

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE

Tuesday 3 October 2000
(*Afternoon*)

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE

17th Meeting 2000, Session 1

CONVENER

Hugh Henry (Paisley South) (Lab)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Cathy Jamieson (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley) (Lab)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West)

*Bruce Crawford (Mid Scotland and Fife) (SNP)

Dr Winnie Ewing (Highlands and Islands) (SNP)

*Dr Sylvia Jackson (Stirling) (Lab)

Ms Margo MacDonald (Lothians) (SNP)

*Maureen Macmillan (Highlands and Islands) (Lab)

*David Mundell (South of Scotland) (Con)

*Irene Oldfather (Cunninghame South) (Lab)

*Tavish Scott (Shetland) (LD)

Ben Wallace (North-East Scotland) (Con)

*Allan Wilson (Cunninghame North) (Lab)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Stephen Imrie

ASSISTANT CLERK

David Simpson

LOCATION

Committee Room 2

Scottish Parliament

European Committee

Tuesday 3 October 2000

(Afternoon)

[THE DEPUTY CONVENER *opened the meeting at 14:03*]

The Deputy Convener (Cathy Jamieson): I welcome everybody to the 17th meeting this year of the European Committee. There are apologies from Hugh Henry, the convener, who is in Northern Ireland on Committee of the Regions business. There are also apologies from Ben Wallace, who is otherwise occupied at the Conservative conference. [*Applause.*] I should tell David Mundell that no cheering is allowed for that—this is non-political. There are also apologies from Margo MacDonald and Sylvia Jackson. They are attending other committees and might join us later.

Does the committee agree to take items 5, 6 and 7, which are on draft reports, in private, as is usual?

Members indicated agreement.

The Deputy Convener: We have quite a heavy agenda today, so I hope that, with members' co-operation, we can get through the bits we agree on fairly quickly so that we can devote as much time as possible to the draft reports.

Convener's Report

The Deputy Convener: Everybody should have the papers for this item. I intend to seek approval for the appropriate actions to be taken on each item in the convener's report.

The first item relates to the progress of the committee's inquiry into the implementation of European structural funds. As the report indicates, we are still awaiting a letter from the Secretary of State for Scotland. The convener therefore suggests that, as we agreed previously, we should postpone further discussion on the conclusions of our report until we have a further meeting, rather than dealing with the matter today.

Bruce Crawford (Mid Scotland and Fife) (SNP): What do we mean by postpone? Do we really mean putting the matter away until such time as we have an answer, bearing in mind the fact that we may not get one, or do we mean that in a couple of weeks we will discuss what to do if we have still not received a letter? I do not think

that we should leave the report on the shelf in perpetuity.

The Deputy Convener: I certainly do not want that to happen and I am sure that most members want us to reach a conclusion on the matter. I understand that we expect a letter to arrive, and we will therefore be able to deal with the issue at our next meeting.

Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West): I suggest that further contact be made regarding the lack of a reply. We should specifically ask for a reply before our next meeting.

Stephen Imrie (Clerk): I advise members that I and my colleagues have been in regular contact with the Secretary of State for Scotland's office. We are advised that receipt of the letter is imminent; I expected it yesterday or today and we should receive it very shortly. As soon as we receive it, I will circulate copies to members.

Bruce Crawford: Will this item be on the agenda for the next meeting in any case?

The Deputy Convener: I understand that all members want a resolution of this matter and want to reach conclusions on the report—we do not want to leave it sitting on the shelf. Are members happy to discuss this item at the next meeting?

Members indicated agreement.

The Deputy Convener: The next item concerns the proposed inaugural meeting on 3 November 2000 of UK chairs and conveners of European committees to discuss matters of common interest. I ask members to note the information in the report. They could also note that today happens to be my birthday, but I am not sure whether the *Official Report* is allowed to record that.

Bruce Crawford: Happy birthday.

The Deputy Convener: Thank you.

Bruce Crawford: Would it be appropriate for committee members to decide whether there are any issues that it would be pertinent to discuss at that meeting? Could we raise such issues prior to the meeting?

The Deputy Convener: We want to be as inclusive as possible, so I suggest that if members have issues that they would like to be raised, they should approach the clerks, who will ensure that they are brought to the convener's attention.

