



**COUNCIL OF
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COVER NOTE

from: Mr Janusz LEWANDOWSKI, Member of the European Commission
date of receipt: 19 April 2012
to: Mr Bjarne CORYDON, President of the Council of the European Union

Subject: Transfer of appropriations No DEC05/2012 within Section III - Commission -
of the general budget for 2012

Delegations will find attached Commission document DEC05/2012.

Encl.: DEC05/2012



BRUSSELS, 17/04/2012

GENERAL BUDGET - 2012

SECTION III - COMMISSION TITLES 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15,
16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 32, 33

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS N° DEC 05/2012

EUR

FROM**CHAPTER - 40 01 RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE**

Provisions - ITEM 01 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Economic and financial affairs)	Non-Diff.	- 329 267
Provisions - ITEM 02 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Enterprise)	Non-Diff.	- 52 383
Provisions - ITEM 03 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Competition)	Non-Diff.	- 14 967
Provisions - ITEM 04 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Employment and social affairs)	Non-Diff.	- 16 966
Provisions - ITEM 05 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Agriculture and rural development)	Non-Diff.	- 498 392
Provisions - ITEM 06 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Mobility and transport)	Non-Diff.	- 59 867
Provisions - ITEM 07 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Environment and climate action)	Non-Diff.	- 89 800
Provisions - ITEM 08 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Research)	Non-Diff.	- 4 490
Provisions - ITEM 09 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Information society and media)	Non-Diff.	- 24 695
Provisions - ITEM 11 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Maritime affairs and fisheries)	Non-Diff.	- 19 779
Provisions - ITEM 12 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Internal market)	Non-Diff.	- 97 284
Provisions - ITEM 13 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Regional policy)	Non-Diff.	- 16 463
Provisions - ITEM 14 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Taxation and customs union)	Non-Diff.	- 151 912
Provisions - ITEM 15 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Education and culture)	Non-Diff.	- 29 933
Provisions - ITEM 16 01 02 11 Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for 'Communication': Headquarters	Non-Diff.	- 5 987
Provisions - ITEM 17 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Health and consumer protection)	Non-Diff.	- 280 045
Provisions - ITEM 18 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Home Affairs)	Non-Diff.	- 39 662

Provisions - ITEM 19 01 02 11 Other management expenditure of the 'Service for Foreign Policy Instruments'	Non-Diff.	- 16 345
Provisions - ITEM 20 01 02 11 Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for Trade	Non-Diff.	- 37 417
Provisions - ITEM 21 01 02 11 Other management expenditure of the 'EuropeAid Development and Co-operation' Directorate-General	Non-Diff.	- 29 933
Provisions - ITEM 22 01 02 11 Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for 'Enlargement'	Non-Diff.	- 8 082
Provisions - ITEM 23 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Humanitarian aid)	Non-Diff.	- 13 470
Provisions - ITEM 26 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Commission's administration)	Non-Diff.	- 2 275
Provisions - ITEM 27 01 02 11 Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for the Budget	Non-Diff.	- 10 028
Provisions - ITEM 27 01 02 19 Other management expenditure - Non-decentralised management (DG Budget)	Non-Diff.	- 90 265
Provisions - ITEM 29 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Statistics)	Non-Diff.	- 29 933
Provisions - ITEM 32 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Energy)	Non-Diff.	- 23 947
Provisions - ITEM 33 01 02 11 Other management expenditure (Justice)	Non-Diff.	- 6 413

TO

CHAPTER - 0101 Administrative expenditure of the 'Economic and financial affairs' policy area ITEM - 01 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	329 267
CHAPTER - 0201 Administrative expenditure of the 'Enterprise' policy area ITEM - 02 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	52 383
CHAPTER - 0301 Administrative expenditure of the 'Competition' policy area ITEM - 03 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	14 967
CHAPTER - 0401 Administrative expenditure of the 'Employment and social affairs' policy area ITEM - 04 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	16 966
CHAPTER - 0501 Administrative expenditure of the 'Agriculture and rural development' policy area ITEM - 05 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	498 392
CHAPTER - 0601 Administrative expenditure of the 'Mobility and transport' policy area ITEM - 06 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	59 867
CHAPTER - 0701 Administrative expenditure of the 'Environment and climate action' policy area ITEM - 07 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	89 800
CHAPTER - 0801 Administrative expenditure of the 'Research' policy area ITEM - 08 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	4 490
CHAPTER - 0901 Administrative expenditure of the 'Information society and media' policy area ITEM - 09 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	24 695
CHAPTER - 1101 Administrative expenditure of the 'Maritime affairs and fisheries' policy area ITEM - 11 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	19 779

