



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 3 January 2013

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Delegations
Subject:	Outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Information on 17 December 2012

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda set out in document CM 5771/12 was adopted with the addition of the two following items under '4. Any Other Business':

- Information on a request for public access to replies from 26 delegations to the questionnaire on public access to documents and/or information in the Member States; and
- Information on the appeal by Mr Jurasinovic against judgment T-465/09.

2. Transparency / access to documents

- a. Recast of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents

The Presidency presented the state of play on the recast of Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001 on the basis of document 17734/12 and thanked the Member States for their contributions on this file.

The Commission shared the conclusion that current circumstances are not favourable to find a compromise.

The incoming Presidency thanked the Presidency for all the useful efforts that they pursued throughout the semester and marked their intention to reflect on whether the dossier can be advanced during the next six months.

3. Communication / information Policy (*)

a. EU Nobel Peace Prize

The General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) gave a debriefing of the interinstitutional communication activities organised in the framework of the Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony which took place in Oslo on 10 December 2012.

The GSC underlined the considerable interinstitutional efforts made to communicate jointly on this event through a variety of initiatives and communication tools, in particular:

- (i) the commonly shared visual identity (the "Plantu" logo) which was also reproduced in several national websites;
- (ii) the exhibition "The European Union working for peace" at the "Europe Info Europa", which will be open from 18 December 2012 until 15 February 2013. Hence Member States who wish could take the relay and host the exhibition in their country;

- (iii) The organisation of and the communication on the Nobel Peace Prize contest, which had a positive impact on the young people and a remarkable press coverage, in particular on the local media (The European Parliament shared this analysis);
- (iv) The information channels used to publicize the event (on line communication as well as informative material such as leaflets, posters, etc.)

The GSC gave an overview of media coverage on the EU Nobel Peace Prize. A written summary will be distributed to delegations.

The European Commission informed delegations that it will continue to update the dedicated interinstitutional webpage on Europa (<http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/eu-nobel/>). The projects to which the prize money will be allocated, will be announced on 18 December.

The Italian delegation informed the WPI that, on the occasion of the conferment of the Peace Nobel Prize to the EU, the Italian Prime Minister addressed all the school authorities by letter inviting them to promote debates on the importance of the event jointly with the project "Europe=us" (the educational digital platform created with the Management Partnership financial support).

b. European Year of Citizens 2013 (EYC) and Europe for Citizens programme

The European Commission gave an update on the state of play of these two citizens' dossiers.

(i) European Year of Citizens 2013 (EYC)

Dedicated website: <http://europa.eu/citizens-2013/>

The Decision of the Council and the EP establishing the Year was published in the Official Journal on 23 November 2012.

The key message being conveyed is that Union citizenship brings tangible rights and benefits to the citizens in their various roles in life. Main objectives of the information campaign for the EYC are: informing citizens of their rights, explaining EU policies and programmes supporting the exercise of citizens' rights and inviting citizens to join the debate and participate in the Union policies.

The budget allocated to the Year is 2 M € (an upgrade from the initial 1 M € proposed by the Commission).

On 6 December 2012, the Director-General of the Commission's DG COMM sent a letter (copy distributed to delegations through the InfoNet) to the MS' Permanent Representatives by the EU requesting to appoint relevant national contact points. These interlocutors are expected to liaise with relevant national and local authorities at central and local level as well as with civil society bodies to cooperate in the implementation of the Year.

The Commission's contact points for the implementation of the information campaign will be both the Commission's representations in the capitals and the Brussels-based Task Force in DG Communication. The EU-wide calendar on the dedicated website will keep the wide public informed about the different events.

The official launch of the EYC will take place in Dublin on 10 January 2013 (ceremony and citizen dialogue with VP Reding) and will be followed by a first EU-level thematic conference in Brussels on 22 January 2013. The closing event is foreseen in Latvia in December 2013.

(ii) Europe for Citizens programme

Dedicated websites:

<http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/about-the-europe-for-citizens-programme/>

<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/>

Current standstill in the negotiations on the new programme (2014-2020), main issues being the legal basis.

