EUR 5 million for the development of civil society, the Commission proposed to the Member States that the Tacis programme, in abeyance since 1996, be relaunched in the 2000–03 programming period. It recommended that the programme include activities compatible with the EU's position on Belarus as set out in the Council's conclusions of 15 September (→ *point 934*) i.e. chiefly education and training and support for civil society. Belarus continued taking part in the Tacis regional programmes (cross-border cooperation, inter-State cooperation and nuclear safety).

939. Information on the Tacis contribution to nuclear safety can be found in Section 5 ('Energy') of Chapter IV (→ *point 619*).

Other forms of assistance

940. Information on macro-financial assistance can be found in Section 1 ('Economic and monetary policy') of Chapter III (→ *point 69*).

941. Emergency aid granted to Belarus in 1999 by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) was provisionally continued in 2000 (→ *point 881*).

942. On the basis of a joint action under Article 14 of the Treaty on European Union, the EU provided equipment to Georgian border guards⁽²⁾ protecting the OSCE observer mission on the border between Georgia and Chechnya.

Bilateral relations

943. The common strategy of the European Union on Russia⁽³⁾, adopted in June 1999, was the subject of a number of initiatives. In March, the Council adopted an EU action plan⁽⁴⁾ for Russia to combat organised crime and Parliament adopted, on 13 December, a resolution on that strategy⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 805.

⁽²⁾ Joint Action 2000/456/CFSP (OJ L 183, 22.7.2000).

⁽³⁾ Common Strategy 1999/414/CFSP (OJ L 157, 24.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 797).

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.4.13.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

944. Two EU–Russia summits were held in 2000, in Moscow on 29 May ⁽¹⁾, with the new Russian President, Vladimir Putin, and in Paris on 30 October ⁽²⁾. Talks focused on Russia’s structural reforms and EU support for the reform process. The Chechnya conflict featured prominently, with the EU calling on Russia to abide by international humanitarian conventions, not to resort disproportionately to violence, particularly on civilian populations, to allow humanitarian organisations access to displaced populations and to resume a political dialogue with the Chechen authorities. The conflict was also the subject of Council conclusions on 24 January, 14 February, 20 March, 10 April and 10 July ⁽³⁾. Parliament also regularly debated Chechnya, adopting several resolutions ⁽⁴⁾. An EU ministerial troika went to Moscow on 7 April. Mr Nielson went from 5 to 8 February ⁽⁵⁾ to Moscow and Chechnya with the aim of easing humanitarian organisations’ access to displaced persons. The Council conclusions of 10 July, taking a cue from the conclusions of the Feira European Council ⁽⁶⁾, stated that the European Union, still concerned at the situation in Chechnya, would continue to raise the issue in its dialogue with Russia. However, the Council considered that the time had come to underline the importance of the common strategy in developing the partnership with Russia on the basis of common values. It stressed that the priority objective was to bolster the rule of law in line with the democratic requirements of a modern economy in a way that benefited Russian society as a whole.

945. Mr Viktor Khristenko, Russian Deputy Prime Minister in charge of relations with the European Union, came to Brussels in September. Ms Loyola de Palacio, Commission Vice-President, and Mr Philippe Busquin, Member of the Commission, travelled to Russia on 8 September ⁽⁷⁾.

946. Implementation of the EU’s common strategy towards Ukraine ⁽⁸⁾ went ahead in line with the work schedules of the Portuguese and French presidencies. The fourth EU–Ukraine summit took place in Paris on 15 September ⁽⁹⁾, attended by Mr Leonid Kuchma, President of Ukraine, Mr Jacques Chirac, President of the European Council, and Mr Prodi, President of the Commission. The main topics were bilateral relations in the context of the partnership and cooperation agreement and the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power station (→ *point 619*).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.88.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.73.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, points 1.6.102 and 1.6.103, Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.62; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.56; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.90.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, points 1.6.101 and 1.6.105; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.11; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.57.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.72.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.58.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.72.

⁽⁸⁾ Common Strategy 1999/877/CFSP (OJ L 331, 23.12.1999; 1999 General Report, point 801).

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.71.

947. In Brussels on 23 May⁽¹⁾ for the Cooperation Council meeting at which *inter alia* the partnership and cooperation agreement⁽²⁾ was discussed, the Ukrainian Prime Minister, Victor Yushchenko, met Mr Prodi, Mr Patten and Mr Solbes Mira. On 10 November, Mr Prodi continued these discussions in Ukraine with President Kuchma and Mr Yushchenko⁽³⁾.

948. Relations with Belarus⁽⁴⁾ centred on the run-up to the parliamentary elections, which were held in October⁽⁵⁾. At the end of July, the High Representative for the CFSP, Mr Javier Solana, made a first telephone contact with President Aleksandr Lukashenko. In the absence of democratic reforms in the country in the course of the year sanctions against Belarus remain in force⁽⁶⁾.

949. The Moldovan Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Iurie Leanca, met Mr Verheugen at the Commission on 18 September⁽⁷⁾. The two men discussed the outlook for Moldova and the potential role of the EU in the region.

950. Mr Prodi saw Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan, on 27 June⁽⁸⁾. Discussions centred on trade and the political and environmental situation in central Asia.

951. Following the Cooperation Council meetings on 10 October, Mr Patten saw Mr Irakli Menagarichvili and Mr Vartan Oskanian, Foreign Ministers of Georgia and Armenia respectively, and a delegation from Azerbaijan⁽⁹⁾. The talks focused on the implementation of the partnership and cooperation agreements and the June 1999 joint statement issued by those three countries and the Union⁽¹⁰⁾.

Regional cooperation

952. The Commission continued implementing the Tacis regional programmes and rehabilitation projects in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan with a view to strengthening economic cooperation and finding solutions to the conflicts there. The new Tacis regulation (→ *point 936*) explicitly mentions support

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.85.

⁽²⁾ Decision 98/149/EC, ECSC, Euratom 1998 on the conclusion of the partnership and cooperation agreement with Ukraine: OJ L 49, 19.2.1998; 1998 General Report, point 872).

⁽³⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.69.

⁽⁴⁾ The situation in Belarus was the subject of several EU statements (→ *point 770*).

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.64.

⁽⁶⁾ 1997 General Report, points 933 and 944.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.70.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.59.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.71.

⁽¹⁰⁾ 1999 General Report, point 803.

for regional cooperation, notably as regards the northern dimension to EU policies and the Black Sea.

953. The Feira European Council, on 19 and 20 June, approved the 2000–03 action plan for the northern dimension⁽¹⁾ to the EU's external and cross-border policies. It invited the Commission to play a leading role in implementing the action plan and to table follow-up proposals on the environment and nuclear safety, the fight against international crime and the issue of Kaliningrad. The Commission, represented by Mr Prodi, participated in the ninth ministerial meeting of the Baltic Sea States Council, held in Bergen (Norway) on 21 and 22 June. It was also represented at the seventh ministerial meeting of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC)⁽²⁾, held in Oulu (Finland) on 14 and 15 March. At the initiative of the Danish Foreign Minister and the Nordic Council, a meeting was organised in conjunction with the Commission in Copenhagen, on 17 and 18 May, to examine northern dimension issues and the situation of the Kaliningrad *oblast* in an enlarged European Union. The Commission took part in a conference under the aegis of the OSCE and the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention on strengthening security and stability in central Asia, in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) on 19 and 20 October. In a special Tacis operation for the Baltic, special attention was devoted to the environment (waste and water management) and promotion of innovative SMEs in the region.

954. Implementation under Tacis of the Traceca programme (goods and passengers) and the Inogate programme (gas and oil) continued with the aim of creating a 'Caucasus corridor' linking Europe to the Caspian Sea and central Asia. Inogate was extended to take in the central and east European countries and Turkey.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point I.55.

⁽²⁾ Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Sweden.

Section 10

Relations with the United States, Japan and other industrialised countries

Priority activities and objectives

955. *The strengthening of political and economic cooperation between the European Union and its partners in the industrialised countries continued, particularly in the light of developments in regional crises throughout the world and the prospect of the reopening of multilateral trade talks. The annual G8 Summit in Okinawa adopted a charter on the global information society.*

Group of Eight (G8)

956. The annual G8 Summit, held in Okinawa from 21 to 23 July⁽¹⁾, was attended by the Heads of State or Government of Germany, Canada, the United States, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and Russia, and by Mr Prodi, representing the Commission. The participants adopted a final declaration of the Eight, an 'Okinawa Charter' on the global information society and declarations on regional conflicts and on the Korean peninsula. These declarations describe the major challenges facing the world at the start of the 21st century, covering the state of the world economy and the opportunities created by new technologies in areas such as information, communications and life sciences, but rejecting segregation between north and south. They also examine development policy and the question of debt relief for poor countries. The participants announced initiatives such as a new strategy to fight infectious diseases and their intention to launch a new partnership with countries outside the G8, civil society, the private sector and NGOs. They also undertook to step up their efforts to expedite the launch of a new round of WTO trade negotiations. They reaffirmed the importance of firm action against organised crime, financial crime, money laundering and drug trafficking, and tackled other sensitive issues, e.g. the environment, food security, biotechnology, the human genome and population ageing. Finally, they confirmed their resolve to take action to prevent and

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.92. Previous summit: 1999 General Report, point 810; <http://www.summit-okinawa.gr.jp/summit/e/index.htm>.

eliminate conflicts in the world and to maintain the regime for the non-proliferation of firearms and missiles.

United States

957. Two EU–US summits were held, one in Queluz, Portugal, on 31 May⁽¹⁾ and the other in Washington on 18 December⁽²⁾. At the Queluz Summit, Mr António Guterres, the President of the European Council, Mr Prodi, Mr Patten and Mr Javier Solana, the High Representative for the CFSP, met President Clinton and US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. Their main topic of discussion was the information society and both parties agreed to step up cooperation and take concerted action to ensure that the transatlantic dialogue produced concrete results in that respect. Despite several disagreements over trade matters, both parties reasserted their determination to strengthen the transatlantic relationship, which is founded on common values and a partnership that seeks to encourage peace, stability and democracy throughout the world. They decided to set up an independent consultative forum on biotechnology, bringing together prominent civil society representatives from both sides of the Atlantic. They also adopted joint declarations on the organisation of the next round of WTO trade talks, their common aims in the Balkans, and their desire to cooperate actively in the fight against infectious diseases in Africa. In Washington, Mr Jacques Chirac, the President of the European Council, Mr Solana, Secretary-General of the Council and High Representative for the CFSP, Mr Hubert Védrine, the President of the Council, and Mr Prodi, Mr Patten and Mr Lamy of the Commission met President Clinton, Secretary of State Albright, US Trade Representative, Charlene Barshefsky, and the US Secretary of Commerce William Daley. Following the new approach under the transatlantic partnership, the parties adopted joint statements on eastern Europe, on the responsibilities of States and transparency regarding arms exports and on building consumer confidence in e-commerce. They also discussed the situation in the Middle East and in the Balkans, the democratic elections in Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor. Other topics on the agenda included trade matters, preparations for the next round of WTO trade talks, European defence, AIDS, development aid and global warming. An agreement on education and training was signed (→ *point 533*).

958. Alongside the EU–US ministerial meeting, held in Lisbon on 3 March⁽³⁾, Mr Jaime Gama, the President of the Council, his successor, Mr Védrine, Mr Solana, the High Representative for the CFSP, Mr Patten and Mrs Albright

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.89.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.68.

took part for the first time in a trilateral meeting with Russia ⁽¹⁾, represented by its Foreign Minister, Mr Igor Ivanov. Their discussions led to concrete progress on the Balkans, including a commitment to seek communal elections in Kosovo, with more ruminative discussions on Chechnya, the Russian elections and the economic reform also taking place. At a second ministerial meeting in Paris on 2 October ⁽²⁾, the participants discussed the situation in the Balkans, future relations with Mr Kostunica, the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), and aid from the EU to assist the FRY in its return to a system of democracy. The talks also covered Russia, the Middle East and the agenda for the next summit.

959. During a visit to Washington on 17 and 18 February, Mr Lamy met Mrs Charlene Barshefsky, the US Trade Representative ⁽³⁾. In addition to confirming both parties' willingness to launch a new round of WTO trade talks as soon as possible, discussions also covered areas of dispute such as bananas, hormone-treated meat, hush-kits to reduce aeroplane noise and the US Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC) scheme, which a WTO panel found against in September 1999.

960. Mrs Albright met Mr Prodi, Mr Patten and Mr Solana in Brussels on 8 March ⁽⁴⁾ for talks on the situation in the Balkans, Russia (notably the Chechnya question), the Middle East peace process and recent developments concerning European security and defence policy. The problems concerning US extra-territorial legislation (Helms Burton and D'Amato Acts) and the diverging approaches to biotechnology were also covered.

961. In January, a delegation from the US Congress met with Messrs Patten, Lamy, Liikanen and Byrne of the Commission and the CFSP High Representative, Mr Solana, in Brussels.

962. On 1 August, the Commission published its annual report on trade barriers in the United States which addresses, in particular, US unilateral and extra-territorial legislation and the abusive use of US trade policy instruments and export subsidies.

963. Parliament issued a number of resolutions deploring the plight of native Americans and the use of the death penalty in the United States. It also addressed US members of Congress to voice its concern at their attitude to the Kyoto principles on emissions of greenhouse gases (→ *points 572 et seq.*).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.67.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.75.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.110.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.69.

Japan

964. The ninth EU–Japan summit took place in Tokyo on 19 July⁽¹⁾ attended by the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Yoshiro Mori, the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr Yohei Kono, Mr Chirac, the President of the Council, Mr François Huwart, the French Secretary of State for Trade, Messrs Prodi, Patten and Lamy for the Commission, and Mr Solana, the CFSP High Representative. Noting the significant changes which had occurred in the international community and the progress in their bilateral relations since the signing of their joint political declaration in 1991⁽²⁾, the participants adopted joint conclusions aimed at deepening EU–Japan cooperation and making it more action-oriented. They also adopted declarations on the launch of a new round of WTO multilateral trade negotiations in 2000, the situation in Indonesia and the Middle East peace process. An EU–Japan troika ministerial meeting took place in New York on 13 September to follow up on the above summit and review issues of common concern such as the situation on the Korean peninsula, Russia, the Middle East peace process and UN reform.

965. A ministerial meeting was held in Brussels on 11 January⁽³⁾ chaired jointly by Mr Patten and Japan’s Foreign Minister, Mr Kono. Messrs Monti, Fischler, Solbes Mira, Lamy and Byrne also participated. At the end of the meeting, which focused on economic questions, the two sides issued a joint declaration on the WTO, underlining the need to launch a new round of trade talks with a comprehensive agenda. The Commission encouraged Japan to press ahead with vigorous regulatory reforms, referring in this context to its proposals of November 1999⁽⁴⁾.

966. Ms Reding, Ms Wallström, Mr Patten, Mr Lamy and Mr Solbes Mira visited Japan to take part in the various G8 Summit preparatory meetings (→ *point* 956). Ms Diamantopoulou, Mr Liikanen and Mr Solbes Mira also visited Japan for a second time to improve bilateral relations and cooperation in their respective spheres of competence.

967. In the context of the bilateral EU–Japan dialogue on regulatory reform, the biannual high-level meeting on regulatory reform in Japan took place in Tokyo on 22 February⁽⁵⁾. The Commission recognised the progress made in the course of 1999, but noted that some major cross-cutting issues had not been addressed comprehensively. Pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1035/1999⁽⁶⁾, the Commission presented a report on 12 October⁽⁷⁾ on the implementation of a

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.94.

⁽²⁾ Twenty-fifth General Report, point 861.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.111.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 817.

⁽⁵⁾ Previous meeting: 1999 General Report, point 817.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 127, 21.5.1999; 1999 General Report, point 818.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2000) 638; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.76.

programme of specific measures and actions to improve access for EU goods and cross-border services to the Japanese market.

Canada

968. Two EU–Canada summits were held in Lisbon⁽¹⁾ on 26 June and in Ottawa⁽²⁾ on 19 December. The Lisbon Summit was attended by Mr António Guterres, the President of the Council, Mr Prodi, Mr Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada, and Mr Lloyd Axworthy, Mr Jaime Gama, Mr Pierre Pettigrew and Mr Osvaldo Sarmiento e Castro, respectively the Canadian and Portuguese Ministers for Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Mr Patten and Mr Lamy were also present to represent the Commission. A joint statement was produced at the meeting on consolidating peace and preventing violent conflict, a theme which both parties wished to make, through collaboration, the key to their strategies for promoting security. They also underscored the need for further trade liberalisation and the strengthening of multilateral rules in order to increase economic growth and meet the challenges of globalisation. They reaffirmed their resolve to launch a new round of WTO trade negotiations. The two parties also agreed to work together to promote the development of a supportive global framework for e-commerce and to work with the private sector and civil society to maximise the social and economic benefits of the global information society. At the Ottawa Summit, Mr Chirac, the President of the European Council, Mr Solana, Secretary-General of the Council and High Representative for the CFSP, Mr Védrine, the President of the Council, and Mr Prodi, Mr Patten and Mr Lamy of the Commission met Canada's Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien. The two sides adopted statements on promoting cooperation between the European Union and Canada, in four areas in particular: European security and defence policy (ESDP); justice and home affairs; development assistance; and satellite navigation (Galileo). They also discussed trade issues and signed a major cooperation agreement on education and training.

969. A ministerial meeting was held in Ottawa on 7 February⁽³⁾ between Mr Axworthy, the Canadian Foreign Minister, Mr Gama, the President of the Council, and Mr Patten. In addition to preparations for the June Summit, the talks ranged over bilateral economic and trade relations, matters of common concern such as 'human security' (protection of children, trafficking in persons, anti-personnel landmines), small arms, conflict prevention, especially in Africa, international regional problems (Balkans, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia), justice and home affairs issues and prospects for cooperation in controlling

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.63.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.112.

migratory flows, and the integration of refugees or their return to their country of origin. The northern dimension, namely convergence between European Union and Canadian actions vis-à-vis Russia and the Baltic States, was also examined.

970. On 19 December, the Commission signed an agreement on a new programme of EC–Canada cooperation in the fields of higher education and training (→ *point 533*).

Australia

971. EU–Australia political dialogue meetings at ministerial level took place in Lisbon on 2 February and in Bangkok on 28 July. At the first meeting, Mr Alexander Downer, Australia’s Foreign Minister, and Mr Gama, the President of the Council, discussed developments in the Asia-Pacific region, disarmament, environment issues and developments in the EU. In Bangkok, Mr Downer, Mr Charles Josselin and Mr Patten discussed the present state of bilateral relations and developments in the South Pacific, the Far East and in the EU.

972. Mr Downer visited the Commission on 2 February⁽¹⁾ for talks with Ms Reding, Mr Lamy and Mr Patten. The main subjects discussed were the EU’s role in Asia, the situation in East Timor and Indonesia, and human rights. Also examined were the issues of drugs in sport, cooperation on education, the new round of trade negotiations, the new WTO accessions and the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety. Mr Mark Vaile, Australian Minister for Trade, met Mr Lamy on 29 June⁽²⁾ in Brussels for talks mainly on WTO issues.

New Zealand

973. EU–New Zealand ministerial-level political dialogue meetings were held in Lisbon on 10 May⁽³⁾ and New York on 14 September. In Lisbon, Mr Phil Goff, New Zealand’s Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, and Mr Gama discussed EU–New Zealand relations, developments in the Asia-Pacific region and in the EU and other regional issues such as the situations in Chechnya and the western Balkans. At the meeting in New York, Mr Goff, Mr Védérine, the President of the Council, Mr Josselin, the French Overseas Aid Minister, and Mr Patten discussed bilateral relations, developments in East Timor and Indonesia, the human rights situation in Burma, the reconciliation process in the

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.113.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.64.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.90.

Korean peninsula, China–Taiwan relations, China’s WTO accession and the situation in Fiji.

974. On 10 May, in Brussels, Mr Goff met Mr Patten with whom he discussed bilateral EU–New Zealand relations and developments in the EU, the situation in the Solomon Islands and in East Timor, China–Taiwan relations, the EU’s initiatives on Kosovo, Indonesia and East Timor, the EU approach vis-à-vis Russia and the launching of the next WTO round of trade talks.

South Korea

975. In a declaration adopted on 13 June, the Council welcomed the historic inter-Korean Summit of 13 and 14 June in Pyongyang and encouraged both sides to continue the process of reconciliation.

976. The annual consultation between the EU and the Republic of Korea took place shortly after the historic inter-Korean Summit at a meeting in Seoul on 20 July between Mr Patten and Yi Chong-pin, the South Korean Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister. The main topics discussed were cooperation in matters concerning the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, economic relations and cooperation in the international and multilateral spheres (WTO, ASEM). The need for progress on bilateral trade issues was also underlined, especially ship-building in the light of the signing of an agreement between the Community and the Republic of Korea on 22 June (→ *point 834*).

977. A meeting took place in Bangkok on 28 July between the EU troika and Yi Chong-pin in the political dialogue framework. The situation in the Korean peninsula after the inter-Korean Summit of 13 and 14 June and EU–Republic of Korea cooperation in the preparation of the ASEM III meeting were the issues discussed.

978. The EU continued to play a full and active role in KEDO⁽¹⁾ (Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation). On the basis of negotiating directives adopted by the Council on 29 June, the Commission opened negotiations on the renewal of the agreement with KEDO (Table III).

⁽¹⁾ 1997 General Report, point 982; 1998 General Report, point 911.

Section 11

Relations with Asian countries

Priority activities and objectives

979. *Relations between Asia and Europe and the EU's bilateral relations with India and China were given fresh impetus. Political dialogue with Indonesia also got off the ground.*

Asia–Europe meetings (ASEM) and relations with regional bodies

980. The third Asia–Europe summit was held in Seoul on 20 and 21 October⁽¹⁾, bringing together the Heads of State or Government of 10 Asian countries (seven ASEAN countries⁽²⁾, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) and of the 15 EU Member States, as well as the Commission President, Romano Prodi. Building on the success of the previous summits in Bangkok⁽³⁾ and London⁽⁴⁾, the Seoul Summit reiterated the importance of this new partnership between Europe and Asia, reviewed achievements to date and set out a road map for the ASEM process into the new decade. The summit also issued a separate declaration on developments on the Korean peninsula, adopted a new Asia–European cooperation framework setting out principles and priorities for the ASEM process for the coming decade, and endorsed a range of major initiatives developed since Bangkok. It confirmed also that the fourth and fifth summits would be held in Denmark in 2002 and in Asia in 2004. The preparations for the summit and its outcome were the subject of resolutions by Parliament on 4 October⁽⁵⁾ and 17 November⁽⁶⁾, respectively. Senior officials met to discuss political and economic issues in May and financial matters in September. The fifth Asia–Europe Business Forum was held in Vienna in September, while the Asia–Europe Foundation in Singapore carried out a substantial programme of activities in both Asia and Europe over the year.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.79.

⁽²⁾ Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

⁽³⁾ 1996 General Report, point 898.

⁽⁴⁾ 1998 General Report, point 897.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.78.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.70.

981. The protocols extending the EC–ASEAN cooperation agreement to Cambodia and Laos were signed in Bangkok on 28 July, enabling both countries to participate fully in the activities covered by the agreement and in EC–ASEAN cooperation projects (Table III). The EU–ASEAN ministerial meeting was held in Vientiane (Laos) on 11 and 12 December⁽¹⁾. In July, Mr Patten participated in the seventh ASEAN Regional Forum in Bangkok together with the EU Presidency and the High Representative for the CFSP. The troika represented the EU in the subsequent post-ministerial conferences⁽²⁾. The implementation of the work programme agreed at the EC–ASEAN Joint Committee in May 1999⁽³⁾ led to consultations between the Commission and ASEAN senior economic officials in Jakarta and Bangkok. Consultations were also held at expert level on customs and intellectual property rights. Mr Lamy met the ASEAN economic ministers in Chiang Mai (Thailand) on 6 October.

Bilateral relations

South Asia

982. The first EU–India summit meeting, held in Lisbon on 28 June⁽⁴⁾, represented the most important step towards closer relations since the Commission’s 1996 communication calling for an enhanced partnership⁽⁵⁾. In the political field, the summit served not only to consolidate the existing dialogue but, above all, to lend it a new quality by reviewing all issues of common interest such as the environment and nuclear non-proliferation. On the economic front, both parties agreed to examine all obstacles to trade and to investment in India and to improve cooperation in the WTO framework.

983. With a view to promoting a positive approach vis-à-vis Pakistan, the EU troika initiated ad hoc political discussions with that country on 20 and 21 November in Islamabad.

984. A new cooperation agreement with Bangladesh was signed in Brussels on 22 May. Designed to step up and diversify EU–Bangladesh relations, the agreement focuses on development aid, economic cooperation and environmental protection in the context of sustainable development and includes references to respect for human rights and democratic principles (Table III).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.96.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 829.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.66.

⁽⁵⁾ 1996 General Report, point 901.

985. With a view to ensuring stability in the Himalayan region, on 7 September⁽¹⁾ Parliament called on Nepal and Bhutan to negotiate a rapid solution for the 95 000 Bhutanese refugees in Nepal. The political and military situation in Sri Lanka was the subject of a Parliament resolution of 18 May⁽²⁾, representations by the troika to the Sri Lankan President on 31 March and a Presidency statement on 15 May (→ *point 773*). The Union responded positively to Sri Lanka's invitation to send an observer mission to the elections on 10 October, the result of which was the subject of a Presidency statement on 31 October (→ *point 773*).

986. Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1267, on 14 February the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 337/2000⁽³⁾, subsequently amended by Regulation (EC) No 1272/2000⁽⁴⁾ of 16 June, prohibiting flights in EU airspace by airlines controlled by the Afghan Taliban and freezing funds and other financial resources of the Taliban. On 24 January, it also adopted a new common position specifying the EU's objectives as regards Afghanistan⁽⁵⁾ and replacing Common Position 1999/73/CFSP⁽⁶⁾. In addition, the EU Presidency issued a declaration on that country on 14 July (→ *point 773*). Parliament adopted two resolutions, one expressing concern at the obscurantist regime set up by the Taliban, on 5 October⁽⁷⁾, and the other at the upsurge in violence and fighting in Afghanistan on 30 November⁽⁸⁾.

South-East Asia

987. In the light of a Commission communication on 2 February⁽⁹⁾ and the Council conclusions of 20 March⁽¹⁰⁾, Parliament adopted a resolution on 12 December concerning closer relations between the EU and Indonesia⁽¹¹⁾. An initial political dialogue meeting with Indonesia, held on the fringes of the Council meeting of 14 June, saw a joint declaration adopted by the two parties in favour of Indonesia's territorial integrity⁽¹²⁾. On 20 January, Parliament commented on the political situation in Indonesia, particularly in relation to events in the Moluccas⁽¹³⁾. The President of Indonesia, Mr Abdurrahman Wahid, came

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.7.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.97.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 43, 16.2.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.118.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 144, 17.6.2000.

⁽⁵⁾ Common Position 2000/55/EC (OJ L 21, 26.1.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.117).

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 23, 30.1.1999; 1999 General Report, point 835.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.80.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.71.

⁽⁹⁾ COM(2000) 50; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.123.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.74.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.67.

⁽¹³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.125; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.69; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.9.

to Brussels on 7 February for talks with Mr Prodi⁽¹⁾, while he and members of the government welcomed Mr Lamy on an official visit to Jakarta in July.

988. At the Council's instigation⁽²⁾, the Commission contributed EUR 19 million to the trust fund set up by the World Bank for reconstruction in East Timor (TFET)⁽³⁾. It also hosted the third multilateral conference of donors to East Timor in Brussels on 5 and 6 December⁽⁴⁾.

989. In view of the continuing deterioration of the political and human rights situation in Myanmar (Burma), on 10 April⁽⁵⁾ the Council for the third time extended Common Position 96/635/CFSP⁽⁶⁾ imposing sanctions on the country. It extended the ban on arms exports to cover any equipment which might be used for internal repression, and widened the prohibition on visas for certain high-ranking persons in Myanmar to include a freeze on their foreign holdings. Regulation (EC) No 1081/2000 implementing this decision was adopted on 22 May⁽⁷⁾, while the common position was extended once again on 9 October⁽⁸⁾. Parliament adopted a number of resolutions on the situation in Myanmar⁽⁹⁾.

990. During the first EC–Cambodia Joint Committee meeting, which took place in Phnom Penh on 3 and 4 May, the agreement on trade in textiles with Cambodia was signed (Table III). On 20 November, the Council adopted Decision 2000/724/CFSP on combating the accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons in Cambodia (→ *point 757*).

991. On 10 July, Mr Patten met with Mr Somsavat Lengsavad, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Laos, who was making his first official visit to the Commission⁽¹⁰⁾. In addition to bilateral matters, their talks covered the future role of Laos in EU–ASEAN relations.

992. In response to the concern expressed by the Union at the taking of hostages in the southern Philippines, the High Representative for the CFSP, Mr Javier Solana, visited Manila at the Council's request, where he was received by the President of the Philippines. Mr Solana highlighted the importance attached by the Union to a peaceful solution to the abduction. Parliament adopted a resolution on 18 May⁽¹¹⁾ condemning the hostage-taking and calling upon the Commission and the Council to support the Philippines Government

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.124.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.69.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.70.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ Common Position 2000/346/CFSP (OJ L 122, 24.5.2000; Bull. 4-2000, points 1.6.61 and 1.6.62).

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 287, 8.11.1996; 1996 General Report, point 903.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.94.

⁽⁸⁾ Common Position 2000/601/CFSP (OJ L 257, 11.10.2000; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.84).

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.2.4; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.2.10.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.99.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.2.6.

with an aid programme designed to reduce tension on Mindanao and neighbouring islands.

993. On 23 March, Mr Lim See Sway, Singapore's Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology, met Mr Liikanen in Brussels to discuss telecommunications deregulation⁽¹⁾. The Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Goh Chok Tong, paid an official visit to Mr Prodi on 9 June⁽²⁾ for talks on the EU's relations with Singapore and ASEAN and on the EU-Asia dialogue (ASEM). Mr Lamy went on an official visit to Singapore on 28 and 29 July for talks with the prime minister and minister for trade on the prospects for a new WTO round, China's accession to the WTO and economic aspects of the Asia-Europe dialogue.

994. Mr Prodi held talks in Brussels on 27 May with the Secretary-General of the Vietnamese Communist Party, Mr Le Kha Phieu, who was accompanied by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The two parties reviewed EU-Vietnam relations and underlined the flowering of cooperation between them⁽³⁾. On 10 October, at talks in Brussels between the Vietnamese Foreign Trade Minister, Mr Vu Khoan, and Mr Lamy, a new textiles agreement was signed (→ *point 833*) and the two parties discussed their trade relations in the light of the recently signed US-Vietnam agreement.

The Far East

995. On 11 July⁽⁴⁾, Mr Zhu Rongji paid the first-ever visit to the Commission by a Chinese Prime Minister on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of official diplomatic relations between the EU and China. The signing of the agreement on China's accession to the WTO (→ *point 811*) on 19 May marked a major step forward in EU-China trade relations and virtually paved the way for China's accession to the WTO in early 2001. This agreement will secure vastly improved access to the Chinese market for EU companies. But beyond the commercial opportunities it will offer, WTO accession should have a substantial impact on economic reform and development in China. The EU will continue aid to China to help the smooth transition to a market economy and extend that aid after WTO accession. Two meetings took place, one in February and the other in September, as part of the EU-China dialogue on human rights.

996. The third EU-China summit took place in Beijing on 23 October⁽⁵⁾ in the presence of the Chinese President, Mr Jiang Zemin, Prime Minister Zhu

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.75.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.68.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.98.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.98.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.81.

Rongji, the Minister for Trade, Shi Guangsheng, Mr Jacques Chirac, the President of the European Council, the French Foreign Minister, Mr Hubert Védrine, the CFSP High Representative, Mr Javier Solana and Messrs Prodi, Lamy and Solbes Mira for the Commission. The topics covered at the talks included human rights, the ratification by China of UN conventions, China's forthcoming accession to the WTO, trafficking in human beings and illegal immigration. A meeting of the EU-China Joint Committee was held after the summit on 24 October.

997. On 8 September, the Commission published its first report⁽¹⁾ on the implementation of its 1998 communication entitled 'Building a comprehensive partnership with China'⁽²⁾, which set out the Community's main China policy aims. The Commission's second annual report on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region⁽³⁾, adopted on 18 May and approved by Parliament on 26 October⁽⁴⁾, commented favourably on the developments in Hong Kong since the 1997 handover to the People's Republic of China, noting that the 'one country, two systems' principle remained intact and was generally working well.

998. The seventh annual EU-Macao Joint Committee meeting took place in Brussels on 30 June. At this meeting, the first with the new authorities of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) since its handover to the People's Republic of China in December 1999, the EU reiterated its support for the full introduction and upholding of the Basic Law of the MSAR⁽⁵⁾.

999. On 2 February, the Commission adopted a recommendation for a decision on directives for negotiations (Table III) with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) on the renewal of the European Atomic Energy Community's (Euratom) participation in the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO)⁽⁶⁾. The Council also called on North Korea to continue the process of inter-Korean reconciliation⁽⁷⁾ (→ *points 776 and 975*).

Cooperation measures

1000. Financial and technical cooperation commitments amounted this year to EUR 300 million. The main priorities within the general objective of reducing poverty were primary education, the health sector, good governance, capacity-

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 552; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.75.

⁽²⁾ 1998 General Report, point 907.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 294; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.92.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.82.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, point 842.

⁽⁶⁾ 1999 General Report, point 843.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.83.

building and rural development. The Commission also took care to involve local authorities as much as possible. A total of EUR 100 million was committed for economic cooperation on projects in fields such as higher education, civil aviation, energy and support for economic reform.

Aid for refugees and displaced persons

1001. EUR 20 million was committed under the multiannual programme assisting uprooted people, with priority going to Afghanistan and the Philippines. The consolidated Commission report for 1997–99 on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 443/97 of 3 March 1997 on operations to aid uprooted people in Asian and Latin American developing countries⁽¹⁾ was published on 16 June⁽²⁾. The above regulation was extended until 31 December 2000 by Regulation (EC) No 1880/2000 of 17 July (Table I) and a proposal for a new regulation was adopted by the Commission on 20 December (Table I).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 68, 8.3.1997; 1997 General Report, point 986.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 367; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.71.

Section 12

Relations with Latin American countries

Priority activities and objectives

1002. *The most significant event in 2000 was the conclusion and entry into force of the free trade agreement with Mexico. The two parties also demonstrated their desire to strengthen ties by means of an agreement on economic partnership, political coordination and cooperation. Talks got under way on an association agreement with Mercosur and Chile. The Commission adopted a communication outlining general principles and the measures it would take to meet the priorities set by the 1999 Rio Summit.*

Relations with regional groupings

1003. As part of the political dialogue established between the EU and Central America in 1984⁽¹⁾, the 16th San José ministerial conference was held in Vilamoura (Portugal) on 22 February⁽²⁾ between representatives of the 15 Member States of the European Union and the six countries of the San José Group⁽³⁾. Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela attended as cooperating countries, and Belize and the Dominican Republic in an observer capacity. The ministers issued a joint statement highlighting the importance of continuity in dialogue, in the interests of both regions and of consolidation of the process of peace, democratisation and sustainable economic and social development in Central America. They also discussed the successful conduct of the elections in Guatemala and the new government's desire to pursue and develop the peace agreements there, particularly with regard to reforms. They welcomed the agreement of 7 February between Honduras and Nicaragua and the decision of both sides to seek a peaceful solution to the Caribbean maritime borders dispute. Talks on the reconstruction of the region in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch highlighted the Union's support for the regional programme for the reconstruction of Central America (RPRCA), which was allocated a sum of almost EUR 260 million. Parliament advocated the continuation of the programme in a resolution of 15 June⁽⁴⁾. Other topics on the agenda included the prevention of natural disasters,

⁽¹⁾ Eighteenth General Report, point 704.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.130.

⁽³⁾ Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.73.

especially on a regional scale, and progress on the regional integration process, with particular reference to aid from the European Union to strengthen the rule of law. The fifth meeting of the joint subcommittee on cooperation between the EU and Central America, set up under the San José process to promote and monitor regional cooperation, took place in Guatemala on 10 July. Both parties underlined the contribution made by the San José dialogue to the sustainable development effort. On 16 November⁽¹⁾, Parliament adopted a resolution on Central America.

1004. The Commission adopted a communication on 31 October⁽²⁾ outlining the general principles and measures it would take to follow up the 1999 Rio Summit⁽³⁾. The communication also covered preparations for the next EU–Latin America and Caribbean summit to be held in 2002 which involved three main priorities: promoting and safeguarding human rights; promoting the information society; and reducing social imbalances.

1005. As part of the dialogue institutionalised by the Rome Declaration of 1990⁽⁴⁾, the ninth institutionalised ministerial meeting between the European Union and the Rio Group was held in Vilamoura, Portugal, on 24 February⁽⁵⁾, between the foreign ministers of the 18 Rio Group countries⁽⁶⁾, the EU foreign ministers, Mr Javier Solana, High Representative for the CFSP, and Mr Patten for the Commission. In the final declaration, the participants reaffirmed their political will to continue strengthening economic and political relations between the two regions. They welcomed the recent accession of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to the Rio Group, which enhanced the representative nature of this political consultation and coordination mechanism. They emphasised that respect for human rights and the rule of law were indispensable for political stability and development in both regions and reaffirmed their desire to continue to work together to develop national and international provisions concerning the criminal responsibility of persons who had committed crimes against humanity. They also welcomed the completion of negotiations with Mexico on a free trade area (→ *point 1012*) and the launching of the negotiation process for association agreements with Mercosur and Chile (→ *point 1007*). The talks also covered drugs, organised crime, terrorism, trafficking in small-calibre arms, disaster prevention from the viewpoint of sustainable development, and the World Trade Organisation.

1006. In the context of the EU–Andean Community political dialogue⁽⁷⁾, foreign ministers of the two regions met alongside the EU–Rio Group ministerial

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.74.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 670; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.86.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 848.

⁽⁴⁾ Twenty-fourth General Report, point 150.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.129.

⁽⁶⁾ Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

⁽⁷⁾ Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

meeting at Vilamoura (→ *point 1005*), in Portugal on 24 February⁽¹⁾ and, with Mr Patten in attendance, discussed the Andean Community proposal for an association agreement. Senior officials from the two regions also met in Lima on 29 and 30 March, in the context of the specialised dialogue on drugs, and set out measures for stepping up cooperation in that field.

1007. Further to the negotiating directives for an association agreement with Mercosur and Chile decided in November 1999⁽²⁾, work started in April in Buenos Aires and Santiago, respectively. The technical discussions continued in Brussels in June in all areas covered by the original work programme, then in Brasilia (Mercosur) and Santiago (Chile) in November, where the focus was on the objectives of the trade talks. A meeting was held in Vilamoura, Portugal, on 24 February⁽³⁾, in the context of the political dialogue with Mercosur and Chile. Mercosur submitted a proposal for a declaration and an action programme on political cooperation, which was discussed with the EU in Brussels in November. An EU–Mercosur Joint Committee met in Buenos Aires in April, drawing up a list of cooperation priorities for 2000–03. In November, again in Brasilia, the EU and Mercosur held an inaugural macroeconomic dialogue meeting, also attended by Chile and Bolivia. From 7 to 16 November⁽⁴⁾, Mr Patten went to Brazil, Argentina and Chile as part of a visit in the context of the association agreements between the EU, Mercosur and Chile.

Bilateral relations

1008. The EU closely monitored the Peruvian electoral process and adopted a number of statements on the subject (→ *point 778*), including expressions of support for the various initiatives taken under the auspices of the Organisation of American States.

1009. The EU also continued to monitor the political situation in Colombia and, on 7 July, took part in the Madrid Conference on the international community's political and financial support to the country. In a resolution of 1 February⁽⁵⁾, Parliament commented on the issue of protection for volunteer and humanitarian workers.

1010. The fourth meeting of the EC–Paraguay Joint Cooperation Committee took place in Brussels on 3 October, followed by a meeting of the joint committee on 5 October. At the meeting, the parties underlined the importance of

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.131.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 850.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.132.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.75.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.133.

concluding a memorandum of understanding setting out the priority sectors for cooperation and their funding for 2000–06.

1011. Following the floods in Venezuela in December 1999, the Commission launched a number of relief operations. Parliament adopted a resolution on 6 July⁽¹⁾.

1012. On 23 March, the EC–Mexico Joint Council⁽²⁾ adopted a decision enabling the implementation from 1 July of the main part (liberalising trade in goods, opening up public procurement markets and setting up a cooperation mechanism for competition rules) of the interim agreement on trade and trade-related measures signed in 1997 and concluded in 1998 (Table III). On 28 September, the Council concluded the agreement on economic partnership, political coordination and cooperation, also signed in 1997 (Table III), which establishes regular political dialogue, on the basis of respect for democratic principles and human rights, and extends bilateral cooperation between the EU and Mexico. Following its entry into force on 1 October, the Commission presented a proposal⁽³⁾ on the adoption by the Joint Council of a decision covering the provisions of the free trade agreement relating to services, investment and intellectual property.

1013. In its conclusions of 6 June⁽⁴⁾ and 4 December⁽⁵⁾, the Council, while reaffirming the EU's objective of encouraging the process of peaceful transition to democratic pluralism, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba, renewed its common position of 2 December 1996⁽⁶⁾ for the seventh and eighth times.

1014. Visits were made to the Commission: in January, by the Deputy Foreign Ministers of Peru and Ecuador, Mr Jorge Valdez Carrillo and Mr Francisco Carreon Mena; in March by Mr Marcus Pratini de Morães, Brazil's Minister for Agriculture; in May, by Mr Heinz Moeller, Ecuador's Foreign Minister; in May, by Mr Guillermo Fernández de Soto, the Colombian Foreign Minister; in June, by Mr Horacio Chighizola, Argentina's Deputy Foreign Minister; in July, by Mr Antonio Berhongaray, Argentina's Secretary of State for Agriculture; and, in July, by Mr Carlos Genatios, Venezuela's Minister for Science and Technology. Mr Lamy visited Brazil in March and Uruguay, Argentina and Chile in September, while Mr Patten went to Argentina and Brazil in November. Mr Javier Solana, the High Representative for the CFSP, visited Argentina in April.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.101.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.78.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 739.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.75.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁶⁾ Common Position 96/697/CFSP (OJ L 322, 12.12.1996; 1996 General Report, point 918).

Mr Vicente Fox, Mexico's President-elect, visited Brussels on 5 October⁽¹⁾ for talks with Mr Prodi and Mr Patten.

Cooperation measures

1015. Financial and technical cooperation with the countries of Latin America totalled EUR 138 million in 2000. The projects financed focused on support for the peace process, good governance, poverty alleviation in border areas, the environment, support for heavily indebted countries, improving river transport and parliamentary cooperation. Training and technical assistance formed a substantial component of these projects. Economic cooperation amounted to EUR 70 million for mutual interest projects chiefly concerning regional schemes in fields such as support for local government, enhancing competitiveness and the EU's visibility in Latin America. In all EUR 49 million was committed to reconstruction aid in Central America as part of the regional reconstruction programme. On 7 December, the Commission adopted the URBAL 2 decentralised cooperation programme and the ATLAS project aimed at strengthening ties between networks of chambers of commerce and industry in both groups of partners.

Aid for refugees and displaced persons

1016. On 20 December, the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation extending the validity of Regulation (EC) No 443/97 on operations to aid uprooted people in Asian and Latin American developing countries, after a short extension of this regulation until 31 December 2000 (→ *point 1001*).

1017. The 2000–04 multiannual programme of EUR 15.9 million with three national components (Mexico, Nicaragua and Guatemala) and a regional technical coordination programme were implemented.

1018. Humanitarian aid operations are covered in Section 5 ('Humanitarian aid') of this chapter (→ *point 883*).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.89.

Section 13

Relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the overseas countries and territories (OCTs)

Priority activities and objectives

1019. *The signing in Cotonou of the new ACP–EC partnership agreement, following on from the Lomé Convention, was one of the year’s major events. The agreement was concluded for 20 years and combines political dialogue, innovatory economic and trade cooperation and development cooperation strategies. The first bi-regional Europe–Africa summit took place in Cairo at the highest political level.*

Relations with ACP countries

Institutional relations

1020. The ACP–EC Joint Assembly held its two annual sessions, in Abuja, Nigeria, from 20 to 23 March⁽¹⁾, and in Brussels from 9 to 12 October⁽²⁾, for the first time under its new name of ‘Joint Parliamentary Assembly’, applicable since the signing of the Cotonou agreement in June (→ *point 1022*). The main subjects discussed were the phenomenon of globalisation, the complex reasons, particularly in the trade context, underlying the growing gap between rich and poor, the campaign against AIDS and the new Cotonou agreement. The assembly also discussed the situation in various countries and regions and adopted a number of resolutions on certain aspects of cooperation, such as women in development and the banana issue. On 17 February, Parliament adopted a resolution⁽³⁾ on the joint assembly’s proceedings in 1999⁽⁴⁾.

1021. Reacting to the communication presented by the Commission in 1999 on cooperation with ACP countries involved in armed conflict⁽⁵⁾, in a resolution

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.79.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.6.90.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 309, 27.10.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.139.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 864.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(1999) 240; 1999 General Report, point 860.

of 26 October⁽¹⁾, Parliament advocated various measures such as ‘smart’ sanctions, for example the refusal of certain visas, the freezing of assets, aid for the independent media and demobilised troops. Parliament also asked the Council and the Commission to ensure that they obtained assurances from the ACP States that the Community funds would not be deflected towards the war effort.

The Cotonou partnership agreement⁽²⁾

1022. The negotiations for the new partnership agreement with 77 ACP States were concluded at the fourth ministerial negotiating conference held in Brussels on 2 and 3 February⁽³⁾. The agreement, extending over 20 years, fundamentally changes the spirit, objectives and practices of ACP–EC cooperation, which has been governed by the successive Lomé Conventions since 1975. Its five political directions are as follows: concentrating on the campaign against poverty; strengthening political dialogue; systematic involvement of non-governmental players; new trade arrangements which are compatible with the World Trade Organisation’s rules; and a far-reaching reform of the system for allocating financial aid. A specific financial aid protocol will be drawn up for each five-year period; the first (ninth European Development Fund (EDF)) will cover the period 2000–05 and amount to EUR 13.5 billion.

1023. The agreement, signed in Cotonou, Benin, on 23 June (Table III), has still to be ratified. Transitional measures were adopted on 27 July⁽⁴⁾ to allow its advance application from 2 August, with the exception of the provisions on the commitment of ninth EDF resources. An internal agreement, signed on the occasion of the Council meeting of 18 September⁽⁵⁾, lays down the respective roles of the Commission and the Member States in programming and implementing aid.

Implementation of the Lomé Conventions

1024. A procedure was established in March 1999⁽⁶⁾ for implementing Article 366a of the fourth Lomé Convention, which provides for the suspension, in certain circumstances, of the application of the convention in the event of violation by one of the parties of one of its essential elements (respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law). The procedure was applied to a number of countries in 2000 (→ *point 1035*).

⁽¹⁾ Bull.10-2000, point 1.6.91.

⁽²⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/cotonou/index_en.htm.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.138.

⁽⁴⁾ Decision No 1/2000 of the ACP–EC Council of Ministers (OJ L 195, 1.8.2000; OJ L 317, 15.12.2000).

