



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 3 June 2003

9949/03

POLGEN 38

"I" ITEM NOTE

from : Antici Group

to : COREPER

Subject : List of Council preparatory bodies

COREPER is invited to endorse the attached list (annex I) of Council preparatory bodies, updated ¹ as foreseen in the Council's rules of procedure.

¹ See footnote ad A.4, A.18, B.3, new C.36, D.6, D.7, F.26.

LIST OF COUNCIL PREPARATORY BODIES

- A. Committees established by the Treaties, by intergovernmental decision, by Council act and groups closely associated with COREPER**
- B. General Affairs**
- C. External Relations/Security and Defence/Development**
- D. Economic and Financial Affairs**
- E. Justice and Home Affairs**
- F. Agriculture and Fisheries**
- G. Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research)**
- H. Transport/Telecommunications/Energy**
- I. Employment/Social Policy/Health and Consumer Affairs**
- J. Environment**
- K. Education/Youth/Culture**

COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY THE TREATIES	
A.1	Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER) (a) Part II (b) Part I
A.2	Economic and Financial Committee ¹
A.3	Employment Committee ²
A.4	Article 133 Committee ³ (a) Full Members (b) Deputies (c) Experts (Textiles, Services, Steel, Motor Vehicles, Mutual Recognition)
A.5	Political and Security Committee
A.6	Article 36 Committee
A.7	Social Protection Committee
COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL DECISION	
A.8	Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA) ⁴
COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY COUNCIL ACT	
A.9	Military Committee (EUMC) ⁵
A.10	Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management ⁶
A.11	Economic Policy Committee ⁷
A.12	Financial Services Committee ⁸
A.13	Security Committee ⁹ (a) INFOSEC
A. 18	Financial Services Committee ¹⁰
GROUPS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH COREPER	
A.14	Antici Group
A.15	Mertens Group
A.16	Friends of the Presidency Group
COUNSELLORS/ATTACHES	
A.17	Counsellors/Attachés ¹¹

¹ The secretariat of this Committee is provided by the Commission, which also covers travel expenses. Article 8 of the EFC Statutes allows it to establish sub-committees or working parties on specific matters.

² This advisory committee, established under Article 130 of the Treaty, formulates opinions at the request of either the Council or the Commission and contributes to the preparation of Council proceedings. Its secretariat is provided by the Commission.

³ The Article 133 Committee is consulted by the Commission on subjects relating to the common commercial policy. It exercises its power without prejudice to the general monitoring of bilateral relations with third countries undertaken by the relevant geographical working parties.

⁴ The Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA) was established by a decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States on 12 May 1960 to prepare decisions of the Agriculture Council.

⁵ See Council Decision 2001/79/CFSP of 22 January 2001, OJ L 27 of 30.1.2001, p. 4-6.

⁶ See Council Decision 2000/354/CFSP of 27 May 2000, OJ L 127, p.1.

⁷ See Council Decision 2000/604/EC of 29 September 2000, OJ L 257 of 11.10.2000, p. 28. The secretariat of this Committee is provided by the Commission, which also covers travel expenses.

⁸ See Council Decision of 18 February 2003.

⁹ See Council Decision 2001/264/EC of 19 March 2001, OJ L 101 of 11.4.2001, p. 10. This Committee is chaired by a member of the General Secretariat of the Council.

¹⁰ OJ L 67 of 12.03.2003, p. 17

¹¹ There is no change in the practices followed in different sectors for convening and organising formal Counsellor or Attaché meetings.

GENERAL AFFAIRS	
B.1	Working Party on General Affairs
B.2	Working Party on Enlargement
B.3	<i>No longer exists</i>
B.4	High-Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration
B.5	Horizontal Working Party on Drugs ¹
B.6	Working Party on Structural Measures
B.7	Working Party on Outermost Regions
B.8	Ad Hoc Working Party on Greenland
B.9	Working Party on Atomic Questions (a) Ad hoc Working Party on Nuclear Safety
B.10	Working Party on Statistics ²
B.11	Working Party on Information ³
B.12	Working Party on Legal Data Processing ^{3 4}
B.13	Working Party on Electronic Communications ³
B.14	Working Party on Codification of Legislation ³
B.15	Working Party of Legal/Linguistic Experts ³
B.16	Working Party on the Court of Justice
B.17	Working Party on the Staff Regulations
B.18	Working Party on New Buildings ³

¹ The Horizontal Working Party will retain a general overview of all drug-related questions. The Presidency and the General Secretariat will accordingly ensure that it receives information on all drug-related issues being handled in other working parties.