In the meantime, institutions and Member States pursue the implementation of the current programme, which expires in December 2013 and is monitored by an ad hoc programme committee comprising Member States' representatives.

The Commission distributed a "best practice" brochure which is also available in digital format on the dedicated website of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)¹ as well as to a "remembrance" event (under Action 4 of the current programme), which will be held on 28 January in Brussels.

¹ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.php

The Slovenian delegation gave an overview of recent and planned activities organised by the national Europe for Citizens contact point in Ljubljana.

The Belgian delegation presented the project "I am Europe", which aims to enrich the general public debate on European Citizenship and hopes to put forward innovative models of citizen participation that can be applied at the EU level. Information on the project outline, partner organisations, etc. can be found at <http://www.evensfoundation.be/en/programs/european-citizenship/i-am-europe>.

The Hungarian delegation outlined the "Grassroots Europe" project co-financed by the Europe for Citizens programme. The initiative seeks to support European community-based educational grassroots organisations that are able to mobilise their communities around issues of marginalisation in education and help the most vulnerable groups of society. More information can be found at <http://grassrootseurope.org>.

The French delegation informed the Group that the procedure for appointing a national contact point is ongoing.

4. Any Other Business

a. Complaint 1649/2012/RA to the European Ombudsman

The Chair informed the Working Party on the draft reply (doc. 14261/12) that the Secretary-General of the Council intends to send to the European Ombudsman regarding complaint 1649/2012/RA. The deadline for replying to the Ombudsman is 31 December 2012.

a. Calendar of WPI meetings during the first semester 2013

The calendar of the WPI meetings under Irish Presidency was distributed in the meeting room. Some dates are still subject to confirmation.

b. Advance information on the Interinstitutional Group on Information (IGI)

Date, time and place confirmed: 30 January, 15:30 to 17:00, at the EP premises in Brussels. Two items on the agenda: the implementation of the EP's communication strategy for the "European elections" and "Communicating on Europe with schools" (subjects which were not discussed at the IGI meeting of 9 October owing to lack of time). An updated version of the document on "schools" will be submitted to delegations for discussion at the WPI meeting on 14 January 2013.

d. Interinstitutional communication priorities

(i) 2012 communication priorities: annual implementation report

The European Commission outlined the main elements of the new report. The main objective is to have less statistical elements and to concentrate on significant developments of management and strategic partnerships occurred last year.

The Commission is launching its questionnaire to collect feedback from the management/strategic and ad-hoc partnership partners. The **questionnaire** will focus on:

- events organised in partnership with regard to the 2012 communication priorities, including financial figures;
- evaluation activities;
- public opinion analysis;
- use of social media.

The General Secretariat of the Council is preparing an abridged version of the questionnaire with the relevant questions for the collection of feedback from Member States' sources, which will be circulated to WPI members before the Christmas break. Deadline for replies: Friday 18 January 2013.

(ii) *2013-2014 communication priorities*

In line with the previous years reporting exercise and in order to conclude the Council's internal procedure, the WPI should submit to Coreper (2nd part) an information note on the selection of the 2013-2014 interinstitutional communication priorities. A draft has been prepared and circulated in the meeting room. The note will be submitted to Coreper (2nd part) at the beginning of next year.

e. Request for public access to delegations' replies to the questionnaire on public access to documents and/or information in the Member States

The Chair referred to an initial application received on the 13th of December 2012 for public access document 15196/12 and its 25 addenda. These documents set out the replies from 26 delegations to the questionnaire on public access to documents and/or information in Member States.

f. Appeal by Mr Jurasinovic against judgment T-465/09

The Chair reminded delegations of the confirmatory application made by Mr. Ivan Jurasinovic in 2009 concerning European Community Monitoring Mission reports on the Knin region (Croatia). Mr. Jurasinovic had filed an application with the General Court against the Council's reply to his confirmatory request and the Court had rejected this on 3 October 2012.

The Chair informed delegations that Mr. Jurasinovic has now taken an appeal against that judgment to the Court of Justice.