

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE

Tuesday 31 October 2000
(*Afternoon*)

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CONTENTS

Tuesday 31 October 2000

	Col.
CONVENER'S REPORT	840
SCRUTINY	846

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE **18th 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 31 October 2000

(Afternoon)

[THE CONVENER *opened the meeting at 14:04*]

The Convener (Hugh Henry): Good morning ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the 18th meeting this year of the European Committee.

Before we move to today's main business, I must formally ask members whether they agree that agenda items 5 and 6, on draft reports, should be taken in private.

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: As well as welcoming committee members and members of the press and public to today's meeting, I welcome Catherine Stihler MEP, who has come to listen to our discussions.

Congratulations are in order for two members of the committee. Allan Wilson has become a deputy minister and will be responsible for sport, culture and the arts.

Ms Margo MacDonald (Lothians) (SNP): And heritage.

The Convener: It is a daunting brief, but I am sure that he will cope without any problem—I am delighted for him. I am also delighted for Tavish Scott, who has been promoted to the post of Deputy Minister for Parliament. I am sure that he will carry out his duties commendably. Both Allan and Tavish have been enthusiastic participants in this committee and have made a good contribution. We will miss them. However, I am sure that the committee is delighted for both of them. We wish them all the best.

Convener's Report

The Convener: Members have before them a letter from the Minister for Transport and the Environment on compliance with directives 96/59/EC, 76/160/EEC and 79/923/EEC. This is part of our effort to monitor the implementation of European Community law in Scotland. It is suggested that we note the minister's response and that we agree that all the correspondence should be sent to the Transport and the Environment Committee.

I have forgotten to congratulate Bruce Crawford on what I assume is his promotion—he is to be taken off this committee and is now the new transport spokesperson for the SNP. We wish you well on your new position, Bruce, and thank you for your contribution to this committee.

We are asking that the directives should be passed to the Transport and the Environment Committee and that the clerk to this committee should continue to monitor the implementation of the three directives and development in those areas. In that respect, the clerk has a number of follow-up questions that we might ask the Executive about the implementation of the directives.

Stephen Imrie (Clerk): We have received some correspondence from Sarah Boyack on the three directives and perhaps I should highlight several points that the committee might want to pursue. On directive 96/59/EC, dealing with polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated triphenyls, it is unclear to the legal adviser and me whether the UK will be able to comply with the recent opinion from the European Court of Justice by the set date. It might be appropriate for the committee to ask the Executive whether that will be possible.

Secondly, the minister's letter does not say whether the UK intends to take any further action on one aspect of the Commission's complaint—the exact requirements of article 11 of directive 96/59/EC. The committee might want to seek further clarification on that point.

Finally, on the directive concerning PCBs and PCTs, the letter does not provide an explanation of the 12-month delay in implementation—although to be fair to the Executive, the committee might not have asked for that information. In a subsequent letter, the committee might want to ask the Executive about that issue. Would it be easier if I took the points of clarification for each directive in turn?

The Convener: Yes. Do committee members have any questions on directive 96/59/EC?

Ms MacDonald: This directive is one of the difficult ones. In layman's terms, are you saying that we in Scotland can comply with the time constraints of this directive, but that it is unclear whether the Government wants to or has to comply?

Stephen Imrie: There should be UK-wide compliance with the directive; however, from the information that we have, it is unclear whether the UK will be able to comply within the specified dates.

Ms MacDonald: I know this is awful stupid, convener, but why are we bothering?

Stephen Imrie: It is not for me to suggest why members may consider that the correct implementation of this directive is important. It is within the remit of the committee to monitor whether the Executive is fulfilling its obligations to implement EC law correctly in Scotland. It is not for me to say whether this particular directive is a priority for the committee.

The Convener: We have identified this as an issue. We are now saying that, in technical terms and in terms of the impact on Scotland, it is more appropriate for the Transport and the Environment Committee to consider the issue. I am not sure whether the fact that Bruce Crawford has become spokesperson on transport and the environment means that he will join that committee.