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000.

⁽⁶⁾ Decision 1999/214/EC (OJ L 75, 20.3.1999; 1999 General Report, point 866).

Stabex and Sysmin

1025. The Commission took the decision on Stabex transfers in respect of 1999 on 24 and 25 July⁽¹⁾. It provides for 29 transfers to 21 ACP countries of a total amount of EUR 235.4 million, and two transfers totalling EUR 98 433 to one OCT (Mayotte). On 21 September, the Commission also adopted its report on the operation of Stabex during 1999 (allocation of 1998 transfers)⁽²⁾.

1026. Under the abovementioned decision concerning transitional measures (→ *point 1023*), the ACP-EC Council of Ministers extended the Stabex provisions of the fourth ACP-EC Convention, as amended by the agreement signed in Mauritius on 4 November 1995⁽³⁾, until 31 December. On the basis of this decision, the ACP-EC Committee of Ambassadors decided, on 26 September⁽⁴⁾, to set up a reserve in order to finance, before 31 December, Stabex transfer decisions for the application years 1998 and 1999 (EUR 168 million) and to reimburse the outstanding balances under the second financial protocol (EUR 72 million) and gradually to transfer the unexpended balance from Stabex (just over EUR 1.1 billion) to the special EDF account for financing programming activities.

1027. Financing decisions were adopted under Sysmin for Zambia, for small-scale operations (EUR 30 million), and a programme of support for structural adjustment and Sysmin (EUR 50 million), and for Guyana for its Linden economic advancement programme (EUR 12 million).

Structural adjustment support

1028. Decisions were taken in 2000 to finance structural adjustment in 19 countries, for a total of EUR 563 million. As required by the revised Lomé Convention, priority went to the education and health sectors and proper administration of public finances. In a communication of 4 February⁽⁵⁾ on support for economic reform, the Commission took stock of the Community structural adjustment programmes and stressed the need to move on to a second generation of programmes, with a review of the methods used. On 18 May, the Council welcomed the analysis made⁽⁶⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.103.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 584; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.80.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 156, 29.5.1998; 1995 General Report, point 936.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 303, 2.12.2000.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 58; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.141.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.55.

Support for ACP banana producers

1029. Under Regulation (EC) No 856/1999⁽¹⁾ establishing a special framework of assistance for traditional ACP suppliers of bananas and Regulation (EC) No 1609/1999⁽²⁾, on 18 July the Commission set the indicative amount available for each beneficiary country for 2000, the total being EUR 44.5 million⁽³⁾.

Protocols

1030. On 17 July, the Council decided to conclude agreements with the 19 ACP countries concerned and with India committing the Community to buying and importing sugar, at guaranteed prices, for the delivery period 1999–2000 (Table III).

Relations with regional groupings

1031. The first Europe–Africa summit was held in Cairo on 3 and 4 April⁽⁴⁾, under the auspices of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the European Union. It was chaired by Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of Algeria and President of the OAU, and Mr António Guterres, President of the Council, and was attended by the Heads of State or Government of 52 African countries and the 15 EU Member States. Mr Prodi, President of the Commission, Mr Patten and Mr Nielson, Members of the Commission and Mr Solana, High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, also attended. With the aim of strengthening existing links between Africa and the EU and adding a new strategic dimension to their partnership, the discussions centred on three topics, namely economic and social aspects, political aspects and development issues. The discussions concluded with the adoption of a declaration and a plan of action. The declaration stressed the importance of cooperation and regional economic integration, and the need to integrate Africa into the world economy particularly through trade and debt alleviation. It went on to encourage the strengthening of human rights, democracy, good governance and the rule of law, peace-building and the prevention, management and settling of conflicts together with development in Africa, notably in the context of sustainable development, the environment, education and health. The action plan also made commitments in several areas, in line with the content of the declaration. On the fringes of the summit, Mr Prodi met Colonel Muammar al-Gaddafi, President of Libya. The European Parliament welcomed the results of the summit in a

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 108, 27.4.1999; 1999 General Report, point 870.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 190, 23.7.1999; 1999 General Report, point 870.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.104.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.65.

resolution of 11 April⁽¹⁾. The commitment to build a global dialogue based on a strategic bi-regional partnership was reaffirmed by the Feira European Council⁽²⁾.

1032. The Commission continued its policy of close and active cooperation with regional integration organisations such as the WAEMU (West African Economic and Monetary Union), Ecowas (Economic Community of West African States), CEMAC (Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa), SADC (Southern African Development Community), Comesa (Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa), EAC (East African Community), the Indian Ocean Commission, Caricom (Caribbean Common Market) and the South Pacific Forum. New programmes were implemented with some of these organisations. Under the trade component of the Cotonou agreement (→ *point 1022*), discussions started with certain regional groupings with a view to preparing the economic partnership agreements provided for under the Cotonou agreement. In November Mr Lamy attended a meeting in Gabon of 43 African trade ministers⁽³⁾.

Bilateral relations

1033. On 14 December⁽⁴⁾, the Council adopted Joint Action 2000/792/CFSP extending the mandate of Mr Aldo Ajello as Special Representative of the European Union for the African Great Lakes region and repealing Joint Action 96/250/CFSP⁽⁵⁾.

1034. On 20 January⁽⁶⁾, the Commission adopted a report on the implementation in 1998 of the European programme for reconstruction and development in South Africa, as provided for by Regulation (EC) No 2259/96⁽⁷⁾. Since that regulation expired at the end of 1999, on 29 June Parliament and the Council adopted a new regulation on development cooperation with South Africa (Table I) which introduces a new European programme for reconstruction and development, with a total budget of EUR 885.6 million for the period 2000–06; it is intended to contribute to the sustainable, harmonious economic and social development of South Africa, integrate it into the world economy and consolidate the bases of a democratic society and a constitutional State which respects human rights and fundamental freedoms.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.66.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.57.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.78.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 318, 16.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 87, 4.4.1996; 1996 General Report, point 941.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 8; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.143.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 306, 28.11.1996; 1996 General Report, point 947.

1035. Article 366a of the Lomé Convention, now Article 97 of the new Cotonou partnership agreement, was applied to three ACP countries in 2000. The Council opened consultations under this article with Côte d'Ivoire on 7 January⁽¹⁾ following the coup d'état on the night of 22 to 23 December 1999. The consultations were concluded on 16 June⁽²⁾ following the authorities' undertaking to restore democracy and the rule of law and to adopt a firm, precise timetable for doing so. During the transitional period, the Council decided to restrict cooperation to a few priority areas in a gradual approach geared to the actual progress made towards democracy. In its resolutions of 16 November⁽³⁾ and 14 December⁽⁴⁾, Parliament strongly condemned the political and ethnic violence which had occurred in Haiti after the presidential elections of 22 October and regretted the Côte d'Ivoire Supreme Court's decision regarding candidature for the legislative elections. On 25 July⁽⁵⁾, the Council opened consultations with Haiti after it was found that the results announced for the first round of the general election were not produced in accordance with the electoral law, thereby undermining the credibility of the electoral process. The consultations ended on 21 December⁽⁶⁾. A decision was taken on the same day to hold consultations with Fiji⁽⁷⁾ following the revocation of the 1997 constitution and the replacement of the democratically elected government by a military government. On 20 January⁽⁸⁾, the European Parliament condemned the coup d'état in Côte d'Ivoire and, on 8 September⁽⁹⁾, the overthrow of the Democratic Government in Fiji. Statements had also been made by the EU condemning these events and the electoral situation in Haiti (→ points 781, 785 and 787). On 14 February⁽¹⁰⁾, the Council concluded the consultations initiated in 1999 with the Comoros⁽¹¹⁾ in the light of the Comorian authorities' undertaking to restore democracy and the rule of law, but it decided to adopt a gradual, conditional approach to the resumption of cooperation.

1036. On 18 September, the Council adopted a new common position⁽¹²⁾ setting out the European Union's objectives and priorities in its relations with Rwanda, to replace Common Position 1999/452/CFSP⁽¹³⁾. In a resolution of 7 September⁽¹⁴⁾, the European Parliament welcomed the peace process in Burundi.

(1) COM(1999) 899; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.149.

(2) COM(2000) 258; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.106; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.88.

(3) Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.77.

(4) Bull. 12-2000.

(5) COM(2000) 486; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.116.

(6) COM(2000) 856; Bull. 12-2000.

(7) COM(2000) 460; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.113.

(8) Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.150.

(9) Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.82.

(10) COM(1999) 695; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.6.148.

(11) 1999 General Report, point 879.

(12) Common Position 2000/558/CFSP (OJ L 236, 20.9.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.85).

(13) OJ L 178, 14.7.1999; 1999 General Report, point 880.

(14) Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.81.

1037. On 19 June, the Council adopted a common position ⁽¹⁾ on Angola supporting initiatives which contribute to a political solution for the conflict, urging the Angolan Government to meet its international obligations in full and encouraging its economic development and democratisation efforts. In April ⁽²⁾, June ⁽³⁾, and July ⁽⁴⁾, the Council also adopted conclusions on the situation in Zimbabwe and Parliament adopted resolutions in May ⁽⁵⁾ and July ⁽⁶⁾.

1038. Following the floods in Mozambique and in a number of countries in the region (Botswana, Madagascar, Zimbabwe and South Africa), Mr Nielson and Mr Luís Amado, President of the Council, visited the scene to assess the victims' requirements ⁽⁷⁾. The emergency humanitarian aid (→ *point 884*) provided by the European Union represented the bulk of all the international contributions in response to the flood damage, according to the UN's calculations, as pointed out by the Council in its conclusions of 20 March ⁽⁸⁾. On 16 March ⁽⁹⁾, Parliament called for the cancellation of Mozambique's debt to help the country cope with the disaster, and also asked for Madagascar to be given sufficient aid. Mr Joaquim Alberto Chissano, President of Mozambique, visited the Commission on 16 November ⁽¹⁰⁾.

1039. In view of the continuing conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, on 20 March ⁽¹¹⁾ and on 29 September ⁽¹²⁾, the Council extended Common Position 1999/206/CFSP ⁽¹³⁾ imposing an embargo on the export of arms, munitions and military equipment to Eritrea and Ethiopia. On 29 June, the Council also adopted Common Position 2000/420/CFSP ⁽¹⁴⁾, to support the peace process initiated within the Organisation of African Unity between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Council conclusions were also adopted on 10 April ⁽¹⁵⁾ on the worsening of the humanitarian situation in these two countries as a result of the conflict and a resolution was adopted by Parliament on 3 May ⁽¹⁶⁾.

1040. Following United Nations Resolution 1306, on 20 July the Council adopted a common position ⁽¹⁷⁾ and on 3 August a regulation ⁽¹⁸⁾ prohibiting

⁽¹⁾ Common Position 2000/391/CFSP (OJ L 146, 21.6.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.87).

⁽²⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.73.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.96.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.126.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.115.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.125.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.83.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.85.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.84.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.79.

⁽¹¹⁾ Common Position 2000/230/CFSP (OJ L 73, 22.3.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.81).

⁽¹²⁾ Common Position 2000/584/CFSP (OJ L 246, 30.9.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.83).

⁽¹³⁾ OJ L 72, 18.3.1999; 1999 General Report, point 883.

⁽¹⁴⁾ OJ L 161, 1.7.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.90.

⁽¹⁵⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.6.68.

⁽¹⁶⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.107.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Common Position 2000/455/CFSP (OJ L 183, 22.7.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.119).

⁽¹⁸⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1745/2000 (OJ L 200, 8.8.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.6.120).

imports into the Community of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone. The situation in Sierra Leone was examined by the European Parliament, which in its resolution of 18 May⁽¹⁾ particularly condemned the criminal attacks of the Revolutionary United Front.

1041. Mr Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, visited the Commission on 15 September⁽²⁾. Mr Nielson, in addition to visiting Mozambique (→ *point 1038*), went to Tanzania⁽³⁾, Rwanda⁽³⁾ and Nigeria⁽⁴⁾ in March. Mr Lamy went to Senegal⁽⁵⁾ and South Africa⁽⁶⁾ in June.

Financial and technical cooperation

1042. In 2000, EUR 3.612 billion was granted for financial and technical cooperation under the sixth, seventh and eighth EDFs. The breakdown is shown in Table 15.

TABLE 15
Annual breakdown of financing decisions for ACP countries

Sector	Amount granted	
	1999	2000 ⁽¹⁾
National and regional indicative programmes		1 235
Structural adjustment (SAF)	1 984	443
Sysmin	313	94
Stabex	28	361
Emergency aid	75	20
Aid for refugees	83	25
Venture capital	- 0.9	200
Interest-rate subsidies	199	40
Debt relief initiative	5	1 029
Other and new initiatives	6.4	165
Total	2 692.5	3 612

⁽¹⁾ Provisional figures.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.112.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.6.84.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.89.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.6.86.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.93.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.6.85.

Relations with overseas countries and territories (OCTs)

1043. Decision 91/482/EEC⁽¹⁾ on relations with the OCTs, which was due to expire on 1 March, was extended for one year by Council Decision 2000/169/EC of 25 February (Table II). On 15 November, the Commission adopted a proposal for a decision to replace Decision 91/482/EEC from 1 March 2001 (Table II).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 263, 19.9.1991; Twenty-fifth General Report, point 984.

Section 14

Diplomatic relations

1044. The Commission adopted, on 18 July, a communication concerning the development of its external service ⁽¹⁾, thus confirming its commitment to decentralise already foreshadowed in the communication on the reform of the management of Community aid to third countries ⁽²⁾. It advocated new initiatives so as to strike a better balance at its delegations between seconded personnel and local staff, at the same time redeploying some staff to beef up certain delegations.

1045. The Commission opened delegations in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia. Continuing its policy of regionalising its external representation it also decided to convert two delegations (Cape Verde and Togo) into offices and attach them to the Senegal and Benin delegations respectively. The representation in Indonesia and the representative office in Bosnia and Herzegovina became delegations.

1046. At the end of the year the Commission was accredited to 161 countries and international organisations; 128 of these accreditations had diplomatic status.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 456.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.56.

Chapter VII

Financing Community activities, management of resources

Section 1

Priority activities and objectives

1047. *The 2001 budgetary procedure provided an opportunity to apply the new procedure laid down in the Commission's White Paper on reform (→ point 1205), consisting of an integrated debate on political and budgetary guidelines (the annual policy strategy), which is then translated into budgetary terms by establishing an activity-based budget. In what was very much a new departure from previous years' practice, the policy debate on political and budgetary priorities served to lay down quantitative guidelines for each of the 29 policy areas identified as a result of an analysis of the Commission's activities. This new activity-based budgeting approach provides a comprehensive picture of the objectives assigned to each policy area and of the human, administrative and operational resources needed to achieve them. However, this ambitious new method can be used to its full potential only if a system of activity-based management is gradually introduced into all Commission departments.*

Following a detailed review of its tasks and functions and the suitability of the resources at its disposal for carrying them out (→ point 1210), the Commission decided to abandon or scale down certain activities and to ask the budgetary authority for 717 new posts over the period 2001–02. This request was incorporated in letter of amendment No 1 to the 2001 preliminary draft budget (PDB), which also covers certain funds needed to dismantle the technical assistance offices and transfer their activities temporarily to Commission departments.

During the 2001 budgetary procedure (at the conciliation meeting in July), agreement was also reached with the two arms of the budgetary authority on the regulation on budgetary discipline and the decision on own resources, two

legal bases which had been announced in Agenda 2000 to follow up the inter-institutional agreement of 6 May 1999 on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure.

Parliament granted the Commission discharge for the clearance-of-accounts decisions for the years 1993, 1994 and 1995. In relation to the 1997 discharge, it noted that the Commission had already implemented a series of legislative and operational measures which had improved the system of financial management, in response to Parliament's comments in the discharge procedure. In July, Parliament granted discharge for the 1998 financial year and for the sixth, seventh and eighth EDFs, thereby acknowledging the Commission's efforts to improve its management.

In the course of the year, the Commission proposed two amendments to the financial regulation: a recasting of the whole regulation, designed among other things to simplify its structure, adapt the structure of the budget to the new system of activity-based management (introducing activity-based budgeting) and restrict the lifetime of global commitments, and a special 'fast-track' amendment to introduce the most urgent provisions needed for reform, in particular separation of the ex ante financial control and internal audit functions in parallel with the setting-up of an internal audit service.

The Commission also laid down a general strategic approach on combating fraud.

Section 2

Budgets ⁽¹⁾

General budget

Financial perspective

1048. On 17 February, in accordance with the interinstitutional agreement of 6 May 1999 on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure ⁽²⁾, the Commission sent the budgetary authority the results of the technical adjustment of the financial perspective for 2001 in line with movements in prices and gross national product ⁽³⁾. Table 16 sets out the adjusted financial perspective.

1049. On 3 May, the Commission adopted a proposal for the revision of the financial perspective which was chiefly intended to finance a general programme of assistance for the western Balkans. The Commission proposed raising the ceiling of the external action heading of the financial perspective (Heading 4) ⁽⁴⁾ by EUR 300 million a year from 2001 to 2006, without increasing the overall ceiling on expenditure in view of the savings expected on market expenditure under the common agricultural policy. The Commission also proposed reclassifying aid to Cyprus and Malta by moving it from Heading 4 of the financial perspective to Heading 7 (Pre-accession aid) ⁽⁵⁾. This reclassification in no way changed the amounts already programmed (Table I). When establishing the draft budget for 2001 at first reading on 20 July (→ *point 1057*), the Council opposed the idea of revising the financial perspective, contrary to Parliament's wishes in a resolution adopted on 5 July ⁽⁶⁾.

1050. On 26 September, the Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 2040/2000 on budgetary discipline (Table II). This regulation entered into force on 1 November as a direct consequence of the conclusions of the Berlin European Council ⁽⁷⁾ — which decided that European Union expenditure should

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/budget/index_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 172, 18.6.1999; 1999 General Report, point 921.

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 93; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.7.2.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 268; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.7.1.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 262; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.7.1.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.7.2.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 3-1999, points 1.3 to 1.38.

comply with both the requirements of budgetary discipline and effectiveness — and the interinstitutional agreement of 6 May 1999 on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure. Its objective is to ensure that agricultural expenditure remains below the ceiling of Subheading 1a (CAP) of the financial perspective.

1051. In a resolution adopted on 26 October⁽¹⁾, Parliament welcomed the interinstitutional agreement reached on 20 July⁽²⁾ under the budget conciliation procedure with a view to improving financial programming.

Own resources

1052. On 29 September, the Council adopted Decision 2000/597/EC, Euratom on the system of the European Communities' own resources (Table II) which transposes the conclusions of the Berlin European Council⁽³⁾. The key features of the new decision are the increase in the proportion of traditional own resources kept by the Member States to cover collection costs from 10 to 25 % from 1 January 2001 and a reduction in the maximum call-in rate for the VAT resource from 1 to 0.75 % from 1 January 2002 and then to 0.50 % from 1 January 2004. These changes will lead to a corresponding increase in the proportion of the GNP resource, considered to be a better reflection of the Member States' capacity to contribute than the VAT resource. The new decision also neutralises the windfall gains the United Kingdom derives from the different percentage adopted for traditional own resources and the forthcoming enlargement. Finally, the financing of the UK rebate is modified so as to reduce the contribution of Austria, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden to 25 % of what each would otherwise pay.

1053. On 22 May, the Council also adopted Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1150/2000 consolidating Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1552/89 of 29 May 1989⁽⁴⁾ implementing Decision 88/376/EEC, Euratom on the system of the Communities' own resources⁽⁵⁾ (Table II).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.7.1.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.7.3.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 3-1999, point I.38.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 155, 7.6.1989; as last amended by Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 1355/96 (OJ L 175, 13.7.1996; 1996 General Report, point 987).

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 185; 15.7.1988; as last amended by Decision 94/728/EC, Euratom (OJ L 293, 12.11.1994; 1994 General Report, point 1119).

TABLE 16
Financial perspective for 2000–06 after technical adjustment for 2001

(million EUR)

Appropriations for commitments	Current prices		2001 prices				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
1. Agriculture	41 738	44 530	45 674	45 538	44 488	43 624	43 344
— CAP (not including rural development)	37 352	40 035	41 169	41 023	39 962	39 088	38 797
— Rural development and accompanying measures	4 386	4 495	4 505	4 515	4 526	4 536	4 547
2. Structural operations	32 678	32 720	32 106	31 503	30 785	30 785	30 343
— Structural Funds	30 019	30 005	29 391	28 788	28 174	28 174	27 737
— Cohesion Fund	2 659	2 715	2 715	2 715	2 611	2 611	2 606
3. Internal policies ⁽¹⁾	6 031	6 272	6 386	6 500	6 614	6 729	6 853
4. External action	4 627	4 735	4 745	4 756	4 766	4 776	4 787
5. Administration ⁽²⁾	4 638	4 776	4 880	4 984	5 088	5 192	5 296
6. Reserves	906	916	666	416	416	416	416
— Monetary reserve	500	500	250	0	0	0	0
— Emergency aid reserve	203	208	208	208	208	208	208
— Loan guarantee reserve	203	208	208	208	208	208	208
7. Pre-accession aid	3 174	3 240	3 240	3 240	3 240	3 240	3 240
— Agriculture	529	540	540	540	540	540	540
— Pre-accession structural instruments	1 058	1 080	1 080	1 080	1 080	1 080	1 080
— Phare (applicant countries)	1 587	1 620	1 620	1 620	1 620	1 620	1 620
Total commitment appropriations	93 792	97 189	97 697	96 937	95 397	94 762	94 279
Total payment appropriations	91 322	94 730	97 975	98 671	95 581	93 759	93 197
Payment appropriations (as % of GNP)	1.12	1.11	1.12	1.10	1.04	1.00	0.97
Available for accession (payments)			4 306	6 979	9 247	11 899	14 792
— Agriculture			1 665	2 112	2 549	3 048	3 537
— Other expenditure			2 641	4 867	6 698	8 851	11 255
Ceiling on payment appropriations	91 322	94 730	102 281	105 650	104 828	105 658	107 989
Ceiling on payment appropriations (as % of GNP)	1.12	1.11	1.17	1.18	1.14	1.12	1.12
Margin for unforeseen expenditure (as % of GNP)	0.15	0.16	0.10	0.09	0.13	0.15	0.15
Own resources ceiling (as % of GNP)	1.27	1.27	1.27	1.27	1.27	1.27	1.27

⁽¹⁾ In accordance with Article 2 of Decision No 182/1999/EC and Article 2 of Decision 1999/64/Euratom (OJ L 26, 1.2.1999), the amount of expenditure available during the period 2000–02 for research amounts to EUR 11.510 billion at current prices.

⁽²⁾ The expenditure on pensions included under the ceilings for this heading is calculated net of staff contributions to the relevant scheme, within the limit of EUR 1.1 billion at 1999 prices for the period 2000–06.

Budgetary procedure for 2001

1054. On 10 May, the Commission adopted the preliminary draft budget for 2001⁽¹⁾ based on the guidelines it approved on 23 February⁽²⁾ and on which Parliament passed a resolution on 30 March⁽³⁾. As the Commission proposed in November 1999⁽⁴⁾, this preliminary draft was the first produced in line with an activity-based budgeting (ABB) approach. However, it was still sent officially to the budgetary authority in its traditional form as this is still the basis for the decision-making procedure. Compliance with the ceilings of the financial perspective and the size of the respective margins continue to be the main points of reference of the political and budgetary debate, both for commitments and for payments. One of the fundamental aspects of ABB is the allocation of human resources to serve properly the various Commission activities. In its guidelines of February 2000⁽²⁾, the Commission decided to launch a major exercise of matching human resources with activities. This exercise was to have its results reflected in a letter of amendment to the preliminary draft in September 2000 (→ *point 1060*), after the Commission's evaluation of its overall staff needs had been completed. As a result, the preliminary draft took into account both the financial perspective and the policy areas arising from the analysis by activity.

1055. The expenditure proposals contained in the preliminary draft involved a very substantial increase in agricultural expenditure of EUR 3.127 billion, 7.6 % more than in 2000, as a result of the obligations laid down at the Berlin European Council in March 1999 and set out in Agenda 2000⁽⁵⁾. The remainder of the budget increased by only 1 % (EUR 517 million) in commitment appropriations and 2.8 % (EUR 1.359 billion) in payment appropriations. In other words, the increase in agricultural expenditure alone accounted for 86 % of the increase in commitments and 70 % of the increase in payments. Overall, the preliminary draft budget for 2001 totalled EUR 96.924 billion in commitment appropriations and EUR 93.874 billion in payment appropriations, an increase for commitments of 3.9 %, while the rise in payment appropriations was kept at 5 %. The public expenditure forecasts in the Member States for 2001, which serve as a reference when drawing up the preliminary draft, showed an increase of 3.1 %. The maximum rate of increase for non-compulsory expenditure came to 3.2 %. In terms of payment appropriations, the preliminary draft for 2001 was equivalent to 1.07 % of Community gross national product (GNP) at market prices, which was lower than in the 2000 budget (1.11 %). This is due mainly to the sharp increase of the Union's GNP forecast, based on the sum of Member States' GNP estimates for 2000 and 2001. The figures were accepted

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.7.2.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 158; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.7.1.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 378, 29.12.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.7.1.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 11-1999, point 1.7.1.

⁽⁵⁾ 1999 General Report, points 921 et seq.

by the Member States in the Advisory Committee on Own Resources on 12 April: compared with the 2000 budget, the increase came to 8.65 %, establishing 2001 GNP at EUR 8 765 billion.

1056. Agricultural expenditure showed by far the highest increase (7.6 % more than in the 2000 budget), both in market-related expenditure following the implementation of the Agenda 2000 decisions and in expenditure relating to rural development, where it was proposed to go up to the ceiling in 2001. Expenditure on structural measures hardly increased at all, reflecting the stabilisation of aid intensities and the gradual phasing-out of non-eligible regions. Proposed expenditure for internal policies increased only moderately (by 1.4 %), leaving a relatively large margin of EUR 136 million: this situation was mainly due to the fact that only EUR 10 million was provided for continuing the employment initiative and that the appropriations for the new LIFE programme remained significantly below their 2000 level. External expenditure increased by 3 %, reflecting the increase for the western Balkans, accompanied by a redeployment taking into account the Commission's priorities, in particular for the near neighbours of the Union and with extra focus on aid programmes against poverty, and past performance in implementing the different programmes. Administrative expenditure for all institutions increased by 3.4 %, including a very sharp increase of 10.1 % in pensions expenditure, and on the basis of the latest indicative financial programming for the other institutions.

1057. The draft budget established by the Council at first reading on 20 July⁽¹⁾ came to EUR 95.86 billion in appropriations for commitments and EUR 92.498 billion in appropriations for payments. Compared with the 2000 budget, these figures represented an increase of 2.7 % in appropriations for commitments and 3.5 % in appropriations for payments. The total amount of own resources required to finance the expenditure provided for in the draft budget was equivalent to 1.05 % of Community GNP. The draft budget was based on the rejection of the revision of the financial perspective proposed by the Commission and increased the margins available (except for Heading 2). This was achieved by making cuts in all the headings in the preliminary draft, as shown in Table 17.

1058. The cut in agricultural expenditure was justified by past implementation and the euro/dollar rate. The reduction was concentrated on arable crops. Overall, the draft budget increased appropriations for Heading 1a by 6.5 % compared with 2000. The cut of EUR 225 million in the appropriations requested in the preliminary draft for Heading 1b took account of the Member States' forecasts of financing requirements and the fact that these appropriations were still non-differentiated. The whole amount provided in

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.7.3.

TABLE 17
Cuts made by the Council to the preliminary draft

(million EUR)

Heading of financial perspective	Appropriations for commitments	Appropriations for payments
1a	330	330
1b	225	225
2	0	114
3	71.935	177.874
4	401.7	192.6
5	36.371	36.371
7	19	300
Total	1 065.00	1 375.84

the financial perspective for structural operations was entered in the budget. Payment appropriations were cut by EUR 114 million in relation to the preliminary draft, which is the same level as in 2000, with a shift from the Structural Funds to the Cohesion Fund (+ EUR 360 million). As regards expenditure on internal policies, the Council respected the schedules for the major multiannual programmes such as research and the trans-European networks, but set a limit on the commitment and payment appropriations for a number of budget lines which are not based on multiannual programmes. The appropriations requested in the preliminary draft for the financial environment of small firms and the LIFE III programme were accepted. The provision of a precautionary margin of EUR 208 million below the ceiling of Heading 3 was meant to allow the subsequent introduction of any other Community measures under this heading, particularly in the field of employment. In the case of external action, the Council adopted an increase of 30 % in commitment appropriations for the western Balkans compared with 2000; this was considered sufficient. Pending a multiannual decision on the CARDS programme, the decision related only to 2001. Limits were set on the MEDA programme, Tacis, KEDO, aid to industrial third countries, fisheries agreements and the rapid reaction force. The pre-accession appropriations were kept in Heading 4 for the Mediterranean countries and the appropriations for the common foreign and security policy remained at the same level as in the preliminary draft, while the administrative expenditure of the special representatives was entered in Section II of the budget (Council). The increase in payment appropriations for this heading was higher than average in order to absorb outstanding commitments. For expenditure connected with the pre-accession instruments, the increase in payment appropriations for Sapard and ISPA was lower than in the preliminary draft. As regards administrative expenditure, the Council wished to keep a margin below the ceiling for Heading 5. Total expenditure was fixed at EUR 4.825 billion, 2.1 % more than in 2000, including supplementary and amending budget

2/2000. A total of 127 new permanent posts were granted for OLAF, the Court of Justice, the Economic and Social Committee and the Ombudsman. The Council proposed to review the Commission budget at a later stage when the letter of amendment was submitted and, in the meantime, decided not to convert or reclassify any posts.

1059. After Parliament's first reading on 26 October⁽¹⁾, the draft budget came to EUR 96.861 billion in appropriations for commitments and EUR 94.721 billion in appropriations for payments. These figures were far higher than in the 2000 budget (commitments were up by 3.8 % and payments by 5.9 %) and included the performance and contingency reserves set up by Parliament. Parliament increased the appropriations available for agricultural expenditure by EUR 326.5 million for commitments and payments for Heading 1a and by EUR 225 million for Heading 1b, bringing the totals to much the same level as in the preliminary draft. Parliament set up a contingency reserve of EUR 880 million for structural operations. Structural Fund appropriations were increased by EUR 474 million for payments and the Cohesion Fund appropriations were reduced by EUR 360 million to the level in the preliminary draft. Commitments were left unchanged at their ceiling. Parliament increased the allocations for various internal policies: transport, education and youth, audiovisual media, information and communication, social operations, environment, internal market, employment initiative and justice and home affairs, resulting in an overall increase of EUR 189 million in commitments and EUR 123 million in payments and leaving a margin of only EUR 19 million below the ceiling. As regards external action, the chapters for cooperation with Asia, cooperation with Latin America, cooperation with South Africa, Tacis, the Balkans and democracy had their commitments increased by a total of EUR 180.9 million and their payments by EUR 74 million, leaving a margin of only EUR 4 million below the ceiling. EUR 970 million was entered in line B7-950 as a performance reserve to be released when outstanding commitments have been cleared. Total administrative expenditure was increased by EUR 79 million. The payment appropriations for the pre-accession heading were restored to the level of the preliminary draft, while the EUR 15 million planned for Cyprus and Malta were reincorporated into the external action heading. Parliament also made a 10 % cut in the amounts proposed in the BA lines for technical and administrative assistance for the management of programmes. In addition, Parliament set up large reserves to be drawn on under various conditions: a contingency reserve of EUR 880 million in payments in Heading 2 to increase the overall level of payment appropriations taking account of the foreseeable expenditure announced by the Member States, a performance reserve of EUR 675 million in commitments in Heading 4 pending a Commission

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.7.2.

report on the clearance of outstanding commitments up to 2003 and in Heading 5 all the appropriations linked to the new posts and the reform, accompanied by various conditions on implementation of the budget, the implementation of programmes and notification of Parliament on matters of foreign policy, addressed to the Commission and to the Council.

1060. On 4 September⁽¹⁾, after a detailed comparison of its resources and tasks, the Commission adopted letter of amendment No 1/2001, proposing the creation of 717 new posts in 2001 and 2002, some of them offset by an early retirement scheme, the temporary return of the activities of the technical assistance offices to the Commission by charging expenditure on temporary staff to the BA lines, the conversion of appropriations into 100 permanent posts and further expenditure in addition to the above measures. On 11 October, the Council accepted the 400 posts requested by the Commission for 2001, but reduced the corresponding expenditure in Part A in order to maintain a larger margin under this heading⁽²⁾. Parliament incorporated the letter of amendment in its first reading on 26 October and decided to place all the resulting expenditure in reserve subject to a number of conditions attached to the reform of the Commission and programme management.

1061. The Commission adopted letter of amendment No 2/2001 on 31 October⁽²⁾. This routine letter of amendment updates the estimate of agricultural expenditure and expenditure on fisheries agreements. This year, it also adjusted the revenue arising from the redefinition of VAT bases and the new GNP figures in 2000. As a result of this letter of amendment, agricultural expenditure was EUR 900 million lower than in the preliminary draft, mainly because of the movement in the euro/dollar rate and the favourable market situation. Revenue was also EUR 900 million higher than the estimate in the preliminary draft budget for 2001 as the estimated balance for 2000 was entered in the budget.

1062. The Council's second reading, on 23 November⁽³⁾, was preceded by a conciliation meeting with Parliament to reach overall agreement on the points still outstanding: the western Balkans, the employment initiative, tests for detecting bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), letter of amendment No 2/2001 and an increase in payment appropriations. The Council aimed to restrict the increase in payment appropriations to 3.5 %, presupposing that letter of amendment No 2/2001, which allowed major cuts, would be adopted in one reading. Parliament wanted the Council to agree to mobilise the flexibility instrument in Heading 4. Following this conciliation meeting, Parliament, the Council and the Commission agreed on the

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.7.3.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.7.2.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.7.1.

following elements in the context of a global agreement on the 2001 budget: mobilisation of the flexibility instrument for an amount of EUR 200 million in commitment appropriations for Serbia; entry of a total of EUR 839 million for the Balkans, including EUR 240 million for Serbia; a multiannual amount of EUR 450 million for the programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship (2001–05), with a total of EUR 100 million in commitment appropriations in 2001 (budget lines B5-510 and B5-511); an overall increase in payment appropriations for 2001, limited to 3.5 % in relation to the 2000 budget; adoption in one reading of letter of amendment No 2/2001 as modified by the Council and including an amount of EUR 60 million for BSE tests; rebudgetisation for 2002 and the following years of an amount of EUR 1.6 billion in commitment appropriations for Community initiative programmes, under Article 17 of the interinstitutional agreement, which allows the amount to be entered to be reduced by EUR 700 million in payment appropriations in relation to the PDB 2001; deletion of the performance reserve in Heading 4 and the reserve linked to the reform of the Commission in Heading 5; and convening of an informal meeting between the three institutions before Parliament's second reading in order to define more precisely the contents of the progress report on the reform which the Commission should submit to the budgetary authority by 30 June 2001. This meeting took place on 5 December and resulted in a joint statement by the institutions on the progress report. The Commission will send the budgetary authority a quarterly report on the objectives for which appropriations are to be used for the major programmes in Heading 4 so that performance can be monitored. The report will also focus on simplifying project cycles, improving programme implementation and dovetailing of legislative and budgetary procedures, limiting the duration of commitments, the operation of the committee procedure in line with the rules in force, in particular in Heading 4, and the progress made with the reform package, including the early retirement proposal. When this report is presented, Parliament and the Council will also discuss the information to be given to Parliament on the foreign policy documents in the Council's possession and the financial implications of decisions in this sector.

After the Council's second reading, expenditure (including letter of amendment No 2/2001) totalled EUR 95.803 billion in appropriations for commitments and EUR 91.71 billion in appropriations for payments. Compared with the 2000 budget, these figures represent an increase of 2.7 % in commitments and of 2.5 % in payments. The outcome of the Council meeting of 21 November was incorporated in Heading 1 (Agriculture), with some increases for fruit and vegetables, bananas and nuts. The difference from the proposal in letter of amendment No 2/2001 could be used to finance the EUR 60 million for BSE tests. For rural development expenditure (Heading 1b), the budget used up all the appropriations available under the ceiling. In

Heading 2 (Structural operations), the debate centred on payment appropriations. The increase for the Cohesion Fund decided at first reading was maintained. However, payment appropriations for Community initiatives were cut, as agreed with Parliament. No margin was left below the ceiling for this heading. In Heading 3 (Internal policies), the Council rejected many of the increases voted by Parliament, but retained most of the preparatory measures and pilot projects proposed. For Heading 4 (External action), the Council reached agreement before the budget meeting that the financial allocations for the Balkans and the MEDA programme should be EUR 2.2 billion lower than proposed by the Commission; the Council (Budget) then established the Heading 4 appropriation within the existing ceiling. Following the change in its political regime in late October, Serbia met the conditions laid down by the European Union to receive the financial assistance which had previously been suspended. Agreement was finally reached during the conciliation meeting on further mobilisation of the flexibility instrument for the Balkans. This was made possible by the substantial amount of advance finance for Kosovo in 2000 and the need to wait for the results of a joint study by the Commission and the World Bank on requirements for Serbia, which are expected for early 2001. In Heading 5 (Administrative expenditure), the Council accepted Parliament's amendments for the Court of Auditors, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the Ombudsman, but not those for the Court of Justice. For the Commission, the Council upheld its first reading and accepted letter of amendment No 1/2001. The cut made to the payment appropriations for the pre-accession instruments (Heading 7) on first reading were confirmed.

1063. The 2001 budget was declared adopted after Parliament's second reading on 14 December 2000. It totals EUR 96.238 billion in appropriations for commitments and EUR 92.569 billion in appropriations for payments. Compared with 2000, this represents increases of 3.1 % for commitments and 3.5 % for payments. This leaves only a relatively small EUR 1.113 billion margin beneath the ceilings for commitments, bearing in mind that the Heading 4 ceiling has been overshoot with the application of the flexibility instrument. Appropriations for payments correspond to 1.08 % of Community GNP and are EUR 2.323 billion beneath the ceiling of 1.11 %. The appropriation adopted for Heading 1, which consists of compulsory expenditure, was the same as that adopted by the Council at second reading. The appropriations for agricultural expenditure total EUR 43.298 billion, representing a 5.7 % increase on 2000. This amount includes EUR 38.803 billion for market expenditure, on the basis of the updated figures proposed by the Commission in letter of amendment 2/2001. The impact of the BSE crisis on the beef sector in general is to be assessed in preparation for a preliminary draft supplementary/amending budget to be proposed by the Commission early in 2001. For Subheading 1b (Rural develop-

ment and accompanying measures), the EUR 4.495 billion adopted corresponds to the ceiling. Expenditure for structural operations totals EUR 32.72 billion for commitments and EUR 31.574 billion for payments. This includes EUR 30.005 billion in commitment appropriations for the Structural Funds, the ceiling set in the financial perspective, and EUR 28.714 billion in payment appropriations. To respect the overall increase of 3.5 % in payment appropriations agreed with the Council in relation to the 2000 budget, Parliament dropped the contingency reserve of EUR 880 million it had set up at first reading. For the Cohesion Fund, EUR 2.715 billion is available for commitments, as provided in the financial perspective, and EUR 2.86 billion for payments, EUR 360 million more than in the preliminary draft. Appropriations for internal policies total EUR 6.232 billion for commitments and EUR 5.855 billion for payments. The margin available for the heading is only EUR 39.84 million and the increase over 2000 is 3 %. In accordance with the wishes of the Council and Parliament, the 2001 budget focuses on employment with the launch of a multiannual entrepreneurship programme for small businesses with an allocation of EUR 450 million over five years. In 2001, EUR 100 million will be available for various types of financial instruments in the two lines B5-510 and 511. The EUR 3.92 billion in commitment appropriations allocated to research is 8 % up on 2000. The total available for payments is EUR 3.61 billion. The other areas with large increases are transport (23 % up on 2000 with EUR 25.205 million for commitments) and the area of freedom, security and justice (up by 14.9 % at EUR 113.15 million), and, to a lesser extent, the internal market (8 % up at EUR 159.58 million). The allocations under the external action heading total EUR 4.929 billion for commitments and EUR 3.921 billion for payments. The increase for commitments over 2000 is only 2.1 %. This compares with an increase of 7.6 % for payments. As agreed during the conciliation meeting, the budget also provides for use of the flexibility instrument, so that the real margin for Heading 4 is only EUR 6.3 million. EUR 200 million was drawn from the flexibility instrument on 14 December for Serbia, which can receive EUR 240 million out of the total allocation of EUR 839 million for the western Balkans. This amount takes account of the restoration of democracy in Serbia and the EUR 175 million in advance financing for Kosovo, which was made possible in 2000 by redeployment within the heading. The MEDA programme totals EUR 741 million, but is 20.5 % down on 2000. The following allocations have been increased compared with the preliminary draft budget: cooperation with Asia (B7-30), cooperation with Latin America (B7-31), cooperation with South Africa (B7-32), other cooperation measures (B7-6) and democracy and human rights (B7-7), reflecting Parliament's traditional priorities. The performance reserve which Parliament had voted for at first reading was scrapped after the Commission presented a report on 15 November on the strategy for clearing abnormal outstanding commitments by 2003. Appropriations for administrative

expenditure total EUR 4.904 billion, an increase of 3.8 % over 2000 and will finance the 400 new posts for the Commission and the outside staff who will be required to enable the Commission to take over for the time being the work of the technical assistance offices which are to be dismantled. For the other institutions, the total budget is EUR 1.684 billion. Expenditure on pensions is the part of the heading with the largest increase (9.6 %). For the other institutions, the Council's second reading had already confirmed the increase in posts for the Court of Auditors, the Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the Ombudsman. At its second reading, Parliament restored the increase proposed in October for the Translation Service of the Court of Justice, which had been rejected by the Council. Parliament's resolution on its second reading also calls for the establishment of an interinstitutional recruitment office in 2001. The total margin still remaining in Heading 5 for 2001 is only EUR 34.705 million. Finally, the appropriations for pre-accession aid total EUR 3.24 billion for commitments, the ceiling for the heading. After the start-up problems in 2000, the increase in payment appropriations is substantial, but they are still well below the commitment appropriations.

1064. Table 18 gives a breakdown, by heading of the financial perspective, of the amounts entered at the various stages of the 2001 budget procedure.

1065. The revenue (see Table 21) required to finance the preliminary draft budget for 2001 represented 1.07 % of GNP. The uniform call-in rate for the VAT resource was 0.816267 % and the rate for the GNP resource was 0.51855 %. Traditional own resources (agricultural resources and customs duty) represent 15.19 % of budget financing for 2001, the VAT resource 35.65 % and the fourth (GNP-based) resource 47.44 % (compared with 16.29 %, 36.42 % and 48.16 % respectively for the 2000 budget). Miscellaneous revenue of EUR 695 million was also projected.

Implementation of the 2000 budget

Supplementary and amending budgets

1066. The Commission adopted preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget No 1/2000 on 10 May ⁽¹⁾. The Council established the draft on 16 June ⁽²⁾ and Parliament adopted it on 6 July ⁽³⁾. As no changes were made to it by the Council (Budget) on 20 July, it was finally adopted on 2 August. It incorporated under the revenue section the balance from 1999,

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.7.4.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.7.2.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.7.4.

the new estimates of own resources made in April 2000, the final calculation of the UK compensation for 1996 and the provisional calculation for 1999. Under expenditure, it covered the extra EUR 1 million for the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products for orphan drugs, the entry of EUR 11 million for provisional civilian administrations (offset by an equivalent decrease in the appropriations set aside for an instrument to promote investment in developing countries for which the legal base is unlikely to be adopted) and EUR 20 million for macrofinancial aid for Montenegro. Finally, lines with a token entry were created for the future rapid reaction force pending adoption of the legal base.

1067. The Commission adopted preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget No 2/2000 on 23 June⁽¹⁾. The Council established the draft on 29 June and Parliament adopted it on 6 July⁽²⁾. In the second supplementary and amending budget, EUR 15 million was added to Section I (Parliament) for its building policy, and EUR 6.6 million to Section II (Council) for the European common foreign and security policy, particularly with a view to reinforcing the staff of its General Secretariat with military experts seconded from the Member States. In a resolution adopted on 16 June⁽³⁾, Parliament had requested a supplementary and amending statement of estimates of EUR 15 million to increase the appropriations available for the acquisition of immovable property.

Out-turn of revenue and expenditure

Expenditure

1068. The implementation rates for the 2000 budget are shown in Tables 19 and 20. Unused appropriations are estimated provisionally at EUR 16.650 billion in commitments and EUR 11.217 billion in payments.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.7.3.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.7.5.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.7.4.