The next item concerns a proposed visit by the Swedish ambassador to the UK to discuss the priorities of the forthcoming presidency of the European Union. That visit is scheduled for 6 December 2000. We have been caught out in the past when events have come up at short notice and people have not been able to fit them into

their diaries. It is suggested that we should be aware of the visit well in advance and should anticipate that plans may be made at a later date for a meeting.

Stephen Imrie: The convener's report contains information about that. The current suggested time slot is lunch time—perhaps between 12 noon and 2.30 pm—on 6 December. We will try to confirm those arrangements as soon as possible and will advise members accordingly.

The Deputy Convener: All members should ensure that their diaries are suitably synchronised.

The next item is a proposal for visits by members of the European Committee to European institutions, probably at the end of this year or early next year. At this stage we are asking for members' agreement, so that the clerks can begin to make arrangements. The idea is that the whole committee should make a visit in the new year and that members should take turns at attending the plenary meetings of the European Parliament in Brussels. Do we agree that the clerks should go ahead and make the initial arrangements?

Irene Oldfather (Cunninghame South) (Lab): If the committee's visit is to take place some time this year, we will need to know about that as soon as possible. It might be easier if we made plans for early in the new year. That would ensure that we were able to make space for the visit in our diaries.

The Deputy Convener: There are nods of agreement from members. I understand that the intention is to arrange the visit to coincide with the Commission's publication of its forthcoming work programme. I am advised that that is likely to be in the new year, rather than towards the end of this year. Obviously, all members already have commitments. Is that acceptable?

Members indicated agreement.

The Deputy Convener: There is a proposed visit to the Scottish Parliament by a parliamentary delegation from Germany—I will not attempt to pronounce the name of the Land that it represents—on 6 October. Information about that has been e-mailed directly to members and members have been asked to indicate whether they are able to be involved. I am not sure whether the clerks have received any responses.

Stephen Imrie: Not yet. That is why we are bringing this to members' attention again.

The Deputy Convener: Recently, a number of invitations have arrived at fairly short notice for dates when members' diaries are already full or for days that are traditionally set aside for constituency business—Mondays and Fridays. We do not want to be seen not to be helping with visits, but it can be difficult to allocate members'

time. If any member is available to meet the delegation and wants to volunteer their services, we would welcome that. If not, we will have to send apologies and explain why no member of the committee is available.

Irene Oldfather: I note that 6 October is a Friday. For constituency members, that is very difficult. I have surgeries on Friday mornings, and it would be difficult for me to change that. In the past we have had problems with short notice and visits being scheduled for a Monday or a Friday, when members tend to have engagements in their constituencies.

David Mundell (South of Scotland) (Con): Who sets the dates and times for these visits? This week I am involved with a delegation from the United States. It has been allocated 2.30 pm to 3.15 pm on Thursday to meet members, which coincides with question time. When I examined the delegation's programme, it was clear to me that it could have been offered a different slot. Who filters these visits through to Stephen Imrie and how are they put together?

Stephen Imrie: That depends on the visitors in question. In this case, I believe that they have approached the Presiding Officer's office directly. However, sometimes approaches are made through the Executive. When the committee clerks organise visits, we try to arrange them for dates and times that suit committee members. However, sometimes the primary organisers are outwith the committee. We always advise them that certain days are less suitable than others and that certain times, such as question time, are unsuitable. The Presiding Officer, staff, the external relations division of the Scottish Executive and I are seeking to improve the co-ordination of visits. The aim is to give members more notice and to arrange meetings at better times. That may resolve some of the difficulties that we have had in the past.

David Mundell: That is to be welcomed.

The Deputy Convener: I thank Bruce Crawford for a timely reminder that 10 years ago, on 3 October 1990, one of the most significant events in European history happened: the reunification of Germany. It would be in the committee's remit to indicate our support to the German consulate in Edinburgh.

Reporter's Report

14:15

The Deputy Convener: We have a progress report from Dennis Canavan on the proposed European charter on fundamental rights and the development of a Scottish perspective. Dennis can update us on his work so far, then members can comment or ask questions.