Bruce Crawford (Mid Scotland and Fife) (SNP): That is the intention, convener, but we are probably a couple of weeks away from any changes; anyway, that is a decision for the group rather than for me. Passing the matter to the Transport and the Environment Committee would be a sensible step.

Stephen Imrie: In the memorandum of understanding and the supplementary agreements between the UK Government and the Scottish Executive, it is very clear that the responsibility for implementing EC obligations, such as this directive, lies with the Scottish Executive. That means that any financial penalties would be imposed on Scotland. That is why we think that it is important to examine implementation, but that is not to suggest that this committee should look at this directive in particular.

Ms MacDonald: I may not completely understand this. As I understand it, if we do not stick to the directives, we incur the penalty, and if Westminster does not stick to the directives, we also incur the penalties.

Ben Wallace (North-East Scotland) (Con): I have to dispute what the clerk has said. The Treasury is fined by the European Union if any region or part of the United Kingdom fails to apply the directive. It is up to the Treasury whether it

chooses to pass any fine on to us. The UK Treasury is the interface with the European Commission. Who would the Commission fine? As I understand it, it cannot fine the Scottish Executive finance department.

Stephen Imrie: I understand that the money would eventually be accounted for in the assigned budget. It would come out of the money that is available to the Scottish Executive.

The Convener: There are two separate issues. The clerk will provide further detail of the financial implications and responsibility, because we may wish to comment on those. However, it is right that the Transport and the Environment Committee should consider the technical issues that are involved. That is not just because of the environmental implications, but because of the consequential effect on the Scottish budget.

14:15

Cathy Jamieson (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley) (Lab): I am a member of the Transport and the Environment Committee. Recently, we have been caught up with the Transport (Scotland) Bill and have not had the opportunity to address as many environmental issues as we might have liked to. It is not yet clear whether the changes in ministerial portfolios will have a knock-on effect for the committee. If we ask the Transport and the Environment Committee to monitor the implementation of this directive, we should provide full information. If we do not, given that committee's present work load, there is a danger that the request would be received in correspondence, but that nothing would then happen. We need to tell the Transport and the Environment Committee what we want it to do. I am sure that Bruce Crawford—he does not escape having to sit across the table from me—and I will take up those issues at that committee.

The Convener: We should highlight the financial implications.

Bruce Crawford: One person's escape is another person's delight. I think that you are right, convener, about the technical aspects. However, the committee has a responsibility to the Scottish Parliament on procedural aspects. Although it is right that the UK Treasury would be fined, as the clerk has pointed out, the fine would be passed on to the Scottish block.

The committee has a responsibility to understand the condition of bathing waters in Scotland, in case Scotland ends up being fined as part of the UK. We have a responsibility to confirm with the Scottish Executive whether Scotland can meet the requirements of article 11. If Scotland is not meeting the requirements of article 11, it is up to either the European Committee or the Transport

and the Environment Committee to tease out further what would need to be done—there is no need to hold a full inquiry. In terms of procedure, it is our responsibility to ensure that the system works and to make it clear whether there are responsibilities in Scotland. If there are responsibilities, we must investigate whether we are meeting them and, if we are not, what we are going to do about it.

The Convener: In our comments to the Transport and the Environment Committee, we need to highlight the financial implications and the procedural implications that Bruce Crawford describes. However, more detailed examination is probably best left to the Transport and the Environment Committee. We should consider whether the system and procedure is competent. I hope that we can separate those elements.

Cathy Jamieson: I agree. I have a particular interest in the bathing water directive because one of the beaches is almost on my doorstep and the other two are also in my constituency. The Transport and the Environment Committee has previously discussed issues surrounding the possibility of pollution. However, I was surprised to read in the response that

“it is believed that the increased number of failures is connected with periods of dull, wet weather”.

I am surprised that that comes as a shock to anyone in the west of Scotland. Now that we have highlighted the position on the principle, the Transport and the Environment Committee should take on the specifics of the issue.

The Convener: We are clear on the general point.

Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West): Reading the minister's briefing and the accompanying letter, I notice that there is no date. How up to date is the briefing? It says:

“Scotland should be in a position to comply with Article 4 of the Directive”—

that is directive 96/59/EC—

“and to provide an inventory covering Scotland to the Commission in October 2000”.