TABLE 18
2001 budget (provisional figures)
(appropriations for commitments — Parliament's nomenclature)

Heading	Appropriations entered in 2000 budget ⁽¹⁾	Financial perspective 2001
	(1)	(2)
1. Agriculture		
— Agricultural expenditure (excluding rural development) (Titles B1-1 to B1-3)	36 889 000 000	
— Rural development and ancillary measures (Titles B1-4 and B1-5)	4 084 000 000	
Total — Heading 1 Margin	40 973 000 000	44 530 000 000
2. Structural operations		
— Objective 1 (Chapter B2-10)	20 781 000 000	
— Objective 2 (Chapter B2-11)	3 668 000 000	
— Objective 3 (Chapter B2-12)	3 505 000 000	
— Other structural measures (outside Objective 1 areas) (Chapter B2-13)	161 000 000	
— Community initiatives (Chapter B2-14)	1 743 000 000	
— Innovative measures and technical assistance (Chapter B2-16)	161 000 000	
— Cohesion Fund (Title B2-3)	2 659 000 000	
— EEA financial mechanism (Title B2-4)	p.m.	
Total — Heading 2 Margin	32 678 000 000	32 720 000 000
3. Internal policies		
— Research and technological development (Subsection B6)	3 630 000 000	
— Other agricultural operations (Title B2-5)	52 500 000	
— Other regional policy operations (Title B2-6)	15 000 000	
— Transport (Title B2-7)	20 500 000	
— Other measures concerning fisheries and the sea (Title B2-9)	66 450 000	
— Education, vocational training and youth (Title B3-1)	481 500 000	
— Culture and audiovisual media (Title B3-2)	113 100 000	
— Information and communication (Title B3-3)	104 000 000	
— Social dimension and employment (Title B3-4)	144 615 000	
— Energy (Title B4-1)	36 800 000	
— Euratom nuclear safeguards (Title B4-2)	16 700 000	
— Environment (Title B4-3)	157 700 000	
— Consumer policy and health protection (Title B5-1)	22 500 000	
— Aid for reconstruction (Title B5-2)	3 698 000	
— Internal market (Title B5-3)	147 445 000	
— Industry (Title B5-4)	p.m.	
— Labour market and technological innovation (Title B5-5)	214 493 000	
— Statistical information (Title B5-6)	31 400 000	
— Trans-European networks (Title B5-7)	688 000 000	
— Area of freedom, security and justice (Title B5-8)	98 500 000	
— Fraud prevention and expenditure in support of internal policies (Title B5-9)	5 650 000	
Total — Heading 3 Margin	6 050 551 000	6 272 000 000

(EUR)

Preliminary draft budget 2001 ⁽²⁾	Council (first reading)	Parliament (first reading)	Council (second reading)	Budget 2001	Difference (%)
(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8) = (7)/(1)
38 672 700 000 4 495 000 000	39 275 200 000 4 270 000 000	39 601 700 000 4 495 000 000	38 802 700 000 4 495 000 000	38 802 700 000 4 495 000 000	+ 5.2 + 10.1
43 167 700 000 1 362 300 000	43 545 200 000 984 800 000	44 096 700 000 433 300 000	43 297 700 000 1 232 300 000	43 297 700 000 1 232 300 000	+ 5.7
20 832 000 000 3 613 000 000 3 575 000 000 164 000 000 1 683 000 000 138 000 000 2 715 000 000 —	20 832 000 000 3 613 000 000 3 575 000 000 164 000 000 1 683 000 000 138 000 000 2 715 000 000 —	20 832 000 000 3 613 000 000 3 575 000 000 164 000 000 1 683 000 000 138 000 000 2 715 000 000 —	20 832 000 000 3 613 000 000 3 575 000 000 164 000 000 1 683 000 000 138 000 000 2 715 000 000 —	20 832 000 000 3 613 000 000 3 575 000 000 164 000 000 1 683 000 000 138 000 000 2 715 000 000 —	+ 0.2 - 1.5 + 2.0 + 1.9 - 3.4 - 14.3 + 2.1
32 720 000 000 0	32 720 000 000 0	32 720 000 000 0	32 720 000 000 0	32 720 000 000 0	+ 0.1
3 920 000 000 52 575 000 15 000 000 23 500 000 61 050 000 487 400 000 116 100 000 108 200 000 137 870 000 33 800 000 17 700 000 113 200 000 22 500 000 1 260 000 150 865 000 p.m. 70 000 000 32 600 000 665 000 000 102 100 000 5 000 000	3 920 000 000 52 575 000 15 000 000 20 500 000 61 050 000 480 000 000 95 100 000 86 350 000 134 670 000 33 800 000 17 700 000 111 200 000 22 500 000 1 260 000 145 480 000 — 70 000 000 32 600 000 665 000 000 94 000 000 5 000 000	3 920 000 000 54 575 000 15 000 000 25 205 000 61 050 000 491 320 000 20 100 000 103 050 000 148 370 000 33 800 000 17 700 000 116 200 000 22 500 000 1 260 000 159 280 000 — 148 000 000 32 600 000 665 000 000 113 150 000 5 000 000	3 920 000 000 52 575 000 15 000 000 25 205 000 61 050 000 484 000 000 95 100 000 86 350 000 139 670 000 33 800 000 17 700 000 116 200 000 22 500 000 1 260 000 147 980 000 — 115 000 000 32 600 000 665 000 000 106 950 000 5 000 000	3 920 000 000 54 575 000 15 000 000 25 205 000 61 050 000 491 320 000 120 100 000 103 050 000 148 370 000 33 800 000 17 700 000 116 200 000 22 500 000 1 260 000 159 280 000 — 127 000 000 32 600 000 665 000 000 113 150 000 5 000 000	+ 8.0 + 4.0 0 + 23.0 - 8.1 + 2.0 + 6.2 - 0.9 + 2.6 - 8.2 + 6.0 - 26.3 0 - 65.9 + 8.0 — - 40.8 + 3.8 - 3.3 + 14.9 - 11.5
6 135 720 000 136 280 000	6 063 785 000 208 215 000	6 253 160 000 18 840 000	6 142 940 000 129 060 000	6 232 160 000 39 840 000	+ 3.0

TABLE 18 (continued)

Heading	Appropriations entered in 2000 budget ⁽¹⁾	Financial perspective 2001
	(1)	(2)
4. External action		
— European Development Fund (Title B7-1)	p.m.	
— Food aid and support measures (Chapter B7-20)	463 406 000	
— Humanitarian aid (Chapter B7-21)	472 590 000	
— Cooperation with developing countries in Asia (Chapter B7-30)	446 284 000	
— Cooperation with developing countries in Latin America (Chapter B7-31)	335 914 000	
— Cooperation with southern Africa and South Africa (Chapter B7-32)	123 540 000	
— Cooperation with third countries in the Mediterranean and the Middle East (Chapter B7-4)	1 127 923 000	
— European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Chapter B7-51)	p.m.	
— Cooperation with the new independent States and Mongolia (Chapter B7-52)	470 139 000	
— Other Community operations for the CCEE, the NIS, Mongolia and the western Balkan countries (Chapter B7-53)	p.m.	
— Cooperation with the Balkan countries (Chapter B7-54)	502 630 000	
— Other cooperation measures (Title B7-6)	362 722 000	
— European initiative for democracy and human rights (Title 7-7)	100 373 000	
— International fisheries agreements (Chapter B7-80)	276 105 000	
— External aspects of certain Community policies (Chapters B7-81 to B7-87)	81 444 000	
— Common foreign and security policy (B8-0)	47 000 000	
— Pre-accession strategy for the Mediterranean countries (Chapters B7-04 and B7-05)	15 000 000	
Total — Heading 4 Margin	4 825 070 000	4 735 000 000
5. Administration		
— Part A (excluding pensions)	2 503 392 410	
— Other institutions (excluding pensions)	1 656 005 362	
— Pensions (all institutions)	564 311 000	
Total — Heading 5 Margin	4 723 708 772	4 939 000 000
6. Reserves		
— Monetary reserve (Title B1-6)	500 000 000	
— Guarantee reserve (Chapter B0-23)	203 000 000	
— Emergency aid reserve (Chapter B7-91)	203 000 000	
Total — Heading 6 Margin	906 000 000	916 000 000
7. Pre-accession aid		
— Agriculture (Chapter B7-01)	529 000 000	
— Pre-accession structural instrument (Chapter B7-02)	1 058 000 000	
— Phare (applicant countries) (Chapter B7-03)	1 579 710 000	
Total — Heading 7 Margin	3 166 710 000	3 240 000 000
Total appropriations for commitments Margin	93 323 039 772	97 352 000 000
Appropriations for payments		
Total appropriations for payments Margin	89 440 586 295	94 893 000 000
Appropriations for payments as % of GNP		1.11

⁽¹⁾ Including all supplementary and amending budgets.⁽²⁾ Including all letters of amendment.

(EUR)

Preliminary draft budget 2001 ⁽²⁾	Council (first reading)	Parliament (first reading)	Council (second reading)	Budget 2001	Difference (%)
(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8) = (7)/(1)
—	—	p.m.	0	p.m.	—
455 000 000	455 000 000	455 000 000	455 000 000	455 000 000	- 1.8
473 000 000	473 000 000	473 000 000	473 000 000	473 000 000	+ 0.1
425 000 000	425 000 000	446 000 000	425 000 000	446 000 000	- 0.1
305 000 000	305 000 000	336 250 000	305 000 000	336 250 000	+ 0.1
120 000 000	120 000 000	122 000 000	120 000 000	122 000 000	- 1.2
1 006 320 000	856 320 000	856 320 000	856 320 000	896 320 000	- 20.5
p.m.					
478 280 000	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	—
	458 280 000	478 280 000	458 280 000	469 280 000	- 0.2
p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	—
814 160 000	614 160 000	684 160 000	684 160 000	839 000 000	+ 66.9
384 590 000	359 890 000	382 040 000	360 140 000	389 540 000	+ 7.4
88 000 000	88 000 000	102 000 000	88 000 000	102 000 000	+ 1.6
273 440 000	269 105 000	269 105 000	273 440 000	273 440 000	- 1.0
71 342 000	71 342 000	71 842 000	71 342 000	71 842 000	- 11.8
36 000 000	36 000 000	36 000 000	36 000 000	36 000 000	- 23.4
19 000 000	19 000 000	19 000 000	19 000 000	19 000 000	+ 26.7
4 949 132 000	4 550 097 000	4 730 997 000	4 624 682 000	4 928 672 000	+ 2.1
- 214 132 000	184 903 000	4 003 000	110 318 000	- 193 672 000	
2 608 235 824	2 559 562 297	2 598 845 321	2 559 562 297	2 598 831 297	+ 3.8
1 697 558 456	1 681 508 845	1 687 136 540	1 683 843 540	1 687 136 540	+ 1.9
621 527 000	618 327 000	618 327 000	618 327 000	618 327 000	+ 9.6
4 927 321 280	4 859 398 142	4 904 308 861	4 861 732 837	4 904 294 837	+ 3.8
11 678 720	79 601 858	34 691 139	77 267 163	34 705 163	
500 000 000	500 000 000	500 000 000	500 000 000	500 000 000	0
208 000 000	208 000 000	208 000 000	208 000 000	208 000 000	+ 2.5
208 000 000	208 000 000	208 000 000	208 000 000	208 000 000	+ 2.5
916 000 000	916 000 000	916 000 000	916 000 000	916 000 000	+ 1.1
0	0	0	0	0	
540 000 000	540 000 000	540 000 000	540 000 000	540 000 000	+ 2.1
1 080 000 000	1 080 000 000	1 080 000 000	1 080 000 000	1 080 000 000	+ 2.1
1 620 000 000	1 620 000 000	1 620 000 000	1 620 000 000	1 620 000 000	+ 2.6
3 240 000 000	3 240 000 000	3 240 000 000	3 240 000 000	3 240 000 000	+ 2.3
0	0	0	0	0	
96 055 873 280	95 894 480 142	96 861 165 861	95 803 054 837	96 238 826 837	+ 3.1
1 296 126 720	1 457 519 858	490 834 139	1 548 945 163	1 113 173 163	
93 007 269 280	92 533 053 142	94 721 611 861	91 709 761 837	92 569 368 837	+ 3.5
1 885 730 720	2 359 946 858	171 388 139	3 183 238 163	2 323 631 163	

TABLE 19
Utilisation of appropriations for commitments (Commission)
at 31 December 2000 by financial perspective subdivision
(figures not final)

Heading	Appropriations entered in 2000 budget (including supplementary and amending budgets)	Appropriations entered in 2000 budget (including supplementary and amending budgets and transfers)
1. Common agricultural policy		
— Agricultural expenditure (excluding rural development) (Titles B1-1 to B1-3)	36 885.000	36 785.000
— Rural development and ancillary measures (Titles B1-4 and B1-5)	4 084.000	4 184.000
Total — Heading 1	40 969.000	40 969.000
2. Structural operations		
— Objective 1 (Chapter B2-10)	20 781.000	20 787.307
— Objective 2 (Chapter B2-11)	3 668.000	3 742.205
— Objective 3 (Chapter B2-12)	3 505.000	3 505.781
— Other structural measures (outside Objective 1 areas) (Chapter B2-13)	161.000	171.464
— Community initiatives (Chapter B2-14)	1 198.188	1 755.578
— Innovative measures and technical assistance (Chapter B2-16)	161.000	56.665
— Cohesion Fund (Title B2-3)	2 659.000	2 659.000
— EEA financial mechanism (Title B2-4)	0.000	0.000
Total — Heading 2	32 133.188	32 678.000
3. Internal policies		
— Research and technological development (Subsection B6)	3 690.582	3 710.582
— Other agricultural operations (Title B2-5)	51.500	51.500
— Other regional policy operations (Title B2-6)	0.000	15.000
— Transport (Title B2-7)	20.500	20.500
— Other measures concerning fisheries and the sea (Title B2-9)	44.450	45.550
— Education, vocational training and youth (Title B3-1)	490.075	490.075
— Culture and audiovisual media (Title B3-2)	113.376	113.376
— Information and communication (Title B3-3)	93.500	104.000
— Social dimension and employment (Title B3-4)	145.836	145.836
— Energy (Title B4-1)	37.361	37.361
— Euratom nuclear safeguards (Title B4-2)	16.700	16.700
— Environment (Title B4-3)	42.066	161.666
— Consumer policy and health protection (Title B5-1)	22.912	22.912
— Aid for reconstruction (Title B5-2)	1.698	3.698
— Internal market (Title B5-3)	146.943	136.693
— Industry (Title B5-4)	2.000	2.000
— Labour market and technological innovation (Title B5-5)	214.425	214.425
— Statistical information (Title B5-6)	31.837	32.337
— Trans-European networks (Title B5-7)	688.421	674.571
— Area of freedom, security and justice (Title B5-8)	52.210	86.710
— Fraud prevention and expenditure in support of internal policies (Title B5-9)	5.650	5.650
Total — Heading 3	5 912.042	6 091.142

(million EUR)

	Additional 2000 appropriations and carry-overs from 1999	Total appropriations available in 2000	Book commitments entered into in 2000	
			Amount	%
	33.094	36 818.094	36 245.600	98.4
		4 184.000	4 176.400	99.8
	33.094	41 002.094	40 422.000	98.6
	880.026	21 667.333	12 703.908	58.6
	480.834	4 223.039	709.887	16.8
	55.914	3 561.695	3 373.366	94.7
	18.926	190.389	171.889	90.3
	790.620	2 546.198	851.021	33.4
	6.957	63.622	33.102	52.0
	2.694	2 661.694	2 329.906	87.5
		0.000	0.000	
	2 235.971	34 913.971	20 173.079	57.8
	350.333	4 060.915	3 900.607	96.1
		51.500	49.051	95.2
		15.000	15.000	100.0
		20.500	18.885	92.1
		45.550	45.500	99.9
	100.974	591.049	568.181	96.1
	21.241	134.616	124.055	92.2
	5.259	109.259	94.530	86.5
	3.950	149.786	137.207	91.6
	3.881	41.242	3.004	7.3
		16.700	16.674	99.8
	1.035	162.701	50.116	30.8
		22.912	21.660	94.5
		3.698	1.697	45.9
	0.494	137.187	121.579	88.6
		2.000	2.000	100.0
	8.989	223.414	194.213	86.9
	0.175	32.512	32.418	99.7
	1.459	676.030	663.373	98.1
		86.818	49.502	57.0
	0.108	5.650	4.845	85.7
	497.898	6 589.040	6 114.096	92.8

TABLE 19 (continued)

Heading	Appropriations entered in 2000 budget (including supplementary and amending budgets)	Appropriations entered in 2000 budget (including supplementary and amending budgets and transfers)	
4. External action			
— European Development Fund (Title B7-1)			
— Food aid and support measures (Chapter B7-20)	462.146	458.406	
— Humanitarian aid (Chapter B7-21)	471.050	487.590	
— Cooperation with developing countries in Asia (Chapter B7-30)	404.920	471.284	
— Cooperation with developing countries in Latin America (Chapter B7-31)	335.090	309.935	
— Cooperation with southern Africa and South Africa (Chapter B7-32)	2.025	123.540	
— Cooperation with third countries in the Mediterranean and the Middle East (Chapter B7-4)	977.954	1 044.148	
— European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Chapter B7-51)	0.000	0.000	
— Cooperation with the new independent States and Mongolia (Chapter B7-52)	12.476	450.373	
— Other Community operations for the CCEE, the NIS, Mongolia and the western Balkan countries (Chapter B7-53)	54.766	89.766	
— Cooperation with the Balkan countries (Chapter B7-54)	358.206	821.630	
— Other cooperation measures (Title B7-6)	314.328	355.233	
— European initiative for democracy and human rights (Title B7-7)	94.798	96.873	
— International fisheries agreements (Chapter B7-80)	121.059	124.587	
— External aspects of certain Community policies (Chapters B7-81 to B7-87)	74.590	85.492	
— Common foreign and security policy (Title B8-0)	47.000	47.000	
— Pre-accession strategy for the Mediterranean countries (Chapter B7-04)		15.000	
Total — Heading 4	3 730.407	4 980.856	
5. Administrative expenditure			
— Commission (excluding pensions)	2 506.709	2 488.209	
— Pensions (all institutions)	564.311	582.811	
Total — Heading 5	3 071.020	3 071.020	
6. Reserves			
— Monetary reserve (Title B1-6)	500.000	500.000	
— Guarantee reserve (Chapters B0-23 and B0-24)	203.000	203.000	
— Emergency aid reserve (Chapter B7-91)	203.000	23.000	
Total — Heading 6	906.000	726.000	
7. Pre-accession aid			
— Agriculture (Chapter B7-01)	529.000	529.000	
— Pre-accession structural instrument (Chapter B7-02)	1 058.000	1 058.000	
— Phare (applicant countries) (Chapter B7-03)	1 579.710	1 579.710	
Total — Heading 7	3 166.710	3 166.710	
Grand total	89 888.367	91 682.729	

(million EUR)

	Additional 2000 appropriations and carry-overs from 1999	Total appropriations available in 2000	Book commitments entered into in 2000	
			Amount	%
		458.406	458.045	99.9
	4.907	492.497	489.701	99.4
	23.423	494.707	481.104	97.3
	57.600	367.535	277.899	75.6
		123.540	123.540	100.0
	44.008	1 088.156	1 047.739	96.3
		0.000	0.000	
	0.228	450.601	448.535	99.5
	25.000	114.766	111.881	97.5
	39.414	861.044	859.712	99.8
	6.461	361.694	343.779	95.0
	0.023	96.896	93.828	96.8
		124.587	124.211	99.7
		85.492	77.780	91.0
	10.893	57.893	41.648	71.9
		15.000		
	211.956	5 192.813	4 979.403	95.9
	8.865	2 497.075	2 450.734	98.1
		582.811	582.634	100.0
	8.865	3 079.886	3 033.368	98.5
		500.000		
		203.000	186.291	91.8
		23.000		
	0.000	726.000	186.291	25.7
		529.000	528.900	100.0
	0.263	1 058.000	1 016.287	96.1
		1 579.973	1 567.246	99.2
	0.263	3 166.973	3 112.433	98.3
	2 988.047	94 670.776	78 020.669	82.4

TABLE 20
Utilisation of appropriations for payments (Commission)
at 31 December 2000 by financial perspective
subdivision (figures not final)

Headings	Appropriations entered in 2000 budget (including supplementary and amending budgets)	Appropriations entered in 2000 budget (including supplementary and amending budgets and transfers)	
1. Common agricultural policy			
— Agricultural expenditure (excluding rural development) (Titles B1-1 to B1-3)	36 885.000	36 785.000	
— Rural development and ancillary measures (Titles B1-4 and B1-5)	4 084.000	4 184.000	
Total — Heading 1	40 969.000	40 969.000	
2. Structural operations			
— Objective 1 (Chapter B2-10)	17 378.423	17 728.423	
— Objective 2 (Chapter B2-11)	4 209.184	4 359.184	
— Objective 3 (Chapter B2-12)	2 894.814	3 343.830	
— Other structural measures (outside Objective 1 areas) (Chapter B2-13)	1 056.703	1 056.703	
— Community initiatives (Chapter B2-14)	2 950.779	2 289.664	
— Innovative measures and technical assistance (Chapter B2-16)	370.767	223.767	
— Cohesion Fund (Title B2-3)	2 800.000	2 800.000	
— EEA financial mechanism (Title B2-4)	0.000	0.000	
Total — Heading 2	31 660.670	31 801.571	
3. Internal policies			
— Research and technological development (Subsection B6)	3 658.077	3 552.842	
— Other agricultural operations (Title B2-5)	82.000	84.010	
— Other regional policy operations (Title B2-6)	7.477	17.677	
— Transport (Title B2-7)	18.700	16.700	
— Other measures concerning fisheries and the sea (Title B2-9)	34.700	41.350	
— Education, vocational training and youth (Title B3-1)	401.154	496.154	
— Culture and audiovisual media (Title B3-2)	104.378	94.478	
— Information and communication (Title B3-3)	86.900	99.600	
— Social dimension and employment (Title B3-4)	126.624	125.724	
— Energy (Title B4-1)	35.559	35.559	
— Euratom nuclear safeguards (Title B4-2)	15.400	19.400	
— Environment (Title B4-3)	93.749	140.599	
— Consumer policy and health protection (Title B5-1)	20.107	20.107	
— Aid for reconstruction (Title B5-2)	1.698	3.698	
— Internal market (Title B5-3)	152.985	152.045	
— Industry (Title B5-4)	88.644	93.644	
— Labour market and technological innovation (Title B5-5)	107.282	102.182	
— Statistical information (Title B5-6)	30.541	30.541	
— Trans-European networks (Title B5-7)	536.946	559.946	
— Area of freedom, security and justice (Title B5-8)	56.799	64.699	
— Fraud prevention and expenditure in support of internal policies (Title B5-9)	5.400	5.400	
Total — Heading 3	5 665.120	5 756.355	

(million EUR)

Additional 2000 appropriations and carry-overs from 1999	Total appropriations available in 2000	Payments recorded in the accounts in 2000			
		Against commitments prior to 2000	Against 2000 commitments	Total	
		Amount	Amount	Amount	%
136.444	36 921.444 4 184.000	91.746	36 245.600 4 176.400	36 337.346 4 176.400	98.4 99.8
136.444	41 105.444	91.746	40 422.000	40 513.746	98.6
2 374.966 504.268	20 103.389 4 863.452 3 343.830 1 056.703	10 733.457 3 618.353 1 620.838 920.470	4 751.717 241.191 1 473.298 60.115	15 485.175 3 859.544 3 094.135 980.585	77.0 79.4 92.5 92.8
736.660 3.622 158.687	3 026.324 227.389 2 958.687 0.000	2 081.731 168.281 1 532.803	219.660 16.300 152.421 0.000	2 301.391 184.581 1 685.223 0.000	76.0 81.2 57.0
3 778.202	35 579.773	20 675.932	6 914.702	27 590.634	77.5
520.114	4 072.956 84.010 17.677 16.700 41.350	2 080.416 62.324 4.824 8.379 39.490	1 323.928 14.005 12.000 3.547 1.803	3 404.344 76.329 16.824 11.926 41.294	83.6 90.9 95.2 71.4 99.9
38.247 14.933 0.093 1.602 0.845	534.401 109.412 99.693 127.326 36.404 19.400	195.650 56.284 46.590 57.977 28.196 10.930	288.080 31.911 35.577 49.295 0.249 7.989	483.730 88.196 82.167 107.272 28.445 18.919	90.5 80.6 82.4 84.3 78.1 97.5
10.335	150.934 20.107 3.698	79.069 10.562	23.866 4.504 1.697	102.935 15.066 1.697	68.2 74.9 45.9
0.494 10.128 2.389	152.539 103.772 104.571 30.541	92.850 101.670 30.351 21.298	35.627 2.000 15.966 6.613	128.476 103.670 46.317 27.911	84.2 99.9 44.3 91.4
5.568	565.513 69.804	307.052 34.760	200.555 21.853	507.608 56.613	89.8 81.1
5.105	5.400	2.042	1.283	3.325	61.6
609.853	6 366.208	3 270.714	2 082.350	5 353.064	84.1

TABLE 20 (continued)

Headings	Appropriations entered in 2000 budget (including supplementary and amending budgets)	Appropriations entered in 2000 budget (including supplementary and amending budgets and transfers)
4. External action		
— European Development Fund (Title B7-1)		
— Food aid and support measures (Chapter B7-20)	365.968	439.655
— Humanitarian aid (Chapter B7-21)	463.500	421.090
— Cooperation with developing countries in Asia (Chapter B7-30)	321.855	328.035
— Cooperation with developing countries in Latin America (Chapter B7-31)	218.796	207.796
— Cooperation with southern Africa and South Africa (Chapter B7-32)	91.390	131.615
— Cooperation with third countries in the Mediterranean and the Middle East (Chapter B7-4)	435.388	510.940
— European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Chapter B7-51)	6.413	6.413
— Cooperation with the new independent States and Mongolia (Chapter B7-52)	417.048	420.715
— Other Community operations for the CCEE, the NIS, Mongolia and the western Balkan countries (Chapter B7-53)	53.043	118.506
— Cooperation with the Balkan countries (Chapter B7-54)	295.831	677.805
— Other cooperation measures (Title B7-6)	360.774	329.615
— European initiative for democracy and human rights (Title B7-7)	81.918	74.918
— International fisheries agreements (Chapter B7-80)	125.559	129.405
— External aspects of certain Community policies (Chapters B7-81 to B7-87)	99.982	61.744
— Common foreign and security policy (Title B8-0)	30.000	30.000
— Pre-accession strategy for the Mediterranean countries (Chapter B7-04)		2.000
Total — Heading 4	3 367.464	3 890.250
5. Administrative expenditure		
— Commission (excluding pensions)	2 506.709	2 488.209
— Pensions (all institutions)	564.311	582.811
Total — Heading 5	3 071.020	3 071.020
6. Reserves		
— Monetary reserve (Title B1-6)	500.000	500.000
— Guarantee reserve (Chapters B0-23 and B0-24)	203.000	203.000
— Emergency aid reserve (Chapter B7-91)	203.000	23.000
Total — Heading 6	906.000	726.000
7. Pre-accession aid		
— Agriculture (Chapter B7-01)	200.000	150.000
— Pre-accession structural instrument (Chapter B7-02)	245.000	175.000
— Phare (applicant countries) (Chapter B7-03)	1 251.000	1 251.000
Total — Heading 7	1 696.000	1 576.000
Grand total	87 335.274	87 790.196

(million EUR)

Additional 2000 appropriations and carry-overs from 1999	Total appropriations available in 2000	Payments recorded in the accounts in 2000			
		Against commitments prior to 2000	Against 2000 commitments	Total	
		Amount	Amount	Amount	%
	0.000			0.000	
125.915	439.655	408.188	29.715	437.902	99.6
3.253	547.005	311.308	229.575	540.883	98.9
7.220	331.288	294.680	28.574	323.254	97.6
	215.016	149.585	45.628	195.212	90.8
	131.615	109.811	0.326	110.137	83.7
1.750	512.690	397.351	75.531	472.882	92.2
	6.413	6.413		6.413	100.0
12.665	433.380	420.028	8.748	428.776	98.9
15.000	133.506	41.028	84.950	125.978	94.4
66.900	744.705	369.603	306.819	676.422	90.8
20.440	350.055	222.155	55.963	278.118	79.4
16.940	91.858	47.676	5.478	53.155	57.9
	129.405	6.081	121.267	127.347	98.4
0.208	61.952	31.718	9.926	41.644	67.2
8.360	38.360	3.727	19.477	23.204	60.5
	2.000				
278.652	4 168.902	2 819.352	1 021.976	3 841.328	92.1
237.963	2 726.172	192.576	2 152.304	2 344.880	86.0
0.107	582.918	0.028	580.581	580.609	99.6
238.070	3 309.090	192.604	2 732.885	2 925.489	88.4
	500.000			0.000	
	203.000		186.291	186.291	91.8
	23.000			0.000	
0.000	726.000	0.000	186.291	186.291	25.7
	150.000			0.000	0.0
	175.000		2.542		0.0
0.002	1 251.002	1 114.996	86.509		0.0
0.002	1 576.002	1 114.996	89.051	0.000	0.0
5 041.223	92 831.420	28 165.344	53 449.255	81 614.599	87.9

Revenue

1069. On the revenue side, total own resources for 2000 came to EUR 89 386.9 million, corresponding to 1.11 % of Community GNP. There was also EUR 674.1 million in miscellaneous revenue. Revenue for 2000 is shown in Table 21 together with the revenue forecast for 2001.

TABLE 21
Budget revenue

	<i>(million EUR)</i>	
	2000	2001
Agricultural duties	1 102.2	1 180.0
Sugar and isoglucose levies	1 162.7	1 006.3
Customs duties	12 300.0	13 657.5
Own resources collection costs	- 1 456.5	- 1 584.4
VAT own resources	32 554.6	33 467.2
GNP-based own resources	43 049.8	45 452.1
Balance of VAT and GNP own resources from previous years	p.m.	p.m.
Budget balance from previous year	p.m.	p.m.
Other revenue	674.1	695.0
Total	89 386.9	93 873.6
	% of GNP	
Maximum own resources which may be assigned to the budget	1.27	1.27
Own resources actually assigned to the budget	1.11	1.07

Discharge procedure

1993, 1994 and 1995

1070. On 13 April, Parliament granted discharge to the Commission in respect of the clearance of accounts for the 1993, 1994 and 1995 financial years⁽¹⁾. This discharge was subject to receipt of further information concerning the Flécharde case, the export refund scheme and the operation of the common organisation of markets. Parliament recorded its comments in the resolution forming part of the decision.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.7.8.

1997

1071. On 19 January, Parliament adopted Decision 2000/135/EC, ECSC, Euratom giving discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the 1997 financial year and a resolution containing its comments⁽¹⁾. On 13 March, the Council adopted conclusions⁽²⁾ on the follow-up to its recommendation of 15 March 1999⁽³⁾ on the discharge for 1997. It noted that, following comments made during the discharge procedure, the Commission had already implemented a series of legislative and operational measures which had improved the system of financial management.

1998

1072. On 6 July, following the Council recommendation of 13 March⁽⁴⁾, Parliament gave the Commission discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the 1998 financial year⁽⁵⁾. The decision was accompanied by a resolution containing its comments⁽⁶⁾ and a decision closing the accounts relating to the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the 1998 financial year⁽⁶⁾. On 6 July, following the Council recommendation of 13 March⁽⁷⁾, Parliament also gave the Commission discharge in respect of the financial management of the sixth, seventh and eighth European Development Funds for the 1998 financial year⁽⁸⁾ and its Secretary-General discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget (Parliament/Ombudsman annex) for the 1998 financial year⁽⁹⁾ and at the same time instructed him to take a number of steps to improve Parliament's administrative and financial management. In a resolution adopted on 13 April, Parliament informed the Commission that it had postponed discharge and asked the Commission to take certain steps by 15 May 2000⁽¹⁰⁾. On 13 April, it also postponed the granting of discharge in respect of implementation of the general budget — Section I (Parliament/Ombudsman annex) — and instructed its Secretary-General to take certain steps⁽¹¹⁾, and the granting of discharge to the Commission for the sixth, seventh and eighth European Development Funds for 1998 and requested the Commission to draw up an action plan by 15 May 2000⁽¹²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 45, 17.2.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.7.4; 1999 General Report, point 949.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.7.7.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 3-1999, point 1.10.7.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.7.3.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 234, 16.9.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.7.6.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.7.6.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 71, 18.3.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.7.6.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 234, 16.9.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.7.7.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 234, 16.9.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.7.8.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.7.1.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.7.2.

⁽¹²⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.7.4.

1073. Following the Council recommendations of 13 March⁽¹⁾, on 13 April Parliament granted discharge to the Registrar of the Court of Justice and the Secretaries-General of the Court of Auditors and the Committee of the Regions in respect of implementation of their budgets for the 1998 financial year⁽²⁾ and to the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions⁽³⁾ and to the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training⁽⁴⁾ in respect of the implementation of the budget for the 1998 financial year.

1074. Finally, on 13 April, Parliament decided to postpone the discharge decision in respect of implementation of the Economic and Social Committee section of the general budget until it had received the conclusions of the OLAF inquiry⁽⁵⁾.

ECSC operating budget

1075. On 21 June, the Commission adopted a draft ECSC operating budget for 2001⁽⁶⁾. After an exchange of views with the ECSC Consultative Committee and after Parliament delivered its opinion on 26 October⁽⁷⁾, the budget described below was finally adopted by the Commission on 13 December⁽⁸⁾, with a levy rate of 0 %. This budget, which is consistent with the expiry of the ECSC Treaty in 2002, totals EUR 190 million, of which EUR 76 million is for aid for steel and coal research, EUR 80 million for redeployment aid, EUR 29 million for social measures connected with the restructuring of the coal industry and EUR 5 million for administrative expenditure.

1076. On 13 April, Parliament granted discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) for the 1998 financial year⁽⁹⁾. This decision was accompanied by a resolution containing its comments⁽¹⁰⁾ and a decision closing the accounts in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Coal and Steel Community for the 1998 financial year⁽¹¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, points 1.7.4 and 1.7.5.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.7.5.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.7.6.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.7.7.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.7.3.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2000) 360; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.7.5.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.7.3.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 318, 16.12.2000; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.7.9.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.7.10.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.7.11.

Financial regulations

1077. Intensive work continued on the recasting of the financial regulation. On 17 October, the Commission adopted a proposal for a new financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (Table II). Given the technical nature and size of the task, this proposal was preceded by an interinstitutional discussion on the solutions considered by the Commission in its 1998 working paper⁽¹⁾. Basically, the proposal gives the authorising officers greater responsibility and abandons the system of centralised prior approval by the Financial Controller, clarifies the limits to externalisation and rationalises the different methods for implementing the budget. It also seeks to adjust the structure of the budget to the new activity-based management, establishes differentiated appropriations as a general rule and limits the number of exceptions to basic budget principles. The provisions on contracts are brought into line with the Community's public procurement directives and a new title is devoted to grants. This proposal, which is intended to recast the provisions and simplify the structure of the current financial regulation which was adopted on 21 December 1977, relegates the detailed or technical provisions to a Commission regulation laying down rules for the implementation of the financial regulation.

1078. For the transitional period leading up to adoption of the recasting of the financial regulation, which eliminates centralised prior approval by the Financial Controller, the Commission proposed on 30 May that Article 24 of the current financial regulation be amended to separate the internal audit function from the traditional *ex ante* financial control function (Table II). This measure, provided for in the White Paper 'Reforming the Commission' (→ *point 1209*), is intended to prevent any conflict of interest between the *ex ante* and *ex post* functions.

⁽¹⁾ 1998 General Report, point 997.

Section 3

Financial control

1079. In 2000, the organisation of financial control underwent important changes connected with the reform of the Commission (→ *point 1029*), including the decentralisation of *ex ante* controls and the setting-up, on 11 April ⁽¹⁾, of an Internal Audit Service (IAS) which may eventually become a new directorate-general ⁽²⁾.

1080. In the field of *ex ante* controls, efforts were concentrated on maintaining the level of controls on the basis of risk analysis, strengthening cooperation with the Member States in the area of the Structural Funds, making adjustments to control procedures with the various management departments concerned, developing a harmonised approach to controls on EAGGF Guarantee Section operations in conjunction with the 80 payment agencies in the Member States, expanding cooperation with the applicant countries by means of administrative agreements, joint audits and seminars, and further auditing and counselling of certain decentralised agencies, particularly the new agencies in Vienna and Thessaloniki.

1081. In the field of internal audits, the IAS was mainly engaged, during the first few months of its existence, in the recruitment and training of staff and in the development of methodological tools. At the same time, a start was made on several audits, the most important of which had the task of assessing the progress made by various Commission departments on improving their systems of administrative and financial management and internal controls.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.10.6.

⁽²⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/financial_control/index_en.htm.

Section 4

Protection of the Communities' financial interests and the fight against fraud

1082. In response to the request by the Helsinki European Council⁽¹⁾, the Commission approved a communication on 28 June⁽²⁾ aimed at adopting an overall strategic approach to the fight against fraud. It sets out the four challenges which the Community and the Member States will have to meet to improve protection of the financial interests of the European Union: development of an overall coherent anti-fraud legislative policy (strengthening texts on prevention, detection, controls and penalties, increasing effective management of administrative and financial follow-up, clarifying cooperation rules); definition of a new culture of operational cooperation with the Member States (a Community 'platform' of services); adoption of an interinstitutional approach to prevent and combat corruption; enhancement of the penal judicial dimension. Based on Article 280 of the EC Treaty and the 1999 provisions establishing the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)⁽³⁾, the strategy also takes account of the current Commission reform process (→ *points 1203 et seq.*) and envisages the possibility of creating the office of European Public Prosecutor responsible for the protection of the Communities' financial interests, as proposed at the Intergovernmental Conference (→ *point 9*).

1083. On 17 July⁽⁴⁾, the Council welcomed the main guidelines set out in the abovementioned Commission communication (→ *point 1082*), and stressed the importance it attached to the fight against fraud, protection of the financial interests of the European Union, the quality of cooperation between Member States and cooperation with the applicant countries.

1084. On 26 July, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Council regulation on protecting the euro against counterfeiting (Table II). Aimed at effective and full protection for the new European currency, the proposal covers three main subjects: the processing of technical information on counterfeiting; the processing of operational strategic data; and cooperation and mutual assistance.

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 963; Bull. 12-1999, point I.8;
Internet: <http://europa.eu.int/council/off/conclu/index.htm>.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 358; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.7.10.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 136, 31.5.1999; 1999 General Report, points 961 et seq.;
http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/anti_fraud/index_en.htm.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.7.12.

In December, the Nice European Council stressed the urgent need to take action in this connection ⁽¹⁾.

1085. In its additional contributions to the Intergovernmental Conference of 1 March (→ *point 5*) and 29 September (→ *point 9*), the Commission suggested that a legal basis be created in the Treaty for setting up a system of rules relating to offences and penalties incurred, the requisite procedural provisions for the prosecution of the offences and the powers and tasks of a European Public Prosecutor responsible for detecting fraud offences throughout European territory and for prosecutions in the national courts. This suggestion received the support of the European Parliament in its own proposals for the Intergovernmental Conference ⁽²⁾.

1086. On 12 April the Commission proposed to the Council that it add a protocol on mutual administrative assistance in customs matters to the framework cooperation agreement with Chile (Table III).

1087. On 23 May, OLAF published its first report on operational activities ⁽³⁾, which reviews the activities of the office from its setting-up on 1 June 1999 and contains statistics covering the period up to the arrival of its new director-general on 1 March 2000. As such, the report is destined to become a scoreboard for the office's operations.

1088. On 8 November, the Commission adopted its annual report for 1999 on protecting the Communities' financial interests and the fight against fraud ⁽⁴⁾. The report reviews the non-operational activities of the office and the measures taken by the other directorates-general and services of the Commission to protect the Communities' financial interests. Apart from the reform of the fight against fraud, the report analyses cross-sector and sectoral legislative developments which affect such protection. It also contains a review of cooperation between the Member States and third countries, such as the negotiation of an agreement with Switzerland seeking to prevent organised fraud and illegal activities from harming the financial interests of both parties. In addition, pursuant to Article 280 of the EC Treaty, the report gives a rundown of the Member States' own activities as regards protection of the Communities' financial interests. Thus, in 1999, the Member States notified a total of 1 235 cases that can be classified as fraud and 4 912 cases of irregularities. OLAF, for its part, opened 252 new investigations in this period. Only in the field of structural measures did a significant trend emerge in 1999: 80 cases of fraud and 618 of irregularities were reported by the Member States, i.e. a total of 698 cases as

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.1.1.

⁽³⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/anti_fraud/index_en.htm.

⁽⁴⁾ COM(2000) 718; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.7.7.

against 407 in 1998. The total amount involved was EUR 120 million (EUR 43 million in 1998). These figures reflect the increased efforts of Member States in checks and detection.

1089. In its conclusions of 5 December ⁽¹⁾, the Council stated that it shared the concern of OLAF's Supervisory Committee about the transition from UCLAF to OLAF and the attendant transformation. It also shared its analysis as to the need to improve methods and procedures so as to make OLAF's operational activity more effective, and support for the secondment to OLAF of magistrates responsible for providing legal advice and assistance, particularly in order to rationalise the conduct of investigations.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

Section 5

Borrowing and lending operations

1090. Table 22 shows the loans granted each year for the period 1998–2000. In 2000, borrowing operations totalled EUR 36.191 billion (EIB included).

TABLE 22
Loans granted

Instrument	<i>(million ECU/EUR)</i>		
	1998	1999	2000
New Community instrument	—	—	—
EC — balance of payments	—	—	—
EC — medium-term financial assistance to countries of central Europe and other non-member countries	403	108	160
EC — food aid	—	—	—
ECSC	20	—	—
Euratom	—	—	—
EIB, of which:	29 526	31 800	36 031
— Community	25 116	27 765	30 642
— non-member countries, of which:	4 410	4 035	5 389
• ACP, OCTs and South Africa	695	551	541
• Mediterranean countries	966	802	1 214
• accession countries	2 295	2 373	2 948
• Latin America and Asia	362	310	532
• western Balkans	92	60	154
Total	29 949	31 908	36 191

Section 6

Guarantee in the general budget for borrowing and lending operations

1091. The guarantee by the Community budget covers lenders when the Community floats an issue under one of its financial instruments: balance-of-payments facility, Euratom loans, new Community instrument, financial assistance for various non-member countries (→ *points 67 et seq.*). The budget guarantee is also given to the European Investment Bank (EIB) for the loans it grants from its own resources to certain non-member countries⁽¹⁾. In this context, by Decision 2000/688/EC of 7 November, the Council amended Decision 2000/24/EC, adopted in 1999⁽²⁾, so as to extend the Community guarantee granted to the European Investment Bank to cover loans for projects in Croatia (Table II). At the end of 2000, the ceiling for authorised borrowing and lending operations guaranteed by the general budget was EUR 69.602 billion. At 31 December, the guarantee was in operation for EUR 1.740 billion of Community borrowing and for EUR 11.922 billion granted by the EIB out of its own resources.

1092. The Guarantee Fund for External Actions⁽³⁾, set up to reimburse the Community's creditors in the event of default by the recipient of a loan given or guaranteed by the Community in a non-member country, was again activated when certain independent States of the former Soviet Union defaulted on their payments in respect of the EUR 1.25 billion loan for food aid and medical supplies granted in 1993⁽⁴⁾. At 31 December, the aggregate amount of payments not reimbursed was EUR 63.2 million.

1093. In 2000, the budget guarantee was again activated for loans granted by the EIB in certain countries of the western Balkans. When they failed to make repayments, the Guarantee Fund was called upon for EUR 17.3 million in all. The total amount of guarantees activated since 1992 but not reimbursed because of countries defaulting on their payments came to EUR 120.1 million at 31 December.

1094. As the fund's resources at 31 December 1999 exceeded the target amount of 10 % of outstanding liabilities laid down by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2728/94⁽⁵⁾, EUR 107.9 million was repaid to the budget in the course of 2000.

⁽¹⁾ 1997 General Report, point 1092; 1999 General Report, point 967.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 9, 13.1.2000.

⁽³⁾ 1994 General Report, point 1133.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 362, 31.12.1991; Twenty-seventh General Report, point 51.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 293, 12.11.1994; 1994 General Report, point 1133.

Chapter VIII

Institutional matters

Section 1

Co-decision

1095. Since the Treaty of Amsterdam, the scope of the co-decision procedure has covered over 50 % of legislative proposals in the first pillar and includes transport, the environment, social affairs, and employment and development cooperation. Thus, in 2000, the Commission drew up 95 proposals subject to that procedure, whilst the legislature concluded 72 cases.

1096. A total of 17 proposals were approved at first reading. Although the list of cases concluded without going to a second reading is, for the most part, made up of technical matters and consolidated texts, other subjects such as the decision on the European Year of Languages, the regulation on the protection of personal data in the Community institutions and the regulation on unbundled access to the local loop are of considerable political significance.

1097. Almost half the legislative proposals (32 cases) were adopted in two readings. In 23 cases, the adoption of the instrument required the intervention of a conciliation committee. In addition, in 12 of the 23 cases, the conciliation committee approved a joint text as an 'A' item (without discussion), owing to earlier interinstitutional negotiations where the Commission played an active part as mediator, as provided for in the Treaty. Most of the areas where differences of opinion emerged concerned budgetary matters (LIFE III, 'Youth', cases concerning development cooperation), environmental problems (waste incineration, deliberate release of GMOs, the framework directive on water, end-of-life vehicles), institutional matters, especially comitology (LIFE III), health and food safety (labelling, tobacco), transport (cargo wastes, rail system) and social problems (working time). Despite these difficulties, no co-decision case has been rejected since the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam.

1098. In December, the Nice European Council took note of a report by the Presidency and the General Secretariat of the Council on making the co-decision procedure more effective⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

Section 2

Implementing powers conferred on the Commission

1099. Implementing powers are usually conferred on the Commission pursuant to Article 202 of the EC Treaty. In 2000, as regards the use of the committee procedures laid down in Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999⁽¹⁾, the advisory procedure was selected in more than 70 cases, the management procedure in less than 10 and the regulatory procedure in more than 30. In some instances, more than one procedure was used by a single committee, depending on the matters being dealt with. In some cases, the Council continued to reserve for itself the right to exercise implementing powers.

1100. In February, the European Parliament and the Commission reached an agreement on implementing the abovementioned Council decision on committee procedures with particular reference to the implementation of Article 7 on the provision of information to Parliament and Article 8 on its right of scrutiny⁽²⁾. The agreement stipulates which documents are to be sent to Parliament, how they are to be sent and how the deadlines laid down in the decision are to be met. Under this agreement, and in accordance with the procedures approved by the Commission and Parliament, the Commission sent 2 090 documents, of which 75 fell under the right of scrutiny, to Parliament in 2000. In accordance with Articles 7 and 8 of the above decision, Parliament exercised its right to scrutinise the implementation of instruments adopted under the co-decision procedure, on the basis of Article 251 of the EC Treaty.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 184, 17.7.1999; 1999 General Report, point 981.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.9.3.

Section 3

Interinstitutional cooperation

1101. On 5 July, Ms Fontaine, President of the European Parliament, and Mr Prodi, President of the Commission, signed a framework agreement on relations between their two institutions⁽¹⁾. Drafted in response to a request made by the European Parliament on 15 September 1999 at the investiture of the new Commission⁽²⁾, this document adapts the code of conduct adopted in 1990⁽³⁾ and amended in 1995⁽⁴⁾. It is designed to strengthen the accountability and legitimacy of the Commission by consolidating democratic control, extending constructive dialogue and political cooperation between the two institutions, improving the circulation of information, and consulting and informing Parliament on the administrative reforms of the Commission. The agreement has three annexes on the legislative process, international agreements and enlargement, and the transmission of confidential information to Parliament.

1102. In February, Parliament and the Commission also concluded a specific agreement on procedures for the provision of information to Parliament and its right of scrutiny under the committee procedure (→ *point 1100*).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, points 1.9.1 and 2.2.1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 54, 25.2.2000; 1999 General Report, point 1015.

⁽³⁾ Twenty-fourth General Report, point 912.

⁽⁴⁾ 1995 General Report, point 1037.

Section 4

Transparency

1103. In line with its policy in recent years of promoting transparency and allowing the public to be consulted and to participate actively in its proceedings, the Commission published its work programme for 2000 on its Europa Internet server⁽¹⁾ and adopted a number of Green and White Papers⁽²⁾ to clarify its objectives and give interested parties the opportunity of making their opinion on various subjects known. Moreover, the White Paper on reforming the Commission (→ *point 1205*) recommends that a list of committees and working groups and information on the sectors of society from which they are drawn should be published on Europa. In the same connection, the site devoted to relations with interest groups set up in 1999⁽³⁾ is being remodelled to provide more information on the associations concerned, of which there are now more than 1 000, as regards their participation in the consultation process organised by the Commission.

1104. On 15 April, the Commission launched a Europa site entitled 'The Commission and non-governmental organisations'⁽⁴⁾ to give an overview of relations between the Commission and NGOs. It also set up a new site on EU grants and loans⁽⁵⁾, which is an updated version of the guide published in 1997 and comes in the form of fact sheets classified by programme and by managing directorate-general.

1105. On 26 January, the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation regarding public access to Parliament, Council and Commission documents (Table I), to implement this right of access and define the underlying general principles and limits in accordance with Article 255(2) of the EC Treaty. A register of the President's correspondence has also been available on Europa since 31 March⁽⁶⁾. In November, the Commission also decided to make the agendas of its weekly meetings available to the public. On 14 August, the Council amended⁽⁷⁾ its Decision 93/731/EC on public access to Council documents⁽⁸⁾ and Deci-

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/off/work/2000/index_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ White Paper on reforming the Commission (→ *point 1205*), White Paper on environmental liability (→ *point 561*), White Paper on food safety (→ *point 660*), Green Paper on greenhouse gas emissions trading within the European Union (→ *point 572*), Green Paper on the environmental issues of PVC (→ *point 546*), Green Paper on legal aid in civil matters (→ *point 460*), Green Paper on a European strategy for the security of energy supply (→ *point 585*).

