



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from:	Presidency
to:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
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Subject :	Decision of the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) on streamlining and simplifying working group structures concerning the preparation of horizontal dossiers in relation to Competitiveness and Growth

Delegations will find hereafter the above Decision as adopted by the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) at its 1986th meeting.

DECISION

of the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)

on

Streamlining and simplifying existing working group structures concerning the preparation of horizontal dossiers in relation to Competitiveness and Growth.

THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE (PART 1)

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 207 (1) thereof, and the prerogatives of the European Commission,

Having regard to Council Decision 2002/682/EC, Euratom of 22 July 2002 adopting the Council's Rules of Procedure¹, and in particular Article 19 thereof,

Whereas:

- the European Council at its meeting in Seville in June 2002 decided to reduce the number of Council configurations by inter alia creating a new Council configuration of Competitiveness and by foreseeing increased co-operation between the next two Presidencies in line, inter alia by asking them to draw up a joint programme;
- the members of the Council (Competitiveness) have expressed the wish to strengthen and streamline the preparation of the horizontal aspects of the Council's work in order to develop a more coordinated and coherent medium to long-term strategic approach to enhance competitiveness and growth for European enterprises for the benefit of all EU citizens;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS

¹ OJ L 230, 28 August 2002, p. 7.

Article 1

The Working Party on the Internal Market (Horizontal Questions) and the Working Party on Industry shall be merged into a working group on "Competitiveness and Growth".

It 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 the horizontal tasks outlined in Article 2.

Article 2

Besides addressing the more specific policy files dealt with in the merged Working Parties it shall in particular:

- provide support for and offer advice on horizontal issues with a view to developing a co-ordinated approach related to competitiveness and growth for enterprises and industry in the European Union, including priorities for structural/microeconomic actions also in relation to the Council's (Competitiveness) input to the Spring European Council within the relevant instruments,
- assist in achieving synergies from the different areas for which the Council (Competitiveness) is responsible,
- benchmark national initiatives concerning competitiveness and growth.

Article 3

It shall report to the Permanent Representatives Committee in accordance with Article 207 of the Treaty.

Article 4

This decision takes effect on the day of its adoption.

For the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)

The Chairman