² Deals in particular with ECOFIN, internal market and agricultural statistics. This Working Party will retain a general overview of all statistical questions. The Presidency and the General Secretariat will accordingly ensure that it receives information on all statistics-related issues being dealt with in other working parties.

³ Working Party chaired by a member of the General Secretariat of the Council.

⁴ Includes debates on the integrated system for access to Community Law, which includes CELEX matters.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS/SECURITY AND DEFENCE/DEVELOPMENT	
C.1	Working Party of Foreign Relations Counsellors
C.2	Working Party on Public International Law (a) International Criminal Court
C.3	Working Party on the Law of the Sea
C.4	United Nations Working Party
C.5	Working Party on OSCE and the Council of Europe
C.6	Working Party on Human Rights
C.7	Working Party on Transatlantic Relations
C.8	Working Party on Central and Southeast Europe
C.9	Working Party on Eastern Europe and Central Asia
C.10	Working Party on EFTA ¹
C.11	Working Party on the Western Balkans Region
C.12	Ad hoc Working Party on the Middle East Peace Process
C.13	Middle East/Gulf Working Party
C.14	Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party
C.15	Africa Working Party
C.16	ACP Working Party ²
C.17	Asia-Oceania Working Party
C.18	Working Party on Latin America
C.19	Working Party on Terrorism (International Aspects)
C.20	Working Party on Non-Proliferation
C.21	Working Party on Conventional Arms Export
C.22	Working Party on Global Disarmament and Arms Control
C.23	Working Party on Dual-Use Goods
C.24	Working Party on European Arms Policy
C.25	Politico-Military Working Party
C.26	Military Committee Working Group (EUMCWG) ³
C.27	Working Party on Trade Questions
C.28	Working Party on the Generalised System of Preferences
C.29	Export Credits Group
C.30	Working Party on Development Cooperation
C.31	Working Party on Preparation for International Development Conferences
C.32	Working Party on Food Aid
C.33	Working Party on Commodities
C.34	Working Party on Consular Affairs
C.35	Working Party on CFSP Administrative Affairs and Protocol
C.36	Nicolaidis Group ⁴

¹ In addition to the EFTA countries and the Faroe Islands, the Working Party on EFTA is responsible for matters relating to Monaco, Andorra, San Marino and the Holy See.

² Includes ACP/FIN

³ Experts may be convened to meet concurrently with the Working Group meeting (cf. doc 400/1/00 ADD 1 REV 2, pp. 37-95).

⁴ Cf. doc 8441/03

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS	
D.1	Working Party on Financial Questions (a) Own Resources
D.2	Working Party of Financial Counsellors
D.3	Working Party on Financial Services (a) Prospectus (b) Investment services (c) Transparency
D.4	Working Party on Tax Questions (a) Indirect Taxation (VAT, Excise duties, Energy taxation) (b) Direct Taxation (including Taxation of Savings, Interest and Royalties)
D.5	Code of Conduct Group (Business Taxation) ¹ (a) Subgroup A (b) Subgroup B
D.6	<i>No longer exists</i>
D.7	<i>No longer exists</i>
D.8	Budget Committee
D.9	Working Party on Combating Fraud

¹ High-level representatives of the Finance Ministers.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS	
E.1	Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA)
E.2	Working Party on Migration and Expulsion
E.3	Visa Working Party
E.4	Asylum Working Party (a) Dublin Convention (b) Eurodac
E.5	CIREFI
E.6	Working Party on Frontiers ¹
E.7	Committee on Civil Law Matters
E.8	SIS/Sirene Working Party
E.9	SIS-TECH Working Party (a) General (b) Sisnet
E.10	Police Cooperation Working Party (a) Telecommunications (b) Investigative Techniques and Forensic Science (c) Exchange of Police Intelligence
E.11	Europol Working Party
E.12	Working Party on Terrorism
E.13	Customs Cooperation Working Party
E.14	Working Party on Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters
E.15	Working Party on Substantive Criminal Law
E.16	Working Party on Collective Evaluation
E.17	Working Party on Schengen Evaluation
E.18	Working Party on the Schengen Acquis
E.19	Multidisciplinary Group on Organised Crime
E.20	Working Party on the European Judicial Network
E.21	Working Party on Civil Protection

¹ Including false documents.