Dennis Canavan: Work has been progressing gradually over the past few months. The pace of progress could have been greater, but we have received relatively little evidence, partly because many organisations, academics and so on have been otherwise engaged over the summer. Apparently some groups and individuals had been unwilling to submit evidence, on the ground that the draft of the charter was incomplete. However, the draft was completed last week and submitted to the European Council of Ministers, prior to its Biarritz meeting, which starts on 12 October. I hope to have that draft, for reporting back to the committee, soon after the autumn recess.

More than 20 organisations were invited to submit evidence, including non-governmental organisations such as Amnesty International and the Scottish Human Rights Centre, and bodies such as the Scottish Trades Union Congress, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Law Society of Scotland. The committees of the Parliament were invited to submit evidence if they so desired. A call for evidence was placed on the worldwide web. So far, the response has not been great in terms of quantity, but the quality has been good. We have received nine responses so far. The Faculty of Advocates has promised a response, which is due later this week.

I would like to follow up an interesting suggestion from Professor Burrows, the director of the Scottish Jean Monnet European centre of excellence. She has proposed a seminar on the proposed charter of fundamental rights, which she suggests I chair. The centre has some funding available to organise such events, so there would be no budgetary implications for the committee. We could probably hold such a seminar in one of the committee rooms.

The convention that is charged with drafting the report has met regularly since 17 December last year and has finalised its draft charter. The input from the UK consists of Lord Goldsmith, who is the Prime Minister's representative, Win Griffiths, who represents the House of Commons, and Lord Bowness, who represents the House of Lords. There is also input from David Martin MEP, who, as a vice-president of the European Parliament, is

that Parliament's representative on the convention. I had a useful meeting with David, at which he gave informal oral evidence.

My assistant, Adèle Brown, circulated copies of the draft charter to all members just prior to this meeting. If members have not received a copy, please let me know. A website contains other information on the work of the convention and on the progress of the draft charter and members should contact my office if they want the address for that website, as Adèle will be able to supply it.

The draft charter consists of civil and political rights as well as social, economic and solidarity rights. The civil and political rights were fairly non-contentious, but there was some controversy about the social, economic and solidarity rights.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, was concerned that member states might consider making the charter legally binding. It was reported that he even threatened to use the UK's veto in order to prevent the charter from becoming legally binding. However, it appears that some compromise has been reached, so the charter will probably not become legally binding.

Concern was expressed about certain social, economic and solidarity rights. The trade union movement in most countries would probably want to strengthen solidarity rights. France certainly seemed to be taking a maximalist position on those rights, but it did not receive the support of most of the other member states, including Britain. As a result, another compromise was reached, so the draft charter is not as strong on social, economic and solidarity rights as the French Government, for example, would have liked.

Key issues that will continue to be the subject of debate include future accession to the European convention on human rights. All member states are already signatories to the convention, but it is possible that the European Union, as an institution, will accede to the ECHR. The status of the charter and the inclusion of social and economic rights will doubtless continue to be the subject of much debate.

On the Scottish dimension, there is a clear need to focus on the collection and dissemination of information. To that end, and with the approval of the committee, I would like to take up the proposal for a seminar that was made by the Jean Monnet European centre for excellence. All members of the committee and any other interested MSP will be invited to participate in that seminar.

The Deputy Convener: Thank you, Dennis. Your report gave us a good update on how the proposed charter is progressing and ideas on how to pursue that work.

Do members have comments or questions?

Allan Wilson (Cunninghame North) (Lab): It is not clear from Dennis's report precisely where the draft charter fits into the European Union's internal processes. Who is considering it? When is it likely to cease to be a draft charter and become a permanent charter?

Dennis Canavan: The draft charter has been completed by the convention. The convention acted like an international working party and was involved in drafting the charter. That work has been completed and the result is the document that was circulated by Adèle Brown just before the meeting started.

The draft charter will go to the Biarritz European Council summit, which will be held on 12 October. If it is approved, it will probably be finalised at the intergovernmental conference in Nice in December.

The Deputy Convener: Does that response answer your question, Allan?

Allan Wilson: Yes.

The Deputy Convener: What about Dennis's suggestion that we pursue our work on the draft charter through the proposed seminar? Do members think that that would be appropriate? Are members interested in becoming involved in that seminar?

I will take that silence as a yes.