CHAPTER - 1201 Administrative expenditure of the 'Internal market' policy area		
ITEM - 12 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	97 284
CHAPTER - 1301 Administrative expenditure of the 'Regional policy' policy area		
ITEM - 13 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	16 463
CHAPTER - 1401 Administrative expenditure of the 'Taxation and customs union' policy area		
ITEM - 14 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	151 912
CHAPTER - 1501 Administrative expenditure of the 'Education and culture' policy area		
ITEM - 15 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	29 933
CHAPTER - 1601 Administrative expenditure of the 'Communication' policy area		
ITEM - 16 01 02 11 Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for 'Communication': Headquarters	Non-Diff.	5 987
CHAPTER - 1701 Administrative expenditure of the 'Health and consumer protection' policy area		
ITEM - 17 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	280 045
CHAPTER - 1801 Administrative expenditure of the 'Home Affairs' policy area		
ITEM - 18 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	39 662
CHAPTER - 1901 Administrative expenditure of the 'External relations' policy area		
ITEM - 19 01 02 11 Other management expenditure of the 'Service for Foreign Policy Instruments'	Non-Diff.	16 345
CHAPTER - 2001 Administrative expenditure of the 'Trade' policy area		
ITEM - 20 01 02 11 Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for Trade	Non-Diff.	37 417
CHAPTER - 2101 Administrative expenditure of the 'Development and relations with ACP States' policy area		
ITEM - 21 01 02 11 Other management expenditure of the 'EuropeAid Development and Co- operation' Directorate-General	Non-Diff.	29 933
CHAPTER - 2201 Administrative expenditure of the 'Enlargement' policy area		
ITEM - 22 01 02 11 Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for 'Enlargement'	Non-Diff.	8 082
CHAPTER - 2301 Administrative expenditure of the 'Humanitarian aid' policy area		
ITEM - 23 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	13 470
CHAPTER - 2601 Administrative expenditure of the 'Commission's administration' policy area		
ITEM - 26 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	2 275
CHAPTER - 2701 Administrative expenditure of the 'Budget' policy area		
ITEM - 27 01 02 11 Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for the Budget	Non-Diff.	10 028
ITEM - 27 01 02 19 Other management expenditure ' Non-decentralised management'	Non-Diff.	90 265
CHAPTER - 2901 Administrative expenditure of the 'Statistics' policy area		
ITEM - 29 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	29 933
CHAPTER - 3201 Administrative expenditure of the 'Energy' policy area		
ITEM - 32 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	23 947
CHAPTER - 3301 Administrative expenditure of 'Justice' policy area		
ITEM - 33 01 02 11 Other management expenditure	Non-Diff.	6 413

INTRODUCTION

The budget authority placed EUR 2 000 000 of budget sub-item XX 01 02 11 03 (meetings of Committees) in reserve (line 40 01 40).

The conditions for lifting the reserve pertained to the Commission modifying the rules on experts groups.

The Commission has taken a position on each of these (see annex), and deems it has fulfilled the conditions set to release the reserve that is currently impairing the optimal scheduling of compulsory comitology procedure. Therefore the Commission requests the release of the corresponding amount of EUR 2 000 000 from Article 40 01 40 to budget item XX 01 02 11.

Line / Heading									
Non-Diff./ Commitments/ Payments	Initial Budget ±AB (1A)	EFTA (1B)	Transfers (2)	Utilisation (3)	Available amount (4)=(1A)+(1B)+(2)-(3)	Transfer proposed (5)	Fluctuation (4/1A)	Total (4±5)	
01 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	5.127.344	0	-324.833	3.499.500	1.303.011	329.267	6,42%	1.632.278	
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 01 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	329.267	0	0	0	329.267	-329.267	-100,00%	0	
02 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	4.881.377	0	0	3.645.844	1.235.533	52.383	1,07%	1.287.916	
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 02 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	52.383	0	0	0	52.383	-52.383	-100,00%	0	
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 03 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	14.967	0	0	0	14.967	-14.967	-100,00%	0	
03 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	5.123.619	0	34	1.515.432	3.608.221	14.967	0,29%	3.623.188	
04 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	5.101.560	0	0	4.405.010	696.550	16.966	0,33%	713.516	
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 04 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	16.966	0	0	0	16.966	-16.966	-100,00%	0	
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 05 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	498.392	0	0	0	498.392	-498.392	-100,00%	0	
05 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	8.528.713	0	0	4.346.883	4.181.830	498.392	5,84%	4.680.222	
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 06 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	59.867	0	0	0	59.867	-59.867	-100,00%	0	
06 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	2.514.628	0	0	1.849.495	665.133	59.867	2,38%	725.000	
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 07 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	89.800	0	0	0	89.800	-89.800	-100,00%	0	
07 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	5.926.675	0	0	3.491.614	2.435.061	89.800	1,52%	2.524.861	
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 08 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure									
Non-Diff.	4.490	0	0	0	4.490	-4.490	-100,00%	0	

