



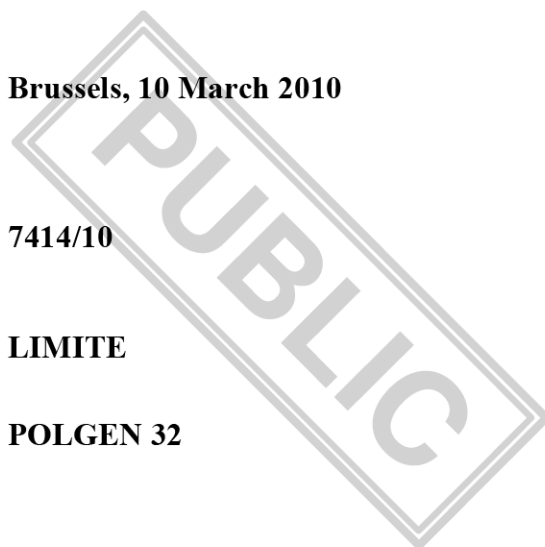
**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 10 March 2010

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LIMITE

POLGEN 32



"I" ITEM NOTE

from: The Antici group
to: COREPER
Subject: Interpreting in Council preparatory bodies

1. In December 2003 COREPER agreed a new approach on interpreting, which was formalised by Decision 56/04 of the Secretary General/High Representative, and updated in 2007 by Decision 111/07. The approach foresees that, in addition to meetings of the European Council and the Council, full interpreting is provided for 20 preparatory bodies of the Council, and is funded through the Council's budget. For most other preparatory bodies, the provision on interpreting follows an "on request" system, funded through budgetary envelopes under the Council budget allocated to each language as well as, if necessary, through top-ups paid by delegations.
2. Implementation of this new system was reviewed twice, in 2005 and 2007. In 2007, COREPER agreed that the system should operate largely unchanged, while it introduced a number of improvements. The 2003 decision was amended accordingly. It was also agreed that the Council Secretariat should submit a report in early 2010 on the basis of which the Antici group would review the functioning of the system.

3. The General Secretariat submitted a report in January 2010¹, which was discussed in the Antici Group.
4. The Antici group welcomed the report and agreed that the approach on interpreting has shown itself to be generally fair and to respect the principles of multilingualism and equal treatment for all official and working languages.
5. As regards the budgetary increase of the envelopes, it was noted that the envelopes are increased annually in line with the estimate of the parameters for adjusting remunerations used in drawing up the budget. While this criterion ensures the equal treatment of all languages, a number of delegations underlined the need for realistic budgeting based on real needs.
6. The Antici group also discussed interpreting for meetings which are not currently covered by SG/HR Decision 111/07, notably as regards multilateral Summits and multilateral ministerial meetings with third countries held in a third country.
7. Extending the "on request" system to Ministerial dinners and lunches will not be possible under the current circumstances due to the physical constraints in the Council's premises. The principle of real needs will continue to be the main factor for providing interpretation for Ministerial meals. The opening of the Residence Palace in 2013 will provide additional possibilities. Some delegations also referred to the need to improve access to interpretation during the meals of the European Council.
8. Notwithstanding the 2007 agreement to phase out the intervention by the Council budget for Informal Ministerial meetings (one such meeting in the first semester of 2010, and none from the second semester of 2010), COREPER recalls that all future Presidencies have undertaken to uphold the principles of multilingualism and non-discrimination between languages and will in particular make every endeavour to respond positively to motivated requests by any Member State. However, when considering whether to request interpreting, all delegations will bear in mind the logistic constraints for such meetings and Ministers' desire to meet in an informal and convivial environment.

¹ See doc. 5149/10

9. A number of delegations requested that the unused part of the existing travel expenses envelopes be used also for accommodation purposes (and not only for transport purposes). While this request is not directly linked to the interpretation system, the Council Secretariat will examine whether this could be envisaged and will report to the Antici Group.
10. The Antici group invites COREPER to agree that the 2003 approach on interpreting, as revised in 2007, should continue to be implemented largely unchanged, with the following improvements:
 - i. The system implemented in 1 January 2008, allowing for a third full interpreting team to be made available up to 36 days a year has proved to work well. This faculty has been extensively used in 2008 (39 days of the additional full team) and in 2009 (49 days of the additional full team). Given the flexibility of the system currently in place, delegations concurred that there is no need for a fixed third additional team per day, provided that the number of additional days can be increased to around 50.
 - ii. It was agreed that the number of Working Parties meeting with full interpretation should not be increased. In view of the changes in the JHA structures, the list of Working Parties meeting with full interpretation will need to be adjusted (see revised list in Annex I). Further adjustments to the list may be necessary in 2012, to take into account additional changes stemming from the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon. The Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) established by the JHA Council of 25 February 2010, will be meeting with full interpretation.
 - iii. Notwithstanding the need for flexibility arising from the regular change of experts, no differentiated requests should be made between different sub-areas as well as no dossier should be transferred from area to sub-area in question after the request has been made by the Member States, except in exceptional circumstances. The particular circumstances of Member States using more than one official and working language for which making uniform requests may create difficulties will, however, be taken into consideration.

- iv. As regards Accession Conferences at Deputy level and Association and Cooperation Councils, the current practices will continue to apply.
11. The Council Secretariat is invited to submit a report in early 2014, in the light, *inter alia*, of experience of operation of the Residence Palace. On the basis of this report, the Antici group will review the functioning of the system.
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List of Working Parties benefiting from Full Interpretation**Changes stemming from the Lisbon Treaty**

	WP/Committee	Changes due to the Implementation of Treaty of Lisbon
A.6	STANDING COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONAL COOPERATION ON INTERNAL SECURITY (COSI)	New Committee foreseen by Article 71 of the TFEU; its mandate was adopted by the JHA Council of 25.2.10
A.8	SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE	no changes
B.3	HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON ASYLUM AND MIGRATION	no changes
B.4	HORIZONTAL WORKING PARTY ON DRUGS	no changes
D.3	WORKING PARTY ON FINANCIAL SERVICES	no changes
D.4	WORKIGN PARTY ON TAX QUESTIONS Indirect taxation Direct Taxation	no changes
D.5	CODE OF CONDUCT GROUP (BUSINESS TAXATION)	no changes
E.0	CATS	<i>pm: possible change as of 1/1/2012</i>
E.1	COMITE STRATEGIQUE SUR L'IMMIGRATION, FRONTIERES ET ASILE (SCIFA)	<i>pm: possible change as of 1/1/2012</i>
E.2	WORKING PARTY ON MIGRATION AND EXPULSION	Renamed: Working Party on Integration, Migration and Expulsion
E.4	ASYLUM WORKING PARTY	no changes
E.6	WORKING PART ON FRONTIERS	no changes
E.7	COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LAW MATTERS	Renamed: Working Party on Civil Law Matters
E.10	POLICE COOPERATION WORKING PARTY	Merged with E.11 and renamed Law Enforcement Working Party
E.11	EUROPOL WORKING PARTY	Merged with E.10 and renamed Law Enforcement Working Party
E.14	WORKING PARTY ON COOPERATION IN CRIMINAL MATTERS	no changes
E.15	WORKING PARTY ON SUBSTANTIVE CRIMINAL LAW	no changes
E.19	MULTIDISCIPLINARY GROUP ON ORGANISED CRIME	Renamed: Multidisciplinary Group on General Matters including Evaluation
G.3	WORKING PARTY ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY - PATENTS	no changes
I.3	WORKING PARTY ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND INFORMATION	no changes