Bruce Crawford: I like Dennis's idea, but I would like to know more about what the expected outcomes from any such seminar are, so that we can judge whether it might be a successful way of doing things in future. As long as we know before we proceed what the outputs are and we are able to make some measurement and understand it, I would support the idea.

Dennis Canavan: The idea of the seminar would be to enable invited participants to express their views. I doubt that there would be unanimity on every issue on the agenda. Following the seminar, I would hope to be able to submit a draft report to the committee.

Views within the committee about certain aspects of my draft report may differ, but I hope that we will be able to reach some consensus or majority view and publish a report for the Scottish Parliament. If there is time, we could perhaps feed it in to the European decision-making process, but I am not terribly optimistic that our views would hold much weight there as that process is mainly intergovernmental: the member states and the European Parliament have the major input. Nevertheless, it would be useful for us to finalise a report, at least for our own Parliament. We could, if possible, forward it to some European institutions.

Bruce Crawford: Does Dennis envisage taking retrospective action against Tony Blair later? *[Laughter.]*

The Deputy Convener: I think that we will have to rule that comment out of order. Let us move on in a constructive spirit. It would certainly not be the first report of this committee that did not have unanimity. We have always tried to ensure that everybody's views are taken on board in the appropriate way.

Irene Oldfather: I would like to see Dennis's report first. I am not unsympathetic to the idea of a seminar but we should perhaps see the report first and take things a stage at a time. I am aware that a lot of people on the committee are doing reports, and there is perhaps an argument to have seminars for all of them. We need to be clear about what the report says and about how it feeds into the system. Dennis has said that we might not be able to influence things and that it is more of a learning exercise. We should perhaps take things a step at a time.

The Deputy Convener: My understanding is that the Jean Monnet centre was interested in doing a seminar anyway.

Dennis Canavan: Yes.

The Deputy Convener: It would therefore not be our seminar, but would involve feeding in our contribution. Is that correct? The centre has written to me and to others.

Dennis Canavan: I would prefer the seminar to be held before I finalise my draft report so that the views expressed there can be taken into consideration. My draft report will return to the committee for approval, amendment, rejection or whatever before it becomes an official committee report.

The Deputy Convener: Does that clarify the position, Irene?

Irene Oldfather: Yes, that is fine.

The Deputy Convener: Dennis will be able to liaise with Stephen Imrie to ensure that committee members are kept up to date at every possible point.

Dennis Canavan: I will therefore go ahead and organise the seminar. I will keep members informed.

The Deputy Convener: I can see people's heads going down at the suggestion that there should be seminars; I do not think that anybody is rushing to help organise them. Thank you very much for that update, Dennis. We look forward to hearing what comes of future developments.

Scrutiny

The Deputy Convener: Item 4 on the agenda is scrutiny of EC/EU documents. This takes us back by some months. It is quite a while since we carried out scrutiny, and I remind members that we put this on hold partly because, at the time, we were in the thick of our inquiry into structural funds. As a result, the list of documents that have been distributed goes back as far as 2 May. The clerks to the committee and the legal office advisers have been monitoring documents as they arrived to ensure that we did not miss anything important.

As there are many documents, I will ask members to approve the recommendations that are contained in the recommendation paper. I remind members that the passage of time means that some documents will have become dated. Although members may be interested in, or want copies of, some papers, they should avoid the notion of sticking up their hands to ask for copies of this or that paper. They should ask for copies at the end of the meeting.

SP 1155 and SP 1254 are relevant to the water framework directive on which Maureen Macmillan is a reporter. The clerks and the legal adviser are monitoring SP 1231, which could have important ramifications. SP 1016 was dealt with as part of Maureen Macmillan's inquiry into infectious salmon anaemia.

Nothing has been identified in the priority scrutiny category.

14:30

Tavish Scott (Shetland) (LD): The nicely coloured salmon-pink legal advice notes that were circulated covered SP 983 and SP 1092, but those items are not detailed in the white swatch of papers. I would like to ask about SP 983 and SP 1092, but do not know when I should do so.

Irene Oldfather: On a point of clarification, how do the legal notes relate to the recommendation document? I have not worked out the relationship between them. For example, we have a legal note on SP 968, which is contained somewhere deep within the recommendation document.