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 985.

⁽⁴⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgc/ong/en/index.htm.

⁽⁵⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgc/aides/index_en.htm.

⁽⁶⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/prodi/regcp/registre.cfm?CL=en>.

⁽⁷⁾ Decision 2000/527/EC (OJ L 212, 23.8.2000).

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 340, 31.12.1993, as last amended by Decision 96/705/EC, ECSC, Euratom (OJ L 325, 14.12.1996).

sion 2000/23/EC on the improvement of information on the Council's legislative activities and the public register of Council documents⁽¹⁾. This decision aims to restrict public access to documents or references to documents classified as top secret, secret or confidential on matters concerning the security and defence of the Union or of one or more of its Member States or on military or non-military crisis management, and to exclude them from the register of Council documents.

1106. The Commission continued its dialogue with citizens and businesses, initiated by the Cardiff European Council⁽²⁾, through Europe Direct⁽³⁾, a one-stop information service designed to answer the public's questions on the European Union, and the web site for businesses wishing to find out more about the single market and the opportunities it offers. Information and communication policy is dealt with in more detail in Chapter XI (→ *points 1212 et seq.*).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 9, 13.1.2000.

⁽²⁾ 1998 General Report, point 1152.

⁽³⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/europedirect/>.

Section 5

Subsidiarity and proportionality

1107. In its legislative activities in 2000, the Commission continued to use as a guide the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, as defined in Article 5 of the EC Treaty and in the protocol on the application of those principles attached to the Treaty of Amsterdam. By applying these principles, the Commission was able to draft legislative proposals in areas where, according to the Treaty, responsibility is shared between the Community and the Member States. The Commission also strictly applied the criteria which must govern its right to initiate legislation in pursuit of the objectives of the Treaty, i.e. that such measures are necessary and constitute the most effective means of action.

1108. The *Better lawmaking* report for 2000⁽¹⁾, adopted on 30 November and laid before the Nice European Council, gives an account of the application of these principles over the past year. In particular, the Commission sets out to emphasise how the principle of subsidiarity is applied, a subject given greater prominence than in 1999 for two reasons: first, because the Commission wishes to explore all possible avenues on the subsidiarity issue and, second, because of comments made by certain Member States and the European Parliament on previous *Better lawmaking* reports⁽²⁾. In its report, the Commission therefore gives pride of place to examining how the principle of subsidiarity is put into practice, citing examples from the explanatory memoranda accompanying legislative proposals, while, of course, also discussing the principle of proportionality, the quality of legislative texts, documentary consolidation, codification, recasting and simplification (→ *points 1128 and 1129*), these being vital elements if we are to have a lawmaking system which is easier for the practitioners to understand. The Commission also stresses that the effective application of the subsidiarity principle can never be cast in stone; with so many changes happening to society, the Member States' institutional structures, the international environment and technology, the Union's response will likewise have to change constantly. Preparing legislative proposals by way of communications and Green and White Papers is a way of organising the ongoing consultation of civil society and institutions at all levels on the expediency, level and content of legislative instruments. In a resolution on the previous year's report, adopted on 26 October⁽³⁾, Parliament welcomed the regular presentation of this type of analysis, but, regarding its substance, expressed concern at the proliferation of

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 772; Bull. 11-2000, point 1.9.2.

⁽²⁾ COM(1998) 715; 1998 General Report, point 1043; COM(1999) 562; 1999 General Report, point 988.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.9.4.

non-legislative documents drafted by the Commission and the latter's tendency to make increasing use of framework directives and codes of conduct, with the danger of creating areas of legal uncertainty.

Chapter IX

Community law

Section 1

Monitoring the application of Community law

1109. In 2000, the Commission started 1 317 infringement proceedings (1 075 in 1999), issued 460 reasoned opinions (469 in 1999), and referred 172 cases to the Court of Justice (165 in 1999). The breakdown by Member State of cases brought under Articles 226 and 228 of the EC Treaty is as follows: Belgium, 5; Denmark, 0; Germany, 11; Greece, 23; Spain, 8; France, 27; Ireland, 17; Italy, 24; Luxembourg, 16; Netherlands, 12; Austria, 8; Portugal, 10; Finland, 4; Sweden, 3; United Kingdom, 4. Detailed information on the infringement proceedings instituted during the year and on the situation regarding transposal of Community directives into the national laws of the Member States will be given in the 18th annual report on monitoring the application of Community law, to be published in 2001.

1110. On 23 June, the Commission adopted the 17th annual report on monitoring the application of Community law (1999)⁽¹⁾. In a resolution adopted on 16 June⁽²⁾, the European Parliament expressed its views on the 16th annual report on monitoring the application of Community law (1998).

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 92; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.8.1; Internet: http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/infringements/report99_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.8.2.

Section 2

Decisions by the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance ⁽¹⁾

General principles of Community law

1111. On 8 February, the Court issued an order in response to questions raised under Article 234 (former Article 177) of the EC Treaty concerning, on the one hand, the ACP/OCTs cumulation of origin for sugar imports and, on the other hand, the power of national courts to adopt interim measures pending the Court's judgment on the presumed invalidity of a Community act ⁽²⁾. The order dealt solely with the plaintiff's request for authorisation to submit observations in response to the conclusions of the advocate-general. The Court found that such a request could not be based on Article 6(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) since that article did not apply to the conclusions of the advocates-general, which constituted 'individual' opinions. Unlike the opinion of the prosecuting authorities in the Belgian Court of Appeal ⁽³⁾, the conclusions of the advocates-general were not expressed by an authority external to the Court or on the authority of a government ministry.

1112. On 11 January, the Court had to rule on an appeal ⁽⁴⁾ against the Court of First Instance (CFI) judgment of 19 March 1998 ⁽⁵⁾ which related to an application for the annulment of a Commission decision of 29 March 1996 whereby the plaintiff had been refused access to documents on cooperation between the Commission and the national courts on applying the competition rules. The application had been based on Commission Decision 94/90/ECSC, EC, Euratom on public access to Commission documents ⁽⁶⁾. The importance of this judgment on appeal resides in the fact that it was the Court's first decision on the application of the decision. The Court pointed out that the general Community principle concerning the right to a fair hearing derived from Article 6 of the ECHR

⁽¹⁾ Statistics concerning the activities of the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance in 2000 will be published in the Court's annual report (2000 edition forthcoming) and on the Internet: <http://curia.eu.int/fr/pei/rapan.htm>.

⁽²⁾ Case C-17/98 *Emesa Sugar v Aruba* [2000] ECR I-675; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.8.57.

⁽³⁾ Judgment of the European Court of Human Rights of 20 February 1996 in *Vermeulen v Belgium* (published in ECHR Reports 1996-1 and on the Internet: <http://www.echr.coe.int>).

⁽⁴⁾ Joined Cases C-174/98 P and C-189/98 P *Netherlands v Commission and Van der Wal* [2000] ECR I-1; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.8.58.

⁽⁵⁾ Case T-83/96 *Van der Wal v Commission* [1998] ECR II-545; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.8.8.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 46, 18.2.1994; 1994 General Report, point 10.

and included the right to a hearing by an independent tribunal. However, it was not possible to deduce from that right that the court hearing a dispute was the only body empowered to grant access to the documents in the proceedings in question. Moreover, the risks that the independence of the court might be undermined were sufficiently taken into account by Decision 94/90/ECSC, EC, Euratom and by the protection afforded by the courts at Community level. The Court drew attention to the requirements laid down in the code of conduct annexed to the decision and placed on the Commission an additional obligation to act consistently with the requirements of good administration. The decision provided for the widest possible access to documents of public interest held by the Commission and any exception to that right of access must therefore be interpreted and applied strictly.

Social legislation

1113. On 11 January, the Court gave a preliminary ruling on a provision of German law concerning the status of soldiers whereby women who have enlisted as volunteers may be employed solely in the medical and military-music services and are barred from serving in positions involving the use of arms⁽¹⁾. The question was whether this national law was in breach of Council Directive 76/207/EEC of 9 February 1976 on equal treatment for men and women, and, in particular, Article 2(2) thereof⁽²⁾. The Court reaffirmed its recent judgment in *Sirdar*⁽³⁾, holding that Germany's general prohibition on women serving in a military position involving the use of arms contravened the principle of proportionality.

1114. On 28 March, the Court gave a preliminary ruling⁽⁴⁾ on the compatibility with Directive 76/207/EEC of German national legislation whereby posts in the public service for which the male and female applicants are equally qualified are to be filled by women where the latter are under-represented in the category concerned and where this is necessary because of the binding nature of the targets set under a plan for the advancement of women. In particular, the Court was asked to rule whether the various measures of positive discrimination adopted by the *Land* Hessen were compatible with Article 2(1) and (4) of the directive. Having examined the measures in question with a view to determining whether they were absolute and unconditional in nature (and therefore prohibited), the Court found that they were neither, and therefore compatible with the Community rules.

⁽¹⁾ Case C-285/98 *Kreil v Germany* [2000] ECR I-69; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.8.59.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 39, 14.2.1976.

⁽³⁾ Case C-273/97 *Sirdar v The Army Board and Secretary of State for Defence* [1999] ECR I-7403.

⁽⁴⁾ Case C-158/97 *Badeck* [2000] ECR I-1875; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.8.62.

Internal market: general principles

1115. On 5 October, the Court once again drew a distinction between the powers of the Community and those of the Member States⁽¹⁾. On 6 July 1998, Parliament and the Council had adopted Directive 98/43/EC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to the advertising and sponsorship of tobacco products⁽²⁾. This directive places a general prohibition on advertising and sponsorship of the said products and was adopted with a view to removing those obstacles to the operation of the internal market which arise from barriers to the free movement of goods and services or from distortions of competition created by differences in the national rules governing this matter. Two actions contesting the validity of the directive had been brought before the Court: the first was an application by Germany for the annulment of the directive, on the grounds that former Articles 57(2), 66 and 100a of the EC Treaty did not constitute an appropriate legal basis for the directive and that there had been a breach of former Articles 30 and 36; the second was a request for a preliminary ruling from the High Court of Justice. In its judgment, the Court annulled the entire directive on the grounds that the Community legislature had not been empowered to adopt it under the provisions governing the establishment of the internal market, the right of establishment or the free movement of services. Firstly, it pointed out that the first indent of former Article 129(4) of the EC Treaty ruled out any harmonisation of laws and regulations of the Member States designed to protect and improve public health but added that such provision did not mean that harmonisation measures adopted on the basis of other provisions of the Treaty could not have any impact on the protection of human health, provided that the purpose of recourse to other articles of the Treaty was not to circumvent the first indent of former Article 129(4). Secondly, the Court found that if former Articles 100a, 3b and 7a of the EC Treaty were read in combination, it was clear that the purpose of any measures adopted must be to improve the conditions for the establishment and functioning of the internal market. To interpret former Article 100a as giving the Community legislature general powers to regulate the internal market would be not only contrary to the wording of the abovementioned provisions but also incompatible with the principle enshrined in former Article 3b that the powers of the Community are limited to those specifically conferred on it. Thirdly, the Court considered whether the measure in question was indeed intended to improve the internal market, that is to say, to ascertain whether the purpose of the measure was to remove obstacles to the free movement of goods and services and to eliminate distortions of competition. It concluded that essentially the directive was not in fact intended to improve the functioning of the market.

⁽¹⁾ Cases C-376/98 and C-74/99 *Germany v Parliament and Council*.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 213, 30.7.1998.

Free movement for workers

1116. On 13 April, the Court gave a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of former Articles 6, 48, 85 and 86 of the EC Treaty as applied to the rules of a sports federation⁽¹⁾. The rules in question lay down the periods within which professional basketball players must be transferred if they are to be fielded during the championship season, the aim being to prevent any distortion of competition. In its ruling, the Court clarified its judgment in *Bosman*⁽²⁾ as regards the sport-related reasons which might justify obstacles to the free movement of persons and as regards the status of top-level amateur sport as an economic activity. The Court held that Mr Lehtonen, the basketball player concerned, should indeed be regarded as a worker within the meaning of Article 48 of the EC Treaty since he was a paid professional player and the exercise of his sport therefore constituted an economic activity. This being the case, the rules governing the sport had to be in line with Community law. In as much as participation in matches was the essential purpose of a player's activity, a rule which restricted that participation obviously also restricted the chances of employment of the player concerned and, consequently, constituted an obstacle to the free movement of workers. In this particular case, the transfer rules laid down by FIBA (Fédération internationale de basket-ball) set different deadlines for players inside and outside the European zone and thus constituted an obstacle to Mr Lehtonen's freedom of movement. The Court held that such rules were illegal unless they could be justified on objective grounds concerning only sport as such or relating to differences between the position of players from a federation in the European zone and that of players from a federation outside that zone. The Court pointed out that no such justification had been shown to exist. It noted, however, that the fixing of deadlines to ensure the proper conduct of sporting competitions could be justified provided that the measures taken did not go beyond what was necessary to achieve that objective and provided that they applied in the same manner to all players, irrespective of where they came from.

1117. On 7 November, the Court ruled on an application⁽³⁾ brought by Luxembourg, on the basis of former Article 173 of the EC Treaty, for the annulment of Directive 98/5/EC to facilitate practice of the profession of lawyer on a permanent basis in a Member State other than that in which the qualification was obtained⁽⁴⁾. Luxembourg claimed that there had been a breach of former Article 52 of the EC Treaty in that this particular directive introduced a difference in treatment between national and non-national lawyers, thus going against the general interest, the protection of consumers and the proper

⁽¹⁾ Case C-176/96 *Lehtonen and Castors Canada Dry Namur-Braine v Fédération Royale Belge* [2000] ECR I-2681; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.8.45.

⁽²⁾ Case C-415/93 *Bosman* [1995] ECR I-4921; 1995 General Report, point 1130.

⁽³⁾ Case C-168/98 *Luxembourg v Parliament*.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 77, 14.3.1998.

administration of justice. The Court rejected the application and reaffirmed the validity of the directive. Firstly, it pointed out that under the directive any lawyer had the right to practise permanently in another Member State on the strength of his original professional qualification and that this included the right to give legal advice on the law of the host Member State. The exercise of this right was not subject to any probationary period or test. The Court rejected the argument that the directive was incompatible with former Article 52, pointing out that the fundamental principle of non-discrimination required that comparable situations should not be treated in different ways. In the Court's view, this principle had not been breached by the directive since the non-national lawyer practising on the strength of his original qualification was, objectively speaking, in a different position from a national lawyer. The Community legislature had not breached the general principle of equality by treating differently situations which were not comparable. The Court also rejected the arguments that the directive ran counter to the general interest, the protection of the consumer and the proper administration of justice. The professional qualifications of the non-national lawyer provided the consumer with information on his original training. The directive provided that the activities of non-national lawyers were to be subject to certain restrictions and that such lawyers were to comply with the same professional and ethical rules as those which applied to lawyers practising on the strength of a professional qualification obtained in the host Member State. The Court took the view that the contested directive introduced arrangements for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications which supplemented the Community system, the aim of which was to enable lawyers to practise freely on the strength of professional qualifications obtained in the host Member State and that, consequently, the directive could be adopted by a qualified-majority vote. The Court's judgment forms a significant stage in the case-law relating to Article 43 (former Article 52) of the EC Treaty. The right of establishment must not depend on criteria governing the practice of a profession in a given Member State. A lawyer must be able to establish himself in another Member State without having to be a full member of the profession in the latter State, unless compliance with such a condition is necessitated by imperative reasons of general interest.

Free movement of goods

1118. On 16 May, giving judgment in Treaty-infringement proceedings brought by Belgium against Spain⁽¹⁾, the Court clarified its ruling of 9 June 1992 on the rules governing the free movement of goods and the conditions for granting a registered designation of origin⁽²⁾. Although finding that the obligation to

⁽¹⁾ Case C-388/95 *Belgium v Spain*; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.8.9.

⁽²⁾ Case C-47/90 *Delhaize Frères et Compagnie le Lion SA v Promalvin and AGE Bodegas Unidas* [1992] ECR I-3669; Bull. 6-1992, point 1.7.12.

bottle wine in the region of production in order to qualify for a designation of origin was an obstacle to free movement, the Court invoked the principle of consumer protection to justify that obligation as necessary and proportional to the objective of safeguarding the quality and reputation of Rioja wine.

1119. On 26 September ⁽¹⁾, the Court ruled on an action brought by the Commission for a declaration that France had failed to meet its obligations under Article 49 of the EC Treaty, under Directive 71/305/EEC as amended by Directive 89/440/EEC and under Directive 93/37/EEC concerning the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts by failing to implement certain procedures when awarding contracts for the construction and maintenance of school buildings in the Nord-Pas-De-Calais region and the département du Nord over a period of three years. The Commission's complaints related to various breaches of the publication rules and to the use of discriminatory technical specifications. The Commission also considered it illegal that an employment criterion had been applied as an 'additional criterion' (over and above those of price, time limit for completion, etc.) for the award of the contracts. The Court found in favour of the Commission, except on two counts. It held that the awarding authorities could apply a condition relating to the campaign against unemployment, provided that this condition was in line with all the fundamental principles of Community law, but only where the said authorities had to consider two or more economically equivalent bids. Such a condition could be applied as an accessory criterion once the bids had been compared from a purely economic point of view. Lastly, as regards the criterion relating to the campaign against unemployment, the Court made it clear that this criterion must not have any direct or indirect impact on those submitting bids from other Member States of the Community and must be explicitly mentioned in the contract notice so that potential contractors were able to ascertain that such a condition existed ⁽²⁾.

Free movement of capital

1120. On 14 March, the Court, having been asked by the French Conseil d'État for an interpretation of former Article 73d(1)(b) of the EC Treaty, held that a prior authorisation system for direct foreign investments could not be justified by a general reference (as in this particular case) to a threat to public order and public security ⁽³⁾. Such lack of precision prevented the persons concerned from ascertaining the specific circumstances in which authorisation was required and, consequently, the extent of their rights and obligations under the

⁽¹⁾ Case C-225/98 *Commission v France*.

⁽²⁾ *Ibidem*.

⁽³⁾ Case C-54/99 *Église de Scientologie* [2000] ECR I-1335; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.8.64.

Treaty. The Court did not, however, rule out that a prior authorisation system might prove necessary in the event of a genuine and serious threat to public order.

Competition — State aid

1121. On 10 February, the Court ruled for the first time on the compatibility with the EC Treaty of national law based on the Universal Postal Convention, whereby postal services enjoying a dominant position on the market for the distribution of mail in the Member State concerned may charge internal postage on the distribution of letters ‘remailed’ via another Member State and may refuse to distribute these letters unless such postage is paid⁽¹⁾. The Court held that, by enabling the dominant postal operator, which had an obligation to distribute ‘remailed’ items, to charge the full amount of internal postage without taking account of the terminal dues received from the postal service of origin, the national law was inducing the operator to abuse its dominant position within the meaning of Article 82 of the EC Treaty.

1122. On 19 September, the Court ruled on a German tax law which provided for certain tax concessions where shares were acquired in undertakings having their registered office and central administration in the new *Länder* or West Berlin⁽²⁾. The Commission, having been notified of these new tax arrangements, decided that the concessions in question constituted aid incompatible with the common market under former Article 92(1) of the EC Treaty and contrary to former Article 52 on the freedom of establishment. Germany appealed against this decision, but the Court ruled in the Commission’s favour, drawing attention to the specific regional nature of the undertakings assisted rather than their size. As regards the effects on trade and the distortion of competition, the Court again took the view that aid of this particular type did in principle distort the conditions of competition and had an effect on trade since the undertakings which were the indirect beneficiaries of the tax concessions were thereby given an economic advantage which they would not have enjoyed under normal market conditions. The Court concluded that the aid did, in fact, influence the behaviour of private investors and that no analysis of the actual impact was necessary. As regards the question of incompatibility, the Court ruled that former Article 92(2) of the EC Treaty was not applicable. The scope of the exception was necessarily restricted⁽³⁾. The derogation in question applied only to the direct consequences of the division of Germany and any aid granted had to be intended solely as compensation for the economic disadvantages caused by that

⁽¹⁾ Joined Cases C-147/97 and C-148/97 *Deutsche Post* [2000] ECR I-825; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.8.65.

⁽²⁾ Case C-156/98 *Germany v Commission*; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.8.58.

⁽³⁾ CFI judgment of 15 December 1999 in *Freistaat Sachsen and Others v Commission*.

division. In this particular case, the Court held that the economic disadvantages suffered by the new *Länder* were not directly attributable to the geographical division of Germany but rather to the differences in politico-economic systems. As regards the derogations provided for in former Article 92(3)(a) and (c) of the EC Treaty, the Court reiterated its earlier rulings that such aid schemes were not investment aid but operating aid, which could be granted only in exceptional circumstances, that is to say, where they were likely to promote a durable development of economic activity. This was not the case in this instance. As regards non-compliance with former Article 52 of the Treaty, the Court held that it was clear from the general scheme of the Treaty that the procedure under Article 88 (former Article 93) should never produce a result which was contrary to the specific provisions of the Treaty. Consequently, the requirement that the beneficiaries must have their registered office and central administration in the new *Länder* constituted wrongful discrimination on grounds of nationality, since it prevented an undertaking from another Member State from benefiting from the aid scheme in question if it engaged in economic activities in the new *Länder*.

Taxation

1123. On 24 February and 9 March, the Court handed down judgment in two very different cases (Treaty-infringement proceedings, on the one hand, and a reference for a preliminary ruling, on the other) which did, however, have a common purpose, namely to determine the margin for manoeuvre available to Member States for the taxation, in the form of non-harmonised excise duties, of products already subject to harmonised excise duty⁽¹⁾. The Court acknowledged that Member States retained some discretionary powers in this area provided that two criteria were satisfied (the duty must be levied for a non-budgetary purpose and must be compatible with the overall Community system of excise duties). For the first time, moreover, the Court limited the temporal effects of a decision on tax matters by ruling that legal relations which had exhausted their effects in the past should not be called into question. It thus departed, in this instance, from the principle that the law as interpreted on a given date has unlimited retrospective force, having assessed the consequences which application of that principle would have in practice (in terms of legal certainty and financial impact).

1124. France, Ireland, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Greece do not charge value added tax on motorway tolls, taking the view that such tolls do not constitute payment for an economic activity. The Commission brought an action (under former Article 169 of the EC Treaty) for a declaration that the

⁽¹⁾ Case C-434/97 *Commission v France* and Case C-437/97 *Evangelischer Krankenhausverein* [2000] ECR I-1129; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.8.66.

said Member States had thereby failed to comply with the sixth Council Directive 77/388/EEC of 17 May 1977 relating to turnover taxes⁽¹⁾, Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1552/89 on the system of the Communities' own resources, and Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1553/89 on the definitive uniform arrangements for the collection of own resources accruing from VAT⁽²⁾. On 12 September⁽³⁾, the Court found against France, Ireland and the United Kingdom. On the question of charging VAT on tolls, the Court reaffirmed that the concept of the supply of services effected for consideration within the meaning of the sixth directive required the existence of a direct link between the service provided and the consideration received. In the Court's view, providing access to roads on payment of a toll constituted a supply of services for a consideration within the meaning of the sixth directive and could not qualify for exemption under that same directive. Two conditions had to be met for the exemption to apply: the activities had to be carried out by a body governed by public law and they had to be carried out by that body acting as a public authority. The Court pointed out that, where the activity of providing access to roads on payment of a toll was carried out by traders governed by private law, no exemption was possible. Exemption could apply only where the activities in question were carried out by a public body operating along different lines from a private body. On the basis of this criterion, i.e. the status of the operator, the Court held that Greece and the Netherlands had not failed to fulfil their Community obligations. As regards the question of own resources, the Court held that, since VAT was not levied on the tolls collected, the corresponding amounts were not taken into account in determining the VAT own resources base, with the result that the Member States concerned had thereby also breached the rules relating to the system of the Communities' own resources.

Environment

1125. On 21 March, the Court gave a preliminary ruling⁽⁴⁾, at the request of the French Conseil d'État, on the interpretation of Articles 11, 12 and 13 of Directive 90/220/EEC on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)⁽⁵⁾. For any such release to take place, the competent authority or government of a Member State must give its 'consent in writing' where no Member State has raised any objection following presentation to the Commission of an application for a GMO to be placed on the market or where the Commission has adopted a favourable decision. The Court pointed out that in principle the Member

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 145, 13.6.1977.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 155, 7.6.1989; Twenty-third General Report, point 91.

⁽³⁾ Case C-276/97 and Joined Cases *Commission v France, Ireland, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Greece*; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.8.55.

⁽⁴⁾ Case C-6/99 *Association Greenpeace France and Others v Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche and Others* [2000] ECR I-1651; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.8.67.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 117, 8.5.1990; Twenty-fourth General Report, point 523.

State was obliged to give such ‘consent in writing’ if the said conditions were met. On the other hand, the Member State could invoke the precautionary principle and individuals had the right to challenge any procedural irregularities by having the matter referred to the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling. In its judgment, the Court made it clear that the Member State was not obliged to give its consent if in the meantime it had obtained new information which indicated that a product which had been the subject of a favourable opinion might constitute a risk to human health and the environment.

Institutional matters

1126. On 6 April, the Court ruled on a Spanish application (under former Article 173 of the EC Treaty)⁽¹⁾ for the annulment of the Commission guidelines of 15 October 1997 concerning net financial corrections in the context of the application of Article 24 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 on the Structural Funds⁽²⁾. The judgment is of interest both as regards the admissibility of applications for the annulment of non-binding instruments (‘soft law’) and as regards the substance of the case. The Court found in favour of the Commission, holding that there was nothing to prevent the Commission from adopting internal guidelines or from entrusting the departments concerned with the task of applying these guidelines. In the Court’s view, such internal guidelines contributed to ensuring that, when the Commission took decisions pursuant to Article 24, the Member States or the authorities designated by them benefited from identical treatment in comparable situations. Such guidelines were also likely to strengthen the transparency of individual decisions addressed to the Member States. Lastly, the Court held that such an act of the Commission, which reflected only its intention to follow up a particular line of conduct in the exercise of the power granted to it by Article 24, could not therefore be regarded as intended to produce legal effects⁽³⁾.

1127. On 4 July, the Court, for the first time, imposed a penalty payment on a Member State for non-compliance with an earlier judgment finding that the Member State in question had failed to meet its obligations as regards the disposal of waste⁽⁴⁾. Having considered the obligations which the Member State had failed to meet, the Court laid down criteria for fixing the amount of the penalty payment (duration and seriousness of the infringement, Member State’s capacity to pay, consequences of non-compliance, urgency of the matter) and decided on a penalty payment of EUR 20 000 for each day of non-compliance, as from the date of its judgment.

⁽¹⁾ Case C- 443/97 *Spain v Commission* [2000] ECR I-2415; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.8.46.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 374, 31.12.1988; Twenty-second General Report, point 534; last amended by Regulation (EC) No 3193/94 (OJ L 337, 24.12.1994).

⁽³⁾ Case C-114/86 *United Kingdom v Commission* [1988] ECR 5289 and Case C-180/96, *United Kingdom v Commission* [1998] ECR I-2265; Bull. 6-1998, point 1.8.25.

⁽⁴⁾ Case C-387/97 *Commission v Greece*.

Section 3

Simplification, codification and consolidation

1128. The Commission continued the process of simplifying Community legislation, which has been going on in all fields for several years. The SLIM initiative (→ *point 138*) is still one of the most visible examples in this context of the way in which the Commission has stepped up its efforts to improve the quality, and reduce the quantity, of rules. Initiatives were taken, in particular, in the field of enterprise policy, for example the Commission communication on a multiannual programme (2001–05) for enterprise and entrepreneurship (→ *point 247*) or the proposals for directives aimed at substantially simplifying and updating the current rules on insurance (→ *point 158*). The Commission's efforts also resulted in measures concerning the participation of the applicant countries in Community programmes and agencies (→ *point 719*). A key initiative as regards simplification was the revision of the financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (→ *point 1077*).

1129. The Commission adopted five codification proposals intended to replace 78 legislative acts and put forward a further five proposals designed to replace 43 legislative acts. It also tabled two revision proposals amending 12 legislative acts.

Section 4

Computerisation of Community law

1130. The Office for Official Publications of the European Communities continued its work on improving the coverage and operation of CELEX, the European Union's official interinstitutional legal database⁽¹⁾, in accordance with the guidelines of the Lex Interinstitutional Group (GIL) and the Council working party on the computer processing of legal data (GIJC). At the beginning of 2000, therefore, the CELEX dissemination and production systems migrated to a new technological platform, with the aim of simplifying future developments and improving the search functions, integrating CELEX with other legal information systems and extending its coverage in the future. In order to make the most recent version of texts available to users, work also continued on incorporating consolidated legislation.

1131. The number of consultations of CELEX continued to increase rapidly, with over 20 million documents displayed in 2000.

1132. A fee is payable for access to CELEX, which is provided for the public through three major channels: the Internet⁽²⁾ via the Europa server, a subscription to CELEX through the official partners offering online access, or through 24 licence-holders that disseminate derived versions of CELEX online or on CD-ROM. The European documentation centres (EDCs) and Euro Info Centres (EICs) are privileged users with free access to CELEX that enables them to perform their functions as providers of information for economic operators (→ *point 253*) and the general public.

1133. At the end of 2000, a pilot version of the 'single portal' site of the integrated system providing access to European Union legal documents was made available to the institutions for testing before being put on the Internet in 2001. Because of its exhaustive coverage, CELEX is the core of this integrated service, which also comprises EUDOR (electronic archives of official European Union documents)⁽³⁾, EUR-Lex (access to the Official Journal)⁽⁴⁾ and the part the Court of Justice's CURIA⁽⁵⁾ database containing the most recent judgments.

⁽¹⁾ Twenty-seventh General Report, point 1154.

⁽²⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/celex>.

⁽³⁾ <http://www.eudor.com:8443/accueil.html>.

⁽⁴⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/index.html>.

⁽⁵⁾ <http://curia.eu.int/en/jurisp/index.htm>.

Chapter X

Institutions and other bodies

Section 1

Composition and functioning

European Parliament ⁽¹⁾

1134. The distribution of the 626 seats among the political groups of the new Parliament at 31 December was as follows:

— European People's Party and European Democrats (PPE-DE), chaired by Hans-Gert Pöttering (D)	232
— Party of European Socialists (PSE), chaired by Enrique Barón Crespo (E)	181
— European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party (ELDR), chaired by Patrick Cox (IRL)	52
— Greens/European Free Alliance (Verts/ALE), chaired by Heidi Hautala (FIN) and Paul Lannoye (B)	46
— Confederation Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL), chaired by Francis Wurtz (F)	42
— Europe of Nations Group (UEN), chaired by Charles Pasqua (F)	30
— Technical Group of Independent Members (TDI), chaired by Charles de Gaulle (F)	19
— Europe of Democracies and Diversities (EDD), chaired by Jens-Peter Bonde (DK)	16
— Non-affiliated (NI)	8

⁽¹⁾ http://www.europarl.eu.int/home/default_en.htm.

1135. Following the events of 1999⁽¹⁾, relations with the Commission, in the context of the improvement of the latter's administrative procedures, remained one of the major themes of Parliament's work. At the first March part-session, the President of the Commission, Mr Prodi, and Mr Kinnock, Vice-President, presented to the Members of Parliament the White Paper on reforming the Commission⁽²⁾. In May, the House adopted a resolution on the appointment of senior Commission officials⁽³⁾. In July, Parliament approved a framework agreement on its relations with the Commission (→ *point 1101*). In November, it adopted a resolution on the special report of the European Ombudsman on secrecy in the Commission's recruitment procedures (→ *point 492*) and on the various aspects of the White Paper on reforming the Commission (→ *point 1205*). Parliament also adopted resolutions on the five-year strategic programme presented by the Commission as well as on the agreement between Parliament and the Commission on the procedures for implementing the Council decision of 28 June 1999 on comitology (→ *point 1099*) and, in March, a resolution on the Commission's annual legislative programme for 2000 (→ *point 1153*).

1136. On matters of its own internal organisation, Parliament adopted a resolution on its supplementary estimates for the 2000 financial year. On 14 June, Parliament adopted the schedule of its part-sessions for 2000, with 12 plenary part-sessions in Strasbourg and 6 additional part-sessions in Brussels. It should be noted that Parliament will not be meeting on Fridays.

1137. In its relations with the other EU institutions and bodies, Parliament also considered the decisions taken at the Lisbon⁽⁴⁾, Feira⁽⁵⁾ and Nice European Councils⁽⁶⁾, and the proceedings of the informal European Council in Biarritz⁽⁷⁾ and debated the work programmes of the Portuguese and French Council Presidencies⁽⁸⁾, the assessment of the Portuguese and French Presidencies⁽⁹⁾, the 1999 activity report⁽¹⁰⁾ presented by the European Ombudsman, Mr Söderman, and the 1999 annual report of the European Central Bank presented by Mr Duisenberg. It also held its yearly debates on the Commission's Annual Economic Report (→ *point 38*), the Commission's annual report on the protection of the Community's financial interests and the fight against fraud (→ *point 1088*), the broad economic policy guidelines of the Member States and the Community (→ *point 37*), the 1998 annual report on the monitoring of the application of

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 1015.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 200; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.10.12.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.10.14.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.2.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.2.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 10-2000, point 1.9.3.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ Annex 520; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.1; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.10.1.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.10.1; Bull. 12-2000.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.4.18.

Community law (→ *point 1110*), the Commission's 1999 Report on Competition Policy (→ *point 187*), the Commission's 1998 and 1999 *Better lawmaking* reports, and the 1997, 1998 and 1999 reports on equal opportunities for men and women in the European Union (→ *point 131*). The organisation and operation of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities as well as a Council proposal to modify the statute of the Court of First Instance were also looked into (→ *point 1159*).

1138. In the field of citizens' rights, Parliament debated public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (→ *point 1105*) and the processing of personal data by the institutions and bodies of the Community (→ *point 183*).

1139. On the institutional front, Parliament passed resolutions on the convening of the IGC, its proposals for the conference (→ *point 2*) and the Charter of Fundamental Rights (→ *point 19*), on the constitutionalisation of the Treaties (→ *point 11*) and on closer cooperation (→ *point 11*).

1140. In the budgetary field, Parliament completed both readings of the 2001 budget, which was signed by the President, Ms Fontaine, on 14 December (→ *point 1063*). The President of the Court of Auditors, Mr Karlsson, presented the Court's annual report to Parliament at the November part-session⁽¹⁾. Parliament also adopted resolutions on the Communities' own resources system (→ *point 1052*), the excessive deficit procedure (→ *point 43*), the discharge procedures for 1997 and 1998 (→ *points 1071 et seq.*) and the 2000 supplementary and amending budgets (→ *points 1066 and 1067*).

1141. The main internal policy topics which Parliament debated in 2000 were the information society and telecommunications (→ *points 327 et seq.*), research (→ *point 281*), energy (→ *point 596*), the environment and climate change (→ *points 572 et seq.*), transport networks (→ *point 426*), employment and social policy (→ *point 99*), enlargement (→ *point 702*), the internal market (→ *points 135 et seq.*), taxation (→ *point 169*), agriculture (→ *point 399*), fisheries (→ *point 423*), sport (→ *point 528*), and consumer health protection and food safety (→ *point 660*). In the area of justice and home affairs, it passed resolutions on progress made in 1999 in establishing the area of freedom, security and justice (→ *point 442*), the Eurodac system (→ *point 456*), increasing penal sanctions against counterfeiting the euro (→ *point 465*), mutual assistance on criminal matters between the Member States (→ *point 464*), the action plans for countries of origin or transit of asylum-seekers and migrants (→ *point 452*), child pornography on the Internet (→ *point 477*), the European Refugee Fund (→ *point 450*), common standards on asylum procedures

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

(→ *point 449*), crime victims in the EU (→ *point 466*), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (→ *point 480*), combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment, and money laundering (→ *point 467*), visas (→ *point 445*), countering racism and xenophobia in the EU (→ *point 112*), the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (→ *point 112*) and movement and residence of EU citizens (→ *point 488*). It also debated the outcome of the general election in Austria and the subsequent negotiations to form the government⁽¹⁾. A temporary committee of inquiry into the Echelon interception system was also set up⁽²⁾.

1142. In the field of external relations, Parliament mainly focused on enlargement (→ *point 702*), the stabilisation and association process in the south-east European countries (→ *point 889*), the situation in the Balkans (especially in Serbia and Kosovo) (→ *points 902 et seq.*), the European Agency for Reconstruction and aid to this region (→ *point 907*), Chechnya (→ *point 944*), Latin America (Peru and Colombia) (→ *points 1009 et seq.*), Turkey (→ *point 741*) and Africa (Great Lakes region and Zimbabwe) (→ *points 1037 and 1038*). It also passed resolutions on the agreements signed between the EC and Switzerland (→ *point 887*), the EU–Mexico association agreement (→ *point 1012*), the EU–Africa Summit (→ *point 1031*), the fourth Euro-Mediterranean Conference (→ *point 914*), the third ASEM Summit in Seoul (→ *point 980*), the Middle East peace process (→ *point 919*), the Moluccan Islands (→ *point 987*), the external debt of poor countries (→ *point 845*), the Non-Proliferation Treaty (→ *point 755*), anti-personnel mines (→ *point 756*), the common strategy with Russia (→ *point 943*), Côte d'Ivoire (→ *point 1035*), Western Sahara (→ *point 918*), Iraq (→ *point 925*), Ethiopia (→ *point 1039*), Indonesia (→ *point 987*), and the World Education Forum. Debates were held on Mediterranean policy⁽³⁾ and relations with China and its accession to the World Trade Organisation⁽⁴⁾. As regards the common foreign and security policy, the House adopted resolutions on the establishment of a common European security and defence policy with a view to the European Council in Santa Maria da Feira (→ *points 752 et seq.*), a common Community diplomacy, the EU external action priorities, progress in implementing the common foreign and security policy, and the establishment of a European security and defence policy. It also held a debate in March with the High Representative for the CFSP, Mr Solana, about the progress made in the development of the common foreign and security policy⁽⁵⁾. In November Alain Richard addressed Parliament in a debate on European security and defence policy, the first such appearance by a minister for defence of a country holding the EU Presidency. On human rights issues, Parliament passed resolutions on the European Union's priorities for the 56th session

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.2.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.10.1

⁽³⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.10.3.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.10.1.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.10.1.

of the UN Commission on Human Rights (→ *point 32*), the annual report on international and EU human rights (→ *point 28*), the 50th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions on international humanitarian law, the situation in numerous countries (→ *point 32*), the prisoners of the Gulf War, hooliganism at Euro 2000 (→ *point 528*) and the death penalty in the United States (→ *point 963*). A written declaration was also issued on the remembrance of the Holocaust. At a formal sitting in December, Parliament awarded the Sakharov prize to 'Basta Ya', a citizens' collective in the Spanish Basque Country. The President of the Czech Republic, Mr Havel, addressed the House at a formal sitting in February, as did Mr Klestil, President of the Republic of Austria, in March and Mr Kučan, President of the Republic of Slovenia, in May. Mr Burg, Speaker of the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament), and Mr Qurie, Speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, addressed the September part-session, and Mr Ciampi, President of Italy, addressed a formal sitting in October.

1143. Parliament addressed 5 312 questions to the Commission and the Council: 4 163 written questions (3 678 to the Commission and 485 to the Council), 145 oral questions with debate (89 to the Commission and 56 to the Council) and 1 004 during question time (650 to the Commission and 354 to the Council).

1144. A breakdown of Parliament's work in 2000 is shown in Table 23. At 31 December, the establishment plan of the Parliament's Secretariat comprised 3 505 permanent posts and 616 temporary posts.

Council ⁽¹⁾

1145. The special meeting of the European Council held in Lisbon on 23 and 24 March ⁽²⁾ devised for the Union a strategy based on three key elements: the transition to a knowledge-based economy; modernising the European social model by investing in human resources and combating social exclusion; and sustaining a healthy economic outlook. Implementation of this strategy will entail an improvement in existing processes, notably those established by the European Councils of Cardiff ⁽³⁾ and Luxembourg ⁽⁴⁾, through the introduction of a new open method of coordination at all levels. In this context, the European Council has taken on a stronger role, including holding an annual meeting to discuss economic and social issues. Other matters addressed during the Lisbon meeting had to do with strengthening the common European security and defence policy, the western Balkans, and relations with Russia against the background of the conflict in Chechnya and the imminent presidential election in that country.

⁽¹⁾ <http://ue.eu.int/en/summ.htm>.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 3-2000, points I.1 to I.22.

⁽³⁾ 1998 General Report, point 1081.

⁽⁴⁾ 1997 General Report, point 1140.

TABLE 23

Parliamentary proceedings from January to December 2000 — Resolutions and decisions adopted

Part-session	Consultations (single reading)	Co-decision procedure			Assent	Other opinions ⁽¹⁾	Budget questions	Own-initiative reports and resolutions			Miscellaneous decisions and resolutions ⁽⁴⁾
		First reading	Second reading	Third reading				Report	Resolutions ⁽²⁾	Urgent sub- jects ⁽³⁾	
January I	3	4	1			7		2	4	8	
February I	5	1	2	3		1	1			1	
February II	5	3	2		1	7		1	6	7	1
March I	5	1				3			2		
March II	6	3	10			4		2	4	8	
March III						4			3		
April	5	5	6	1		4	2		4	9	1
May I	5	1	1		7	4	10		1		
May II	13	3	2	3		10		2	4	9	
July	12	3	2	2		9	1		5	3	2
September I	8	6	9	1		9	1	1	3	9	4
September II	5	3	4	3		9	6	1	6	9	
October I	5	2	2	2		3			2		
October II	5	5	3		3	6		10	3	4	
November I	9	3	1		2	14		2	8		2
November II	12	5		1	1	4	1	2	3	5	1
December I	1	4		1		5		5	2		
December II	9	8	8	1		8		2	2	6	2
Total	113 ⁽⁵⁾	60 ⁽⁶⁾	53 ⁽⁷⁾	18	14	111	22	30	62	78	13

⁽¹⁾ Mainly opinions on Commission reports or communications.

⁽²⁾ Resolutions in response to statements by other institutions or following oral questions.

⁽³⁾ Resolutions on topical and urgent subjects of major importance.

⁽⁴⁾ Decisions concerning waiver of immunity, amendments to the rules of procedure and interinstitutional agreements.

⁽⁵⁾ Including 69 cases in which Parliament proposed amendments to the Commission proposal.

⁽⁶⁾ Including 48 cases in which Parliament proposed amendments to the Commission proposal.

⁽⁷⁾ Including 33 cases in which Parliament amended the Council's common position.

1146. The Feira European Council of 19 and 20 June⁽¹⁾ provided an opportunity to take stock of the Union's most important tasks for the immediate future. It considered the Intergovernmental Conference on institutional reform, preparation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, strengthening the common European security and defence policy, and enlargement negotiations. It also followed up the conclusions of the Lisbon European Council on employment, economic reform and social cohesion. At the same time, the broad economic policy guidelines for 2000 (→ *point 37*) and the tax package relating to taxation of savings incorporating certain principles and guidelines for the tax 'package' (→ *point 134*) were endorsed. The European Council also ratified Greece's entry into the euro zone (→ *points 34, 42 and 46*). On the external relations front, the European Council adopted the common strategy for the Mediterranean region (→ *points 912 and 913*) and endorsed the action plan for the northern dimension in the external and cross-border policies of the European Union (2000–03) (→ *point 953*). The President of South Africa, Mr Mbeki, was welcomed to this meeting of the European Council by the Heads of State or Government.

1147. The informal meeting of the European Council in Biarritz (13 and 14 October) was devoted to the Intergovernmental Conference and preparations for the Nice European Council. It provided the Heads of State or Government with an opportunity to give their views on the principal questions to be addressed by the conference: the transition to qualified majority voting, options for closer cooperation, the composition and size of the Commission, the weighting of votes in the Council and Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union. The draft Charter of Fundamental Rights, drawn up by a convention which was given the task by the European Councils of Cologne⁽²⁾ and Tampere⁽³⁾, was presented to the meeting by a delegation from the convention (→ *point 17*). The members of the European Council welcomed the new President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr Kostunica, present at a working lunch, and announced the granting of EUR 200 million in emergency aid to Serbia (→ *point 902*). The situation in the Middle East and the problems of maritime safety, based on a contribution from the Commission, were also discussed.

1148. The European Council meeting at Nice (7 to 11 December) proved to be the longest since that body was set up. It was preceded by a European conference with the applicant countries and Switzerland, which served as a forum for an extensive exchange of views on institutional reform and on the workings of the European Union in the long term (→ *point 699*). On the sidelines of the European Council, the Charter of Fundamental Rights was solemnly proclaimed by the presidents of the three institutions concerned (→ *point 15*).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, points I.1 to I.58.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 1025.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 1026.

Among the most important topics discussed at the European Council itself were the statute for a European company, consumer health and safety, measures to counter BSE, and maritime safety. The European Council also reaffirmed the historic significance of the enlargement of the Union and endorsed the conclusions of the Council of 4 December concerning the enlargement strategy proposed by the Commission. It also approved the Presidency's report on European security and defence policy and decided to make the 'rapid reaction force' operational as early as possible in 2001. Other items approved included the European social agenda, objectives for combating poverty and social exclusion, and a declaration on services of general interest. However, the most important achievement of the Nice European Council was to set the seal on the Intergovernmental Conference by reaching agreement on a new Treaty after 10 months of intense negotiations. The agreement covers the four topics dealt with by the IGC (size and composition of the Commission, weighting of votes in the Council, replacing unanimity by qualified-majority voting in decision-making procedures and closer cooperation) and other important matters concerning European integration (→ *point 14*).

1149. The Council held 87 meetings in 2000. Figures for the legislative instruments enacted this year are found in Table 24 at the end of this section.

1150. At 31 December, the Council's establishment plan comprised 2 505 permanent posts and 38 temporary posts.

Commission ⁽¹⁾

1151. In accordance with its decision of 1999 to improve coordination, and in order to improve its organisation and efficiency and to obtain greater understanding for its actions, in February the Commission set out the strategic objectives for 2000–05 ⁽²⁾ which would mark its political project over the duration of its term of office. These objectives were presented under four main headings: creating new forms of European governance; stabilising the continent and boosting Europe's voice in the world; a new economic and social agenda; and a higher quality of life for all.