AGRICULTURE/FISHERIES	
F.1	Working Party on Agricultural Structures and Rural Development (a) Agriculture and Environment (b) Rural Development (c) Agricultural Structures (d) Aegean Islands
F.2	Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions (a) Simplification of the CAP (b) Strengthening of Controls ¹
F.3	Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (a) Agri-monetary Questions (b) AGRIFIN
F.4	Working Party on the Promotion of Agricultural Products
F.5	Working Party on Genetic Resources in Agriculture
F.6	Working Party on Agricultural Questions (a) Labelling of Processed Agricultural Products (b) Animal Feedingstuffs (c) Seeds and Propagating Material (d) Harmful Organisms (e) Pesticide Residues (f) Pesticides/Plant Protection Products (g) Plant Breeder Rights
F.7	Working Party on Animal Products (a) Beef and Veal (b) Sheepmeat and Goatmeat (c) Piguieat (d) Eggs and Poultry (e) Milk and Milk Products (f) Beekeeping and Honey
F.8	Working Party on Arable Crops (a) Cereals (b) Oilseeds (c) Rice (d) Protein Crops (e) Dried Fodder (f) Seeds
F.9	Working Party on Special Plant Products and Textile Fibres (a) Floriculture (b) Hops (c) Tobacco (d) Cotton (e) Flax and Hemp (f) Silk Worms

¹ Including the integrated system.

F.10	Working Party on Forestry ¹
F.11	Working Party on Fruit and Vegetables (a) Bananas (b) Fresh Fruit and Vegetables (c) Processed Fruit and Vegetables (d) Potatoes
F.12	Working Party on Products not listed in Annex I
F.13	Working Party on Olive Oil ²
F.14	Working Party of Chief Plant Health Officers
F.15	Working Party on Plant Health (a) Protection and Inspection (b) Propagating and Planting Materials
F.16	Working Party on Foodstuff Quality (a) Organic Farming (b) Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin (c) Certificates of Specific Character
F.17	Working Party on Sugar and Isoglucose
F.18	Working Party on Wines and Alcohol (a) Wines (b) Aromatised Wines (c) Spirit drinks (d) Alcohol (e) Vinegar (f) OIV
F.19	Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers
F.20	Working Party of Veterinary Experts (a) Public Health (b) Animal Health (c) Animal Welfare (d) Animal Husbandry (e) Fishery Products (f) Potsdam Group (g) Third Countries
F.21	Coordination Working Party (a) FAO (b) OECD

¹ Including the CSD / Ad hoc UN Forum on forests.

² Including table olives.

F.22	Codex Alimentarius Working Party (a) General Principles (b) Food Additives and Contaminants (c) Food Hygiene (d) Food Labelling (e) Methods of Analysis and Sampling (f) Pesticide Residues (g) Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (h) Food Import and Export Certification and Inspection Systems (i) Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (j) Cocoa Products and Chocolate (k) Sugars (l) Processed Fruits and Vegetables (m) Fats and Oils (n) Fish and Fishery Products (o) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (p) Milk and Milk Products (q) Natural Mineral Waters (r) Task Force on Biotechnology (s) Task Force on Fruit Juices (t) Task Force on Animal Feeding (u) Coordinating Committee for Europe
F.23	Working Party on External Fisheries Policy
F.24	Working Party on Internal Fisheries Policy
F.25	Working Party of Director-Generals of Fisheries Departments
F.26	High Level Working Party on CAP reform ¹