The Deputy Convener: The clerk will explain how the papers were put together. We should bear in mind that it is some time since we carried out this process, so it may be more complicated today than it would otherwise be.

Stephen Imrie: Mr Scott can find the recommendation on SP 1092 on page 3 of the sift scrutiny recommendation note. It is recommended that the committee defer that document. The

rationale for that recommendation is that we are seeking further clarification of the Executive's view on the multi-annual guidance programmes. Members might want to consider SP 1092 at a subsequent meeting. We are also seeking information from the Executive on SP 983.

Did Irene Oldfather refer to SP 1016?

Irene Oldfather: No. I mentioned SP 968, on which it is suggested that no further action be taken and that a copy be given to the committee. How do we select the documents on which we will receive legal advice notes? What is the relationship between the legal advice notes and the recommendation paper? The legal advice notes cover different categories of recommendation, including defer and no further action. It is not clear why we have information on some documents but not on others.

Stephen Imrie: The private legal notes provide members with advice on documents in a brief and consistent format. They cover a range of categories of recommendation. We will almost always give members a private legal note if the convener's recommendation is that a document be taken for priority or routine scrutiny. The information is intended to assist members' decision.

Quite often, members are given a private legal note when a document is to be deferred; usually the note is provided to give some advice on why the convener, with our assistance, is suggesting that the document be deferred. On occasion, members may be given legal notes on documents for which no further action is proposed. That is done to provide background information or a point that members might like to take on board. It is not necessarily done because the document itself is important, in the sense that members might want to take further action on it, but because there is something of note—perhaps an example of funding opportunities.

The Deputy Convener: Are members clearer about the process?

Bruce Crawford: It would help us if such private papers could have something at the beginning to state their purpose.

Irene Oldfather: I endorse that. I could not see the connection. A sentence that explained why we were being given the documents would be helpful.

Tavish Scott: SP 983 and SP 968 were not actually in the sift papers; that contributed to the problem.

Irene Oldfather: SP 968 is in the papers, but under the category of recommended for no further action.

The Deputy Convener: A number of points

have been made on making it easier to correlate the different documents. We will return to our work plan at a later stage.

Stephen Imrie: We will take up those suggestions and see whether we can correlate the legal notes with the categories on the scrutiny recommendation note so that it is clear under which category the legal notes fall.

The Deputy Convener: Nothing is recommended for priority scrutiny or for routine scrutiny. Is that agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

The Deputy Convener: We have a number of items—

Bruce Crawford: When we are going through those items that we are considering deferring, can we agree at that stage to categorise something for priority scrutiny, if it seems important?

The Deputy Convener: My understanding is that that is the reason for looking at items where we need more information and which we may want to bring back. Pages 3, 4 and 5 contain a number of items on which we are awaiting further information and on which we will take a decision at a future meeting.

Bruce Crawford: I am sure that all committee members have had a letter from the Post Office about the liberalisation of post office services, so on SP 1297 I think we should take the decision today that, although we are awaiting further information, we want it to come back for further consideration. There is a deadline, in that a directive will be debated in the European Parliament on 22 December. That does not leave us a lot of time to consider the implications, how we will take them forward and whether we want to lobby on it.

The Deputy Convener: That is helpful. Irene Oldfather raised that issue at an earlier meeting. When we discuss our work plan, we should bear that in mind because, given that we cannot do everything, we must prioritise.

The recommendation for the following documents is that we defer them until we have further information:

SP 1039 (EC Ref No 7908/00 COM(2000) 177 final 2000/82 (CNS))

SP 1056 (EC Ref No 7939/00 COM(2000) 205 final)

SP 1158 (EC Ref No 9439/00 COM(2000) 278 final)

SP 1235 (EC Ref No 10060/00 COM(2000) 320 final)

SP 1300 (EC Ref No Brussels 26/07/00 COM(2000) 495 final)

SP 1006 (EC Ref No 7952/00 DROIEN 14)

SP 1041 (EC Ref No 8134/00 COM(2000) 256 final)

SP 1066 (EC Ref No 8330/00 COM(2000) 239 final)

SP 1091 (EC Ref No 8134/00 COM(2000) 256 final)

SP 1092 (EC Ref No 7426/00 COM(2000) 272 final)