Line / Heading								
Non-Diff./ Commitments/ Payments	Initial Budget ±AB (1A)	EFTA (1B)	Transfers (2)	Utilisation (3)	Available amount (4)=(1A)+(1B)+(2)-(3)	Transfer proposed (5)	Fluctuation (4/1A)	Total (4±5)
08 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	392.244	0	0	356.513	35.731	4.490	1,14%	40.221
09 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	1.856.338	0	0	1.483.805	372.533	24.695	1,33%	397.228
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 09 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	24.695	0	0	0	24.695	-24.695	-100,00%	0
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 11 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	19.779	0	0	0	19.779	-19.779	-100,00%	0
11 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	2.779.656	0	-255.075	2.240.228	284.353	19.779	0,71%	304.132
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 12 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	97.284	0	0	0	97.284	-97.284	-100,00%	0
12 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	3.394.875	0	0	2.690.076	704.799	97.284	2,87%	802.083
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 13 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	16.463	0	0	0	16.463	-16.463	-100,00%	0
13 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	3.094.285	0	0	2.040.125	1.054.160	16.463	0,53%	1.070.623
14 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	2.773.625	0	0	2.435.537	338.088	151.912	5,48%	490.000
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 14 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	151.912	0	0	0	151.912	-151.912	-100,00%	0
15 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	3.361.487	0	0	2.223.263	1.138.224	29.933	0,89%	1.168.157
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 15 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	29.933	0	0	0	29.933	-29.933	-100,00%	0
16 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for 'Communication': Headquarters								
Non-Diff.	3.299.156	0	0	2.900.975	398.181	5.987	0,18%	404.168
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 16 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for 'Communication': Headquarters								
Non-Diff.	5.987	0	0	0	5.987	-5.987	-100,00%	0

Line / Heading								
Non-Diff./ Commitments/ Payments	Initial Budget ±AB (1A)	EFTA (1B)	Transfers (2)	Utilisation (3)	Available amount (4)=(1A)+(1B)+(2)-(3)	Transfer proposed (5)	Fluctuation (4/1A)	Total (4±5)
17 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	9.661.525	0	-20.063	8.351.000	1.290.462	280.045	2,90%	1.570.507
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 17 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	280.045	0	0	0	280.045	-280.045	-100,00%	0
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 18 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	39.662	0	0	0	39.662	-39.662	-100,00%	0
18 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	1.810.130	0	0	1.730.000	80.130	39.662	2,19%	119.792
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 19 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure of the 'Service for Foreign Policy Instruments'								
Non-Diff.	16.345	0	0	0	16.345	-16.345	-100,00%	0
19 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure of the 'Service for Foreign Policy Instruments'								
Non-Diff.	567.077	0	0	306.800	260.277	16.345	2,88%	276.622
20 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for Trade								
Non-Diff.	4.359.091	0	-163	3.961.171	397.757	37.417	0,86%	435.174
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 20 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for Trade								
Non-Diff.	37.417	0	0	0	37.417	-37.417	-100,00%	0
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 21 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure of the 'EuropeAid Development and Co-operation' Directorate-General								
Non-Diff.	29.933	0	0	0	29.933	-29.933	-100,00%	0
21 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure of the 'EuropeAid Development and Co-operation' Directorate-General								
Non-Diff.	6.767.892	0	0	3.535.967	3.231.925	29.933	0,44%	3.261.858
22 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for 'Enlargement'								
Non-Diff.	1.769.647	0	-146	1.026.643	742.858	8.082	0,46%	750.940
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 22 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for 'Enlargement'								
Non-Diff.	8.082	0	0	0	8.082	-8.082	-100,00%	0
23 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	2.010.969	0	0	1.533.663	477.306	13.470	0,67%	490.776
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 23 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	13.470	0	0	0	13.470	-13.470	-100,00%	0
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 26 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	2.275	0	0	0	2.275	-2.275	-100,00%	0