1152. In its work programme for 2000 ⁽³⁾, adopted in February and updated in October for the last quarter of the year, the Commission set out its political priorities and the first practical steps towards transforming these objectives into reality. This programme, intended by the Commission to be strong and compre-

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 154; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.12; Supplement 1/2000 — Bull.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 1035; COM(2000) 155; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.13; Supplement 1/2000 — Bull.

hensive, is designed to make an effective contribution to the implementation of political priorities, greater transparency and better communication with the public. The content of the work programme concentrates on the Commission's internal reform, the Intergovernmental Conference, the new economic and social agenda for Europe, the challenges of enlargement and multilateral trade, development, and a common foreign and security policy. The key objective of the new economic and social agenda will be to develop a long-term strategy to build a competitive, innovative and inclusive knowledge-based economy, which will be achieved through policies aimed at restoring full employment and supporting social cohesion. It will draw fully on the concept of sustainable economic development. Special attention will be paid to finding a European response to everyday problems affecting quality of life, in general, and the environment, energy, transport, health, consumer protection, education and training, in particular. Also, in order to make the concept of European citizenship more tangible, the Commission will focus its efforts to make the Union an area of freedom, security and justice on objectives such as combating crime, access to justice for all, and the protection of citizens' rights. The Commission also stresses that the core work of policy formulation is complemented by a wide range of other tasks, from managing and implementing Community programmes in the fields of structural funding, agriculture and training with the Member States, to providing humanitarian relief in Europe and around the world. Equally important, in its view, is continuing day-to-day activities: policing the implementation of existing rules and regulations; applying the competition rules, defending Community interests in the Court of Justice; and new forms of cooperation drawing on collaboration, benchmarking and stimulating the exchange of experience and best practice between national, regional and local administrations. To improve the management of its priorities, the Commission also created a strategic planning and programming function within its departments (→ *point 1207*).

1153. On 16 March, Parliament adopted a resolution on the Commission's legislative programme for 2000 ⁽¹⁾. The Council adopted a declaration on the programme on 25 May ⁽²⁾.

1154. The Commission held 45 meetings in the course of the year. It presented 594 proposals, recommendations or draft instruments for adoption by the Council or by Parliament and the Council together, 48 directives, 193 regulations and 252 decisions. It also presented 304 communications, memorandums and reports. Apart from the new initiatives, debates, programmes and plans of action and those continued from previous years under the 2000 work programme, these figures include proposals for routine management instruments (notably in agriculture, fisheries, customs and commercial policy) and proposals for the consolidation of existing instruments. The figures for legislative instru-

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.10.13.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.10.11.

ments adopted by the Commission are set out in Table 24 at the end of this section.

1155. The Commission's establishment plan for 2000 comprised 16 409 permanent posts (including 1 903 LA posts for the Language Service) and 678 temporary posts (including 13 LA posts) for administrative duties; 3 704 permanent posts for research duties; 522 permanent posts for the Publications Office; 194 permanent and 30 temporary posts at the Anti-Fraud Office; 45 permanent posts at the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training and 85 at the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions. Under the secondment and exchange arrangements between the Commission and the Member States' government departments, 28 Commission officials were seconded to national civil services and international organisations, and the number of national experts coming to work for Commission departments was equivalent to 34 person-years.

Court of Justice and Court of First Instance⁽¹⁾

1156. The representatives of the governments of the Member States appointed Ms Colneric⁽²⁾ judge at the Court of Justice on 22 June, Mr da Cunha Rodrigues, Mr Edward, Mr Jann, Mr La Pergola, Mr Puissochet, Mr Timmermans and Mr von Bahr⁽³⁾ judges on 26 July for the period from 7 October 2000 to 6 October 2006. Mr Geelhoed, Mr Leger, Mr Tizzano and Ms Stix-Hackl were appointed advocates-general at the Court of Justice for the same period.

1157. The composition of the Chambers of the Court of Justice for the 2000/01 court year is as follows:

- First Chamber: President: Mr Wathelet
Judges: Mr Jann and Mr Sevón
- Second Chamber: President: Mr Skouris
Judges: Mr Schintgen and Ms Colneric
- Third Chamber: President: Mr Gulmann
Judges: Mr Puissochet, Ms Macken and Mr da Cunha Rodrigues
- Fourth Chamber: President: Mr La Pergola
Judges: Mr Edward, Mr von Bahr and Mr Timmermans

⁽¹⁾ <http://curia.eu.int/en/index.htm>.

⁽²⁾ Decision 2000/429/EC, ECSC, Euratom (OJ L 164, 22.6.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.10.16).

⁽³⁾ Decision 2000/491/EC, ECSC, Euratom (OJ L 199, 5.8.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.10.12).

- Fifth Chamber: President: Mr La Pergola
Judges: Mr Wathelet, Mr Edward, Mr Jann, Mr Sevón, Mr von Bahr and Mr Timmermans
- Sixth Chamber: President: Mr Gulmann
Judges: Mr Skouris, Mr Puissochet, Mr Schintgen, Ms Macken, Ms Colneric and Mr da Cunha Rodrigues

1158. The composition of the Chambers of the Court of First Instance for the 2000/01 court year is as follows:

- First Chamber: President: Mr Vesterdorf
Judges: Mr Vilaras and Mr Forwood
- Second Chamber: President: Mr Meij
Judges: Mr Potocki and Mr Pirrung
- Third Chamber: President: Mr Azizi
Judges: Mr Lenaerts and Mr Jaeger
- Fourth Chamber: President: Mr Mengozzi
Judges: Ms Tiili and Mr Moura Ramos
- Fifth Chamber: President: Ms Lindh
Judges: Mr García-Valdecasas and Mr Cooke

1159. The Commission ⁽¹⁾, on 5 July, and Parliament ⁽²⁾, on 3 February, gave their opinions on two draft Council decisions, tabled by the Court of Justice, on an increase in the number of judges at the Court of First Instance and an extension of its powers.

1160. At 31 December, the establishment plan of the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance comprised 769 permanent posts and 241 temporary posts.

Court of Auditors ⁽³⁾

1161. In July, the Court adopted the observations which it felt ought to appear in its annual report on 1999; these were transmitted to the Commission and the other institutions concerned. The report was adopted by the Court in

⁽¹⁾ SEC(2000) 1048.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.2.

⁽³⁾ <http://www.eca.eu.int/>.

October and published in the Official Journal together with the replies of the other institutions⁽¹⁾. It covers operations under the general budget and the European Development Funds (EDFs). The part on the general budget is in eight chapters: the first seven relate to the main areas of revenue and expenditure (own resources, common agricultural policy, structural measures, internal policies, external aid, administrative expenditure, financial instruments and banking activities); the eighth chapter contains the statement of assurance as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions. The Court gives positive global assurance on the reliability of the accounts and on the legality and regularity of own resources, commitments and the institutions' staff expenditure. However, as in previous years, it is unable to give such an assurance for payments because of the number of errors detected. The Court also gave a positive statement of assurance as to operations of the sixth, seventh and eighth EDFs.

1162. The Court produced 22 special reports in 2000 concerning swine fever⁽²⁾, aid given by the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina with a view to restoring peace and the rule of law⁽³⁾, measures to assist the employment of young persons under the European Social Fund and European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (Guidance Section)⁽⁴⁾, rehabilitation measures for the ACP countries as an instrument to prepare for normal development aid⁽⁵⁾, the Court of Justice's expenditure on buildings⁽⁶⁾, the granting by the Community of interest subsidies on loans by the European Investment Bank to small and medium-sized enterprises, within the framework of its temporary lending facility⁽⁷⁾, the International Fund for Ireland and the special support programme for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland 1995–99⁽⁸⁾, Community measures for the disposal of butter⁽⁹⁾, trans-European networks⁽¹⁰⁾, the public contracts awarded by the Joint Research Centre⁽¹¹⁾, the support scheme for olive oil⁽¹²⁾, the management by the Commission of support for the development of human rights and democracy in third countries⁽¹³⁾, the expenditure of the European Parliament's political groups⁽¹⁴⁾, 'greening' the CAP⁽¹⁵⁾, the Cohesion Fund⁽¹⁶⁾, tendering procedures

(1) OJ C 342, 1.12.2000; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.10.19.

(2) Special Report No 1/2000 (OJ C 85, 23.3.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.19).

(3) Special Report No 2/2000 (OJ C 85, 23.3.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.20).

(4) Special Report No 3/2000 (OJ C 100, 7.4.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.21).

(5) Special Report No 4/2000 (OJ C 113, 19.4.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.22).

(6) Special Report No 5/2000 (OJ C 109, 14.4.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.23).

(7) Special Report No 6/2000 (OJ C 152, 31.5.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.24).

(8) Special Report No 7/2000 (OJ C 146, 25.5.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.25).

(9) Special Report No 8/2000 (OJ C 132, 12.5.2000; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.26).

(10) Special Report No 9/2000 (OJ C 166, 15.6.2000; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.10.17).

(11) Special Report No 10/2000 (OJ C 172, 21.6.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.10.11).

(12) Special Report No 11/2000 (OJ C 215, 27.7.2000; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.10.20).

(13) Special Report No 12/2000 (OJ C 230, 10.8.2000; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.10.21).

(14) Special Report No 13/2000 (OJ C 181, 28.6.2000; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.10.22).

(15) Special Report No 14/2000 (OJ C 353, 8.12.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.10.14).

(16) Special Report No 15/2000 (OJ C 279, 2.10.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.10.15).

for service contracts under the Phare and Tacis programmes⁽¹⁾, the Commission's control of the reliability and comparability of the Member States' GNP data⁽²⁾, the programme to supply agricultural products to the Russian Federation⁽³⁾, the management by the Commission of the programme of assistance to Palestinian society⁽⁴⁾, the management of the common market organisation for sugar⁽⁵⁾, the management of the Commission's external aid programmes⁽⁶⁾, and the evaluation of the new clearance of accounts procedure⁽⁷⁾.

1163. The Court also produced 14 specific annual reports in 2000 concerning the management of the European Monetary Institute in 1998⁽⁸⁾ and the 1999 accounts or financial statements of the ECSC⁽⁹⁾, JET⁽¹⁰⁾, the Euratom Supply Agency⁽¹¹⁾, the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products⁽¹²⁾, the Secretary-General of the Council and the CFSP High Representative⁽¹³⁾, the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market⁽¹⁴⁾, the European Environment Agency⁽¹⁵⁾, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work⁽¹⁶⁾, the European Training Foundation⁽¹⁷⁾, the Community Plant Variety Office⁽¹⁸⁾, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions⁽¹⁹⁾, a report on 1999⁽²⁰⁾, and the annual report on the ECSC⁽²¹⁾.

European Central Bank⁽²²⁾

1164. Information on the activities of the European Central Bank appears in Section 1 ('Economic and monetary policy') of Chapter III (→ *points 53 et seq.*).

⁽¹⁾ Special Report No 16/2000 (OJ C 350, 6.12.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.10.16).

⁽²⁾ Special Report No 17/2000 (OJ C 336, 27.11.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.10.18).

⁽³⁾ Special Report No 18/2000 (Bull. 10-2000, point 1.10.28).

⁽⁴⁾ Special Report No 19/2000 (Bull. 10-2000, point 1.10.29).

⁽⁵⁾ Special Report No 20/2000 (Bull. 10-2000, point 1.10.30).

⁽⁶⁾ Special Report No 21/2000 (Bull. 11-2000, point 1.10.26).

⁽⁷⁾ Special Report No 22/2000 (Bull. 11-2000, point 1.10.27).

⁽⁸⁾ OJ C 133, 12.5.2000; Bull. 4-2000, point 1.10.12.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ C 281, 4.10.2000; Bull. 6-2000, point 1.10.20.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.10.18.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.10.17.

⁽¹²⁾ OJ C 373, 27.12.2000; Bull. 5-2000, point 1.10.19.

⁽¹³⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.10.19.

⁽¹⁴⁾ OJ C 373, 27.12.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.10.12.

⁽¹⁵⁾ OJ C 373, 27.12.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.10.13.

⁽¹⁶⁾ OJ C 373, 27.12.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.10.14.

⁽¹⁷⁾ OJ C 373, 27.12.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.10.15.

⁽¹⁸⁾ OJ C 373, 27.12.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.10.16.

⁽¹⁹⁾ OJ C 373, 27.12.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.10.17.

⁽²⁰⁾ OJ C 373, 27.12.2000; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.10.13.

⁽²¹⁾ OJ C 347, 4.12.2000; Bull. 10-2000, point 1.10.20.

⁽²²⁾ <http://www.ecb.int/>.

Economic and Social Committee ⁽¹⁾

1165. The Economic and Social Committee (ESC) adopted 154 opinions and 5 information reports at its 9 plenary sessions in 2000. Of these opinions, 54 were on matters where consultation was mandatory and 56 where it was optional; 44 were own-initiative opinions. This year, for the first time, Parliament, or more precisely its Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, asked the Economic and Social Committee, under the terms of the Treaty of Amsterdam, to give an opinion on a working document on supplementary health insurance (→ *point 108*).

1166. The role, composition, and representativeness of the Committee, the way in which its members are appointed, and the nature of its consultative role were discussed by the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC). Following proposals put to the IGC by the Commission, the Committee gave its opinion setting out its hopes for change in anticipation of the enlargement of the Union (→ *point 6*). The draft Treaty of Nice (→ *point 1*) confirms the Committee's advisory role, defining it as a body consisting of representatives of the various economic and social components of organised civil society. It also lays down the breakdown of members per Member State in an enlarged Union and sets a ceiling of 350 for the total number of members in 2002.

1167. With an eye to the expiry of the ECSC Treaty in 2002, the Commission tabled proposals which would lead to the transfer of some of the powers of the ECSC Consultative Committee to the ESC and a corresponding adaptation of budget resources (→ *point 76*).

1168. In April, Ms de Palacio, Vice-President of the Commission responsible for relations with the ESC, sent the Committee an indicative list setting out a large number of topics on the Commission's work programme for 2000 on which the Committee was likely to be consulted. The purpose of this list of proposed legislation and non-legislative work was to bring to the ESC's notice the work with which it would in principle be involved.

1169. In the exercise of its advisory powers, the Committee delivered opinions on most of the requests made by the Council, the Commission or Parliament. The opinions, which are intended to reflect the views and the interests of the socioeconomic categories represented in it, are often the result of a consensus between the different positions defended by the three groups. Some of the most important opinions are those of the strategy for modernising social protection (→ *point 107*), labelling of beef and beef products (→ *point 671*), farm prices (2000–01) (→ *point 393*), the European research area (→ *point 283*), the

⁽¹⁾ http://www.ces.eu.int/en/acs/en_acs_default.htm.

White Paper on food safety (→ *point 660*), the White Paper on environmental liability (→ *point 561*), the Commission and non-governmental organisations, the Green Paper on greenhouse gas emissions (→ *point 572*), guidelines for audiovisual policy (→ *point 521*) and postal services (→ *point 164*).

1170. Using its right of initiative, the Committee delivered opinions intended to draw attention to subjects which, in its opinion, merited special attention at Union level. In most cases, the topics raised were not taken up in the Commission's annual work programme. These own-initiative opinions were concerned with employment (employment of migrant agricultural workers from non-EU countries) (→ *points 98 et seq.*), reform and social cohesion (→ *points 361 and 364*), the social economy and the single market (→ *points 268 and 278*), pluralism and media concentration (→ *point 521*), improving the effectiveness of Community aid (→ *point 843*), the role of rural women in the sustainable development (→ *points 849 and 860*), simplification of single market rules (→ *point 135*), combating tax evasion in the single market, less favoured island regions (→ *point 344*), the Union's role in pharmaceutical policy, the Charter of Fundamental Rights (→ *point 18*), new knowledge, new jobs (→ *point 102*), a pharmaceutical policy reflecting citizens' needs, simplifying rules in the single market (→ *point 138*) and older workers.

1171. With the same objective of identifying situations requiring Community action, the Committee drafted information reports dealing with the economic and social situation and the role of trade unions and staff organisations in Cyprus (→ *point 708*), the demographic situation in the European Union, household over-indebtedness in the EU, education, SMEs and the craft sector.

1172. At its October plenary session, the Committee appointed its new President, Mr Göke Frerichs of the employers' group, two vice-presidents, presidents of the sections and the other members of the Bureau for a period of two years.

1173. The Committee's plenary sessions were frequently enhanced by the presence of leading members of other EU institutions, such as Ms de Palacio, Vice-President of the Commission, who presented the Commission's Committee-related proposals to the IGC⁽¹⁾, Mr Seixas da Costa, Portuguese Secretary of State for European Affairs, who, on his first visit, set out the programme of the Portuguese Presidency⁽¹⁾, and, on a second visit, presented the Presidency's conclusions⁽²⁾, Mr Kinnock, Vice-President of the Commission, on the strategic objectives for 2000–05 and the White Paper on reforming the Commission⁽³⁾, Ms Fontaine, President of the European Parliament, on the future and prospects

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.28.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.10.24.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 3-2000, point 1.10.22.

for the European Union ⁽¹⁾, Mr Solbes Mira, Member of the Commission, on the final stage in the introduction of the euro ⁽²⁾.

1174. At 31 December, the Committee's establishment plan comprised 502 permanent posts and 17 temporary posts, of which 354 were in the services shared with the Committee of the Regions.

Committee of the Regions ⁽³⁾

1175. The Committee began the second half of its second four-year term by electing as its President, on 16 February ⁽⁴⁾, Mr Chabert, Minister for Public Works and Mobility for the Brussels Capital Region. On taking up his duties, Mr Chabert restated the Committee's priorities (employment, urban policy, European citizenship, environment, enlargement) and stated his intention of raising the Committee's political profile and stepping up cooperation with the Commission, the Parliament and the Council. At the same session, Mr Prodi presented the Commission's strategic objectives for 2000–05 and conveyed a message of cooperation with local and regional authorities, and the Committee of the Regions in particular, as part of a new European system of governance. The Committee responded positively to this appeal by delivering an own-initiative opinion intended as a contribution to the Commission's White Paper on new forms of governance (→ *point 10*). On institutional affairs, the Committee devoted much of its February plenary session ⁽⁵⁾ to discussions on the Intergovernmental Conference and on the European Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Committee repeated its demands concerning its own status in the context of institutional reform. Reform, and the role of the regions in European integration and the cohesion policy, were discussed with Mr Barnier, Member of the Commission, at the April part-session ⁽⁶⁾. Other members of the Commission also helped to make dialogue with the Committee a reality by taking part in plenary sessions. Thus, Mr Busquin presented his proposals for a European research area (April part-session) ⁽⁶⁾, Mr Fischler reported on the farm negotiations within the World Trade Organisation (June part-session) ⁽⁷⁾, Ms de Palacio set out the Commission's guidelines for transport and energy policy and described her vision of the role of the Committee and its relationship with the Commission (September part-session) ⁽⁸⁾ and Ms Reding outlined recent work in the fields of education, culture and sport (December part-session) ⁽⁹⁾. As in previous years, the Com-

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.10.19.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.10.22.

⁽³⁾ <http://www.cor.eu.int/>.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.31.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.32.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 4-2000, point 1.10.17.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.10.27.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.10.25.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 12-2000.

mission sent the Committee a list of items from its 2000 work programme on which it hoped the Committee would make a contribution, and kept it informed of the action taken on its opinions.

1176. The Committee continued its dialogue with the Council Presidencies, and received at its February part-session the Portuguese Secretary of State for European Affairs, Mr Seixas da Costa ⁽¹⁾, and in May his representative, Mr Silveira de Carvalho, who discussed with the Committee the Intergovernmental Conference, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the implications of the Lisbon European Council. The September plenary session ⁽²⁾, held in parallel with a part-session of the European Parliament in Brussels, led to a considerable increase in dialogue between the members of the two assemblies. It is planned to hold such sessions every year from now on.

1177. At its 5 plenary sessions in 2000, the Committee of the Regions adopted 8 resolutions and 72 opinions, 15 in cases where consultation was mandatory under the EC Treaty, 19 in cases where the Committee was consulted on the initiative of the Commission or the Council, 24 own-initiative opinions based on documents received from the Commission and 14 other own-initiative opinions. The Committee's opinions covered a large number of fields, such as structural policy (guidelines for the Community initiatives) (→ *point 361*), agricultural policy and the rural economy (directions towards sustainable agriculture, the round of WTO negotiations on agriculture, the common organisation of the market in rice) (→ *points 382 et seq.*), the environment (Green Paper on establishing a system of greenhouse gas emissions trading within the European Union) (→ *point 572*), transport (interoperability of the trans-European conventional rail system) (→ *points 632 and 633*), social policy (anti-discrimination package) (→ *point 111*). The Committee also gave opinions on subjects such as energy (promotion of energy generated from renewable sources, action plan to improve energy efficiency) (→ *points 597 and 599*), the information society (principles and guidelines for audiovisual policy in the digital age, universal service and the rights of users) (→ *points 325 et seq.*) and sport (Community support plan to combat doping) (→ *point 526*).

1178. The draft Treaty of Nice (→ *point 14*) consolidates the Committee's advisory role. It also stipulates that members of the Committee must hold an electoral mandate in a regional or local authority or be accountable to an elected assembly. The breakdown of members by Member State remains unchanged for the moment, but the draft Treaty limits the total number of Committee members in an enlarged Union to 350.

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.31.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 9-2000, point 1.10.25.

1179. This year, the essay competition organised by the Committee was on 'Europe of the next century: How can regions and cities contribute to enhancing democracy in the EU?'. The first prize was awarded to a candidate from the University of Milan.

1180. On 13 June, the Committee's Bureau appointed Mr Falcone to the post of Secretary-General for a five-year term with effect from 1 July. At 31 December, the Committee of the Regions establishment plan comprised 207 permanent posts (and 19 temporary posts), of which 111 were in the services shared with the Economic and Social Committee.

ECSC Consultative Committee⁽¹⁾

1181. At the opening meeting of its 2000–01 business year, the ECSC Consultative Committee elected Mr Reichel Chairman and Mr Pergo and Mr Mohr Vice-Chairmen⁽²⁾. The Committee held three ordinary sessions and one extraordinary session in 2000. After being formally consulted by the Commission, the Committee delivered opinions on administering certain restrictions on imports of certain steel products from Russia⁽³⁾, on draft decisions of the Association Councils between the European Union and Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovenia concerning the adoption of the necessary rules on State aid⁽⁴⁾, the draft Commission decision on the stabilisation and association agreement with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia⁽⁵⁾, the grant of financial support for steel research projects⁽³⁾, a plan to grant financial support for coal research projects⁽⁶⁾, the report on the Community solid fuels market in 1999 and 2000⁽⁶⁾. The Committee also adopted resolutions on the communication on the competitiveness of the steel industry in the European Union⁽³⁾, the implementation of the Council resolutions of 20 July 1998 and 21 June 1999⁽⁶⁾, the Coal and Steel Research Fund⁽⁷⁾, and a declaration on the organisation of the structured dialogue with the European Commission for the coal and steel industries after 2002⁽⁸⁾. It also had discussions with the Commission on the report on the application of the Steel Aid Code in 1999⁽³⁾, the report on the application, in 1998 and 1999, of the decision establishing Community rules for State aid to the coal industry⁽⁹⁾, the 13th and 14th reports on the monitoring of Article 95

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sga/ceca/index_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.10.32.

⁽³⁾ SEC(2000) 451.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.10.33.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.6.59.

⁽⁶⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.10.29.

⁽⁷⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.7.6.

⁽⁸⁾ Bull. 5-2000, point 1.10.28.

⁽⁹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.10.29.

ECSC steel aid cases ⁽¹⁾, the ECSC operating budget for 2001 ⁽¹⁾, the state of the steel market in 2000 ⁽¹⁾, the draft technical guidelines for technical coal and steel research in the European Union for the period 2002–07 ⁽¹⁾, the Green Paper on greenhouse gas emissions trading within the European Union ⁽¹⁾, the Commission communications on promoting sustainable development in the EU non-energy extractive industry ⁽¹⁾, the future of the structured dialogue after the expiry of the ECSC Treaty ⁽²⁾ and oil supplies in the European Union ⁽³⁾.

TABLE 24

Legislative instruments enacted, repealed or expiring in 2000 ⁽¹⁾

Enacting institution	Number of instruments	Regulations	Directives	Decisions	Recommendations
Parliament and Council	enacted in 2000	15	34	4	—
	repealed or expiring in 2000	1	—	—	—
Council alone	enacted in 2000	167	9	26	7
	repealed or expiring in 2000	200	43	29	—
Commission	enacted in 2000	606	38	557	12
	repealed or expiring in 2000	602	21	131	2

⁽¹⁾ Data received on 16 January 2001 from CELEX, the interinstitutional computerised documentation system on Community law (→ points 11.30 to 11.33), excluding instruments not published in the Official Journal and instruments listed in light type (routine management instruments valid for a limited period).

⁽¹⁾ Bull. 6-2000, point 1.10.29.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.7.6.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 11-2000, point 1.10.33.

Section 2

Administration and management

Staff policy and Staff Regulations

Changes to the Staff Regulations

1182. On 1 March, the Commission adopted a White Paper on its own reform, a number of aspects of which will require legislative changes to the Staff Regulations⁽¹⁾ (→ *point 1205*).

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

1183. Grade A 1 was, for the first time, included in the annual targets for the recruitment and appointment of women to category A which are set by the Commission in order to increase the number of women among its staff, the actual target in this specific case being two appointments. There was a slight increase in the overall percentage of women in categories A (from 19.4 % at the end of 1999 to 20.3 % at the end of 2000) and LA (from 56.2 % at the end of 1999 to 56.6 % at the end of 2000) as a whole. The number of women recruited, in 2000, at A 6, A 7 and A 8 level, was 75 (31.6 %). As for management posts, 3 women (20 %) were appointed to director-general posts, 7 (21.2 %) to director posts and 10 (14.3 %) to middle-management posts. Among LAs, 1 woman (16.7 %) was appointed head of unit.

1184. In order to prevent any discriminatory attitudes in the context of recruitment, the Commission drew up an anti-racism training module for members of competition selection boards. Moreover, in accordance with the code of conduct for the employment of people with disabilities⁽²⁾, standards of access to new Commission buildings were improved (with specially designed equipment and furniture) and a number of texts of relevance to staff were reproduced in Braille.

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/reform/index_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ 1998 General Report, point 1120.

Remuneration

1185. On 18 December, the Council decided, in accordance with the method adopted in 1991⁽¹⁾, to adjust remuneration⁽²⁾ with effect from 1 July for all places of employment (+ 2.1 % for Brussels and Luxembourg). On 13 September, the Commission also presented a communication on remuneration and pensions⁽³⁾ and a proposal for a regulation extending by two years the period of validity of the method and the temporary contribution.

Career development

1186. In September, concerned that the internal structure of its Directorate-General for Personnel and Administration should reflect the guidelines on strengthening careers policy for its officials, the Commission set up a unit responsible for career structure, staff assessment and promotion.

Recruitment

1187. At the beginning of the year, the Commission concluded the series of category A open competitions for university graduates in six specific fields and drew up reserve lists of administrators and assistant administrators comprising a total of 295 and 174 names respectively. On the basis of the White Paper on reforming the Commission, it also drew up proposals on improving its selection methods, giving consideration in particular to the setting-up of an interinstitutional recruitment office. For its part, Parliament adopted a resolution on the special report by the European Ombudsman on the secrecy which forms part of the Commission's recruitment procedures (→ *point 492*).

Integration of officials from the new Member States

1188. In 1995, the Commission set recruitment targets of 1 050 to 1 350 officials from the three new Member States. These targets (excluding the needs of the Language Service) were to be reached within five years (1995–99), the breakdown being as follows: 400 to 500 Austrians, 250 to 350 Finns and 400 to 500 Swedes⁽⁴⁾. Table 25 shows the stage reached in that recruitment, inclusive of language staff, as at 31 August. Regulation (EC) No 626/95 introducing special and temporary measures applicable to the recruitment of officials of the European Communities as a result of the accession of Austria, Finland and Swe-

⁽¹⁾ Twenty-fifth General Report, point 1198; Twenty-sixth General Report, point 1134.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EC, ECSC, Euratom) No 2804/2000 (OJ L 326, 22.12.2000).

⁽³⁾ COM(2000) 569.

⁽⁴⁾ 'Enlargement: objectives and practical arrangements at administrative level' (SEC(95) 230).

den⁽¹⁾ having expired on 31 December 1999, the period of validity of the reserve lists from the accession competitions was extended until 31 December 2001.

TABLE 25

Integration of officials from the new Member States: breakdown by grade

Grade	Officials recruited at 31 December 2000 Administrative budget, EUR-OP and OLAF ⁽¹⁾							
	Austrians		Finns		Swedes		Total	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
A 1	1	1	0	2	0	2	1	5
A 2	1	5	1	3	4	4	6	12
A 3 and A 4/5 ⁽²⁾	2	28	5	19	11	17	18	64
Other A 4/5	8	35	12	20	17	46	37	101
A 7/6 and A 8	33	63	45	51	52	62	130	176
B	55	49	72	57	65	37	192	143
C	96	16	96	4	117	6	309	26
D	5	5	2	7	1	6	8	18
Total	201	202	233	163	267	180	701	545
LA	14	4	98	29	75	39	187	72
C (Language Service)	0	0	29	1	22	1	51	2
Overall total	215	206	360	193	364	220	939	619

⁽¹⁾ Officials who are in active employment, on secondment, on leave on personal grounds, or who have left the service.

⁽²⁾ Middle management.

Joint sickness insurance scheme

1189. The joint sickness insurance scheme's financial results remain positive and, according to projections, financial equilibrium is guaranteed in the medium term. Also, a new insurance contract for accidents and occupational disease entered into force on 1 February for a maximum of five years.

Pensions

1190. In 2000, the Commission continued to discuss the future of the pension scheme in the context of the reform (→ *points 1203 et seq.*), focusing on actuarial balance, the changes to be made to the scheme, and the feasibility of a pension fund. The negotiations with Spain on the transfer of national pension rights to the Community scheme under the Staff Regulations have been completed and

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 66, 24.3.1995.

the arrangements concerned are being implemented. The negotiations with Sweden are continuing.

Buildings and infrastructure

1191. Within the framework of its communication of 16 December 1999 on buildings policy⁽¹⁾, the Commission continued to rationalise its leasing and purchase of buildings. Staff vacated seven buildings and moved into five new ones, making it possible to group departments together and increase the number of buildings owned by the Commission from 33.4 to 46 % of the total. Proposals on improving welfare infrastructure (day nurseries, sports centres) were also presented in the context of the reform (→ *points 1203 et seq.*).

Interinstitutional cooperation

1192. On 22 May the Council rejected the Commission proposal for an amendment to the 'Conditions of employment of other servants' which would have allowed parliamentary assistants to be regarded as auxiliary staff, and asked the Commission to examine other ways in which uniform conditions of employment could be applied to these members of staff of the European Parliament in accordance with the latter's wishes (Table II)⁽²⁾.

Information technology

1193. The major efforts made during previous years — in particular towards the end of 1999⁽³⁾ — to prepare for the transition to the year 2000 were successful. Apart from minor specific problems, which were quickly resolved, IT operations were not disrupted.

1194. A new third-generation electronic mail system was introduced at the Commission. The functions available should help users to manage the ever-increasing number of e-mails (eight million messages exchanged each month) more efficiently. Concomitantly with this, work proceeded on the installation of a uniform system for the electronic management of mail (Adonis)⁽⁴⁾, and on the deployment of information systems designed to facilitate document circulation (Grefte 2000, interdepartmental consultations), thus paving the way for greater use of workflow technologies.

⁽¹⁾ COM(1999) 713; 1999 General Report, point 1079.

⁽²⁾ 1999 General Report, point 1018.

⁽³⁾ 1999 General Report, point 1081.

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 1082.

1195. In the field of information systems, the year 2000 confirmed the predominance of web technologies for developing user interfaces. This trend is growing steadily and will, in due course, greatly simplify the gathering and dissemination of information by computer.

1196. Efforts also continued to be deployed to make available to all users a computer network featuring greater capacity and reliability. Several interinstitutional invitations to tender enabled the Commission and the other institutions to benefit from a more modern contractual framework, and this has had a significant impact on telecommunication costs by increasing competition between the various firms in the market. The expectations are that the effects of this development will continue to be felt over the next few years.

1197. The Commission's IT departments took part in the implementation of the reform (→ *points 1203 et seq.*), in particular with regard to: preparing measures collectively referred to as 'Towards the e-Commission' (whose objectives include simplifying procedures and reducing paper consumption); deploying and using the IRMS to implement activity-based management (ABM) of the Commission's budgetary and human resources; and developing the Europa server (→ *point 1224*). On 30 June, following on from the symposia organised in previous years⁽¹⁾, the Commission's Informatics Directorate held a symposium in Luxembourg entitled 'Best practices in e-administration', at which 150 participants discussed the development of electronic administration in the context of relations between members of the public, the authorities and businesses.

Translation

1198. In 2000, the Translation Service translated 1 252 400 pages, including some 2 800 pages out of and 2 400 pages into non-Community languages. Freelance translations (totalling 249 807 pages) accounted for nearly 20 % of the total. The Commission also issued a new invitation to tender with a view to expanding its network of external translators and the range of products which they offer. It also launched a cost-benefit analysis with a view to introducing an internal billing system which will enable demand to be controlled effectively.

1199. Technical assistance continued to be provided to the centres set up in the applicant countries for the purpose of translating the body of Community law. Initiatives were also undertaken to improve the quality of written and multilingual communication, one of the most striking being the 'Fight the fog' campaign on better drafting in English.

⁽¹⁾ 1999 General Report, point 1081.

1200. Interinstitutional work continued in a number of areas, in particular the setting-up of an interinstitutional terminology database and the activities of the committee on assessing the quality of external translations. In 2000, the Translation Centre for Bodies of the European Union had a staff of 130 (including 68 LA officials) and translated 262 350 pages.

Interpreting and conferences

1201. In 2000, the Joint Interpreting and Conference Service (JICS) provided 141 781 interpreter-days⁽¹⁾ at 11 395 meeting-days organised by the Commission and the other institutions and bodies of the European Union (with the exception of Parliament and the Court of Justice). To improve the overall quality of its services, the JICS continued the process of computerisation and took part in various projects involving new technologies. Internal and external training of interpreters continued in all its forms (language and subject training, study periods, grants for young people, training vouchers) with the aim of broadening language cover (EU languages and languages of applicant countries) and increasing interpreters' subject knowledge. The JICS also continued to work together with the universities which provide training for interpreters in the Member States and third countries (grants, teaching and technical assistance, terminological cooperation, development of the European Masters in conference interpreting, JICS–universities conference and financing the 'Universities' Internet site). As regards recruitment, 9 external LA 8 competitions and 11 external LA 7 competitions for conference interpreters were held and a further 2 (for LA 8) are under way.

1202. The JICS also continued to organise conferences involving cooperation among the various Commission departments concerned. The 96 conferences were attended by a total of 21 000 participants and some (51 %) were held at locations other than where the institutions are based. Alongside its role in managing Commission meeting rooms, the JICS continued to act as a consultant to various Commission departments on all aspects of the organisation of conferences, meetings and seminars covered by grants and contracts representing Community funding of EUR 60 million, on conference techniques and on the design of meeting rooms.

⁽¹⁾ Estimate.

Section 3

Reform of the Commission

Preparatory work

1203. On 18 January, as part of the administrative reform process which it had launched in September 1999⁽¹⁾, the Commission adopted a consultation document⁽²⁾ outlining the reform strategy, together with an action plan setting out the measures envisaged in each area and the timetable for their implementation.

1204. On the basis of the consultation document, extensive consultations were conducted at the various levels of the institution, with all staff having the opportunity to send in their individual contributions via an open discussion forum on the Commission's intranet site (Europa Plus) or by electronic mail addressed directly to Vice-President Kinnock. The staff representatives and the administration also engaged in consultations in accordance with specific procedures. After being thus ascertained, the views of the staff were presented to the Commission President and to the reform group of Commission members on 19 February. The results of the consultation process were set out during two seminars held by the directors-general and the Commission on 17 and 19 February respectively. The other institutions, which had also received copies of the consultative document, welcomed the Commission's approach, a point underlined in a Parliament resolution of 19 January⁽³⁾ and in the Council's conclusions of 14 February⁽⁴⁾.

Reform White Paper and action plan

1205. On 1 March, the consultation process culminated in the adoption by the Commission of a document entitled 'Reforming the Commission'⁽⁵⁾, Part I of which (the White Paper proper) contains the strategic guidelines, principles and priorities of the reform: developing a culture based on service; integrating

⁽¹⁾ Commission decision of 18 September 1999 setting up an administrative reform task force under the responsibility of Vice-President Kinnock; 1999 General Report, point 1093.

⁽²⁾ COM(2000) 10; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.9.

⁽³⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.11.

⁽⁴⁾ Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.10.10.

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2000) 200; Bull. 3-2000, point 1.10.12; http://europa.eu.int/comm/reform/index_en.htm.

policy programming, the planning of activities, and the allocation of human and financial resources; the management of human resources; and financial management, control and audit. Part II of the document comprises an action plan containing 98 specific measures for implementing the reform in accordance with those four priorities. The objective, content, department(s) responsible for planning and implementation, and estimated timetable are identified for each measure or group of measures, the aim being to carry out all the proposed measures by the second half of 2002, when an assessment of the reform is due to take place.

Implementation

1206. On 26 January, in order to encourage the development of a culture based on service, the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents⁽¹⁾ (→ *point 1105*). A framework agreement concluded on 5 July and governing relations between Parliament and the Commission likewise contains a number of provisions in this respect⁽²⁾ (→ *point 1101*). The Commission also adopted, on 13 September, an administrative code of conduct governing relations between its staff and the public⁽³⁾. On 29 November, it laid the foundations for a proposal to the other European Union institutions and bodies on the setting-up of an advisory group on standards in public life⁽⁴⁾.

1207. As regards setting priorities, allocating staff and using resources efficiently, the ABM (activity-based management) measures resulted, on 26 July, in the creation of an SPP (strategic planning and programming) function within the Commission's Secretariat-General⁽⁵⁾ and in the strengthening of the instruments and structures for assessment⁽⁶⁾. On 25 October, the Commission also adopted the first measures dealing with the implementation of the strategic planning and programming cycle⁽⁷⁾. On 6 December, following a policy debate, it identified six priority objectives for the first SPP cycle: the euro; enlargement; sustainable development; development cooperation; the Mediterranean; and a new European governance. With regard to new working methods, 24 May saw the adoption by the Commission of guidelines for job descriptions and task assignments⁽⁸⁾. This was followed, on 31 October, by the adoption of an interim

⁽¹⁾ COM(2000) 30; Bull. 1/2-2000, point 1.9.2.

⁽²⁾ Bull. 7/8-2000, points 1.9.1 and 1.9.2.

⁽³⁾ Annexed to Decision 2000/63/EC, ECSC, Euratom of 17 October 2000 (OJ L 267, 20.10.2000; Bull. 9-2000, point 1.10.9).

⁽⁴⁾ SEC(2000) 2071.

⁽⁵⁾ SEC(2000) 382.

⁽⁶⁾ SEC(2000) 1051 to 1051/3.

⁽⁷⁾ SEC(2000) 1744/5.

⁽⁸⁾ SEC(2000) 852 to 852/15.

action plan containing a series of measures aimed at simplifying administrative procedures generally⁽¹⁾. The first measure was taken on 29 November, on a simplification of the Commission's decision-making process⁽²⁾. As regards externalising the management of Community programmes, the Commission sought to define a consistent approach in a communication which was adopted on 13 December together with a framework regulation for a new type of implementing agency⁽³⁾. It also adopted, on 16 May, a communication on the reform of the management of external assistance⁽⁴⁾, the aim being to improve the quality and management of projects and programmes by adapting them to real needs, and thereby speed up implementation. Transferring responsibility for all aspects of implementation from the Common Service for External Relations to a single body should help to achieve these objectives. To this end, a decision to set up the *EuropAid Cooperation Office*⁽⁵⁾ was taken on 21 December.

1208. With regard to the third area of reform, in which measures relating to human resources require considerable preparatory work, a number of specific initiatives were implemented in the course of the year: the creation of a central career guidance function within the Directorate-General for Personnel and Administration; the setting-up of a one-stop shop⁽⁶⁾; and the Commission proposals on extending the period of validity of the present remuneration and pensions system until the completion of the reform process with regard to human resources (→ *point 1185*). Also, on 27 September, a group comprising representatives from the Commission, Parliament and the Council presented to their Secretariats-General a report on setting up an interinstitutional recruitment department. In October and November, the College of Commissioners adopted for guidance first drafts of measures on the working environment, equal opportunities, outside staff, raising concerns about serious wrongdoing, and discipline.

1209. Measures were also taken with regard to the audit, financial management and monitoring component of the reform, independently of the major recasting of the financial regulation (→ *points 1077 and 1078*). Thus, in the context of the improvement of internal monitoring, the existing systems of directorates-general were reviewed and innovations were made, with individual DGs progressively introducing their own internal audit capacity. On 31 October, two charters were likewise adopted governing the operation and tasks of the Internal Audit Service⁽⁷⁾ and the Audit Progress Committee⁽⁸⁾. On

(1) SEC(2000) 1757/6.

(2) SEC(2000) 2071.

(3) COM(2000) 788; Bull. 12-2000.

(4) Bull. 5-2000, point 1.6.56.

(5) Bull. 12-2000.

(6) SEC(2000) 1299.

(7) SEC(2000) 1801.

(8) SEC(2000) 1802.

13 December, the Commission also drew up a charter on the responsibilities of authorising officers, standards for internal monitoring, and general guidelines on financial circuits and the role of financial units⁽¹⁾. The central finance department set up on 1 May within the Directorate-General for the Budget provided a source of financial expertise for the other directorates-general to consult. Individual financial units have also been asked to move towards a role as providers of advice and assistance to operational managers. In a communication dated 19 July, the Commission set out a series of measures which it will implement in order to reduce the payment delays attributable to it⁽²⁾.

1210. In a communication dated 26 July, the Commission endorsed the conclusions of the peer group — chaired by Mr Prodi — the aim of which was to identify the human resources needed to achieve the strategic objectives the Commission had set for itself for its term of office⁽³⁾. The Commission accordingly devised a two-year strategy to close the gap between its key tasks and the human resources needed to carry them out. A shortfall of 1 254 posts was identified in six specific areas of activity. A series of measures should enable the Commission itself to meet about two thirds of the needs specified. They centre on the redeployment of officials (222 posts), on productivity gains (315 posts) and on the swapping of posts following the early retirement of officials (342 posts, set against 600 early retirements). Roughly one third of the posts, i.e. a net requirement of 375, will be the subject of an application to the budget authority in the form of a letter of amendment to the preliminary draft budgets for 2001 and 2002. On 12 July, the Commission published a communication on transitional measures to facilitate the implementation of the reform, in which it recommended allocating 230 posts for devising and implementing those measures, *inter alia* in the sphere of audit, financial management and control⁽⁴⁾.

1211. On 30 November, Parliament adopted a series of resolutions on various aspects of the reform proposed in the Commission White Paper⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ SEC(2000) 2203.

⁽²⁾ SEC(2000) 1094; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.10.7.

⁽³⁾ SEC(2000) 2000 to 2000/3; Bull. 7/8-2000, point 1.10.8.

⁽⁴⁾ SEC(2000) 1142.

⁽⁵⁾ Bull. 11-2000, points 1.10.19 to 1.10.23.

Chapter XI

Information and communication

Section 1

Information activities

Dialogue with citizens

1212. On 25 May, the Commission inaugurated the Europe Direct service⁽¹⁾ on the Europa server (→ *point 1224*), developed from a small-scale operation of the same name⁽²⁾. In each Member State, a freephone service is available to provide information and advice on Community policies and activities, or on specific matters such as the rights of European citizens and the opportunities for living, working and studying in other Member States.

1213. The drive to decentralise information was stepped up, with local information relays being opened in partnership with local and regional authorities in line with strategies agreed with the Member States. By the end of the year, there were 128 Info-Points Europe and 130 rural information centres. The Commission also continued its cooperation with the European Movement and the International Federation of Europe Houses.

1214. The Commission pressed on with the development of information activities targeting specific sections of civil society, especially universities and trade unions, non-governmental organisations, associations and federations of European interest, and journalists. The focus was mainly on issues such as employment, the euro, Agenda 2000, the Intergovernmental Conference, European citizenship, enlargement and fundamental social rights.

1215. In 2000, the Commission received 2 309 grant applications for exchanges between citizens of twinned towns. In all, 1 083 were accepted, invol-

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/europedirect/en/index_en.html.

⁽²⁾ 1998 General Report, point 1152; 1999 General Report, point 1097.

ving 2 647 towns and municipalities (hosts and invitees), 13 % (124 hosts and 222 invitees) of them situated in countries applying for accession. For conferences, meetings and training seminars, 226 applications were submitted and 105 were accepted, 17 (that is 16 %) of them coming from countries of central and eastern Europe.

1216. The Commission carried on with its policy of sounding out Europe's citizens, by means of opinion polls and analyses. Numerous surveys were conducted both quantitatively (e.g. Standard Eurobarometer, Eurobarometer — Applicant countries, Flash Eurobarometer) and qualitatively (biotechnology, nuclear energy, food safety, euro, financial services, CFSP, etc.).

1217. In the course of 2000, the Commission received 40 000 visitors and decided to set up, in Brussels, a new visiting centre equipped with conference rooms and exhibition areas. In addition, the teams of speakers making up 'Team Europe' and 'Groupeuro' (700 persons in all) gave 8 800 talks in the Member States.

Documentation centres and publications

1218. The central library of the Commission⁽¹⁾, which primarily serves the European documentation centres, began computerising its periodicals. With a view to establishing closer links and greater complementarity between the different sources of information, the SCAD Plus database⁽²⁾ was incorporated into the range of services offered.

Information on the European Union

1219. The Commission continued to carry out priority information measures under the Prince programme (information programme for Europe's citizens), including the campaign 'The euro — one currency for Europe'⁽³⁾, both in the Member States and in third countries, on the basis of guidelines laid down in the new communication on the information strategy for the euro (→ *point 48*). In 2000, the campaign revolved around three kinds of initiative: transnational partnerships with civil society and with transnational media; partnerships with Member States for conducting national communication plans on the euro; direct communication measures by the Commission, with continued development of the 'Euro' site on the Europa server⁽⁴⁾, production and distribution of appro-

⁽¹⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/eclas>.

⁽²⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/scadplus>.

⁽³⁾ 1998 General Report, point 1150; 1999 General Report, point 1096.

⁽⁴⁾ <http://europa.eu.int/euro/html/entry.html>.

priate material, running an exhibition stand on the euro for the general public at Expo 2000 in Hanover (→ *point 1222*), and euro displays mounted throughout the Commission's relays and networks. In this connection, special attention was paid to vulnerable groups and their specific information needs in preparing for the euro.

1220. The Commission published 10 brochures designed to inform the general public about the major topics currently affecting the European Union: enlargement, external relations, justice and home affairs, budget, research, employment, regional policy, individual mobility, food aid and innovation. New editions of maps showing the applicant countries were also made available in various media formats.

1221. Information on the Internet Europa server is given in Section 2 ('Press and communication activities') of this chapter (→ *point 1224*).

1222. As it has done at every world fair since 1958 (Brussels), the Community took part in the exhibition organised for the first time in Germany, at Hanover (Expo 2000). Billed as 'The European experience, from yesterday to tomorrow', the EU pavilion made use of the new technologies to emphasise the closeness of the Union's priorities with the themes of Expo 2000 (man, nature and technology), with particular emphasis on Community policies and initiatives in the fields of education, culture, the environment, research, transport and energy. The European institutions' closeness to the citizen was also highlighted in the 'Europe meets Europe' zone, where more than 120 conferences and cultural events were organised. Europe Day on 24 September 2000 was attended by President Prodi and several members of the Commission. During the five months of the exhibition, the European pavilion attracted a million or so visitors.