SP 1136 (EC Ref No 8261/00 COM(2000) 273 final)

SP 1144 (EC Ref No 8938/00)

SP 1146 (EC Ref No 8777/00)

SP 1169 (EC Ref No 8264/00 COM(2000) 338 final)

SP 1192 (EC Ref No 9386/00)

SP 1224 (EC Ref No 9737/00)

SP 1225 (EC Ref No 9440/00 COM(2000) 378 final)

SP 1236 (EC Ref No 10233/00 COM(2000)431 final)

SP 1240 (EC Ref No 10004/00 COM(2000) 402 final COD 2000/0169)

SP 1242 (EC Ref No 9828/00 COM(2000) 364 final)

SP 1249 (EC Ref No 9903/00)

SP 1255 (EC Ref No 9896/00)

SP 1259 (EC Ref No 10354/00)

SP 1260 (EC Ref No 10355/00)

SP 1271 (EC Ref No 9984/00 COM(2000) 383 final)

SP 1276 (EC Ref No 10346/00 COM(2000) 276 final COD 2000/0117)

SP 1277 (EC Ref No 10345/00 COM(2000) 275 final COD 2000/0115)

SP 1279 (EC Ref No 10419/00 COM(2000) 411 final CNS 1999/0091)

SP 1292 (EC Ref No 10518/00 COM(2000) 437 final)

SP 1293 (EC Ref No 10526/00 COM(2000) 435 final)

SP 1294 (EC Ref No 10392/00 COM(2000) 433 final)

SP 1297 (EC Ref No 10544/00 COM(2000) 319 final COD 2000/0139)

SP 1298 (EC Ref No 10427/00 COM(2000) 438 final)

SP 962 (EC Ref No 7422/00 COM(2000) 190)

SP 1021 (EC Ref No 8075/00 COM(2000) 238 final)

SP 1250 (EC Ref No 9964/00 COM(2000) 379 final)

SP 972 (EC Ref No 6920/00)

SP 1190 (EC Ref No 9720/00)

Is that agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

The Deputy Convener: The recommendation for the following documents is that this committee take no further action but that we copy the documents to other named committees for information.

SP 1103 (EC Ref No 8799/00 COM(2000) 301 final)

SP 1273 (EC Ref No 10382/00 COM(2000) 334 final)

SP 1176 (EC Ref No 9339/00)

SP 1097 (EC Ref No 8557/00 COM(2000) 284 final)

SP 968 (EC Ref No 6715/00 COM(2000) 79)

SP 1199 (EC Ref No 9824/00 COM(2000) 376 final)
 SP 1098 (EC Ref No 8568/00 COM(2000) 266 final)
 SP 1095 (EC Ref No 8307/00 COM(2000) 257 final)
 SP 1065 (EC Ref No 8309/00)
 SP 1099 (EC Ref No 8585/00 COM(2000) 139 final)
 SP 1109 (EC Ref No 8305/00)
 SP 1122 (EC Ref No 8882/00 COM(2000) 179 final)
 SP 1222 (EC Ref No 9578/00 COM(2000) 368 final)
 SP 1226 (EC Ref No 9448/00)
 SP 1233 (EC Ref No 10003/00 COM(2000) 400 final)
 SP 1274 (EC Ref No 10131/00 COM(2000) 428 final
 1999/0244 (COD))
 SP 983 (EC Ref No 7245/00 COM(2000) 142)
 SP 1013 (EC Ref No 7946/00 COM(2000) 236 cod
 98/0249)
 SP 1023 (EC Ref No 8136/00 COM(2000) 247 final)
 SP 1096 (EC Ref No 8525/00 COM(2000) 222 final)
 SP 1216 (EC Ref No 8756/00 COM(2000) 285 final)

Is that agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

The Deputy Convener: For the following long list of documents, the recommendation is for no further action. The list runs from page 8 to page 28 of the recommendation note. Anybody can, of course, get a copy of any of the documents for their own interest.

