



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Working Party on Information
Subject: Council's Open Sessions
- Questionnaire

INTRODUCTION:

The Lisbon Treaty marked a new beginning for the openness and transparency of Council proceedings. Since its entry into force, in December 2009, all of the Council's legislative deliberations and voting are held in open session. In addition, the Council also holds public debates on important issues affecting the interests of the European Union and its citizens. The General Affairs Council's 18-month programme and other Council's configurations priorities, as well as, the Commission's five-year programme, annual work programme and annual policy strategy, are presented and debated in public.

The General Secretariat of the Council would like to collect information on the way the various items held in open session are prepared by Member States, in order to hold a subsequent exchange of views about current and best practices. For this purpose, delegations will find a short questionnaire annexed to this note.

Delegations are kindly requested to reply to the questionnaire by email (council.transparency@consilium.europa.eu) no later than **4 October 2013**. The results of this questionnaire will then be presented and discussed at the next meeting of the Working Party of Information foreseen for October 2013.

QUESTIONNAIRE:

Once the provisional agenda for a Council meeting has been issued:

1. Do you prepare items in open session in a different way from non-public items? If yes, how?
2. Do you coach your Minister in advance for items in open session? If yes, how?
3. Do you contact the media in advance for an item in open session? If so, do you inform about the Council's videostreaming platform?
4. Do you know if national officials follow public deliberations *LIVE* through the Council's website?
5. How could publicity about open sessions and about the Council's videostreaming platform be improved, both at EU and national levels?