Section 2

Press and communication activities ⁽¹⁾

1223. Following the collective resignation of the previous Commission, which attracted intense media interest, the Commission's press and communication activities took on particular significance in 2000. The Press and Communication Service endeavoured to highlight the overall quality of the Commission's work. It underwent some modernisation itself: its capacity was stepped up; the duties of Spokesman and Head of Service were combined in a single post; and the methods employed to put across the Commission's message were improved, full use being made of the Internet, television and the Commission offices in the Member States, whose role has been appreciably stepped up, in particular with respect to the media, political circles and civil society.

1224. The Europa ⁽²⁾ server on the Internet, which is increasingly becoming a cornerstone of the communication system, continued to host information disseminated by all the EU institutions. It contains 1.5 million documents and more than 50 databases open to the public (free of charge in most cases), providing information which is classified by subject. In the course of the year 330 million documents were consulted or downloaded from this site, i.e. 60 % up on 1999. The main users were businesses, national government bodies, universities, non-governmental organisations and the media. Improvements were also made to the interactive services (electronic mailboxes, forums, etc.) available to the public at large.

⁽¹⁾ Further information about press and information activities can be found on the Europa server:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/press_communication/index_en.htm.

⁽²⁾ 1995 General Report, point 658; Internet: <http://europa.eu.int/>.

Section 3

Activities of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities ⁽¹⁾

1225. The Office continued its intensive work on electronic publishing (CD-ROM and Internet) and improving the range of products on offer in terms of both coverage and functions.

1226. An annual collection of the 'L' and 'C' series of the Official Journal on CD-ROM was added to the range of products, while the volume of paper versions of the Official Journal distributed fell substantially in favour of the alternative electronic products.

1227. Use of the Greffe 2000 application (electronic document register) ⁽²⁾ for transmitting Commission initiatives (→ *point 1194*) became more widespread, and the use of standard formats (Formex.V.3 and LegisWrite) enables substantial savings to be made. A processed electronic file therefore constitutes the central product, permitting publication in all formats and on all media.

1228. An invitation to tender had been issued with a view to extending the range of electronic-publishing services available to the institutions (satellite transmission, webwriting, etc.). The first contracts were concluded in the second half of 2000.

1229. The establishment of a 'single portal' giving access to all the legal information systems was the subject of a series of feasibility studies, and a prototype was developed, pending the introduction of a genuine integrated system (→ *point 1133*).

⁽¹⁾ Further information about the Office's activities can be found on the Europa server: <http://eur-op.eu.int/index.htm>.

⁽²⁾ 1998 General Report, point 1132; 1999 General Report, points 1082 and 1111.

Section 4

Historical archives

1230. The Commission released for consultation⁽¹⁾, under the 30-year rule⁽²⁾, the archives of the ECSC High Authority, the EEC Commission, the Euratom Commission and the Commission of the European Communities for 1969, thereby adding 2 300 files to the 37 000 already made available to the public since 1952 in the case of the ECSC, since 1958 in the case of the EEC and Euratom and since 1967 in the case of the EC.

1231. In the context of internal reform, the Commission began work on updating its decision simplifying and modernising document management⁽³⁾, along with the implementing rules and the special manual for correspondents. Following the conclusions of the second Forum on Machine-Readable Data, held in Brussels in October 1999⁽⁴⁾, and with a view to encouraging the transparency and public accessibility of electronic information, the Commission, in conjunction with the Member States and the other institutions, embarked on priority measures such as the development of a reference model for the management of electronic documents and archives in government bodies⁽⁵⁾ and a European modular training programme on the management of electronic documents and archives (E-TERM)⁽⁶⁾. It also published an experts' report on better public access to electronic information⁽⁷⁾, with a view to coordinating relations between government bodies and archive departments in the Member States and in the institutions as regards the modern management of electronic documents and archives. The Commission also continued to publish the six-monthly newsletter entitled *INSAR — Information Summary on Archives*⁽⁸⁾, continued the updating of the experts' report *Archives in the European Union*⁽⁴⁾, helped to

⁽¹⁾ The historical archives files are kept at the European University Institute in Florence.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 43, 15.2.1983; Seventeenth General Report, point 54.

⁽³⁾ Commission decision of 18 March 1986 (SEC(86) 388).

⁽⁴⁾ 1999 General Report, point 1115.

⁽⁵⁾ See also the reply to the forum's 'message' calling on the information and communication technology (ICT) industry to provide technical solutions; Internet: <http://www.dlmforum.eu.org>.

⁽⁶⁾ 1999 General Report, point 1115; Internet: <http://www.dlmforum.eu.org>.

⁽⁷⁾ Drawn up by the University of Essex and published in *INSAR — Information Summary on Archives*, Supplement V, 2000; available from the Publications Office and on the Internet (<http://www.dlmforum.eu.org>).

⁽⁸⁾ 1999 General Report, point 654.

organise a number of conferences ⁽¹⁾ and expanded its Archisplus ⁽²⁾ database by adding EEC and Euratom data to the ECSC data already available.

⁽¹⁾ International Congress on Archives on the theme 'Archives of the information society in the new millennium' (Seville, 21 to 26 September); 10th plenary session of the archivists of the ministries of foreign affairs of the Member States (Nantes, 9 and 10 October); conference on the management of electronic documents and archives, held by the Polish National Archives (Warsaw, 12 and 13 May).

⁽²⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/archisplus/htdocs/en/htm/home.htm.

News in brief

January

- 12 Commission adopts White Paper on food safety (→ *point 660*).
- 18 Commission adopts communication entitled 'Towards a European research area' (→ *point 283*).
- 24 Parliament and Council adopt decision establishing the second phase of the Socrates programme in the field of education (2000–06) (→ *point 494*).
- 26 Commission adopts a proposal for a regulation on the subject of visas for third-country nationals (→ *point 445*).

February

- 2 Commission adopts communication on the precautionary principle (→ *point 664*).
- 7 Commission adopts communication entitled 'Strategies for jobs in the information society' (→ *point 102*).
- 9 Commission adopts Green Paper on legal aid in civil matters (→ *point 460*) and a White Paper on environmental liability (→ *point 561*).
- 14 Opening of Intergovernmental Conference on institutional reform in Brussels (→ *point 3*).
Parliament and Council adopt decision establishing the Culture 2000 programme (2000–04) (→ *point 514*).
- 15 Ministerial intergovernmental conferences open enlargement negotiations with Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania and Bulgaria (→ *point 703*).
- 28 Parliament and Council adopt decision on a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (Altener II) (1998–2002) (→ *point 596*) and a multiannual programme on the promotion of energy efficiency (SAVE II) (1998–2002) (→ *point 599*).

March

- 1 Commission adopts White Paper on its reform (→ *point 1205*).
- 8 Commission adopts Green Paper on greenhouse gas emissions trading within the European Union (→ *point 572*) and a communication on EU policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (→ *point 573*).

- 9 Commission receives request from Greece for accession to third stage of economic and monetary union (→ *point 46*).
- 13 Council adopts regulation on the implementation of operations in the framework of the pre-accession strategy for Cyprus and Malta (→ *point 708*).
- 14 Commission adopts report on the measures to implement Article 299(2) of the EC Treaty relating to the outermost regions (→ *point 368*), a proposal concerning action against anti-personnel landmines (→ *point 859*) and a report on the implementation of the broad economic policy guidelines (→ *point 38*).
- 21 Commission adopts two communications, one on the safety of the seaborne oil trade (→ *point 645*) and the other on a scoreboard to review progress in creating an area of freedom, security and justice in the European Union (→ *point 442*).
- 23 and 24 Extraordinary European Council meeting in Lisbon. The Union sets itself a new strategic goal for the next decade: to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustained economic growth providing more and better jobs and greater social cohesion by means of an overall strategy paving the way for a knowledge-based economy and society, modernising the European social model and maintaining a healthy economic outlook (→ *point 1145*).
- 27 Council adopts action programme on organised crime entitled 'Prevention and control of organised crime: a European strategy for the beginning of the new millennium' (→ *point 471*).
- 29 Commission adopts proposal for a directive on general product safety (→ *point 691*).

April

- 3 and 4 Europe-Africa Summit in Cairo (→ *point 1031*).
- 10 Council adopts regulation regarding the implementation of measures to intensify the customs union with Turkey (→ *point 727*).
- 11 Commission adopts two communications, one on EU election assistance and observation (→ *point 30*) and the other on the organisation and management of the Internet (→ *point 321*) and a proposal for a regulation creating a rapid reaction facility (→ *point 753*).
- 13 Parliament and Council adopt Community action programme for youth (→ *point 506*).
- 17 Council adopts decision concluding the Euro-Mediterranean association agreement with Israel (→ *point 923*).
- 26 Commission adopts communication on enterprise policy in the knowledge-driven economy (→ *point 247*), a proposal for a multiannual programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship (→ *point 247*) and a communication on the European Community's development policy (→ *point 842*).

May

- 10 Commission adopts proposals for directives on coordination of public procurement procedures (→ *point 186*) and the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources (→ *point 597*), a proposal for a regulation providing assistance to countries of the western Balkans (→ *point 895*) and the preliminary draft budget for 2001 (→ *point 1054*).
- 16 Commission adopts communication on the health strategy of the European Community, together with a proposal for a programme of action in the field of public health (→ *point 676*).
- 24 Commission adopts proposal for directive on temporary protection for displaced persons (→ *point 451*).
- 29 Council adopts decision on the United Kingdom's participation in certain provisions of the Schengen *acquis* (→ *point 443*), a regulation on insolvency proceedings (→ *point 458*), a regulation on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters (→ *point 458*), a decision on combating child pornography on the Internet (→ *point 477*), an instrument establishing the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Member States of the European Union (→ *point 464*) and a framework decision aimed at increasing protection by penal sanctions against counterfeiting in connection with the introduction of the euro (→ *point 465*).
- 30 Commission adopts proposal for directive with regard to the further opening to competition of postal services (→ *point 164*).

June

- 7 Commission adopts communication concerning a Community framework strategy on gender equality (2001–05) (→ *point 129*), a proposal for a directive on implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards, in particular, sexual harassment (→ *point 130*), a communication on a strategy to improve the operation of the VAT system within the context of the internal market (→ *point 171*) and a proposal for a Council regulation on the common organisation of the market in rice (→ *point 403*).
- 13 Commission adopts communication on a financial reporting strategy (→ *point 174*) and proposals for directives on waste electrical and electronic equipment (→ *point 545*).
- 16 Commission proposes a Community action programme to encourage cooperation between Member States to combat social exclusion (→ *point 109*).
- 19 Council adopts decision enabling Greece to adopt the single currency with effect from 1 January 2001 (→ *point 46*) and the broad economic policy guidelines for the Member States and the Community for the year 2000 (→ *point 37*).

- 19 and 20 European Council meeting in Santa Maria da Feira. It approves Greece's accession to the euro, adopts a common strategy on the Mediterranean region, endorses an action plan for the northern dimension in external and cross-border policies of the European Union (2000–03) and backs the European Union's anti-drugs action plan (→ *point 1142*).
- 21 Commission adopt two communications, one entitled 'Towards a safer and more competitive high-quality road transport system in the Community' (→ *point 637*) and the other relating to protection of air passengers in the European Union (→ *point 651*).
- 22 Parliament and Council adopt directive concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time (→ *point 114*).
- 23 New partnership agreement (2000–20) between the ACP States and the European Community and its Member States is signed in Cotonou (→ *point 1023*).
- 28 First EU-India Summit in Lisbon (→ *point 982*).
Commission adopts communications on a new social policy agenda (→ *point 97*) and an overall strategic approach to protect the Communities' financial interests (→ *point 1082*).
- 29 Council adopts directive implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin (→ *point 111*).
Parliament and Council adopt directive combating late payment in commercial transactions (→ *point 259*) and a regulation on substances that deplete the ozone layer (→ *point 557*).
Commission adopts proposal for directive on public access to environmental information (→ *point 563*).

July

- 5 Framework agreement on relations between Parliament and the Commission signed (→ *point 1206*).
- 12 Commission adopts two additional contributions to the Intergovernmental Conference concerning regulations governing European political parties and reorganisation of the Treaties (→ *point 9*), and a package of proposals for legislation to reform the regulatory framework of telecommunications in Europe (→ *point 325*).
- 17 Parliament and Council adopt decision designating 2001 as the European Year of Languages (→ *point 508*).
- 20 Commission adopts a proposal for a decision on Community incentives in the field of employment (→ *point 101*).
- 21 to 23 Twenty-sixth Western Economic Summit held in Okinawa (Japan) (→ *point 956*).
- 25 Commission adopts regulation granting Moldova, for the first time, the benefit of the special incentive arrangements concerning labour rights (→ *point 850*).

- 26 Commission adopts proposals for Council regulations on protection of the euro against counterfeiting (→ *point 1084*), assistance to Turkey in the framework of the pre-accession strategy (→ *point 709*), public service requirements in passenger transport (→ *point 625*) and recasting the financial regulation (→ *point 1077*), a directive relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise (→ *point 556*), a communication on pricing policies for enhancing the sustainability of water resources (→ *point 548*) and a Green Paper on environmental issues relating to the use of PVC (→ *point 546*).

August

- 1 Commission adopts proposal for a regulation on the Community patent (→ *point 178*).

September

- 6 Commission adopts three communications relating to nuclear safety in the new independent States and the countries of central and eastern Europe (→ *point 618*), the Euro-Mediterranean process in Barcelona (→ *point 914*) and the expiry of the ECSC Treaty (→ *point 76*).
- 13 Commission adds code of good administrative practice to its rules of procedure (→ *point 1206*).
- 20 Commission adopts communications on services of general interest in Europe (→ *point 139*), innovation in a knowledge-based economy (→ *point 257*), environmental matters in economic policy (→ *point 45*) and accelerated action targeted at major communicable diseases within the context of poverty reduction (→ *point 858*), as well as a proposal for a regulation applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences to products originating in the least developed countries (→ *point 851*) and a proposal for a directive on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status (→ *point 449*).
- 26 Council adopts regulation on budgetary discipline (→ *point 1050*).
- 27 Commission adopts communications on Europe and space (→ *point 285*) and on structural indicators (→ *point 44*), as well as a proposal for a decision establishing a Community mechanism for the coordination of civil protection interventions in the event of emergencies (→ *point 567*), a proposal for a regulation on enforcement of the rules of competition applying to undertakings laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the EC Treaty (→ *point 188*) and a report on the Community strategy for safety at sea (→ *point 645*).
- 28 Council adopts decision creating a European Refugee Fund (→ *point 450*).
- 29 Commission adopts additional contribution to the Intergovernmental Conference entitled 'The criminal protection of the Community's financial interests: a European prosecutor' (→ *point 9*).
- Council adopts decision on the system of the Communities' own resources (→ *point 1052*).

October

- 2 Convention draws up draft Charter of Fundamental Rights for the European Union (→ *point 18*).
- 4 Commission adopts communications on draft amendment of Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union (respect for democratic values) (→ *point 9*) and the European Union's oil supplies (→ *point 603*), a proposal for a regulation on the common organisation of markets in the sugar sector (→ *point 396*) and guidelines for Union action in the research field (2002–06) (→ *point 284*).
- 9 Council amends the anti-dumping regulation (→ *point 821*) and adopts a common position concerning support to a democratic Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and an immediate lifting of certain restrictive measures (→ *point 904*).
- 11 Commission adopts a proposal for a directive on the coordination of provisions relating to institutions for occupational retirement provision (→ *point 160*) and a communication entitled 'Future evolution of social protection from a long-term point of view: safe and sustainable pensions' (→ *point 107*).

November

- 8 Commission adopts a proposal for a regulation laying down the general principles of food law and establishing the European Food Authority (→ *point 661*), a strategy document for enlargement, accompanied by 13 regular reports on the progress towards accession made by the applicant countries (→ *point 700*) and a proposal for a decision on the principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions contained in the accession partnership with Turkey (→ *point 709*).
- 15 Commission adopts a proposal for a decision concerning the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Community (→ *point 1043*).
- 15 and 16 Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Marseilles (→ *point 914*).
- 13 to 24 Sixth Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in The Hague (→ *point 574*).
- 17 Commission adopts a proposal for a directive simplifying, modernising and harmonising the conditions laid down for invoicing in respect of value added tax (→ *point 171*).
- 20 Council adopts a regulation extending exceptional trade measures for countries participating in or linked to the stabilisation and association process to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (→ *point 896*).
- Council adopts negotiating brief with a view to reaching a stabilisation and association agreement with Croatia (→ *point 901*).

- 23 and 24 European Union/Balkans Summit in Zagreb (→ *point 891*).
- 24 Initialling of the stabilisation and association agreement with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (→ *point 909*).
- 26 Council adopts a regulation on the financial and technical measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (MEDA II) (→ *point 928*).
- 29 Commission adopts a Green Paper on a European strategy for the security of energy supply (→ *point 585*).

December

- 4 Parliament and Council adopt directive on incineration of waste (→ *point 545*).
- 5 Council adopts regulation on aid to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and a regulation on the European Agency for Reconstruction (→ *point 895*).
- 6 Commission adopts proposals for legislation on the establishment of a Community monitoring, control and information system on maritime traffic, the establishment of a fund for compensation in respect of damage caused by hydrocarbons in European waters and the setting-up of a European Maritime Safety Agency (→ *point 645*).
- 7 to 11 European Council meets in Nice. It reaches agreement on the draft of a new treaty, the culmination of negotiations on the four topics dealt with by the Intergovernmental Conference: the size and composition of the Commission; the weighting of votes in the Council; replacing unanimity by qualified majority in decision-making procedures; and closer cooperation. It also formally confirms that the enlargement process is a political priority, decides to make a rapid reaction force operational as soon as possible and reaches agreement on the European company (→ *point 1148*).
- 7 In the margins of the Nice European Council, the Presidents of Parliament, the European Council and the Commission formally proclaim the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (→ *point 15*).
- 8 Council adopts a regulation on the setting-up of Eurodac, a system for comparing the fingerprints of asylum-seekers and certain other third-country nationals (→ *point 456*).
- 13 Commission adopts a proposal for a directive laying down quality and safety standards for the collection, monitoring, processing, storage and distribution of human blood and blood components (→ *point 678*).
- 14 President of Parliament declares the 2001 budget adopted (→ *point 1063*).
- 18 Parliament and Council adopt a regulation on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by Community institutions and agencies (→ *point 183*) and, in the telecommunications field, a regulation on unbundled access to the local loop (→ *point 325*).

- 20 Following the agreement reached by the European Council, Council agrees common positions on the proposal for a regulation on the statute of the European company and the proposal for a directive adding to the statute provisions on the role of workers (→ *point 177*). It also adopted a multiannual programme (2000–05) for enterprise and entrepreneurship (→ *point 261*). Parliament and Council adopt a decision establishing a Community framework for cooperation in the field of accidental or intentional maritime pollution (→ *point 566*).
- 22 Council adopts a regulation transforming into a Community instrument the 1968 Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and the Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters (→ *point 458*).

Institutions and other bodies

European Parliament

Secretariat
Centre européen, Plateau du Kirchberg
L-2929 Luxembourg
Tel. (352) 43 00-1

Council of the European Union

General Secretariat
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Brussels
Tel. (32-2) 285 61 11

European Commission

Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
Tel. (32-2) 29-91111

Court of Justice

Boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2925 Luxembourg
Tel. (352) 43 03-1

European Court of Auditors

12, rue Alcide De Gasperi
L-1615 Luxembourg
Tel. (352) 43 98-1

Economic and Social Committee

Rue Ravenstein 2
B-1000 Brussels
Tel. (32-2) 546 90 11

Committee of the Regions

Rue Belliard 79
B-1040 Brussels
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European Investment Bank

100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2950 Luxembourg
Tel. (352) 43 79-1

European Central Bank

Kaiserstraße 29
D-60311 Frankfurt am Main
Tel. (49-69) 13 440

ECSC Consultative Committee

Bâtiment Jean Monnet
Rue Alcide De Gasperi
L-2920 Luxembourg
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Publications cited in this Report

General Report on the Activities of the European Union

(abbr.: General Report), published annually by the Commission

Works published in conjunction with the General Report:

- *The Agricultural Situation in the European Union*
(abbr.: Agricultural Report), published annually
- *Report on Competition Policy*
(abbr.: Competition Report), published annually
- *Report on the application of Community law*, published annually

Bulletin of the European Union

(abbr.: Bull.), published monthly by the Commission

Supplement to the Bulletin of the European Union

(abbr.: Supplement — Bull.), published at irregular intervals by the Commission

1/2000 Strategic objectives 2000–05 — The Commission's work programme for 2000

2/2000 Adapting the institutions to make a success of enlargement

Official Journal of the European Communities

Legislation series (abbr.: OJ L)

Information and notices series (abbr.: OJ C)

Supplement on public works and supply contracts (abbr.: OJ S)

Reports of Cases before the Court

(abbr.: ECR), published by the Court of Justice in annual series, parts appearing at irregular intervals throughout the year

All the above publications are printed and distributed through the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, L-2985 Luxembourg.

Annexes

Table I — Legislation under the co-decision procedure

Table II — Legislation under the consultation procedure

Table III — International agreements procedure

Table I — Legislation under the co-decision procedure

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
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Human rights and fundamental freedoms

Actions within the Union

22	Dec.No 293/2000/EC: action relating to violence against children, young persons and women (Daphne programme)	OJ C 259/18.8.1998 COM(1998) 335 Bull. 5-1998/1.1.1	OJ C 407/28.12.1998 Bull. 9-1998/1.1.2 OJ C 169/16.6.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.2.4 OJ C 198/14.7.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.2.1 *	OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.2.4 (b) OJ C 175/21.6.1999	OJ C 89/30.3.1999 COM(1999) 82 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.2.3 OJ C 162/9.6.1999 COM(1999) 244 Bull. 5-1999/1.1.2	Bull. 5-1999/1.1.2 * OJ C 317/4.11.1999 Bull. 9-1999/1.1.2
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The Community economic and social area

Statistical system

Framework and guidelines

90	Reg. (EC) No 2516/2000 clarifying Reg. (EC) No 2223/96: principles for recording taxes and social contributions	COM(1999) 488 Bull. 10-1999/1.8.1	OJ C 75/15.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.17	Bull. 4-2000/1.3.4 (b)		OJ C 245/25.8.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.13
90	Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EC) No 2223/96: determination of Member States' payments to the VAT-based own resource	COM(2000) 583 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.6				
91	Reg. (EC) No 1624/2000 amending Reg. (EEC) No 3330/91: statistics on the trading of goods between Member States (product nomenclature, SLIM and Intrastat)	OJ C 245/12.8.1997 COM(1997) 275 Bull. 6-1997/1.7.1	OJ C 19/21.1.1998 Bull. 10-1997/1.6.3	OJ C 138/4.5.1998 Bull. 4-1998/1.6.2 (b)	OJ C 164/29.5.1998 COM(1998) 269 Bull. 4-1998/1.6.2	OJ C 87/24.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.19
91	Prop. for a dec.: actions relating to the trans-European network for the collection, production and dissemination of statistics on the trading of goods within the Community and between the Community and non-member countries (Edicom)	COM(2000) 458 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.6		Bull. 11-2000/1.4.54 (b)		
92	Dec. No 1445/2000/EC: aerial-survey and remote-sensing techniques for agricultural statistics (1999-2003)	OJ C 372/2.12.1998 COM(1998) 601 Bull. 11-1998/1.6.1		OJ C 104/14.4.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.7.3		OJ C 83/22.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.18
92	Dec. No 2298/2000/EC amending Dec. 96/411/EC: improving Community agricultural statistics	COM(1999) 332 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.7.2		OJ C 296/18.10.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.7.1 (b)		OJ C 240/23.8.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.12
92	Prop. for a dir.: statistical surveys to determine the production of certain species of fruit trees	COM(2000) 753 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.8				

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 439

EP second reading a, b, c, d ⁽¹⁾	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f ⁽¹⁾	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations
j C 189/7.7.2000 dl. 11-1999/1.2.1 (b)	COM(1999) 670 Bull. 12-1999/1.1.4			Bull. 12-1999/1.1.4	OJ L 34/9.2.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.2.3	22
dl. 10-2000/1.3.5 (a)					OJ L 290/17.11.2000 Bull. 11-2000	90 90
dl. 6-2000/1.3.12 (a)					OJ L 187/26.7.2000	Amended reg.: OJ L 316/16.11.1991 91 91
dl. 4-2000/1.3.3 (a)					OJ L 163/4.7.2000	92
dl. 9-2000/1.3.5 (a)					OJ L 263/18.10.2000 Bull. 9-2000	Amended dec.: OJ L 162/1.7.1996 92 92

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
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Employment and social policy

Employment

101	Prop. for a dec.: Community incentive measures in the field of employment	COM(2000) 459 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.10	Bull. 12-2000 *			
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Social protection and social security

106	Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EEC) No 1408/71: social security for migrant workers	COM(2000) 186 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.8	OJ C 367/20.12.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.15			
106	Prop. for a reg. on coordination of social security systems	OJ C 38/12.2.1999 COM(1998) 779 Bull. 12-1998/1.2.22	OJ C 75/15.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.24			

Measures to promote social integration

109	Prop. for a dec.: programme of Community action to combat social exclusion	COM(2000) 368 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.24	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.20 Bull. 12-2000 *	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.24 (b)	COM(2000) 796 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.24	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.24 *
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Labour law and industrial relations

114	Dir. 2000/34/EC amending Dir. 93/104/EC: organisation of working time	OJ C 43/17.2.1999 COM(1998) 662 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.19	OJ C 138/18.5.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.10	OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.14 (b) OJ C 279/1.10.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.11		Bull. 5-1999/1.2.11 * OJ C 249/1.9.1999 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.9
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Health and safety at work

119	Dir. 2000/54/EC: protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work	COM(1999) 432 Bull. 9-1999/1.2.11	OJ C 75/15.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.28	Bull. 6-2000/1.3.22 (a)		
119	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 89/655/EEC: safety and health of workers	COM(1998) 678 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.20	OJ C 138/18.5.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.14	Bull. 9-2000/1.3.18 (b)	COM(2000) 648 Bull. 10-2000/1.3.18	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.23 *

Equal opportunities

130	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 76/207/EEC: implementation of the principle of equal treatment as regards access to employment	COM(2000) 334 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.27				
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* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 441

EP second reading a, b, c, d ⁽¹⁾	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f ⁽¹⁾	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations	
							101
						Reg. to be amended: OJ L 149/5.7.1971	106 106
							109
J C 189/7.7.2000 dL 11-1999/1.3.18 (b)	COM(1999) 699 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.27	28.3.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.11 (c)	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.21	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.21	OJ L 195/1.8.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.21	Amended dir.: OJ L 307/13.12.1993	114
				Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.11	OJ L 262/17.10.2000	Dir. to be amended: OJ L 393/30.12.1989	119 119
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 39/14.2.1976	130

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
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Single market

Free movement of goods

142	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 93/7/EEC: return of cultural goods	COM(2000) 844 Bull. 12-2000			
145	Dir. 2000/36/EC: cocoa and chocolate	OJ C 231/9.8.1996 COM(95) 722 Bull. 4-1996/1.3.8	OJ C 56/24.2.1997 Bull. 10-1996/1.3.31	OJ C 339/10.11.1997 Bull. 10-1997/1.2.34 (b)	OJ C 118/17.4.1998 COM(97) 682 Bull. 1/2-1998/1.3.33
145	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 80/232/EEC: range of nominal weights for coffee extracts and chicory extracts	COM(2000) 568 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.20		Bull. 12-2000 (a)	
145	Prop. for a dir.: food additives other than colours and sweeteners	COM(1999) 329 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.16	OJ C 51/23.2.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.24	Bull. 4-2000/1.3.18 (b)	COM(2000) 451 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.14
146	Prop. for a dir.: clinical trials of medicinal products for human use	OJ C 306/8.10.1997 COM(97) 369 Bull. 9-1997/1.2.15	OJ C 95/30.3.1998 Bull. 1/2-1998/1.3.38	OJ C 379/7.12.1998 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.29 (b)	OJ C 161/8.6.1999 COM(1999) 193 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.23
146	Draft dir. amending Dir. 76/768/EEC: approximation of the laws relating to cosmetic products	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 189 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.15	OJ C 367/20.12.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.21		
146	Dir. 2000/70/EC: <i>in vitro</i> diagnostic medical devices	OJ C 172/7.7.1995 COM(95) 130 Bull. 4-1995/1.3.10	OJ C 18/22.1.1996 Bull. 10-1995/1.3.29	OJ C 96/1.4.1996 Bull. 3-1996/1.3.10 (b)	OJ C 87/18.3.1997 COM(96) 643 Bull. 12-1996/1.3.33
147	Dir. 1999/103/EC amending Dir. 80/181/EEC: approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement	OJ C 89/30.3.1999 COM(1999) 40 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.37	OJ C 169/16.6.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.22	OJ C 296/18.10.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.21 (a)	
147	Prop. for a dir.: measuring instruments	COM(2000) 566 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.22			
148	Report on liberalisation of the energy markets	COM(1998) 212 Bull. 4-1998/1.2.82			
148	Dir. 2000/25/EC amending Dir. 74/150/EEC: gaseous pollution from the engines of agricultural or forestry tractors	OJ C 303/2.10.1998 COM(1998) 472 Bull. 9-1998/1.2.124	OJ C 101/12.4.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.224	OJ C 279/1.10.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.120 (b)	COM(1999) 386 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.130
148	Dir. 2000/40/EC: front underrun protection of motor vehicles and amendment of Dir. 70/156/EEC	OJ C 89/30.3.1999 COM(1999) 32 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.42	OJ C 209/22.7.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.22	OJ C 154/5.6.2000 Bull. 10-1999/1.3.25 (a)	OJ C 178/27.6.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.30
148	Dir. 2000/4/EC amending Dir. 74/60/EEC: interior fittings of motor vehicles	OJ C 149/15.5.1998 COM(1998) 159 Bull. 4-1998/1.2.23	OJ C 407/28.12.1998 Bull. 9-1998/1.2.16	OJ C 150/28.5.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.41 (a)	OJ C 346/2.12.1999 Bull. 10-1999/1.3.26
148	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 92/23/EEC on tyres for motor vehicles and trailers	OJ C 302/8.1.1998 COM(97) 680 Bull. 12-1997/1.2.36	OJ C 235/27.7.1998 Bull. 5-1998/1.2.33	OJ C 80/16.3.1998 Bull. 1/2-1998/1.3.27 (a)	OJ C 195/11.7.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.17
148	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 97/24/EC: components and characteristics of two or three wheel motor vehicles	COM(2000) 314 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.32			
148	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 70/220/EEC: measures to be taken against air pollution caused by motor vehicle emissions	COM(2000) 487			

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 443

EP second reading a, b, c, d (1)	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f (1)	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations	
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 74/27.3.1993	142
OJ C 377/29.12.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.33 (b)	COM(2000) 286 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.30			Bull. 5-2000/1.3.30	OJ L 197/3.8.2000		145
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 51/25.2.1980	145
Bull. 12-2000 (b)						Dir. to be amended : OJ L 61/18.3.1995	145
Bull. 12-2000 (b)				Bull. 12-2000 *			146
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 262/27.9.1976	146
OJ C 210/6.7.1998 Bull. 6-1998/1.3.25 (b) Bull. 10-2000/1.3.29 (a)	COM(1998) 548 Bull. 10-1998/1.2.22			Bull. 10-1998/1.2.22 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.21	OJ L 331/7.12.1998 Bull. 10-1998/1.2.22 OJ L 313/13.12.2000 Bull. 11-2000 OJ L 34/9.2.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.32		146
						Amended dir.: OJ L 39/15.2.1980	147
							147
							148
Bull. 4-2000/1.4.18 (a)					OJ L 173/10.7.2000	Amended dir.: OJ L 24/28.3.1974	148
Bull. 5-2000/1.3.29 (a)					OJ L 203/10.8.2000	Amended dir.: OJ L 42/23.2.1970	148
OJ C 309/27.10.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.33 (a)					OJ L 87/8.4.2000	Amended dir.: OJ L 38/11.2.1974	148
Bull. 9-2000/1.3.23 (b)	COM(2000) 744 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.32					Dir. to be amended: OJ L 129/14.5.1992	148
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 226/ 18.8.1997	148
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 76/6.4.1970	148

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
148 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 70/220/EEC: air pollution by motor vehicle emissions	COM(2000) 42 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.38	OJ C 204/18.7.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.33	Bull. 5-2000/1.4.33 (a)		OJ C 329/20.11.2000 Bull. 10-2000/1.3.28
148 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 94/25/CE: recreational craft	COM(2000) 639 Bull. 10-2000/1.4.16				
148 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 73/548/EEC: heating systems for the passenger compartment of motor vehicles	OJ C 326/24.10.1998 COM(1998) 526 Bull. 9-1998/1.2.18	OJ C 101/12.4.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.38	OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.20 (b)	COM(1999) 370 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.14	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.31
150 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 76/769/EEC: substances classified as carcinogens, mutagens or substances toxic to reproduction — CMR	COM(1999) 746 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.36	OJ C 140/18.5.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.35	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.34 (a)		
150 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 76/769/EEC: restrictions on the use of certain dangerous substances (chlorinated paraffins)	COM(2000) 260 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.32	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.33			

Free movement of persons

154 Prop. for a dir. amending Dirs 89/48/EEC and 92/51/EEC: recognition of qualifications	OJ C 28/26.1.1998 COM(97) 638 Bull. 12-1997/1.2.41	OJ C 235/27.7.1998 Bull. 5-1998/1.2.40	OJ C 226/20.7.1998 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.25 (b)		Bull. 12-1999/1.2.26 * OJ C 119/27.4.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.36
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Freedom to provide services

157 Dir. 2000/12/EC: taking-up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions	COM(97) 706 Bull. 12-1997/1.2.42	OJ C 157/25.5.1998 Bull. 3-1998/1.2.38	OJ C 304/24.10.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.44 (a)	COM(1999) 109 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.21	
157 Dir. 2000/46/EC: electronic money institutions	OJ C 317/15.10.1998 COM(1998) 461 Bull. 9-1998/1.2.23 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.26	OJ C 101/12.4.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.37	OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.28 (b)		OJ C 26/28.1.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.26
157 Dir. 2000/28/EC amending Dir. 77/780/EEC: taking up the business of credit institutions	OJ C 317/15.10.1998 COM(1998) 461 Bull. 9-1998/1.2.23	OJ C 101/12.4.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.37	OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.28 (b)		OJ C 26/28.1.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.26
157 Prop. for a dir. amending Dirs 85/611/EEC, 92/49/EEC, 92/96/EEC and 93/22/EEC: exchange of information with third countries	COM(1999) 748 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.43	OJ C 168/16.6.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.22	Bull. 6-2000/1.3.38 (a)		
158 Dir. 2000/26/EC amending Dirs 73/239/EEC and 92/49/EEC: motor vehicle insurance	OJ C 343/13.11.1997 COM(97) 510 Bull. 10-1997/1.2.42	OJ C 157/25.5.1998 Bull. 3-1998/1.2.41	OJ C 292/21.9.1998 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.29 (b)	OJ C 171/18.6.1999 COM(1999) 147 Bull. 3-1999/1.5.24	Bull. 12-1998/1.2.39 * OJ C 232/13.8.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.38
158 Prop. for a dir.: life insurance (recast version)	COM(2000) 398 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.36				

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 445

EP second reading a, b, c, d (1)	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f (1)	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations	
Bull. 12-2000 (a)						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 76/6.4.1970	148
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 164/30.6.1994	148
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 168/26.6.1978	148
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 262/27.9.1976	150
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 262/27.9.1976	150
Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.16 (b)	COM(2000) 527					Dir. to be amended: 89/48/EEC (OJ L 19/24.1.1990) and 92/51/EEC (OJ L 209/24.7.1992)	154
Bull. 4-2000/1.3.19 (b)	COM(2000) 333 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.41			Bull. 3-2000/1.3.37	OJ L 126/26.5.2000		157
				Bull. 6-2000/1.3.35	OJ L 275/27.10.2000		157
Bull. 4-2000/1.3.19 (a)					OJ L 275/27.10.2000	Amended dir.: OJ L 322/17.12.1977	157
				Bull. 6-2000	OJ L 290/17.11.2000	Dir. to be amended: 85/611/EEC (OJ L 375/31.12.1985) 92/49/EEC (OJ L 228/11.8.1992) 92/96/EEC (OJ L 360/9.12.1992) and 93/22/EEC (OJ L 141/11.6.1993)	157
J/C 296/18.10.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.30 (b)	COM(2000) 94	Bull. 3-2000/1.3.38 (e)	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.38	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.38	OJ L 181/20.7.2000	Amended Dir. 73/239/EEC (OJ L 228/16.8.1973) and 92/49/EEC (OJ L 228/11.8.1992)	158
							158

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
158 Prop. for a dir.: insurance mediation	COM(2000) 511 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.26				
158 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 79/267/EEC: solvency margin requirements for life insurance undertakings	COM(2000) 617 Bull. 10-2000/1.3.34				
158 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 73/239/EEC: solvency margin requirements for non-life insurance undertakings	COM(2000) 634 Bull. 10-2000/1.3.34				
158 Prop. for a dir. on financial, legal and administrative provisions for the winding-up of direct insurance undertakings	OJ C 71/19.3.1987 COM(86) 768	OJ C 319/30.11.1987	OJ C 96/17.4.1989 (b)	OJ C 253/6.10.1989 COM(89) 394	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.40 * OJ C 344/1.12.2000 Bull. 10-2000/1.3.32
160 Prop. for a dir.: activities of institutions for occupational retirement provision	COM(2000) 507				
161 Prop. for a dir. on the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing and on information to be published on those securities (codified version)	COM(2000) 126 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.18	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.40			
162 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 85/611/EEC: undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities	OJ C 280/9.9.1998 COM(1998) 449 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.27	OJ C 116/28.4.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.55	OJ C 339/29.11.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.48 (b)	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 329 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.36	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.33 *
162 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 85/611/EEC: management companies and simplified prospectuses	OJ C 272/1.9.1998 COM(1998) 451 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.27	Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.56	OJ C 339/29.11.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.48 (b)	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 331 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.36	
163 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 91/303/EEC: prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering	OJ C 177/27.6.2000 COM(1999) 352 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.20	OJ C 75/15.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.45	Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.17 (b)		Bull. 9-2000/1.3.25 * Bull. 11-2000/1.3.41
164 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 97/67/EC: opening to competition of Community postal services	COM(2000) 319 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.45	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.44 Bull. 12-2000 *	Bull. 12-2000 (b)		
165 Dir. 2000/31/EC: legal aspects of electronic commerce	OJ C 30/5.2.1999 COM(1998) 586 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.24	OJ C 169/16.6.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.19	OJ C 279/1.10.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.37 (b)	COM(1999) 427 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.23	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.29 * OJ C 128/8.5.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.52
165 Prop. for a dir.: extending the freedom to provide cross-border services to third-country nationals	OJ C 67/10.3.1999 COM(1999) 3 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.54	OJ C 209/22.7.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.30	OJ C 309/27.10.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.50	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 271 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.43	

Taxation

171 Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EEC) No 218/92: administrative cooperation in the field of indirect taxation	COM(2000) 349 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.40		Bull. 12-2000 (b)		
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Company law

175 Prop. for a 13th dir.: takeover bids	OJ C 162/6.6.1996 COM(95) 655 Bull. 1/2-1996/1.3.30	OJ C 295/7.10.1996 Bull. 7/8-1996/1.3.25	OJ C 222/21.7.1997 Bull. 6-1997/1.3.61 (b)	OJ C 378/13.12.1997 COM(97) 565 Bull. 11-1997/1.3.44	Bull. 6-2000/1.3.43
175 Prop. for a dir. amending Dirs 78/660/EEC and 83/349/EEC: annual and consolidated accounts of certain types of companies	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 80 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.55	OJ C 268/19.9.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.23			

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 447

EP second reading a, b, c, d ⁽¹⁾	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee c, f ⁽¹⁾	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations
						158
						158
						158
						158
						160
						161
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 375/31.12.1985 162
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 375/31.12.1985 162
						Dir. to be amended : OJ L 166/28.6.1991 163
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 15/21.1.1998 164
all. 5-2000/1.3.42 (a)				Bull. 5-2000/1.3.42	OJ L 178/17.7.2000	165
						165
						Reg. to be amended: OJ L 24/1.2.1992 171
all. 12-2000 (b)						175
						Dir. to be amended: 78/660/EEC (OJ L 222/14.8.1978) and 83/349/EEC (OJ L 193/18.7.1983) 175

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
177 Prop. for a reg. on the statute for a European company and prop. for a dir. complementing the statute for a European company with regard to the involvement of employees in the European company	OJ C 263/16.10.1989 COM(89) 268	Bull. 3-1990/1.1.100 OJ C 124/21.5.1990	Bull. 1/2-1990/1.2.69	OJ C 176/8.7.1991 COM(91) 174 Bull. 5-1991/1.2.46	

Intellectual and industrial property

181 Prop. for a dir.: resale right for the benefit of the author of an original work of art	OJ C 178/21.6.1996 COM(96) 97 Bull. 3-1996/1.3.19	OJ C 75/10.3.1997 Bull. 12-1996/1.3.45	OJ C 132/28.4.1997 Bull. 4-1997/1.3.49 (b)	OJ C 125/23.4.1998 COM(1998) 78 Bull. 3-1998/1.2.43	OJ C 300/20.10.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.44
181 Prop. for a dir.: harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society	OJ C 108/7.4.1998 COM(97) 628 Bull. 12-1997/1.2.47	OJ C 407/28.12.1998 Bull. 9-1998/1.2.34	OJ C 150/28.5.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.69 (b)	OJ C 180/25.6.1999 COM(1999) 250 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.47	OJ C 344/1.12.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.28

Data protection

183 Reg. (EC) No 45/2001: protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data	COM(1999) 337 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.25	OJ C 51/23.2.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.34	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.51 (b)		
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Public procurement

186 Prop. for a dir.: coordination of procedures for the award of public supply contracts, public service contracts and public works contracts	COM(2000) 275 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.50	Bull. 12-2000 *			
186 Prop. for a dir.: coordination of procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy and transport sectors	COM(2000) 276 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.50	Bull. 12-2000 *			

Enterprise

Action in favour of SMEs, craft industries and the social economy

259 Dir. 2000/35/EC: combating late payment	OJ C 168/3.6.1998 COM(1998) 126 Bull. 3-1998/1.2.78	OJ C 407/28.12.1998 Bull. 9-1998/1.2.60	OJ C 313/12.10.1998 Bull. 9-1998/1.9.1 (b)	OJ C 374/3.12.1998 COM(1998) 615 Bull. 10-1998/1.2.64	Bull. 4-1999/1.3.81 * OJ C 284/6.10.1999 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.87
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Information society

Information society

320 Prop. for a reg.: implementation of the Internet top level domain .eu	COM(2000) 827 Bull. 12-2000				
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* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 449

EP second reading a, b, c, d ⁽¹⁾	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f ⁽¹⁾	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations
				Bull. 12-2000 *		177
Bull. 12-2000 (b)						181
						181
				Bull. 11-2000/1.3.51	OJ L 8/12.1.2001 Bull. 12-2000	183
						186
						186
JC 296/18.10.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.71 (b)	COM(2000) 133 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.86	12.4.2000	Bull. 6-2000/1.3.82	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.84	OJ L 200/8.8.2000	259
						320

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
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Electronic communications

325	Prop. for a dir.: common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services	COM(2000) 393 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.94			
325	Prop. for a dir.: access to, and interconnection of, electronic communications networks and associated facilities	COM(2000) 384 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.90			
325	Prop. for a dir. replacing Dir. 97/66/EC: processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector	COM(2000) 385 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.91			
325	Prop. for a dir. replacing Dir. 97/13/EC: authorisation of electronic communications networks and services	COM(2000) 386 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.92			
325	Prop. for a dir.: universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services	COM(2000) 392 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.93	Bull. 12-2000 *		
325	Prop. for a dec.: regulatory framework for radio spectrum policy in the EC	COM(2000) 407 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.96			
325	Reg. (EC) No 2887/2000: unbundled access to the local loop	COM(2000) 394 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.95	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.73	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.73 (b)	COM(2000) 761 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.85
330	Dec. extending Dec. No 710/97/EC on satellite personal communications services in the EC	COM(1999) 745 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.117	OJ C 140/18.5.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.93	OJ C 346/4.12.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.93 (a)	

Economic and social cohesion

General outline

345	Prop. for a dec.: Community framework for cooperation to promote sustainable urban development	COM(1999) 557 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.69	OJ C 204/18.7.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.98 OJ C 317/6.11.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.90 *	Bull. 12-2000 (b)	
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Trans-European networks

Transport

377	Prop. for a dec. amending Dec. No 1692/96/EC: seaports, inland ports and intermodal terminals	OJ C 120/18.4.1998 COM(97) 681 Bull. 12-1997/1.2.132	OJ C 214/10.7.1998 Bull. 4-1998/1.2.77 OJ C 373/2.12.1998 Bull. 9-1998/1.2.84 *	OJ C 175/21.6.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.81 (b)	COM(1999) 277 Bull. 6-1999/1.2.71	Bull. 6-1999/1.2.71 * OJ C 228/9.8.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.106
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* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 451

EP second reading a, b, c, d ⁽¹⁾	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f ⁽¹⁾	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations
						325
						325
						325 Dir. to be replaced: OJ L 24/30.1.1998
						325 Dir. to be replaced: OJ L 117/ 7.5.1997
						325
						325
				Bull. 12-2000	OJ L 336/30.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000	325
				Bull. 5-2000/1.3.93	OJ L 139/10.6.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.93	330 Extended dec.: OJ L105/23.4.1997
				Bull. 12-2000 *		345
dl. 10-2000/1.3.102 (b)	COM(2000) 768 Bull. 12-2000					377 Dec. to be amended: OJ L 228/9.9.1996

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
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Citizenship and quality of life

Education and culture

Education, training and youth

494	Dec. No 253/2000/EC: second phase of theocrates programme	OJ C 314/13.10.1998 COM(1998) 329 Bull. 5-1998/1.2.97	OJ C 410/30.12.1998 Bull. 10-1998/1.2.76 OJ C 51/22.2.1999 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.80 *	OJ C 359/23.11.1998 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.80 (b)	OJ C 34/9.2.1999 COM(1998) 719 Bull. 12-1998/1.2.118	Bull. 12-1998/1.2.118 * OJ C 49/22.2.1999 Bull. 12-1998/1.2.118
495	Prop. for a recomm. on mobility within the Community for students, persons undergoing training, young volunteers, teachers and trainers	COM(1999) 708 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.14	OJ C 168/16.6.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.4 OJ C 317/6.11.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.15 *	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.10 (b)	COM(2000) 723 Bull. 11-2000/1.4.19	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.19 *
497	Prop. for a recomm. on quality evaluation in school education	COM(1999) 709 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.18	OJ C 168/16.6.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.5 OJ C 317/6.11.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.16 *	Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.20 (b)	COM(2000) 523 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.20	OJ C 375/28.12.2000 Bull. 11-2000/1.4.21
506	Dec. No 1031/2000/EC: action programme for youth	OJ C 311/10.10.1998 COM(1998) 331 Bull. 5-1998/1.2.97	OJ C 410/30.12.1998 Bull. 10-1998/1.2.78 OJ C 51/22.2.1999 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.81 *	OJ C 359/23.11.1998 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.81 (b)	OJ C 28/3.2.1999 COM(1998) 695 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.81	Bull. 5-1999/1.2.83 * OJ C 210/22.7.1999 Bull. 6-1999/1.2.62
508	Dec. No 1934/2000/EC: 2001 — European Year of Languages	COM(1999) 485 Bull. 10-1999/1.3.53	OJ C 51/23.2.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.82 OJ C 156/6.6.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.20 *	Bull. 4-2000/1.4.6 (b)	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 321 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.17	