SP 978 (EC Ref No 7789/00 COM(2000) 193 2000/76 (CNS))
 SP 1017 (EC Ref No 7424/00 COM(2000) 229 final)
 SP 1272 (EC Ref No 9907/00 COM(2000) 391 final)
 SP 1275 (EC Ref No 8871/00 COM(2000) 303 final)
 SP 1269 (EC Ref No 10424/00 COM(2000) 427 final COD
 2000/0175)
 SP 1270 (EC Ref No 10417/00 COM(2000) 280 final COD
 98/0289)
 SP 1177 (EC Ref No 8529/00)
 SP 1165 (EC Ref No 9679/00)
 SP 1117 (EC Ref No 8324/00)
 SP 1100 (EC Ref No 8712/00 COM(2000) 293 final)
 SP 1049 (EC Ref No 8112/1/00)
 SP 1044 (EC Ref No 8141/00 COM(2000) 251 final)
 SP 1045 (EC Ref No 7846/00)
 SP 1299 (EC Ref No 6232/00 COM(2000) 42 final
 2000/0040 (COD))
 SP 976 (EC Ref No 7079/00 COM)
 SP 991 (EC Ref No 7172/00 COM(2000) 149)
 SP 992 (EC Ref No 10317/99)
 SP 1018 (EC Ref No 7381/00)

SP 1025 (EC Ref No 7369/00)
 SP 1026 (EC Ref No 7371/00)
 SP 1027 (EC Ref No 8453/00)
 SP 1028 (EC Ref No 8235/00 COM(2000) 207 final)
 SP 1029 (EC Ref No 8236/00 COM(2000) 208 final)
 SP 1030 (EC Ref No 8237/00 COM(2000) 209 final)
 SP 1031 (EC Ref No 8238/00 COM(2000) 210 final)
 SP 1032 (EC Ref No 8239/00 COM(2000) 211 final)
 SP 1033 (EC Ref No 8240/00 COM(2000) 215 final)
 SP 1034 (EC Ref No 8241/00 COM(2000) 217 final)
 SP 1035 (EC Ref No 8242/00 COM(2000) 218 final)
 SP 1036 (EC Ref No 3618/00)
 SP 1040 (EC Ref No 8130/00 COM(2000) 246 final)
 SP 1042 (EC Ref No 8140/00 COM(2000) 244 final)
 SP 1043 (EC Ref No 8141/00 COM(2000) 251 final)
 SP 1047 (EC Ref No 8112/00)
 SP 1048 (EC Ref No 7571/1/00)
 SP 1050 (EC Ref No 7370/00)
 SP 1051 (EC Ref No 7123/00 COM(2000) 111 final
 2000/0062 (COD))
 SP 1052 (EC Ref No 7369/1/00)
 SP 1053 (EC Ref No 7793/00 COM(2000) 235 final)
 SP 1054 (EC Ref No 7815/00 COM(2000) 250 final)
 SP 1055 (EC Ref No 7881/00 COM(2000) 249 final)
 SP 1057 (EC Ref No 8076/00 COM(2000) 288 final)
 SP 1058 (EC Ref No 8169/00 COM(2000) 186 final)
 SP 1059 (EC Ref No 8214/00 COM(2000) 255 final—
 2000/0105 (ACC))
 SP 1061 (EC Ref No 8243/00 COM(2000) 228 final)
 SP 1062 (EC Ref No 8244/00 COM(2000) 232 final)
 SP 1063 (EC Ref No 8245/00 COM(2000) 258 final)
 SP 1064 (EC Ref No 8303/00 COM(2000) 265 final)
 SP 1071 (EC Ref No 8455/00)
 SP 1072 (EC Ref No 8402/00 SEC(2000) 720 final)
 SP 1073 (EC Ref No 8304/00 COM(2000) 263 final)
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Is the recommendation for those documents agreed?

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Deputy Convener: Thank you. I want also to record our thanks to the clerks and to the legal adviser for dealing with a number of matters during the time that the committee has not been scrutinising the papers regularly. As members can see, a huge amount of paperwork comes in. It is simply not possible for us to go through all the documents in detail. We rely on the assistance of the clerks and the legal adviser to identify the areas that the committee wants to pick up at a future date.

We have completed the business that will be held in public. As agreed at the beginning of the meeting, we now move into private session to deal with the rest of the agenda. I bid goodbye to the people in the public gallery. I hope that they have enjoyed a riveting afternoon.

14:46

Meeting continued in private until 16:25.

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