¹ Doc. 8882/03

COMPETITIVENESS (Internal Market, Industry, Research)	
G.1	Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth ¹
G.2	Working Party on Public Procurement
G.3	Working Party on Intellectual Property (a) Trade Marks (b) Patents (c) Copyright
G.4	Working Party on Company Law (a) Accounting and Statutory Auditing (b) European Co-operative society (c) European association (d) Acquisition of holdings (e) First directive (f) Corporate governance
G.5	Working Party on Insurance
G.6	Working Party on Establishment and Services (a) Diplomas
G.7	Working Party on Technical Harmonisation (a) Standardisation (b) Motor Vehicles (c) Dangerous Substances and Preparations (d) Machinery (e) Cosmetics (f) Instruments (g) Fertilisers
G.8	Working Party on Liability for Defective Products
G.9	Working Party on Customs Union (a) Customs Legislation and Policy (b) Common Customs Tariff
G.10	Working Party on Data Protection
G.11	Working Party on Foodstuffs
G.12	Working Party on Free movement of persons
G.13	Working Party on Competition
G.14	Working Party on Research
G.15	Joint Working Party on Research/Atomic Questions
G.16	CREST ²

¹ Including internal market, industry and tourism. In line with COREPER's decision (doc. 14818/02), this Working Party shall meet in different configurations depending on the agenda. At the initiative of the Presidency it shall meet, when required, on a high official level with representatives designated by the Member States to deal in particular with horizontal tasks.

² This committee is chaired by the Commission. Its secretariat is provided by the Council Secretariat. The rules of procedure of CREST allow for ad hoc working parties to be established, of which there are several.

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY	
H.1	Working Party on Land Transport ¹
H.2	Working Party on Shipping ¹
H.3	Working Party on Aviation ¹
H.4	Working Party on Transport - Intermodal Questions and Networks ¹
H.5	Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society
H.6	Working Party on Postal Services
H.7	Working Party on Energy ²

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS	
I.1	Working Party on Social Questions
I.2	Working Party on Public Health
I.3	Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information
I.4	Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices

ENVIRONMENT ³	
J.1	Working Party on the Environment (a) Internal environmental aspects of sustainable development
J.2	Working Party on International Environment Issues (a) Global environmental aspects of sustainable development (b) Climate Change

EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CULTURE	
K.1	Education Committee
K.2	Working Party on Youth
K.3	Committee on Cultural Affairs
K.4	Audio-visual Working Party

¹ These Working Parties also meet in special configurations according to operational needs, including as special committees provided for in Council negotiating directives.

² Includes the High-level Working Party on Energy.

³ Experts may be convened to meet concurrently with the Working Party meeting.

RULES GOVERNING THE LIST OF COUNCIL PREPARATORY BODIES

The list of Council preparatory bodies only contains Committees and Working Parties involved in preparing work for Council meetings. It does not cover Joint Committees and other bodies with third countries or Comitology Committees within the Commission, which may, in certain circumstances, result in matters coming before the Council. Nor does it include certain bodies (e.g. the Schengen Joint Supervisory Authority, COST, and the Standing Committee on Employment) which, although they meet in the Council building, are not strictly speaking Council preparatory bodies. Delegations and officials are reminded that:

- (i) Committees or Working Parties may only be set up by, or with the approval of, the Council or COREPER. Only the committees and Working Parties on this list may meet as Council preparatory bodies (Article 19(3) of the rules of procedure).
- (ii) Different, but closely-linked, expert sectors are presented as sub-areas of a single Working Party. Substantial important new technical proposals requiring specific expertise should, as a rule, be included within the remit of the competent existing Working Party. If necessary for practical reasons, however, it may be listed as a sub-area, rather than lead to the creation of new permanent or *ad hoc* Working Parties. It is important to note that the listing of sub-areas does *not* imply that Working Party remits are confined to the sub-areas in question; they include any other matters falling within the Working Party's general scope. The decision to list such sub-areas is made by the Presidency on the basis of practical need.
- (iii) In drawing up agendas and convening meetings, particularly in the case of Working Parties where sub-areas are listed, due regard should be given to applicable arrangements regarding reimbursement of delegates' travel expenses.
- (iv) *Ad hoc* Working Parties should cease to exist once their specific mandate is fulfilled. Their mandate should expressly state this rule.
- (v) The existence of the list does not imply that every Working Party has to be convened during each Presidency. Working Parties should only be convened when objective deadlines require or a sufficiently substantive agenda exists. The Presidency and the General Secretariat should ensure that a sufficiently substantial agenda exists for full day meetings and refrain from convening half-day meetings unless warranted for reasons of urgency.
- (vi) To avoid confusion, preparatory bodies must be referred to in all official documents by the denomination used in this list.
- (vii) The General Secretariat shall regularly update and publish the list of Council preparatory bodies in accordance with Article 19(3) of the rules of procedure.