Culture, audiovisual policy and sport

514	Dec. No 508/2000/EC: cultural cooperation (Culture 2000)	OJ C 211/7.7.1998 COM(1998) 266 Bull. 5-1998/1.2.200	OJ C 51/22.2.1999 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.165 *	OJ C 359/23.11.1998 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.165 (b)	COM(1998) 673 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.165	Bull. 11-1998/1.2.165 * OJ C 232/24.7.1998 Bull. 6-1999/1.2.157
520	Prop. for a dec.: MEDIA-Training (2001-05) — training programme for professionals in the European audiovisual programme industry	COM(1999) 658 COM(2000) 579 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.94	OJ C 168/16.6.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.9 OJ C 317/6.11.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.21 *	Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.24 (b)	COM(2000) 579 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.25	OJ C 375/28.12.2000 Bull. 11-2000/1.4.26

Environment

Taking the environment into account in other policies

537	Prop. for a dir.: the environmental effects of certain plans and programmes	OJ C 129/25.4.1997 COM(96) 511 Bull. 12-1996/1.3.154	OJ C 287/22.9.1997 Bull. 5-1997/1.3.132 OJ C 64/27.2.1998 Bull. 11-1997/1.3.154 OJ C 374/23.12.1999 Bull. 9-1999/1.2.113 *	OJ C 341/9.11.1998 Bull. 10-1998/1.2.135 (b) Bull. 9-1999/1.2.113	OJ C 83/25.3.1999 COM(1999) 73 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.233	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.163 * OJ C 137/16.5.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.32
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* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 453

EP second reading a, b, c, d ⁽¹⁾	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f ⁽¹⁾	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations
j C 153/1.6.1999 ii. 1/2-1999/1.3.139 (b)	COM(1999) 293 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.91	Bull. 11-1999/1.3.62 (e)	OJ C 296/18.10.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.81	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.81	OJ L 28/3.2.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.17	494
						495
						497
j C 154/5.6.2000 ii. 10-1999/1.3.54 (b)	COM(1999) 659 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.84	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.21 (e)	Bull. 4-2000/1.4.7	Bull. 4-2000/1.4.7	OJ L 117/18.5.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.7	506
				Bull. 6-2000/1.4.17	OJ L 232/14.9.2000	508
C 154/5.6.2000 ii. 10-1999/1.3.56 (b)	COM(1999) 629 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.88	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.88 (c)	OJ C 309/27.10.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.23	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.23	OJ L 63/10.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.23	514
ii. 12-2000 (a)						520
ii. 9-2000/1.4.38 (b)	COM(2000) 636 Bull. 10-2000/1.4.26					537

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
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Industry and the environment

543	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 90/220/EEC: deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms	OJ C 139/4.5.1998 COM(1998) 85 Bull. 1/2-1998/1.3.216	OJ C 407/28.12.1998 Bull. 9-1998/1.2.119	OJ C 150/28.5.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.208 (b)	OJ C 139/19.5.1999 COM(1999) 139 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.119	Bull. 6-1999/1.2.101 * OJ C 64/6.3.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.146
545	Dir. 2000/76/EC: incineration of waste	OJ C 372/2.12.1998 COM(1998) 538 Bull. 10-1998/1.2.125	OJ C 116/28.4.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.213 OJ C 198/14.7.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.120 *	OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.129 (b) OJ C 279/1.10.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.116	COM(1999) 330 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.126	Bull. 6-1999/1.2.104 * OJ C 25/28.1.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.111
545	Dir. 2000/53/EC: disused vehicles	OJ C 337/7.11.1997 COM(97) 358 Bull. 7/8-1997/1.3.175	OJ C 129/27.4.1998 Bull. 1/2-1998/1.3.219	OJ C 150/28.5.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.212 (b) OJ C 279/1.10.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.117	OJ C 156/3.6.1999 COM(1999) 176 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.131	OJ C 317/4.11.1999 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.127
545	Prop. for a dir.: waste electrical and electronic equipment	COM(2000) 347 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.30	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.34			
545	Prop. for a dir.: restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment	COM(2000) 347 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.30	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.34			

Environmental quality and natural resources

548	Dir.: water policy	OJ C 184/17.6.1997 COM(97) 49 Bull. 1/2-1997/1.2.165	OJ C 355/21.11.1997 Bull. 10-1997/1.2.171 OJ C 180/11.6.1998 Bull. 3-1998/1.2.141 *	OJ C 150/28.5.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.217 (b) Bull. 9-1999/1.2.104	OJ C 16/20.1.1998 COM(97) 614 Bull. 11-1997/1.3.158 OJ C 108/7.4.1998 COM(1998) 76 Bull. 1/2-1998/1.3.221 COM(1999) 271 Bull. 6-1999/1.2.106	Bull. 3-1999/1.3.122 * OJ C 34/30.11.1999 Bull. 10-1999/1.3.99
548	Prop. for a dec.: list of priority substances in the field of water policy	COM(2000) 47 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.31	OJ C 268/19.9.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.33			
549	Prop. for a recomm.: implementation of integrated coastal zone management in Europe	COM(2000) 545 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.34				
553	Dec. No 1753/2000/EC: scheme to monitor CO ₂ emissions from vehicles	OJ C 231/23.7.1998 COM(1998) 348 Bull. 6-1998/1.3.142	OJ C 40/15.2.1999 Bull. 12-1998/1.2.184	OJ C 98/9.4.1999 Bull. 12-1998/1.2.184 (b) Bull. 9-1999/1.2.110	OJ C 83/25.3.1999 COM(1999) 58 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.226	Bull. 12-1998/1.2.184 * OJ C 123/4.5.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.226
553	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 70/220/EEC: air pollution by motor vehicle emissions	COM(2000) 42 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.38	OJ C 204/18.7.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.33	Bull. 5-2000/1.4.33 (a)		OJ C 329/20.11.2000 Bull. 10-2000/1.3.28
553	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 97/68/EC: measures against gas emissions from internal combustion engines to be installed in non-road mobile machinery	COM(2000) 840 Bull. 12-2000				
554	Prop. for a dir.: ozone in ambient air	COM(1999) 125 Bull. 6-1999/1.2.109	OJ C 317/6.11.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.28 *	OJ C 377/29.12.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.22 (b)	COM(2000) 613 Bull. 10-2000/1.4.24	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.24 *
554	Prop. for a dir.: national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants	COM(1999) 125 Bull. 6-1999/1.2.109	OJ C 51/23.2.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.154 OJ C 317/6.11.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.27 *	OJ C 377/29.12.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.21 (b)		Bull. 6-2000/1.4.27 * OJ C 375/28.12.2000 Bull. 11-2000/1.4.29

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 455

EP second reading a, b, c, d (1)	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f (1)	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations
II. 4-2000/1.4.12 (b)	10.1.2000 COM(2000) 293 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.25	13.12.2000				Dir. to be amended: OJ L 117/8.5.1990 543
C 377/29.12.2000 II. 3-2000/1.4.24 (b)	COM(2000) 280 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.31	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.21 (e)	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.33	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.33	OJ L 332/28.:2.2000 Bull. 12-2000	545
C 309/27.10.2000 II. 1/2-2000/1.4.28 (b)	COM(2000) 166 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.25	Bull. 5-2000/1.4.26 (e)	Bull. 9-2000/1.4.31	Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.32	OJ L 269/21.10.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.31	545
						545
						545
C 339/29.11.2000 I. 1/2-2000/1.4.29 (b)	COM(2000) 219 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.31	Bull. 6-2000/1.4.31 (e)	Bull. 9-2000/1.4.32	Bull. 9-2000/1.4.32	OJ L 327/22.12.2000	548
						548
						549
I. 12-1999/1.2.161 (b)	COM(2000) 44 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.44	Bull. 3-2000/1.4.41 (e)	Bull. 5-2000/1.4.36	Bull. 5-2000/1.4.36	OJ L 202/10.8.2000	553
I. 12-2000 (a)						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 76/6.4.1970 553
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 59/27.2.1998 553
						554
						554

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *	
554	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 88/609/EEC: emissions of pollutants from large combustion plants	OJ C 300/29.9.1998 COM(1998) 415 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.185	OJ C 101/12.4.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.205	OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.125 (b) Bull. 9-1999/1.2.103	COM(1999) 611 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.110	Bull. 6-2000/1.4.29 * OJ C 373/28.12.2000 Bull. 11-2000/1.4.29
554	Dir. 2000/69/EC: limit values for benzene and carbon monoxide in ambient air	OJ C 53/24.2.1999 COM(1998) 591 Bull. 12-1998/1.2.181	OJ C 138/18.5.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.130	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.155 (b)	COM(2000) 223 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.17	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.155 * OJ C 195/11.7.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.17
555	Prop. for a dec.: Community framework for cooperation to promote sustainable urban development	COM(1999) 557 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.69	OJ C 204/18.7.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.98 OJ C 317/6.11.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.90 *	Bull. 12-2000 (b)		
556	Dir. 2000/14/EC: noise emission by equipment used outdoors	OJ C 124/22.4.1998 COM(1998) 46 Bull. 1/2-1998/1.3.231	OJ C 407/28.12.1998 Bull. 9-1998/1.2.131	OJ C 138/4.5.1998 Bull. 4-1998/1.2.113 (a)		Bull. 6-1999/1.2.111 * OJ C 83/22.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.39
556	Prop. for a dir.: assessment and management of environmental noise	COM(2000) 468 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.37	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.36	Bull. 12-2000 (b)		Bull. 12-2000 *
557	Reg. (EC) No 2037/2000: substances that deplete the ozone layer	OJ C 286/15.9.1998 COM(1998) 398 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.198	OJ C 40/15.2.1999 Bull. 12-1998/1.2.183	OJ C 98/9.4.1999 Bull. 12-1998/1.2.183 (b) Bull. 9-1999/1.2.111	OJ C 83/25.3.1999 COM(1999) 67 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.229	Bull. 12-1998/1.2.183 * OJ C 123/4.5.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.229
557	Reg. (EC) No 2039/2000 amending Reg. (EC) No 2037/2000: substances that deplete the ozone layer (allocation of hydrochlorofluorocarbons)	COM(2000) 426 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.42	OJ C 367/20.12.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.44	Bull. 9-2000/1.4.44 (b)		
557	Reg. No 2038/2000 amending Reg. (EC) No 2037/2000: substances that deplete the ozone layer (dose inhalers and medical drug pumps)	COM(2000) 427 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.42	OJ C 367/20.12.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.43	Bull. 9-2000/1.4.43 (a)		

Environmental instruments

558	Reg. (EC) No 1655/2000: financial instrument for the environment (LIFE)	OJ C 15/20.1.1999 COM(1998) 720 Bull. 12-1998/1.2.189	OJ C 209/22.7.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.124 OJ C 374/23.12.1999 Bull. 9-1999/1.2.114 *	OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.145 (b) OJ C 279/1.10.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.124	COM(1999) 305 Bull. 6-1999/1.2.114	Bull. 6-1999/1.2.114 * OJ C 346/2.12.1999 Bull. 10-1999/1.3.105
559	Reg. (EC) No 1980/2000: eco-label award scheme	OJ C 114/12.4.1997 COM(96) 603 Bull. 12-1996/1.3.155	OJ C 296/29.9.1997 Bull. 7/8-1997/1.3.172	OJ C 167/1.6.1998 Bull. 5-1998/1.2.158 (b) OJ C 279/1.10.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.125	OJ C 64/6.3.1999 COM(1999) 21 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.231	Bull. 6-1999/1.2.113 * OJ C 25/28.1.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.120
560	Prop. for a reg.: eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS)	OJ C 400/22.12.1998 COM(1998) 622 Bull. 10-1998/1.2.120	OJ C 209/22.7.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.114	OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.124 (b) OJ C 279/1.10.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.114	COM(1999) 313 Bull. 6-1999/1.2.100	Bull. 6-1999/1.2.100 * OJ C 128/8.5.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.41
563	Prop. for a dir.: public access to environmental information	COM(2000) 402 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.41	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.45			

Civil protection

566	Dec. No 2850/2000/EC: Community framework for cooperation in the field of accidental or intentional marine pollution	OJ C 25/30.1.1999 COM(1998) 769 Bull. 12-1998/1.2.193	OJ C 169/16.6.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.148	Bull. 9-1999/1.2.115 (b)	COM(1999) 641 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.121	Bull. 10-1999/1.3.106 * OJ C 87/24.3.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.169
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* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

⁽¹⁾ Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 457

EP second reading a, b, c, d ⁽¹⁾	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f ⁽¹⁾	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 336/7.12.1988
dl. 7/8-2000/1.4.36 (b)	COM(2000) 525 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.36			Bull. 10-2000/1.4.25	OJ L 313/13.12.2000	554
				Bull. 12-2000 *		555
J C 377/29.12.2000 dl. 3-2000/1.4.31 (a)					OJ L 162/3.7.2000	Repealed Dir. 79/113/EEC (OJ L 33/8.2.1979) 84/532/EEC (OJ L 300/19.11.1984) 84/533/EEC and 84/538/EEC (OJ L 300/19.11.1984)
						556
J C 296/18.10.2000 dl. 12-1999/1.2.160 (b)	COM(2000) 96 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.38	9.3.2000	Bull. 6-2000/1.4.38	Bull. 6-2000/1.4.38	OJ L 244/29.9.2000	Replaced reg.: OJ L 333/22.12.1994
				Bull. 9-2000/1.4.44	OJ L 244/29.9.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.44	Amended reg.: OJ L 244/ 29.9.2000
				Bull. 9-2000/1.4.43	OJ L 244/29.9.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.43	Amended reg.: OJ L 244/29.9.2000
C 339/29.11.2000 dl. 1/2-2000/1.4.40 (b)	COM(2000) 170 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.34	Bull. 5-2000/1.4.34 (e)	Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.39	Bull. 6-2000/1.4.33	OJ L 192/28.7.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.39	558
C 377/29.12.2000 l. 3-2000/1.4.35 (b)	COM(2000) 230 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.19			Bull. 6-2000/1.4.34	OJ L 237/21.9.2000	559
l. 7/8-2000/1.4.40 (b)	COM(2000) 512 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.40	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.37 (e)				560
						563
l. 6-2000/1.4.35 (b)	COM(2000) 475 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.41	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.27 (e)	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.39	Bull. 12-2000	OJ L 332/28.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000	566

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
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Energy

New and renewable energy sources

596	Dec. 2000/646/EC: promotion of renewable energy sources (Altener II) (1998-2002)	OJ C 46/11.2.1998 COM(97) 550 Bull. 11-1997/1.3.127	OJ C 214/10.7.1998 Bull. 4-1998/1.2.80 OJ C 315/13.10.1998 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.143 *	OJ C 175/21.6.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.88 (b) OJ C 279/1.10.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.99	COM(1999) 212 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.99	OJ C 243/27.8.1999 Bull. 6-1999/1.2.77
597	Prop. for a dir. on the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 279 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.40	OJ C 367/20.12.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.47 20.9.2000 *	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.48 (b)	COM(2000) 884 Bull. 12-2000	Bull. 12-2000 *

Energy efficiency and rational use of energy

599	Dec. 2000/646/EC: promotion of energy efficiency (1998-2002) (SAVE)	OJ C 46/11.2.1998 COM(97) 550 Bull. 11-1997/1.3.127	OJ C 214/10.7.1998 Bull. 4-1998/1.2.80 OJ C 315/13.10.1998 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.143 *	OJ C 175/21.6.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.89 (b) OJ C 279/1.10.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.100	COM(1999) 211 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.100	OJ C 232/13.8.1999 Bull. 6-1999/1.2.78
600	Prop. for a reg.: energy efficiency labelling programme for office and communications technology equipment	COM(2000) 18 Bull. 12-2000/1.4.48	OJ C 204/18.7.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.43			
600	Dir. 2000/55/EC: energy efficiency requirements for ballasts for fluorescent lighting	COM(1999) 296 Bull. 6-1999/1.2.76	OJ C 368/20.12.1999 Bull. 10-1999/1.3.74	OJ C 304/24.10.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.46 (b)	COM(2000) 181 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.23	OJ C 208/20.7.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.42
601	Prop. for a dir.: summer-time arrangements	COM(2000) 302 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.42	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.46	Bull. 12-2000 (b)	COM(2000) 892 Bull. 12-2000	

Transport

General strategy

625	Prop. for a reg.: public service requirements in passenger transport by rail, road and inland waterway	COM(2000) 7 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.46				
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Inland transport

632	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 91/440/EEC: development of the Community's railways	OJ C 321/20.10.1998 COM(1998) 480 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.152	OJ C 209/22.7.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.104 OJ C 57/29.2.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.87 *	OJ C 175/21.6.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.95 (b) Bull. 9-1999/1.2.81	COM(1999) 616 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.87	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.127 * OJ C 288/11.10.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.46
632	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 95/18/EC: licensing of railway undertakings	OJ C 321/20.10.1998 COM(1998) 480 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.152	OJ C 209/22.7.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.104 OJ C 57/29.2.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.87 *	OJ C 175/21.6.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.96 (b) Bull. 9-1999/1.2.81	COM(1999) 616 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.87	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.127 * OJ C 178/27.6.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.46

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 459

EP second reading a, b, c, d (1)	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f (1)	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations
C 107/13.4.2000 L 10-1999/1.3.70 (b)	Bull. 11-1999/1.3.84	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.122 (e)	OJ C 309/27.10.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.45	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.45	OJ L 79/30.3.2000	ECSC Consultative Committee opinion: Bull. 12-1997/1.2.134
						596
						597
C 107/13.4.2000 L 10-1999/1.3.72 (b)	COM(1999) 558 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.85	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.123 (e)	OJ C 309/27.10.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.47	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.47	OJ L 79/30.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.47	ECSC Consultative Committee opinion: Bull. 12-1997/1.2.134
						599
L 7/8-2000/1.4.45 (a)				Bull. 12-2000	OJ L 279/1.11.2000	
						600
						600
						601
						625
.7/8-2000/1.4.47 (b)	COM(2000) 575 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.55	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.51 (e)		Bull. 12-2000		Dir. to be amended: OJ L 10/16.1.1992
						632
.7/8-2000/1.4.48 (b)	COM(2000) 571 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.56	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.51 (e)		Bull. 12-2000		Dir. to be amended: OJ L 143/27.6.1995
						632

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
632 Prop. for a dir.: railway infrastructure, charges and safety certification	OJ C 321/20.10.1998 COM(1998) 480 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.152	OJ C 209/22.7.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.104 OJ C 572/9.2.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.87 *	OJ C 175/21.6.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.96 (b) Bull. 10-1999/1.3.78	COM(1999) 616 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.87	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.127 * OJ C 178/27.6.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.46
633 Prop. for a dir.: interoperability of the European conventional rail system	COM(1999) 617 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.88	OJ C 204/18.7.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.46 OJ C 317/6.11.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.45 *	Bull. 5-2000/1.4.46 (b)		Bull. 6-2000/1.4.45 * Bull. 11-2000/1.4.50
635 Dir. 2000/62/EC amending Dir. 96/49/EC: transport of dangerous goods by rail	OJ C 181/26.6.1999 COM(1999) 157 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.103	OJ C 329/17.11.1999 Bull. 9-1999/1.2.79	OJ C 154/5.6.2000 Bull. 10-1999/1.3.79 (a)		OJ C 245/25.8.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.46
637 Prop. for a reg.: access to the market in the carriage of goods by road	COM(2000) 751 Bull. 11-2000/1.4.52				
637 Prop. for a dir.: transparent system of rules for restrictions on heavy goods vehicles	COM(1998) 115 Bull. 3-1998/1.2.115	OJ C 407/28.12.1998 Bull. 9-1998/1.2.95 OJ C 374/23.12.1999 * Bull. 9-1999/1.2.84 *		COM(2000) 759 Bull. 11-2000/1.4.53	
637 Prop. for a dir.: organisation of working time for mobile workers	COM(1998) 662 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.19	OJ C 138/18.8.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.10	OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.14 OJ C 279/1.2.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.12	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.20	Bull. 12-2000 *
638 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 91/671/EEC: compulsory use of safety belts in vehicles of less than 3.5 tonnes	COM(2000) 815 Bull. 12-2000				
638 Dir. 2000/30/EC: roadside inspection of commercial vehicles circulating in the Community	OJ C 190/18.6.1998 COM(1998) 117 Bull. 3-1998/1.2.116	OJ C 407/28.12.1998 Bull. 9-1998/1.2.96	OJ C 150/28.5.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.176 (b) Bull. 9-1999/1.2.85	COM(1999) 458 Bull. 10-1999/1.3.80	OJ C 29/1.2.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.129
639 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 95/50/EC: checks on the transport of dangerous goods by road	COM(2000) 106 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.54	OJ C 268/19.9.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.50	Bull. 4-2000/1.4.27 (a)		
639 Dir. 2000/61/EC amending Dir. 94/55/EC: transport of dangerous goods by road	OJ C 171/18.6.1999 COM(1999) 158 Bull. 5-1999/1.2.105	OJ C 329/17.11.1999 Bull. 9-1999/1.2.83	OJ C 304/24.10.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.52 (b)	COM(2000) 185 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.29	OJ C 245/25.8.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.48
640 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 96/53/EC: maximum authorised dimensions for road vehicles in international traffic	COM(2000) 137 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.49	Bull. 12-2000 *	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.37 (b)		
641 Reg. (EC) No 2888/2000: distribution of permits for heavy goods vehicles travelling in Switzerland	OJ C 114/27.4.1999 COM(1999) 35 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.174	OJ C 329/17.11.1999 Bull. 9-1999/1.2.82	OJ C 296/18.10.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.130 (b)	COM(2000) 117 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.55	OJ C 375/28.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000

Maritime transport

644 Dir. 2000/59/EC: port reception facilities for ship-generated waste and cargo residues	OJ C 271/31.8.1998 COM(1998) 452 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.159	OJ C 138/18.5.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.103 OJ C 198/14.7.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.103 *	OJ C 150/28.5.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.179 (b) Bull. 9-1999/1.2.90	OJ C 148/28.5.1999 COM(1999) 149 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.109	Bull. 6-1999/1.2.88 * OJ C 10/13.1.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.90
645 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 95/21/EC: the enforcement, in respect of shipping using Community ports, of standards for ship safety, pollution prevention and shipboard living and working conditions	COM(2000) 142 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.51	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.41 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.64 *	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.54 (b)	COM(2000) 850 Bull. 12-2000	Bull. 12-2000 *

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 461

EP second reading a, b, c, d (1)	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f (1)	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations
II 78-2000/1.4.49 (b)	COM(2000) 572 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.57	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.51 (e)		Bull. 12-2000		632
II 9-2000/1.4.58 (a)					OJ L 279/1.11.2000	633 Dir. to be amended: OJ L 235/17.9.1996 635 637 637 637
C 377/29.12.2000 L 3-2000/1.4.47 (b)	COM(2000) 243 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.28			Bull. 4-2000/1.4.28	OJ L 203/10.8.2000	638 Dir. to be amended: OJ L 373/31.12.1991 638
L 9-2000/1.4.59 (a)					OJ L 279/1.11.2000	639 Dir. to be amended: OJ L 249/17.10.1995 639 Amended dir.: OJ L 319/12.12.1994 639
L 12-2000 (a)					OJ L 336/30.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000	Dir. to be amended: OJ L 12/17.1.1996 640 641

C 377/29.12.2000 L 3-2000/1.4.50 (b)	COM(2000) 236 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.31	Bull. 6-2000/1.4.52 (e)	Bull. 9-2000/1.4.62	Bull. 9-2000/1.4.62	OJ L 332/28.12.2000	644 Dir. to be amended: OJ L 4/6.1.1995 645
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	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
645	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 94/57/EC: organisations approved for the inspection and surveying of ships	COM(2000) 142 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.51	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.41 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.64 *	COM(2000) 849 Bull. 12-2000	Bull. 12-2000
645	Prop. for a reg.: double hull requirements for oil tankers	COM(2000) 142 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.51	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.41 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.65 *	COM(2000) 848 Bull. 12-2000	
645	Prop. for a dir.: establishment of a Community monitoring, control and information system for maritime traffic	COM(2000) 802 Bull. 12-2000			
645	Prop. for a reg.: establishment of a fund for compensating oil pollution damage in European waters	COM(2000) 802 Bull. 12-2000			
645	Prop. for a reg.: European Maritime Safety Agency	COM(2000) 802 Bull. 12-2000			
646	Prop. for a dir.: minimum level of training of seafarers (consolidated text)	COM(2000) 313 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.50	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.43	Bull. 12-2000 (a)	
646	Prop. for a dir.: transport — safe loading and unloading of bulk carriers	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 179 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.47	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.42		
646	Prop. for a reg.: Committee on Safe Seas and amendment of the regulations on maritime safety	COM(2000) 489 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.63			
646	Prop. for a dir. amending the directives on maritime safety and the prevention of pollution by ships	COM(2000) 489 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.63			

Air transport

652	Prop. for a reg.: common rules in the field of civil aviation and creation of a European Aviation Safety Agency	COM(2000) 595			
652	Prop. for a reg. (EC) amending Reg. (EEC) No 3922/91: harmonisation of technical requirements and administrative procedures in civil aviation	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 121 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.52	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.45		
652	Prop. for a dir.: occurrence reporting in civil aviation	COM(2000) 847 Bull. 12-2000			

Health and consumer protection

Food safety

661	Prop. for a reg.: establishment of the European Food Authority and procedures in matters of food safety	COM(2000) 716 Bull. 11-2000/1.4.57			
662	Prop. for a dir. amending Dirs 89/662/EEC and 91/67/EEC and repealing certain directives on the hygiene of foodstuffs	COM(2000) 438 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.64			

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 463

EP second reading a, b, c, d (1)	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f (1)	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 319/12.12.1994
						645
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						646
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						652
						Reg. to be amended: OJ L 373/31.12.1991
						652
						652
						661
						Dir. to be amended: 89/662/EEC (OJ L 395/30.12.1989) and 91/67/EEC (OJ L 46/19.2.1991)
						662

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
662 Prop. for a reg.: hygiene of foodstuffs	COM(2000) 438 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.64				
662 Prop. for a reg.: specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin	COM(2000) 438 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.64				
662 Prop. for a reg.: organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption	COM(2000) 438 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.64				
662 Prop. for a reg.: animal health rules governing the production, placing on the market and importation of products of animal origin intended for human consumption	COM(2000) 438 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.64				
662 Prop. for a dir.: food supplements	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 222	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.51			
669 Prop. for a reg.: animal-health requirements applicable to non-commercial movement of pet animals	COM(2000) 529 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.71	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.59			
670 Prop. for a reg. on the prevention and control of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies	OJ C 45/19.2.1999 COM(1998) 623 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.131	OJ C 258/10.9.1999 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.143	Bull. 5-2000/1.4.53 (b)	COM(2000) 824 Bull. 12-2000	Bull. 12-2000 *
671 Dir. 2000/20/EC amending Dir. 64/432/EEC: health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine	OJ C 100/2.4.1998 COM(1998) 81 Bull. 1/2-1998/1.3.244	OJ C 235/27.7.1998 Bull. 5-1998/1.2.167	OJ C 210/6.7.1998 Bull. 6-1998/1.3.156 (a) Bull. 9-1999/1.2.134		OJ C 83/22.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.69
671 Reg. (EC) No 1760/2000 repealing Reg. (EC) No 820/97: system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products	COM(1999) 487 Bull. 10-1999/1.3.127	OJ C 117/26.4.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.60 OJ C 226/8.8.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.35 *	Bull. 4-2000/1.4.35 (b)	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 301 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.55	Bull. 4-2000/1.4.35 * OJ C 240/23.8.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.60
672 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 96/22/EC: prohibition on the use of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of beta agonists	COM(2000) 320	Bull. 10-2000/1.10.34			
673 Dir. 2000/16/EC amending Dirs 79/373/EEC and 96/25/EC: feedingsstuffs	OJ C 261/19.8.1998 COM(1998) 435 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.3.214	OJ C 101/12.4.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.241	OJ C 98/9.4.1999 Bull. 12-1998/1.2.204 (a) Bull. 9-1999/1.2.137		OJ C 17/20.1.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.157
673 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 79/373/EEC: marketing of compound feedingsstuffs	COM(1999) 744 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.68	OJ C 140/18.5.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.67	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.52 (b)	COM(2000) 780 Bull. 12-2000	Bull. 12-2000
673 Prop. for a dir. amending Dirs 95/53/EC and 1999/29/EC: animal nutrition — inspections of undesirable substances and products	COM(2000) 162 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.65	OJ C 367/20.12.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.76	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.54 (b)	COM(2000) 777	
<i>Public health</i>					
676 Prop. for a dec.: programme of action in the field of public health	COM(2000) 285 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.50	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.55 Bull. 12-2000 *			
689 Prop. for a dec. extending certain programmes of action in the field of public health and amending certain decisions	COM(2000) 448 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.61	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.55	Bull. 12-2000 (b)		

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I — LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 465

EP second reading a, b, c, d (1)	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f (1)	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations	
						662	
						662	
						662	
						662	
						662	
						669	
						670	
C 377/29.12.2000 II. 3-2000/1.4.61 (a)					OJ L 105/3.5.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.37	Amended dir.: OJ L 121/29.7.1964	671
II. 7/8-2000/1.4.66 (b)				Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.66	OJ L 204/11.8.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.66	Repealed reg.: OJ L 117/7.5.1997	671
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 125/23.5.1996	672
C 377/29.12.2000 I. 3-2000/1.4.66 (a)					OJ L 105/3.5.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.38	Amended Dirs 79/373/EEC (OJ L 86/6.4.1979) and 96/25/EC (OJ L 125/23.5.1996)	673
						Dir. to be amended: OJ L 86/6.4.1979	673
				Bull. 11-2000/1.4.63 *	Bull. 12-2000	Dir. to be amended: 95/53/EC (OJ L 265/8.11.1995) and 1999/29/EC (OJ L 115/4.5.1999)	673
							676
				Bull. 12-2000 *			689

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
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Consumer protection

691	Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 76/769/EEC: toys made of soft PVC containing phthalates	COM(1999) 577 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.161	OJ C 117/26.4.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.59	Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.65 (b)	
691	Prop. for a dir.: general product safety	COM(2000) 139 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.70	OJ C 367/20.12.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.73	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.66 (b)	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.66 *

Role of the Union in the world

Common commercial policy

Operation of the customs union, customs cooperation and mutual administrative assistance

815	Reg. (EC) No 2700/2000 amending Reg. (EEC) No 2913/92: Community Customs Code	OJ C 228/21.7.1998 COM(1998) 226 Bull. 6-1998/1.4.36	OJ C 101/12.4.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.4.29	OJ C 175/21.6.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.4.23 (b)	COM(1999) 236 Bull. 6-1999/1.3.23	Bull. 3-2000/1.6.17 * OJ C 208/20.7.2000
816	Dec. No 105/2000/EC amending Dec. No 210/97/EC: Customs 2000	OJ C 396/19.12.1998 COM(1998) 644 Bull. 11-1998/1.3.22	OJ C 138/18.5.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.4.21	OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.4.20 (b)	COM(1999) 253 Bull. 6-1999/1.3.22	Bull. 6-1999/1.3.22 * OJ C 317/4.11.1999 Bull. 9-1999/1.4.23

Development cooperation

Development, environment and tropical forests

848	Reg. (EC) No 2493/2000: integration of the environmental dimension in the development process of developing countries	OJ C 47/20.2.1999 COM(1999) 36 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.4.56	OJ C 258/10.9.1999 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.64	OJ C 279/1.10.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.3.41 (b)	COM(2000) 55 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.65	OJ C 64/6.3.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.4.49
848	Reg. (EC) No 2494/2000: conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests in developing countries	OJ C 87/29.3.1999 COM(1999) 41 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.4.57	OJ C 258/10.9.1999 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.65	OJ C 279/1.10.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.3.43 (b)	COM(2000) 54 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.66	OJ C 64/6.3.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.4.50

Cooperation on eradicating anti-personnel mines

859	Prop. for a reg.: action against anti-personnel landmines — increasing the European Union contribution	COM(2000) 111 Bull. 3-2000/1.6.35		Bull. 10-2000/1.6.49 (b)	COM(2000) 880 Bull. 12-2000	
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EC Investment Partners (ECIP) instrument

867	Prop. for a reg. on the implementation of the ECIP financial instrument for 2000	COM(1999) 726 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.69		5.9.2000		Bull. 11-2000/1.6.51
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* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP first reading a, b ⁽¹⁾	Amended Commission proposal	Common position Council *
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Relations with Asian countries

Aid for refugees and displaced persons

1001	Reg. (EC) No 1880/2000 extending Regulation (EC) No 443/97: aid for uprooted people in Asian and Latin American developing countries	COM(1999) 443 Bull. 9-1999/1.4.73		Bull. 5-2000/1.6.100 (b)	COM(2000) 410 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.71	
1001	Prop. for a reg.: aid for uprooted people in Asian and Latin American developing countries	COM(2000) 831 Bull. 12-2000				

Relations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) and the overseas countries and territories (OCTs)

Relations with the ACP countries

1034	Reg. (EC) No 1726/2000: development cooperation with South Africa	COM(1999) 124 Bull. 3-1999/1.4.115		OJ C 279/1.10.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.3.120 (b)	COM(1999) 335 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.158	OJ C 128/8.5.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.144
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Financing Community activities, resource management

Budgets

General budget

1049	Prop. for a dec.: revision of the financial perspective for 2001-06	COM(2000) 262 Bull. 5-2000/1.7.1				
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Institutional matters

Transparency

1105	Prop. for a reg.: public access to documents of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission	COM(2000) 30 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.9.2				
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* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

⁽¹⁾ a = adoption; b = amendments; c = rejection; d = EP failure to take a decision within three months; e = agreement on a common draft; f = failure to agree on a common draft.

TABLE I— LEGISLATION UNDER THE CO-DECISION PROCEDURE 469

EP second reading a, b, c, d (1)	Commission opinion	Conciliation Committee e, f (1)	EP adoption of common draft	Adoption by Council	EP signature Council	Observations	
				Bull. 6-2000/1.6.71	OJ L 227/7.9.2000	Extended reg.: OJ L 68/8.3.1997	1001
							1001
dl. 5-2000/1.6.105 (b)	COM(2000) 396 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.86			Bull. 6-2000/1.6.86	OJ L 198/4.8.2000		1034
							1049
							1105

Table II — Legislation under the consultation procedure

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
The Community economic and social area						
Economic and monetary policy						
<i>Economic policy coordination</i>						
43	Reg. (EC) No 475/2000: application of the protocol on the excessive deficit procedure	COM(1999) 444 Bull. 9-1999/1.2.1		OJ C 339/29.11.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.13		OJ L 58/3.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.13
<i>Economic and monetary union</i>						
46	Dec. 2000/427/EC: adoption by Greece of the single currency on 1.1.2001 (Art. 122, para. 2)	COM(2000) 274 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.5		Bull. 5-2000/1.3.5		OJ L 167/7.7.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.4
46	Reg. (EC) No 1478/2000 amending Reg. (EC) No 2866/98: conversion rates between the euro and the currencies of the Member States	COM(2000) 346 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.6				OJ L 167/7.7.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.5 Amended reg.: OJ L 359/31.12.1998
46	Reg. (EC) No 2596/2000 amending Reg. (EC) No 974/98: introduction of the euro	COM(2000) 346 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.6		Bull. 6-2000/1.3.6		Bull. 6-2000/1.3.6 * OJ L 300/29.11.2000 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.4 Amended reg.: OJ L 139/11.5.1998
46	Reg. (EC) No 2595/2000 amending Reg. (EC) No 1103/97: provisions for the introduction of the euro	COM(2000) 346 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.6		Bull. 6-2000/1.3.6		Bull. 6-2000/1.3.6 * OJ L 300/29.11.2000 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.4 Amended reg.: OJ L 162/19.6.1997
<i>Financial activities</i>						
69	Dec. 2000/244/EC amending Dec. 97/787/EC: granting exceptional financial assistance to Armenia, Georgia and Tajikistan	COM(1999) 391 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.121		OJ C 296/18.10.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.4.92		OJ L 77/28.3.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.6.60 Amended dec.: OJ L 322/25.11.1997
69	Dec. 2000/452/EC: provision of further macro-financial assistance to Moldova	COM(1999) 516 Bull. 10-1999/1.5.72		Bull. 5-2000/1.6.86		OJ L 181/20.7.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.89

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
70 Dec. 2000/140/EC: exceptional financial assistance for Kosovo	COM(1999) 598 Bull. 11-1999/1.5.61		OJ C 309/27.10.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.88		OJ L 47/19.2.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.88	
70 Dec. 2000/355/EC: provision of exceptional financial assistance for Montenegro	COM(2000) 288 Bull. 5-2000/1.6.76		Bull. 5-2000/1.6.76		OJ L 127/27.5.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.6.76	

Employment and social policy

Employment

99 Prop. for a dec.: guidelines for Member States' employment policies in 2001	COM(2000) 548 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.11	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.9 Bull. 12-2000 *	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.9	COM(2000) 735 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.11	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.11 *	
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Social protection and social security

105 Dec.: Social Protection Committee	COM(2000) 134 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.21	OJ C 204/18.7.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.17			Bull. 6-2000/1.3.18 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.18 *	
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Combating discrimination

111 Dir. 2000/43/EC: introduction of the principle of equal treatment without distinction as to race or ethnic origin	COM(1999) 566 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.17	OJ C 204/18.7.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.19 OJ C 226/8.8.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.10 *	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.19	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 328 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.19	Bull. 6-2000/1.3.19 * OJ L 180/19.7.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.19	
111 Dir. 2000/78/EC: establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation	COM(1999) 565 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.17	OJ C 204/18.7.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.19 OJ C 226/8.8.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.10 *	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.13	COM(2000) 652 Bull. 10-2000/1.3.13	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.13 * OJ L 303/2.12.2000 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.19	

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
111 Dec. 2000/750/EC: Community action programme to combat discrimination (2001-06)	COM(1999) 567 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.17	OJ C 204/18.7.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.19 OJ C 226/8.8.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.10 *	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.14	COM(2000) 649 Bull. 10-2000/1.3.14	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.14 * OJ L 303/2.12.2000 Bull. 11-2000	

Labour law and industrial relations

114 Dir. 2000/79/EC: European agreement on the organisation of working time of mobile workers in civil aviation	COM(2000) 382 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.20	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.16	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.16		17.10.2000 * OJ L 302/1.12.2000 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.22	
115 Dir.: consolidation of the rights of workers	COM(2000) 259 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.22	OJ C 367/20.12.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.16	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.15		OJ L 302/1.12.2000	

Social dialogue

121 Prop. for a dir.: informing and consulting employees	OJ C 2/5.1.1999 COM(1998) 612 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.22	OJ C 258/10.9.1999 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.7 Bull. 12-2000 *	OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.16 Bull. 9-1999/1.2.10			
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Equal opportunities

129 Dec.: programme relating to the Community framework strategy on gender equality (2001-05)	COM(2000) 335 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.26	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.25 Bull. 12-2000 *	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.25	COM(2000) 793 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.25	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.25 * Bull. 12-2000	
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Single market

Free movement of goods

142 Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EC) No 3911/92: export of cultural goods	COM(2000) 845 Bull. 12-2000					Reg. to be amended: OJ L 395/31.12.1992
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	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
Taxation						
168 Prop. for a dir.: taxation of savings	OJ C 212/8.7.1998 COM(1998) 295 Bull. 5-1998/1.2.48	OJ C 116/28.4.1999 Bull. 12-1999/1.3.66	OJ C 150/28.5.1999 Bull. 12-1999/1.3.66		Bull. 11-2000/1.3.45 *	
170 Dir. 2000/17/EC: VAT — transitional provisions granted to Austria and Portugal	COM(1999) 703 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.32	OJ C 75/15.3.2000 Bull. 12-2000/1.3.53	OJ C 377/29.12.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.40		Bull. 3-2000/1.3.40	
170 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 77/388/EEC: common system of value added tax	COM(2000) 537 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.27	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.47	Bull. 12-2000			Dir. to be amended: OJ L 145/13.6.1977
171 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 77/388/EEC: VAT arrangements applicable to certain services supplied by electronic means	COM(2000) 349 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.40	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.48	Bull. 12-2000			Dir. to be amended: OJ L 145/13.6.1977
171 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 77/388/EEC: conditions laid down for invoicing in respect of VAT	COM(2000) 650 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.47					Dir. to be amended: OJ L 145/13.6.1977
171 Dir. 2000/65/EC amending Dir. 77/388/EEC: determination of the person liable for payment of VAT	OJ C 409/30.12.1998 COM(1998) 660 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.38	OJ C 116/28.4.1999 Bull. 12-1999/1.3.65	OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.30		OJ L 269/21.10.2000 Bull. 10-2000/1.3.37	Amended dir.: OJ L 145/13.6.1977
172 Dir. 2000/47/EC amending Dirs 69/169/EEC and 92/12/EEC: temporary quantitative restrictions on beer imports into Finland	COM(2000) 76	OJ C 204/18.7.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.48	Bull. 6-2000/1.3.42		OJ L 193/29.7.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.22	Amended Dirs 69/169/EEC (OJ L 133/4.6.1969) and 92/12/EEC (OJ L 76/23.3.1992)
172 Dir. 2000/44/EC amending Dir. 92/12/EEC: temporary quantitative restrictions for products subject to excise duties brought into Sweden from other Member States	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 295 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.47	OJ C 268/19.9.2000	Bull. 6-2000/1.3.41		Bull. 6-2000/1.3.41	Amended dir.: OJ L 76/23.3.1992
173 Prop. for a dec.: reduced rates and exemptions from excise duties on certain mineral oils	COM(2000) 678 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.46					
Intellectual and industrial property						
178 Prop. for a reg.: Community patent	COM(2000) 412 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.24					

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
179 Prop. for a reg. on Community designs	OJ C 29/31.1.1994 COM(93) 342 Bull. 12-1993/1.2.39	OJ C 388/31.12.1994 OJ C 110/2.5.1995 Bull. 1/2-1995/1.3.19 OJ C 75/15.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.57	Bull. 6-2000/1.3.45	COM(1999) 310 Bull. 6-1999/1.2.24 COM(2000) 660 Bull. 10-2000/1.3.38	Bull. 11-2000 *	

Competition policy

Competition rules applying to businesses

188 Prop. for a reg. amending Regs (EEC) Nos 2988/74, 4056/86 and 3975/87; implementation of Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty	COM(2000) 582 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.29					Regs to be amended: (EEC) No 2988/74 (OJ L 319/29.11.1974), (EEC) No 4056/86 (OJ L 378/31.12.1986) and (EEC) No 3975/87 (OJ L 374/31.12.1987)
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Enterprise

Action in favour of SMEs, craft industries and the social economy

261 Dec. 2000/819/EC: multiannual programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship 2001-05	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 256 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.49	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.72 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.54 *	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.66		Bull. 12-2000 * OJ L 333/29.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000	
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Research and technology

Coal and steel technical research

315 Dec. 2000/100/Euratom: supplementary research programme to be implemented by the JRC for the European Atomic Energy Community	COM(1999) 578 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.58		OJ C 296/18.10.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.76		OJ L 29/4.2.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.115	
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	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
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Information society

Information society

322	Dec.: multiannual Community programme — European digital content and linguistic diversity in the information society	COM(2000) 323 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.92	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.82 Bull. 12-2000 *	Bull. 12-2000		Bull. 12-2000
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Economic and social cohesion

General outline

348	Reg. (EC) No 214/2000: European Community financial contributions to the International Fund for Ireland	COM(1999) 549 Bull. 10-1999/1.3.61		Bull. 12-1999/1.2.98		OJ L 24/29.1.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.120
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Measures for the most remote regions

370	Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EC) No 1260/1999: general provisions on the Structural Funds	COM(2000) 774 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.87				Reg. to be amended: OJ L 161/26.6.1999
370	Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EEC) No 3763/91: specific measures regarding agricultural products for the benefit of the French overseas departments	COM(2000) 774 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.101				Reg. to be amended: OJ L 356/24.12.1991
370	Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EEC) No 1600/92: specific measures regarding certain agricultural products for the benefit of the Azores and Madeira	COM(2000) 774 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.101				Reg. to be amended: OJ L 173/27.6.1992
370	Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EEC) No 1601/92: specific measures regarding certain agricultural products for the benefit of the Canary Islands	COM(2000) 774 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.101				Reg. to be amended: OJ L 173/27.6.1992
370	Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EC) No 2792/1999: rules and arrangements regarding structural assistance in the fisheries sector	COM(2000) 774 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.101				Reg. to be amended: OJ L 337/30.12.1999

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
371 Prop. for a reg.: specific measures regarding certain agricultural products for the benefit of the French overseas departments	COM(2000) 791 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.103					
371 Prop. for a reg.: specific measures regarding certain agricultural products for the benefit of the Azores and Madeira	COM(2000) 791 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.103					
371 Prop. for a reg.: specific measures regarding certain agricultural products for the benefit of the Canary Islands	COM(2000) 791 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.103					
371 Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EC) No 1254/1999: common organisation of the market in beef and veal	COM(2000) 791 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.103					Reg. to be amended: OJ L 160/26.6.1999
373 Prop. for a reg.: date of application of Reg. (EEC) No 3621/92 on the temporary suspension of the Customs Tariff on imports of fishery products into the Canary Islands and of Reg. (EC) No 527/96 on imports of industrial products into the Canary Islands	OJ C 380/30.12.2000 COM(2000) 858 Bull. 12-2000					

Agriculture

Content of the common agricultural policy (CAP)

384 Reg. (EC) No 2826/2000: information provision and promotion for agricultural products on the internal market	COM(2000) 538 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.73	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.107	Bull. 12-2000		OJ L 328/23.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000	
385 Reg. (EC) No 1593/2000 amending Reg. (EEC) No 3508/92: administration and control system for certain Community aid schemes	COM(1999) 517 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.129		Bull. 6-2000/1.3.115		OJ L 182/21.7.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.135	Amended reg.: OJ L 355/5.12.1992
385 Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EC) No 1259/1999: direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy	COM(2000) 841 Bull. 12-2000					Reg. to be amended: OJ L 160/26.6.1999

Agricultural prices and related measures

393 Reg. (EC) No 1666/2000 amending Reg. (EEC) No 1766/92: market in cereals	OJ C 86/24.3.2000 COM(2000) 77 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.139		Bull. 5-2000/1.3.128		OJ L 193/29.7.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.128	Amended reg.: OJ L 181/1.7.1992
393 Reg. (EC) No 1667/2000 amending Reg. (EEC) No 3072/95: market in rice	OJ C 86/24.3.2000 COM(2000) 77 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.139	OJ C 168/16.6.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.80	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.109		OJ L 193/29.7.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.128	Amended reg.: OJ L 329/30.12.1995

