



Brussels, 6 December 2017  
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15526/17

API 151  
INF 234

## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 28 November 2017  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Working Party on Information

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### 1. Adoption of the Agenda

The WPI approved the agenda in CM 5151/2/17 REV 2, with four additional points under AOB.

### 2. Transparency items

- a) **Confirmatory application 26/c/01/17**  
14000/17 API 132 INF 197  
14001/17 API 133 INF 198

Delegations were informed about the state of play concerning the draft reply to this confirmatory application.

- b) **Own-initiative inquiry OI/2/2017/AB by the European Ombudsman concerning access to documents relating to Council preparatory bodies when discussing draft EU legislative acts**  
**- Information by the General Secretariat of the Council**  
**13262/17 API 129 INF 189 OMBUDS 11 JUR 486 INST 376**

The General Secretariat informed delegations that the European Ombudsman sent a letter on 4 October 2017 - as a second step in her own-initiative inquiry concerning access to documents relating to Council preparatory bodies when discussing draft EU legislative acts - in which she requested to inspect three files relating to legislative acts adopted in 2016.

Delegations were informed that a "I" Item Note will be on the agenda of next week's COREPER on this matter.

- c) **Ombudsman complaint 1955/2017/THH**  
**- Information by the General Secretariat of the Council**  
**14418/17 API 138 INF 208 OMBUDS 12 JUR 539 INST 425**  
**14525/17 OMBUDS 13 INST 434 INF 211 API 139**

The General Secretariat informed the delegations that on 13 November 2017, the GSC received the Ombudsman complaint 1955/2017/THH concerning requests for access to the Panel Opinions of the Article 255 Panel on Judicial Appointments. The inspection will be organised as soon as possible. The deadline for the reply will be fixed taking into account the need to consult the Panel.

### **3. Communicating Europe**

- a) **European Parliament's institutional communication strategy for the 2019 elections**  
**doc. WK 13585/2017**

Due to the European Parliament's representative being unable to attend the WPI meeting, the presentation could not take place.

The French delegation stressed the need to focus, during the communication campaign for the 2019 elections, on the EU's actions to protect citizens, raising awareness and working together towards a truly "European space". In this context, it recalled the concept of "Democratic Conventions" across Europe suggested by President Macron with a view to rebuild citizens' trust in the Union.

The Italian delegation, sharing the French delegation's view, highlighted the potential added value of the increased debates on Europe's future and looks forward to enhancing cooperation with the EP in the implementation of the communication strategy for the elections.

#### **b) European Year of the Cultural Heritage 2018 - information campaign**

The Chairman recalled that the importance of the European Year on cultural heritage was underlined during the debate on education and culture held among the EU leaders in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017, as an important instrument to promote Europe's cultural heritage and history and diversified cultural richness.

The Commission's representative (DG EAC) highlighted the European Year's potential and economic implications (opportunities in terms of young people's engagement, perspectives for growth and jobs).

The Commission presented the communication campaign for the Year.

##### ➤ Objectives:

- to encourage the sharing and appreciation of Europe's cultural heritage as a shared resource;
- to raise awareness of common history and values and reinforce a sense of belonging to Europe;
- to recognise cultural heritage not only as a legacy from the past but also as a resource for the future;
- to promote cultural diversity as an enriching opportunity for all EU citizens.

##### ➤ Implementation:

- the campaign will require work in partnership with Member States (who have appointed their National Coordinators), "Creative Europe" desks, Commission and EP representations, EEAS, cultural heritage professionals, civil society and international organizations (Council of Europe, UNESCO, etc.);
- a Task Force will coordinate the different initiatives through a mainstreamed approach, availing of the expertise of a Committee of stakeholders from 35 organisations, through the web platform [www.voicesofculture.eu](http://www.voicesofculture.eu);

- all audiences will be addressed: children (10-15), young people (15-25) and the wider public. Both traditional websites and innovative tools will be used (a special cooperation project is also foreseen with Google, through the YouTube channels);
- the budget foreseen for the implementation of the EY is 8M€(2017 + 2018). Some projects will be carried out joining forces with Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, COSME, Europe for Citizens and EU structural and cohesion funds. Trans-national projects will be encouraged.
- Projects and events will take place all across Europe, also in conjunction with the initiatives foreseen to celebrate the 2018 European Capitals of Culture (Valetta and Leeuwarden). The EU delegations will also help promote the EY outside the EU.

The official launch of the EY 2018 is foreseen on 7-8 December 2017 at the European Culture Forum in Milan, during which the Commission will present the results of a special Eurobarometer survey.

Delegations (BG, CZ, IT) welcomed the European Year campaign and its potential to help reconnect with citizens and rebuild their confidence in the EU.

- The Bulgarian delegation informed the WPI that an opening event is also foreseen in early January in Sofia, as part of activities of the future Presidency of the Council. Bulgaria considers the EY of cultural heritage an overarching priority and hopes that culture will play a role in the achievement of the EU's objectives for other sectoral priorities. A meeting of the EU Ministers of Culture is foreseen on 1-2 March 2018 and a thematic conference is foreseen in this field in Plovdiv in March 2018 (results will be presented in a special event in Brussels).
- The Italian delegation recalled the debate held on citizens' trust at the plenary meeting of the Club of Venice in Venice on 23/24 November and stressed that the EY 2018 objectives are in line with the principles of the Bratislava and Rome Declaration.

The Chairman welcomed the EY campaign and looked forward to disseminating more information material to be provided by the Commission. The WPI will invite the Commission to a mid-term update on the implementation of the European Year.

#### 4. Any Other Business

- a. The Estonian Presidency, referring to the Tallinn Declaration on e-Government adopted by the Member States' leaders at the ministerial meeting on 6 October 2017, announced one of the first implementing projects aiming to better explain the European policies to citizens: a newly created web page to inform the public on EU restrictive measures: <https://www.sanctionsmap.eu/>, which was endowed with an introductory video clip on the topic: <http://vm.ee/en/eu-sanctions-map>.
- b. The Netherlands delegation welcomed the Presidency's initiative and drew attention to the document "Opening up closed doors: Making the EU more transparent for its citizens" presented by the Dutch COSAC delegation on EU transparency to the panel "Bringing Europe closer to its citizens" at the COSAC<sup>1</sup> meeting in Tallinn on 26-28 November.
- c. The French delegation highlighted the importance attached to the communication aspects of the EU's commercial policy and to the climate change policy aspects of "Europe that protects" and asked the Chair to add these two items to the WPI agenda of one of its future meetings.
- d. The Chair announced a GSC project for the creation of a "Conference Meeting App." The app will allow users to retrieve basic meeting information (venue, time, agenda) and other practicalities (details on public transport, accreditation) on events taking place in Council buildings. Delegations will receive a questionnaire to provide input on their needs and suggestions for this app.

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<sup>1</sup> COSAC = Conference of the committees of the national Parliaments of the European Union Member States dealing with the European Union affairs.