Line / Heading								
Non-Diff./ Commitments/ Payments	Initial Budget ±AB (1A)	EFTA (1B)	Transfers (2)	Utilisation (3)	Available amount (4)=(1A)+(1B)+(2)-(3)	Transfer proposed (5)	Fluctuation (4/1A)	Total (4±5)
26 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	17.676.594	0	0	5.144.081	12.532.513	2.275	0,01%	12.534.788
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 27 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for the Budget								
Non-Diff.	10.028	0	0	0	10.028	-10.028	-100,00%	0
27 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure of the Directorate-General for the Budget								
Non-Diff.	7.758.058	0	0	769.557	6.988.501	10.028	0,13%	6.998.529
27 01 02 19 - Other management expenditure ' Non-decentralised management								
Non-Diff.	9.309.894	0	0	0	9.309.894	90.265	0,97%	9.400.159
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 27 01 02 19 - Other management expenditure ' Non-decentralised management								
Non-Diff.	90.265	0	0	0	90.265	-90.265	-100,00%	0
29 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	3.928.587	0	0	2.864.165	1.064.422	29.933	0,76%	1.094.355
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 29 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	29.933	0	0	0	29.933	-29.933	-100,00%	0
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 32 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	23.947	0	0	0	23.947	-23.947	-100,00%	0
32 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	1.917.719	0	0	1.357.518	560.201	23.947	1,25%	584.148
40 01 - RESERVES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - 33 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	6.413	0	0	0	6.413	-6.413	-100,00%	0
33 01 02 11 - Other management expenditure								
Non-Diff.	1.441.795	0	0	1.323.300	118.495	6.413	0,44%	124.908
					Total DECREASE Non-Diff.	- 2.000.000		
					Total INCREASE Non-Diff.	2.000.000		

COMMISSION POSITION ON THE FOUR CONDITIONS SET BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FOR LIFTING THE RESERVE OF EUR 2.000.000 IN COMMITMENTS AND PAYMENTS

- **First condition - Scrap exceptions in the obligation to have a balanced composition of expert groups (technical nature + experts in "personal capacity"). Prohibit a single interest category (business, union or other) from having the majority of the non-government and non-EU seats in any expert group. Provide safeguards against capture from special interests and corporate interests.**

In light of the diversity of tasks carried out by expert groups, setting pre-defined quotas per category of stakeholders as members of expert groups is not appropriate.

The Commission shall conduct a review of existing expert groups which are not exclusively composed of national authorities, with a view to assessing their composition. Any possible modification of the composition of groups will be the result of a specific assessment of the membership of individual groups, taking into account the work to be carried out, interests at stake, as well as other opportunities that citizens and stakeholders are given to express their views. Indeed, the degree of overall participation and representation of stakeholders should be assessed in light of all initiatives taken by the Commission on a particular subject, which often go far beyond expert groups¹. The Commission will report to the Parliament on the outcome of the above review by the summer.

- **Second condition - Ban lobbyists and corporate executives sitting in expert groups in a 'personal capacity'. The Commission should clarify whether members of an expert group are there as stakeholders or as experts committed to acting in the public interest. The second should be thoroughly checked for conflicts of interest and their "declaration of professional activities" should be in the public domain.**

The Commission is determined to ensure that the new, more stringent provisions on conflicts of interest are fully implemented for future expert groups.

The Commission will conduct a review of existing groups which include members appointed in a personal capacity, with a view to ensuring that the rules are fully respected in all existing groups. Should this not be the case, the Commission will take action in order to remedy inconsistencies, inter alia by clarifying whether members of an expert group are there as stakeholders or as experts appointed in a personal capacity acting in the public interest. The Commission will report to the Parliament on the outcome of the above review by the summer.

- **Third condition - Common selection criteria throughout all DGs that guarantee balance among different categories of stakeholders and absence of Conflict of Interests for experts and establish an obligatory open selection process with a public call and a published mandate of each expert group which goes beyond a simple representation of Member States authorities.**

The Commission is committed to ensure that all relevant provisions concerning selection of members of expert groups are fully implemented, including on public calls for application.

In light of the diversity of circumstances in which expert groups operate, it is not appropriate to draw up common criteria for the selection of groups' members; selection should continue to be done on a case by case basis.

The Commission ensures transparency on the procedures used to select members of expert groups by publishing information on this issue for each group listed in the Register of Commission Expert Groups and Other Similar Entities (hereinafter referred to as "the Register").

1 SEC (2010) 1360, p.3

- **Fourth condition - All membership information (incl. affiliations), agendas, minutes and participants' submissions should be available on-line unless if there is a clear and published reason for not providing this info. Reports of groups should be published before getting adopted by the Commission.**

With the new Register set up in December 2010, the Commission has enhanced transparency in the area of expert groups in many ways. This new Register now provides more accurate information, notably on the type of entities listed, the groups' membership, the procedures used to select members of groups, as well as the activities carried out by groups. The presentation and readability of data encoded has also been improved. This constitutes real progress compared to the previous Register.

The Commission is ready to further increase transparency. In principle, from April 2012, all relevant documents (such as agendas, minutes and participants' submissions) will be made available, either in the Register itself or via a link from the Register to a dedicated website, where information can be found.

Exceptions to systematic publication should be foreseen where disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001².

The Commission does not adopt reports or any other document submitted by expert groups. The Commission and its departments remain fully independent regarding the way they take into account the expertise and views gathered via expert groups.

² These exceptions are intended to protect public security, military affairs, international relations, financial, monetary or economic policy, privacy and integrity of the individual, commercial interests, court proceedings and legal advice, inspections/investigations/audits and the institution's decision-making process.