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
393 Reg. (EC) No 1363/2000: the 2000/01 marketing year for sugar and beet	OJ C 86/24.3.2000 COM(2000) 77 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.139	OJ C 168/16.6.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.80	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.109		OJ L 156/29.6.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.113	
393 Reg. (EC) No 1364/2000: intervention price for raw sugar and prices for A and B beet for the 2000/01 marketing year	OJ C 86/24.3.2000 COM(2000) 77 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.139				OJ L 156/29.6.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.113	
393 Reg. (EC) No 1668/2000 amending Reg. (EEC) No 845/72: measures for silk-worm rearing	OJ C 86/24.3.2000 COM(2000) 77 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.139	OJ C 168/16.6.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.80	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.109		OJ L 193/29.7.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.128	Amended reg.: OJ L 100/27.4.1972
393 Reg. (EC) No 1669/2000 amending Reg. (EC) No 2467/98: market in sheep-meat and goatmeat	OJ C 86/24.3.2000 COM(2000) 77 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.139	OJ C 168/16.6.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.80	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.109		OJ L 193/29.7.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.128	Amended reg.: OJ L 312/20.11.1998
393 Reg. (EC) No 1365/2000 amending Reg. (EEC) No 2759/75: market in pig-meat	OJ C 86/24.3.2000 COM(2000) 77 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.139	OJ C 168/16.6.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.80	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.109		OJ L 156/29.6.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.114	Amended reg.: OJ L 282/1.11.1995

Management of the common agricultural policy

394 Reg. (EC) No 2580/2000 amending Reg. (EC) No 3448/93: trade arrangements applicable to certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products	COM(1999) 717 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.175	OJ C 117/26.4.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.105	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.105		OJ L 298/25.11.2000	Amended reg.: OJ L 318/20.12.1993
394 Prop. for a reg.: use of inward processing arrangements in the management of certain agricultural markets	COM(2000) 868 Bull. 12-2000					
395 Reg. (EC) No 811/2000 amending Reg. (EC) No 1577/96: specific measure in respect of certain grain legumes	COM(1999) 428	OJ C 51/23.2.2000	OJ C 377/29.12.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.109		OJ L 100/20.4.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.74	Amended reg.: OJ L 206/16.8.1996
396 Prop. for a reg.: common organisation of the markets in the sugar sector	COM(2000) 604 Bull. 10-2000/1.3.112	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.110				
397 Prop. for a reg.: production aid for cotton	COM(1999) 492 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.181	OJ C 140/18.5.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.107				
398 Report: quality strategy for olive oil	COM(2000) 855 Bull. 12-2000					

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
399 Reg. (EC) No 2699/2000 amending Regs (EC) No 2200/96, No 2201/96, No 2202/96: fruit and vegetables	COM(2000) 433 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.131	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.109	Bull. 10-2000/1.3.109		Bull. 11-2000/1.3.109 * OJ L 311/12.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000	Amended reg: OJ L 297/22.11.1996
399 Prop. for a reg.: extension of the financing of quality and marketing improvement plans approved under Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72	COM(2000) 623 Bull. 10-2000/1.3.108	Bull. 11-2000				
400 Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EEC) No 404/93: common organisation of the market in bananas	OJ C 177/27.6.2000 COM(1999) 582 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.126	29.3.2000	Bull. 12-2000		Bull. 12-2000 *	Reg. to be amended: OJ L 47/25.2.1993
402 Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EEC) No 1696/71: common organisation of the market in hops	COM(2000) 834 Bull. 12-2000					Reg. to be amended: OJ L 175/4.8.1971
404 Reg. (EC) No 1040/2000 amending Reg. (EC) No 1255/1999: common organisation of the market in milk and milk products	COM(1999) 631 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.127	OJ C 75/15.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.141	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.107		OJ L 118/19.5.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.107	Amended reg.: OJ L 160/26.6.1999
404 Reg. (EC) No 1670/2000 amending Reg. (EC) No 1255/1999: system for the distribution of milk to schools	COM(1999) 608 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.184	OJ C 168/16.6.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.75	Bull. 4-2000/1.3.75 Bull. 5-2000/1.3.106		Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.130 * OJ L 193/29.7.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.130	Amended reg.: OJ L 160/26.6.1999
406 Prop. for a reg. amending Regulation (EEC) No 2759/75: fund for the regulation of the market in pigmeat	COM(2000) 193 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.76	OJ C 367/20.12.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.76	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.114			Reg. to be amended: OJ L 282/1.11.1975

Financing the common agricultural policy: the EAGGF

417 Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EC) No 1258/1999: financing of the CAP as well as various other regulations relating to the CAP	COM(2000) 494 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.134					Reg. to be amended: OJ L 160/26.6.1999
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Fisheries

Content of the fisheries policy

424 Reg. (EC) No 657/2000: closer dialogue with the fishing industry and groups affected by the common fisheries policy	COM(1999) 382 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.161		OJ C 304/24.10.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.144		OJ L 80/31.3.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.111	
425 Reg. (EC) No 1543/2000: collection and management of fisheries data	COM(1999) 541 Bull. 10-1999/1.3.117		OJ C 346/4.12.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.112		Bull. 6-2000/1.3.119 * OJ L 176/15.7.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.119	

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
425 Dec. 2000/439/EC: financial contribution from the Community towards expenditure by the Member States (collection of data, studies and pilot projects in connection with the common fisheries policy)	COM(1999) 551 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.132		OJ C 346/4.12.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.117		Bull. 6-2000/1.3.117 * OJ L 176/15.7.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.117	

Conservation and management of resources

429 Reg. (EC) No 812/2000 amending Regs (EC) No 1626/94 and 850/98: conservation of fishery resources — bluefin tuna	COM(1999) 552 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.133	OJ C 75/15.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.148	OJ C 346/4.12.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.113		OJ L 100/20.4.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.82	Amended reg.: OJ L 171/6.7.1994
429 Reg. (EC) No 812/2000 amending Regs (EC) No 1626/94 and 850/98: conservation of fishery resources — bluefin tuna	COM(1999) 552 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.133	OJ C 75/15.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.148	OJ C 346/4.12.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.113		OJ L 100/20.4.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.82	Amended reg.: OJ L 125/27.4.1998
429 Reg. (EC) No 1298/2000 amending Reg. (EC) No 850/98: fisheries sector — protection of juveniles of marine organisms	COM(1999) 636 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.134	OJ C 75/15.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.148	Bull. 5-2000/1.3.111		OJ L 148/22.6.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.118	Amended reg.: OJ L 125/27.4.1998
429 Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EC) No 850/98: conservation of fishery resources through technical measures for the protection of juveniles of marine organisms	COM(2000) 501 Bull. 9-2000/1.3.77					Reg. to be amended: OJ L 125/27.4.1998
429 Reg. (EC) No 2549/2000: cod stocks in the Irish Sea	COM(2000) 190 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.81		Bull. 10-2000/1.3.115		OJ L 292/21.11.2000 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.119	
429 Prop. for a reg.: measures applicable in 2001 for the recovery of cod stocks in the Irish Sea	COM(2000) 745 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.121					
433 Prop. for a reg.: fisheries sector — conservation of highly migratory species	COM(2000) 353 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.121					
433 Prop. for a reg.: fisheries — catch documentation scheme for <i>Dissostichus spp.</i>	COM(2000) 383 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.140					
435 Reg. (EC) No 1262/2000: control measures in respect of vessels flying the flag of non-contracting parties to the North-West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)	COM(1999) 570 Bull. 11-1999/1.3.142		Bull. 5-2000/1.3.113		OJ L 144/17.6.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.3.122	
435 Dec. 2000/487/EC: establishing an autonomous budget for the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM)	OJ C 15/20.1.1999 COM(1998) 690 Bull. 12-1998/1.2.251		OJ C 150/28.5.1999 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.263		OJ L 197/3.8.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.3.139	

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
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Citizenship and quality of life

Area of freedom, security and justice

Internal borders, external borders, visa policy, right of non-Community nationals to travel

444	German initiative for a dec.: counterfeit travel documents			OJ C 189/7.7.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.6.5		OJ L 81/1.4.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.3	Initiative of Germany: OJ C 176/22.6.1999 (Art. 67 EC)
445	Prop. for a reg.: list of countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders	COM(2000) 27 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.3		Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.2	COM(2000) 577 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.8	Bull. 11-2000 *	
445	Portuguese initiative for a reg.: period during which third-country nationals exempt from visa requirements may travel within the territory of the EC						Initiative of Portugal: OJ C 164/14.6.2000 (Art. 67 EC)
445	Finnish initiative for a reg.: implementing powers conferred on the Council for examining visa applications						Initiative of Finland: OJ C 164/14.6.2000 (Art. 67 EC)
445	French initiative for a reg.: freedom of movement with a long-stay visa						Initiative of France: OJ C 200/13.7.2000 (Art. 67 EC)

Asylum, immigration

449	Prop. for a dir.: minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status	COM(2000) 578 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.6					
450	Dec. 2000/596/EC: European Refugee Fund	COM(1999) 686 Bull. 12-1999/1.5.8	OJ C 168/16.6.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.1 OJ C 317/6.11.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.7 *	Bull. 4-2000/1.4.1	COM(2000) 533 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.9	OJ L 252/6.10.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.9	
451	Prop. for a dir.: minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 303 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.3					
453	Finnish initiative for a reg.: reciprocal obligations of Member States as regards the readmission of third-country nationals			Bull. 5-2000/1.4.4			Initiative of Finland: OJ C 353/7.12.1999 (Art. 67 EC) and Bull. 12-1999/1.5.7

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
454	French initiative for a dir.: defining the facilitation of unauthorised entry, movement and residence					Initiative of France: OJ C 253/4.9.2000 (Art. 67 EC)
454	French initiative for a dir.: harmonisation of financial penalties imposed on carriers engaged in the smuggling of immigrants					Initiative of France: OJ C 269/20.9.2000 (Art. 67 EC)
455	French initiative for a dir.: mutual recognition of decisions on the expulsion of third-country nationals					Initiative of France: OJ C 243/24.8.2000
456	Reg. (EC) No 2725/2000: establishment of the Eurodac system	COM(1999) 260 Bull. 5-1999/1.4.5	OJ C 189/7.7.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.6.4 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.10	COM(2000) 100 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.2	OJ L 316/15.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000	

Judicial cooperation in civil matters

458	Reg. (EC) No 1347/2000: jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and in matters of parental responsibility	COM(1999) 220 Bull. 5-1999/1.4.10	OJ C 368/20.12.1999 Bull. 10-1999/1.6.4	OJ C 189/7.7.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.6.6	COM(2000) 151 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.7	OJ L 160/30.6.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.9 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.7 *
458	Reg. (EC) No 1348/2000: service of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters	COM(1999) 219 Bull. 5-1999/1.4.9	OJ C 368/20.12.1999 Bull. 10-1999/1.6.5	OJ C 189/7.7.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.6.7	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 75 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.8	2.12.1999 * OJ L 160/30.6.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.8
458	German and Finnish initiative for a reg.: insolvency proceedings		OJ C 75/15.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.5	OJ C 346/4.12.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.6		OJ L 160/30.6.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.7
458	Reg.: jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters	COM(1999) 348 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.5.2	OJ C 117/26.4.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.4.5	Bull. 9-2000/1.4.13	COM(2000) 689 Bull. 10-2000/1.4.6	Initiative of Germany and Finland: Bull 5-1999/1.4.13 (Art. 67 EC)
459	French initiative for a reg.: mutual enforcement of judgments on right of access to children		Bull. 10-2000/1.4.5	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.6		OJ L 160/30.6.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.7
459	German initiative for a reg.: taking of evidence in civil and commercial matters					Initiative of France: OJ C 234/15.8.2000 (Art. 67 EC)
461	Prop. for a reg.: extension of the Grotius programme for legal practitioners in the area of civil law	COM(2000) 516 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.15	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.7	Bull. 12-2000		Initiative of Germany: OJ C 314/3.11.2000 (Art. 67 EC)
461	Prop. for a dec.: second phase of the Grotius II general and criminal programme	COM(2000) 828 Bull. 12-2000				

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
461	French initiative for a dec.: establishment of a European judicial training network					Initiative of France: 30.11.2000
462	Prop. for a dec.: establishment of a European judicial network in civil and commercial matters	COM(2000) 592 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.11				
464	French initiative for a convention to improve mutual assistance in criminal matters (combating organised crime and money laundering)		Bull. 11-2000/1.4.12			Initiative of France: OJ C 243/24.8.2000 (Art. 67 EC)
465	German initiative for a framework decision: penal sanctions for counterfeiting the euro		OJ C 339/29.11.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.10		OJ L 140/14.6.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.13	Initiative of Germany (Art. 67 EC): Bull 11-1999/1.6.8 and OJ C 322/10.11.1999
465	Prop. for a framework decision on combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment	COM(1999) 438 Bull. 9-1999/1.5.4	Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.15			
466	Portuguese initiative for a framework decision: standing of victims in criminal procedure		Bull. 12-2000			
467	Council act drawing up the convention on mutual assistance in criminal matters between the Member States		OJ C 339/29.11.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.9		Bull. 5-2000/1.4.12	
467	French initiative for a framework decision: money laundering, identification, tracing, freezing, seizing and confiscation of instrumentalities and the proceeds from crime		Bull. 11-2000/1.4.10			Initiative of France: OJ C 243/24.8.2000 (Art. 67 EC)
468	Danish initiative for a framework decision: combating serious environmental crime		Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.17			Initiative of Denmark: OJ C 39/11.2.2000 (Art. 67 EC)
469	German initiative for a framework decision: criminal law protection against fraudulent anti-competitive conduct in relation to the award of public contracts					Initiative of Germany: OJ C 253/4.9.2000 (Art. 67 EC)
470	Belgian, French, Portuguese and Swedish initiative for a dec.: setting up Euro-just to reinforce the fight against organised crime					Initiative of Belgium, France, Portugal and Sweden: OJ C 243/24.8.2000 (Art. 67 EC)
470	Dec. 2000/799/JHA setting up a provisional judicial cooperation unit		Bull. 11-2000/1.4.8		28.9.2000 * OJ L 324/21.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000	

Police and customs cooperation and the fight against organised or other crime

471	French and Swedish initiative for a dec.: setting up a European crime prevention network					Initiative of France and Sweden: OJ C 362/16.12.2000
471	Prop. for a dec.: programme for the prevention of crime (Hippocrates)	COM(2000) 786 Bull. 11-2000/1.4.14				

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
474	Prop. for a dec.: second phase of the OISIN II programme	COM(2000) 828 Bull. 12-2000				
475	Dec. 2000/820/JHA: provisional establishment of the European Police College (EPC)		Bull. 11-2000/1.4.13		Bull. 11-2000/1.4.13 * OJ L 336/30.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000	Initiative of Portugal: OJ C 206/19.7.2000 (Art. 67 EC) and Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.9
477	Austrian initiative for a dec.: combating child pornography on the Internet		Bull. 4-2000/1.4.3		OJ L 138/9.6.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.11	Initiative of Austria (Art. 67 EC): Bull. 12-1999
477	Prop. for a dec.: second phase of the STOP II programme	COM(2000) 828 Bull. 12-2000				
478	Finnish initiative for a dec.: exchange of information between the financial intelligence units of the Member States		Bull. 4-2000/1.4.2		29.5.2000 * OJ L 271/24.10.2000 Bull. 10-2000/1.4.8	Initiative of Finland (Art. 67 EC): Bull. 12-1999

Drugs

481	Reg. (EC) No 2220/2000: setting up a European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)	COM(1999) 430 Bull. 9-1999/1.5.2		Bull. 6-2000/1.4.12		OJ L 253/7.10.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.20	Amended Reg. (EEC) No 302/93 (OJ L 36/12.2.1993)
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Education and culture

Culture, audiovisual policy and sport

520	Dec. 2000/821/EC: MEDIA Plus — development, distribution and promotion (2001-05)	COM(1999) 658 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.94	OJ C 168/16.6.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.9 OJ C 317/6.11.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.21 *	Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.25		Bull. 11-2000/1.4.27 * OJ L 336/30.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000	
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* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
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Environment

Industry and environment

543	Prop. for a dec. amending Dir. 90/219/EEC: criteria for establishing the safety to human health and the environment of types of genetically modified micro-organisms	COM(2000) 627				Dec. to be amended: OJ L 117/8.5.1990
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Civil protection

567	Prop. for a dec.: Community mechanism for the coordination of civil protection intervention in the event of emergencies	COM(2000) 593 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.39				
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Transport

Air transport

651	Prop. for a dec.: approval of the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air (the Montreal Convention)	COM(2000) 446 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.57				
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Health and consumer protection

Food safety

669	Prop. for a dir.: Community measures for the control of swine fever	COM(2000) 462 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.69				
669	Dec. 2001/12/EC amending Dec. 90/424/EEC: expenditure in the veterinary field	COM(2000) 542 Bull. 9-2000/1.4.72	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.58	Bull. 12-2000	OJ L 3/6.1.2001 Bull. 12-2000	Amended dec.: OJ L 224/18.8.1990

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
673 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 95/53/EC: official inspections regarding animal nutrition	OJ C 346/14.11.1998 COM(1998) 602 Bull. 11-1998/1.2.135	OJ C 138/18.5.1999 Bull. 3-1999/1.3.139	OJ C 98/9.4.1999 Bull. 12-1998/1.2.205			Dir. to be amended: OJ L 265/8.11.1995
674 Dir. 2000/29/EC amending Dir. 77/93/EEC: protection against organisms harmful to plants	OJ C 192/26.7.1995 COM(95) 239 Bull. 6-1995/1.3.33		OJ C 269/16.10.1995 Bull. 9-1995/1.3.11		OJ L 169/10.7.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.4.57	Amended dir.: OJ L 26/31.1.1977
674 Prop. for a dir. amending Dir. 68/193/EEC: marketing of material for the vegetative propagation of the vine	COM(2000) 59 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.71	OJ C 268/19.9.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.68	Bull. 10-2000/1.4.55			Dir. to be amended: OJ L 9/31/7.4.68

Enlargement

Pre-accession strategy

Accession partnerships and general matters

708 Reg. (EC) No 555/2000: implementation of operations in the framework of the pre-accession strategy for Cyprus and Malta	COM(1999) 535 Bull. 10-1999/1.4.5		OJ C 339/29.11.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.5.7		OJ L 68/16.3.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.5.6	
709 Prop. for a dec.: accession partnership with Turkey	COM(2000) 714 Bull. 11-2000/1.5.12					
709 Prop. for a reg.: assistance to Turkey in the framework of the pre-accession strategy	COM(2000) 502 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.5.6				Bull. 12-2000 *	

Financial and technical assistance

727 Reg. (EC) No 764/2000: implementation of measures to intensify the EC-Turkey customs union	OJ C 408/29.12.1998 COM(1998) 600 Bull. 10-1998/1.3.77		Bull. 12-1999/1.3.17	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 141 Bull. 3-2000/1.5.7	OJ L 94/14.4.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.5.6	
727 Dec. 2000/788/EC amending Dec. 2000/24/EC: establishment of an EIB special action programme for the consolidation and intensification of the EC-Turkey customs union	COM(2000) 479		Bull. 11-2000/1.5.8		OJ L 314/14.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000	Amended dec.: OJ L 9/13.1.2000

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
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Role of the Union in the world

Common foreign and security policy (CFSP)

General matters

745	Prop. for a reg.: creating the rapid reaction facility	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 119 Bull. 4-2000/1.6.1				
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Relations with the western Balkans

Regional dimension

895	Reg. (EC) No 2666/2000: assistance for the western Balkans	COM(2000) 281 Bull. 5-2000/1.6.65		Bull. 11-2000/1.6.54	COM(2000) 628 Bull. 10-2000/1.6.52	Bull. 11-2000/1.6.54 * OJ L 306/7.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000
895	Reg. (EC) No 2667/2000: European Agency for Reconstruction	COM(2000) 281 Bull. 5-2000/1.6.65		Bull. 11-2000/1.6.54	COM(2000) 628 Bull. 10-2000/1.6.52	Bull. 11-2000/1.6.54 * OJ L 306/7.12.2000 Bull. 12-2000
897	Dec. 2000/474/EC: Community contribution to the International Fund for the Clearance of the Fairway of the Danube	COM(2000) 317 Bull. 5-2000/1.6.67		Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.79		OJ L 187/26.7.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.79

Bosnia and Herzegovina

900	Reg. (EEC) No 1080/2000: peace agreements — support for certain interim civilian administrations after conflicts	COM(2000) 95 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.1		Bull. 5-2000/1.6.66		OJ L 122/24.5.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.6.66
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	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
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Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

905	Dec. 2000/355/EC: provision of exceptional financial assistance for Montenegro	COM(2000) 288 Bull. 5-2000/1.6.76		Bull. 5-2000/1.6.76		OJ L 127/27.5.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.6.76
908	Dec. 2000/140/EC: exceptional financial assistance for Kosovo	COM(1999) 598 Bull. 11-1999/1.5.61		OJ C 309/27.10.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.88		OJ L 47/19.2.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.88

Relations with the southern Mediterranean and the Middle East

Financial and technical cooperation

928	Reg. (EC) No 2698/2000 amending Reg. (EC) No 1488/96: financial and technical measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (MEDA)	COM(1999) 494 Bull. 10-1999/1.5.67		Bull. 9-2000/1.6.67		OJ L 311/12.12.2000 Bull. 11-2000	Amended reg.: OJ L 189/30.7.1996
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Relations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) and the overseas countries and territories (OCTs)

Relations with overseas countries and territories (OCTs)

1043	Dec. 2000/169/EC extending Dec. 91/482/EEC: association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Community	COM(2000) 156 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.160				OJ L 55/29.2.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.160	Extended dec.: OJ L 263/19.9.1991
1043	Prop. for a dec.: association of the overseas countries and territories	COM(2000) 732 Bull. 11-2000					

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
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Financing Community activities, resource management

Budgets

General budget

1050	Reg. (EC) No 2040/2000: budgetary discipline	COM(1999) 364 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.6.1		OJ C 189/7.7.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.7.2 Bull. 9-2000/1.7.1		OJ L 244/29.9.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.7.1
1052	Dec. 2000/597/EC: system of the European Union's own resources	COM(1999) 333 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.2	OJ C 368/20.12.1999 Bull. 10-1999/1.1	OJ C 189/7.7.2000 Bull. 11-1999/1.1 Bull. 9-2000/1.7.4		OJ L 253/7.10.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.7.4
1053	Reg. (EC) No 1150/2000: system of own resources (consolidated version)	COM(97) 652 Bull. 12-1997/1.5.1		OJ C 304/24.10.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.7.3		OJ L 130/31.5.2000 Bull. 5-2000/1.7.6

Financial regulations

1077	Prop. for a reg.: recast version of the financial regulation applicable to the budget of the European Communities	COM(2000) 461 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.7.9				Reg. to be amended: OJ L 356/31.12.1997
1078	Prop. for a reg. amending the financial regulation of 21.12.1977 and separating the internal audit function from the <i>ex ante</i> financial control function	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 341 Bull. 5-2000/1.7.7		Bull. 10-2000/1.7.4	COM(2000) 693 Bull. 10-2000/1.7.4	

Protection of the Communities' financial interests and the fight against fraud

1084	Prop. for a reg.: protection of the euro against counterfeiting	COM(2000) 492 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.7.13				
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	Commission proposal	ESC opinion/COR opinion *	EP opinion	Amended Commission proposal	Adoption by Council *	Observations
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Guarantee in the general budget for borrowing and lending operations

1091	Dec. 2000/688/EC amending Dec. 2000/24/EC: extension of the guarantee granted by the EC to the EIB for loans to Croatia	OJ C 311/31.10.2000 COM(2000) 289 Bull. 6-2000/1.7.6		Bull. 10-2000/1.7.6		OJ L 285/10.11.2000 Bull. 11-2000/1.7.3	Amended dec.: OJ L 9/13.1.2000
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Institutions and other bodies

Administration and management of the institutions

Personnel management and Staff Regulations of officials

1192	Prop. for a reg. amending Reg. (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68: Staff Regulations of parliamentary assistants	OJ C 179/11.6.1998 COM(1998) 312		OJ C 175/21.6.1999			Reg. to be amended: OJ L 56/4.3.1968. Proposal rejected by the Council on 22.5.2000
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* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Council agreement.

Table III — International agreements procedure

	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
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The Community economic and social area

Single market

Free movement of goods

148	Agreement concerning the establishment of global technical regulations for wheeled vehicles (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)				OJ C 87/29.3.1999 COM(1999) 27 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.53		OJ C 296/18.10.2000 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.14	OJ L 35/10.2.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.39	
148	Proposal for the accession of the EC to Regulation 104 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning the approval of retro-reflecting markings for vehicles				COM(2000) 161 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.29				
148	Proposal for the accession of the EC to the regulation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning the approval of vehicles transporting dangerous goods				COM(2000) 172 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.16				
148	Proposal for the accession of the EC to Regulation 106 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning approval of pneumatic tyres for agricultural vehicles and trailers				COM(2000) 160 Bull. 3-2000/1.3.29				
148	Proposal for the accession of the EC to Regulation 108 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning approval for the production of retreaded pneumatic tyres				COM(1999) 728 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.27				

	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
148	Proposal for the accession of the EC to Regulation 109 of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning approval for the production of retreaded pneumatic tyres for commercial vehicles and their trailers				COM(1999) 727 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.37				
148	Proposal for the accession of the EC to the regulation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning approval of an airbag module				COM(2000) 25 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.38				
148	Proposal for the accession of the EC to the regulation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning the approval of road tankers				OJ C 374/3.12.1998 COM(1998) 564 Bull. 10-1998/1.2.24		OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.26	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.41	
148	Proposal for the accession of the EC to the regulation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning the approval of apparatus on vehicles powered by compressed natural gas				OJ C 374/3.12.1998 COM(1998) 565 Bull. 10-1998/1.2.25		OJ C 219/30.7.1999 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.26	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.3.40	

Competition policy

International cooperation

242	Draft EC-Japan agreement on the application of Community and Japanese competition laws		Bull. 6-2000/1.3.46						Recommendation for signature: 15.5.2000
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Research and technology

Implementation of the fifth framework programme 1998–2002

303	Draft EC-Russia agreement on scientific and technical cooperation		Bull. 11-1997/1.3.103	11.2.1999	Bull. 11-2000/1.3.79	COM(1999) 324 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.89		Bull. 11-1999	
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* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Agreement requiring Parliament's assent.

	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
312	Draft agreement between the parties to the ITER agreement and qualified third countries: establishment of an ITER legal entity for ITER construction and operation	16.11.2000							

Information society

International cooperation and regional aspects

341	Draft accession of South Korea to the IMS programme				COM(2000) 728 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.86				
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Fisheries

Conservation and management of resources

432	Draft convention on the conservation and management of fishery resources in the south-east Atlantic								Proposal signature: Bull. 12-2000
436	Draft protocol on the possibilities of fishing — EC-Mauritius agreement from 3.12.1999 to 2.12.2002				COM(2000) 229 Bull. 4-2000/1.3.83		Bull. 9-2000/1.3.80		
436	Draft protocol on the possibilities of fishing and financial contribution — EC-Angola agreement		6.7.2000		COM(2000) 747 Bull. 11-2000/1.3.123				
436	Draft protocol on the possibilities of fishing and financial contribution — EC-Côte d'Ivoire agreement		26.5.2000		COM(2000) 629 Bull. 10-2000/1.3.119			Bull. 12-2000	
436	Draft protocol on the possibilities of fishing and financial contribution — EC-Equatorial Guinea agreement		16.6.2000		COM(2000) 690 COM(2000) 691				

	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
436	Draft protocol on the possibilities of fishing and financial contribution — EC-Greenland agreement		13.9.2000		Bull. 12-2000				

Citizenship and quality of life

Area of freedom, security and justice

Internal borders, external borders, visa policy, right of non-Community nationals to travel

443	EC-Iceland and EC-Norway agreement on the Schengen acquis	Bull. 7/8-1998/1.5.2		Bull. 5-1999/1.4.2				OJ L 176/10.7.1999 Bull. 5-1999/1.4.2	Entry into force: OJ L 149/23.6.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.2 Council agreement: Bull. 4-1999/1.5.3
443	Agreement laying down the rights and obligations between Iceland and Norway, on the one hand, and the United Kingdom and Ireland, on the other, regarding the Schengen acquis	Bull. 4-1999/1.5.4		Bull. 6-1999/1.4.2				OJ L 15/20.1.2000 Bull. 6-1999/1.4.2	Entry into force: OJ L 149/23.6.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.4.3

Asylum, immigration

448	Draft agreement between the EC and Iceland and Norway on an asylum procedure	15.9.1999	Bull. 5-2000/1.4.15	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.16					
452	Draft readmission agreement with Morocco, Pakistan, Russia and Sri Lanka		18.9.2000						

* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Agreement requiring Parliament's assent.

	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
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Police and customs cooperation and the fight against organised or other crime

472	Draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime	17.2.2000	Bull. 5-2000/1.4.14		Bull. 12-2000				
472	Protocols to the proposed United Nations Convention against organised crime involving trafficking in firearms	Bull. 6-1999/1.4.3	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.6						
472	Draft protocol to the United Nations Convention against organised crime involving smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons	23.6.1999	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.11						

Drugs

481	Participation of Norway in the work of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)			21.7.1999		COM(1999) 496 Bull. 10-1999/1.6.8		Bull. 9-2000/1.4.19	
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Education and culture

Cooperation with non-member countries

533	Draft EC-Canada agreement renewing the cooperation programme in higher education and training	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.87	Bull. 5-2000/1.4.18		Bull. 12-2000	COM(2000) 655 Bull. 10-2000/1.4.11		Bull. 12-2000	Proposal signature: COM(2000) 655 Bull. 10-2000/1.4.11
533	Draft EC-US agreement renewing the cooperation programme in higher education and training	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.87	Bull. 5-2000/1.4.18		Bull. 12-2000	COM(2000) 656 Bull. 10-2000/1.4.11		Bull. 12-2000	Proposal signature: COM(2000) 656 Bull. 10-2000/1.4.11

	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
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Environment

Industry and environment

541	Draft protocol to the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (heavy metals)	Bull. 1/2-1998/1.3.238				COM(2000) 177 Bull. 4-2000/1.4.11		Bull. 10-2000/1.4.18	Proposal signature: Bull. 5-1998/1.2.162 Council decision concerning the signature: Bull. 6-1998/1.3.150
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Environmental quality and natural resources

551	Draft protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity concerning biosafety	Bull. 9-1995/1.3.91	Bull. 10-1995/1.3.160		Bull. 5-2000/1.4.32				
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European Environment Agency

565	Draft agreement concerning the participation of Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey in the European Environment Agency	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.125	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.25			COM(2000) 866 COM(2000) 867 COM(2000) 869 to 879 Bull. 12-2000			
565	Draft EC-Switzerland agreement on the participation of Switzerland as an observer in the European Environment Agency		Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.77						

- * Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.
- * Agreement requiring Parliament's assent.

	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
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International dimension

580	OSPAR Convention — new Annex V				OJ C 158/4.6.1999 COM(1999) 190 Bull. 4-1999/1.3.134		OJ C 154/5.6.2000 Bull. 10-1999/1.3.100	Bull. 5-2000/1.4.27	
580	Draft new Convention for the Protection of the Rhine		Bull. 10-1997/1.2.173		COM(2000) 61 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.32		Bull. 5-2000/1.4.28	7.11.2000	Proposal signature: COM(1999) 51 Bull. 1/2-1999/1.3.216 Council decision concerning the signature: Bull. 3-1999/1.3.125
580	Draft amendment to the protocol relating to cooperation on combating the pollution of the Mediterranean by hydrocarbons (Barcelona Convention)	Bull. 9-1999/1.2.106	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.30						
581	Draft amendments to the Espoo Convention concerning environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context	Bull. 11-2000/1.4.44							

Energy

Security of supply and international cooperation

590	Draft EC-US agreement on the coordination of labelling programmes for energy-efficient products	14.2.1996	27.9.1996		Bull. 12-2000	COM(1999) 328 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.109			
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Individual sectors

607	Draft agreement between Euratom and Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on nuclear cooperation	Bull. 7/8-1994/1.2.85	Bull. 6-2000/1.4.43						
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	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
607	Agreement between France, Euratom and the International Atomic Energy Agency on safeguards in connection with the Treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean	16.6.1997	15.9.1997						
					COM(1998) 525 Bull. 9-1998/1.2.92			Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.49	Adoption by the Commission of a decision on the conclusion of the agreement on behalf of the European Atomic Energy Community 7.9.2000. Bull. 9-2000/1.4.53 Tripartite signature: 26.9.2000

Transport

International cooperation

656	Draft memorandum of understanding on the development of the Black Sea pan-European transport area					24.10.2000			Proposal signature: Bull. 10-2000/1.4.46
656	Draft multilateral agreement on the transport of passengers								Proposal signature: 4.12.2000

Health and consumer protection

Public health

677	Negotiation of an international framework convention on tobacco control	Bull. 9-1999/1.2.128	Bull. 10-1999/1.3.126						
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* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Agreement requiring Parliament's assent.

	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
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Enlargement

Pre-accession strategy

Europe agreements and other agreements

712	Draft protocol to the EC-Czech Rep. agreement on concessions in agriculture		4.5.2000						
712	Draft protocol to the EC-Slovakia agreement on concessions in agriculture		4.5.2000						
712	Draft protocol to the EC-Romania agreement on concessions in agriculture		26.5.2000						
712	Draft protocol to the EC-Lithuania agreement on concessions in agriculture		5.6.2000						
712	Draft protocol to the EC-Hungary agreement on concessions in agriculture		14.4.2000						
712	Draft protocol to the EC-Latvia agreement on concessions in agriculture		30.3.1999	8.5.2000					
712	Draft protocol to the EC-Bulgaria agreement on concessions in agriculture		30.3.1999	18.5.2000					
712	Draft protocol to the EC-Slovenia agreement on concessions in agriculture		30.3.1999	22.5.2000					
712	Draft protocol to the EC-Poland agreement on concessions in agriculture		30.3.1999	26.9.2000					
713	Draft EC-Hungary agreement on the carriage of goods by road and combined transport	Bull. 12-1992/1.3.137	Bull. 12-1995/1.3.121		Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.60			Bull. 10-2000/1.4.47	Proposal signature: COM(1999) 665 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.137
713	Draft EC-Bulgaria agreement on the carriage of goods by road and combined transport	Bull. 12-1992/1.3.137	Bull. 12-1995/1.3.121		Bull. 7/8-2000/1.4.60			Bull. 10-2000/1.4.47	Proposal signature: COM(1999) 666 Bull. 12-1999/1.2.137

	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
713			26.10.2000						
714			1.7.2000						
714			1.7.2000						
714			1.7.2000						
715	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.3.125	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.25							
717	Bull. 7/8-1997/1.3.117	Bull. 10-1997/1.2.94			COM(2000) 242 Bull. 4-2000/1.5.3		Bull. 7/8-2000/1.5.5	OJ L 197/3.8.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.5.5	
717	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.85	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.22	16.6.2000		COM(2000) 416 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.5.1		Bull. 9-2000/1.5.1	OJ L 267/20.10.2000 Bull. 9-2000/1.5.1	
717	Bull. 12-1999/1.2.85	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.4.22	16.6.2000		COM(2000) 661 Bull. 10-2000/1.5.16		Bull. 12-2000		

Role of the Union in the world

Common commercial policy

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

811	Bilateral agreement between the EC and China on the accession of the latter to the WTO				Bull. 5-2000/1.6.28				Proposal signature: Bull. 5-2000/1.6.28
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* Opinion of the Committee of the Regions.

* Agreement requiring Parliament's assent.

	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
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Operation of the customs union, customs cooperation and mutual assistance

819	EC-Switzerland agreement on the extension of the common communications network/common systems interface				13.4.2000	COM(2000) 29 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.35			OJ L 102/27.4.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.6.18	Entry into force: 14.4.2000
819	EC-Czech Rep. agreement on the extension of the common communications network/common systems interface				13.4.2000	COM(2000) 29 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.35			OJ L 102/27.4.2000 Bull. 3-2000/1.6.18	Entry into force: 13.4.2000
819	EC-Norway agreement on the extension of the common communications network/common systems interface				28.8.2000	COM(2000) 369 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.25			OJ L 204/11.8.2000 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.35	Entry into force: 28.8.2000

Treaties, trade agreements and agreements on mutual recognition

826	EC-Israel agreement on the mutual recognition of good laboratory practices				16.1.1997	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.59	COM(1999) 33 Bull. 3-1999/1.4.42			OJ L 263/9.10.1999 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.59	Entry into force: OJ L 105/3.5.2000 Council decision concerning the signature: Bull. 6-1999/1.3.40
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Individual sectors

833	Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters amending the agreement establishing an association between the EC and Malta on textile products						COM(1999) 572			OJ L 59/4.3.2000 Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.63	
833	Draft agreement with Kazakhstan on trade in textile products	27.5.1999	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.63	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45	26.6.2000		COM(2000) 374 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.36			Bull. 12-2000	Provisional application: Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45 Council decision concerning the signature: 26.6.2000

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833	Draft agreement with Armenia on trade in textile products	27.5.1999	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.63	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45	Bull. 12-2000	COM(2000) 374 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.36		Bull. 12-2000	
833	Draft agreement with Azerbaijan on trade in textile products	27.5.1999	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.63	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45	Bull. 12-2000	COM(2000) 374 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.36		Bull. 12-2000	
833	Draft agreement with Belarus on trade in textile products	27.5.1999	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.63	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45	Bull. 12-2000	COM(2000) 374 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.36		Bull. 12-2000	
833	Draft agreement with Georgia on trade in textile products	27.5.1999	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.63	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45	Bull. 12-2000	COM(2000) 374 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.36		Bull. 12-2000	
833	Draft agreement with Egypt on trade in textile products	27.5.1999	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.63	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45	Bull. 12-2000	Bull. 6-2000/1.6.36		Bull. 12-2000	
833	Draft agreement with Moldova on trade in textile products	27.5.1999	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.63	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45	Bull. 12-2000	COM(2000) 374 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.36		Bull. 12-2000	Proposal signature: 5.12.2000
833	Draft agreement with Nepal on trade in textile products	27.5.1999	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.63	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45	Bull. 12-2000	COM(2000) 374 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.36		Bull. 12-2000	
833	Draft agreement with Tajikistan on trade in textile products	27.5.1999	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.63	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45	Bull. 12-2000	Bull. 6-2000/1.6.36		Bull. 12-2000	
833	Draft agreement with Turkmenistan on trade in textile products	27.5.1999	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.63	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45	Bull. 12-2000	COM(2000) 374 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.36		Bull. 12-2000	
833	Draft agreement with Uzbekistan on trade in textile products	27.5.1999	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.63	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45	Bull. 12-2000	COM(2000) 374 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.36		Bull. 12-2000	
833	Draft agreement with Ukraine on trade in textile products	27.5.1999	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.63	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45	Bull. 12-2000	COM(2000) 374 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.36		Bull. 12-2000	
833	Draft agreement with China on trade in textile products	27.5.1999	Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.63	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.45	Bull. 12-2000	COM(2000) 374 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.36		Bull. 12-2000	
833	Draft EC-China agreement on trade in textile products not covered by the MFA bilateral agreement			19.5.2000	Bull. 11-2000/1.6.40				Prop. for a decision on the signature: COM(2000) 646 Bull. 10-2000/1.6.45 Provisional application: 23.11.2000

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833	Agreement amending the EC-Vietnam agreement on trade in textile and clothing products	30.11.1999	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.62	31.3.2000					Proposal signature: COM(2000) 309 Council decision concerning the signature: OJ L 190/27.7.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.37
833	Draft agreement with Croatia on trade in textile products	6.9.2000	Bull. 11-2000/1.6.38	Bull. 11-2000/1.6.38	Bull. 12-2000				Proposal concerning the signature and the provisional application: COM(2000) 765 Proposal signature: COM(2000) 765 Bull. 11-2000/1.6.38
833	Draft agreement with the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina on trade in textile products	6.9.2000	Bull. 11-2000/1.6.39	Bull. 11-2000/1.6.39					
833	Draft agreement with Sri Lanka on trade in textile products		9.11.2000	Bull. 12-2000					Council decision concerning the signature: Bull. 12-2000
834	EC-Republic of Korea agreement on the world market in shipbuilding		10.4.2000	Bull. 6-2000/1.6.38	COM(2000) 326 Bull. 5-2000/1.6.49			OJ L 153/28.6.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.38	
839	Draft agreement between the Community and Turkey on the reciprocal liberalisation of trade in services and the opening-up of government procurement		11.4.2000						

Development cooperation

Food security and food aid

872	Food Aid Convention, 1999		Bull. 6-1999/1.3.51					Bull. 5-2000/1.6.60	OJ L 163/4.7.2000 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.41	Proposal signature: COM(1999) 308 Bull. 6-1999/1.3.51 Council decision concerning the signature: OJ L 222/24.8.1999 Bull. 6-1999/1.3.51
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European Economic Area, relations with the EFTA countries

Relations with the EFTA countries

887	Draft EC-Switzerland agreement on statistical cooperation		Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.76						
887	Draft EC-Switzerland agreement on the fight against fraud and other illegal activities	Bull. 7/8-2000/1.7.11							

Relations with the western Balkans

Croatia

901	Draft stabilisation and association agreement with Croatia	19.7.2000	Bull. 11-2000/1.6.60						
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Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

909	Draft stabilisation and association agreement with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Bull. 9-1999/1.4.50	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.74	Bull. 11-2000/1.6.59					Adoption by the European Parliament of a resolution on the negotiating directives: Bull.1/2-2000/1.6.77
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* Agreement requiring Parliament's assent.

	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
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Relations with the southern Mediterranean and the Middle East

Maghreb

916	Euro-Mediterranean agreement with Morocco		Bull. 12-1993/1.3.133	Bull. 11-1995/1.4.67	Bull. 1/2-1996/1.4.114	COM(95) 740 Bull. 12-1995/1.4.88		Bull. 6-1996/1.4.76	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.93	Council decision concerning the signature: Bull. 1/2-1996/1.4.114
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Mashreq, Palestinian Territories and Israel

923	Euro-Mediterranean agreement setting up an association with Israel	23.9.1993	Bull. 12-1993/1.3.31	Bull. 9-1995/1.4.45	Bull. 11-1995/1.4.69	Bull. 11-1995/1.4.69		OJ C 78/18.4.1996 Bull. 1/2-1996/1.4.121	OJ L 147/21.6.2000 Bull. 4-2000/1.6.52	Council decision concerning the signature: Bull. 11-1995/1.4.69 ECSC Consultative Committee opinion: Bull. 12-1995/1.4.91
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Relations with the independent States of the former Soviet Union and with Mongolia

Partnership and other agreements

931	Draft protocol to the partnership and cooperation agreement with Russia				21.5.1997	COM(96) 150 Bull. 5-1996/1.4.73 COM(2000) 118 Bull. 5-2000/1.6.84		OJ C 200/30.6.1997 Bull. 6-1997/1.4.96		Provisional entry into force: Bull. 10-1997/1.3.80 Council decision concerning the signature: Bull. 7/8-1996/1.4.112 Consultation of ECSC Cons. Committee by Council: Bull. 6-1996/1.4.82
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	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations	
932	Protocol to the partnership agreement with Ukraine	COM(96) 133 Bull. 3-1996/1.4.69			Bull. 4-1997/1.4.89	COM(2000) 102		OJ C 286/22.9.1997 Bull. 7/8-1997/1.4.123	Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.85	Provisional application: Bull. 3-1998/1.3.101 Council decision concerning the signature: Bull. 7/8-1996/1.4.110 Consultation of ECSC Cons. Committee by Council: Bull. 4-1996/1.4.75
935	Draft agreements with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on nuclear cooperation	Bull. 7/8-1994/1.2.85							Bull. 6-2000/1.4.43	

Relations with the United States, Japan and other industrialised countries

South Korea

978	Draft agreement on the participation of the EC in KEDO								30.6.2000	
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Relations with Asian countries

Asia-Europe meetings (ASEM) and relations with regional bodies

981	Extension of the EC-ASEAN cooperation agreement to the Kingdom of Cambodia	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.102 COM(2000) 423 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.95				Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.95				Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.95	Request from Singapore in its capacity as president-in-office of ASEAN July 1999
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	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
981	Extension of the EC-ASEAN cooperation agreement to the Lao People's Democratic Republic	Bull. 12-1999/1.4.103	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.114		Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.95	COM(2000) 430 Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.95		Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.95	Request from Singapore in its capacity as president-in-office of ASEAN July 1999

Bilateral relations

984	EC-Bangladesh cooperation agreement	Bull. 5-1996/1.4.80	Bull. 7/8-1996/1.4.124	Bull. 1/2-1999/1.4.125	Bull. 5-2000/1.6.91	OJ C 143/21.5.1999 COM(1999) 155 Bull. 4-1999/1.4.84			Council decision concerning the signature: Bull. 5-2000/1.6.91
990	Agreement with Cambodia on trade in textile products		Bull. 11-1997/1.4.36	3.2.1999	3.5.2000	COM(1999) 179 Bull. 4-1999/1.4.33		OJ L 215/13.8.1999 Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.62	
999	Renewal of the agreement between Euratom and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO)	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.115							

Relations with Latin American countries

Bilateral relations

1012	Dec. 98/504/EC: interim trade agreement with Mexico	Bull. 10-1995/1.4.109	Bull. 6-1996/1.4.106	Bull. 7/8-1997/1.4.140	Bull. 12-1997/1.3.108	OJ C 356/22.11.1997 COM(97) 525 Bull. 10-1997/1.3.100		OJ C 167/1.6.1998 Bull. 5-1998/1.3.110	OJ L 226/13.8.1998 Bull. 6-1998/1.4.140	Council decision concerning the signature: Bull. 12-1997/1.3.108 Entry into force: OJ L 226/13.8.1998 Bull. 7/8-1998/1.4.126
1012	Partnership and political cooperation agreement with Mexico	Bull. 10-1995/1.4.109	Bull. 6-1996/1.4.106	Bull. 7/8-1997/1.4.140	Bull. 12-1997/1.3.108	OJ C 350/19.11.1997 COM(97) 527 Bull. 10-1997/1.3.100		Bull. 5-1999/1.3.117	Bull. 9-2000/1.6.78	Council decision concerning the signature: Bull. 12-1997/1.3.108

	Commission recommendation	Council decision/ negotiating directives	Initials	Signature	Commission proposal/ conclusion	ESC opinion/ COR opinion *	EP opinion/ EP assent *	Council regulation (or decision)/ conclusion	Observations
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1023	EC-ACP partnership agreement	Bull. 1/2-1998/1.4.146	Bull. 6-1998/1.4.144		Bull. 6-2000/1.6.83	COM(2000) 324 Bull. 5-2000/1.6.104			Proposal signature: COM(2000) 324 Bull. 5-2000/1.6.104
1030	Agreement on guaranteed prices for cane sugar for the ACP countries and India (1999-2000)	14.12.1999	Bull. 1/2-2000/1.6.142			COM(2000) 356 Bull. 6-2000/1.6.84		Bull. 7/8-2000/1.6.105	

Financing Community activities, resource management

Protection of the Communities' financial interests and the fight against fraud

1086	Draft protocol to the framework customs cooperation agreement with Chile			Bull. 7/8-1999/1.4.33		COM(2000) 138 Bull. 4-2000/1.6.21			
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