This is the last day of October 2000 and I wonder whether that inventory has been completed.

The Convener: Can we find that out?

Stephen Imrie: The letter from the minister was received in the past two weeks. I do not have the specific date here, but I could check it on the computer system.

The Convener: We want to find out whether the inventory has been produced and whether it is available for those who want access to it.

Dennis Canavan: Could we also ask the

ministers to date their letters? I notice that the new minister for schools has managed at least half a date: October 2000. However, when I was at school, we were told to date all letters fully.

Stephen Imrie: When I receive a letter by e-mail—that is how I received the letters from the Minister for Transport and the Environment and the Minister for Finance—it is not dated. However, shortly after that, I usually receive a hard copy through the post, with dates. As the papers were produced when I had only an e-mail version, the letters were not dated. I will ensure that members have dated copies in the future.

The Convener: Some of the discussion on directive 96/59/EC would also apply to 76/160/EEC on bathing waters. Is there anything else on bathing waters?

Irene Oldfather (Cunninghame South) (Lab): I would like some clarification on the last paragraph of the response on directive 96/59/EC. It reads:

“The Commission's challenge against the UK concerns all areas of the UK. The position in Scotland is the same as for England and Wales”.

What exactly does that mean?

Ms MacDonald: We are still not compliant in respect of old washing machines and so on.

Stephen Imrie: I understand that the situation in Scotland is no different from that in England and Wales. The Commission is challenging a particular aspect in the UK as a whole. There is no differentiation between the situations north and south of the border.

Irene Oldfather: Does that mean that we are on schedule to comply with parts of the directive but not others? Are we saying that there are some parts that are not on schedule and that that is where our situation is the same as that for England and Wales?

The Convener: I would think that there is very little difference between the parts of the United Kingdom.

Ms MacDonald: We have the same consumer durables.

The Convener: The third directive is 79/923/EEC on shellfish waters.

Stephen Imrie: There are a couple of minor points that members may want to take up with the Executive. The material provided by the Executive does not give us any information on when the UK should have designated shellfish waters. The timetable of the complaints is not clear: we do not know when the reasoned opinion was issued. Members might want us to take up those points with the Executive before the matter is referred to another committee for consideration. That would

allow the other committee to have the information at its fingertips.

The Convener: Thank you.

The next item is an exchange of correspondence with the Executive on EQUAL and other community initiatives. Several key bodies have expressed concerns that those funds are not progressing as well as planned. I suggest that we note the development.

In respect of EQUAL, I suggest that we nominate a reporter to produce a report on views on the draft plans to be sent to the minister. That would have to be done before the end of November.

I also suggest that we welcome the minister's intention to ensure that the committee is consulted before submission of the draft plans for URBAN II and LEADER +. On the minister's proposals for consulting the committee after submission of the draft plan, I suggest that we agree that the clerk and I explore further the rationale before taking such an approach and report back to the committee. Is that agreeable to members?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: We must identify a reporter fairly urgently. Do any members have a particular interest in the community initiatives?

Ben Wallace: I have an interest in LEADER +.

The Convener: It is EQUAL that we have to comment on.

Stephen Imrie: It relates to equal opportunity and discrimination aspects of the labour market.

Ms MacDonald: Irene Oldfather is a dead cert.

The Convener: Irene Oldfather is doing a report on tobacco. As there are no volunteers, I ask the committee to remit the matter to me. I will consult the clerk to find a way to make progress.

Scrutiny

The Convener: The next item on the agenda is scrutiny of EU documents that have been received by the committee. We had to put that element of our work on the back burner while we produced a number of inquiries and reports. As a result of that delay, some of the documents are quite old and the time by which we had to make a response might have passed. We will just have to accept that. We are still catching up with a backlog of documents and we will attempt to get up to date as quickly as possible.

On page 1 of the scrutiny paper, are we agreed that there are no documents for priority scrutiny at the moment?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: The recommendation for the following documents is that we send them to the relevant committees for routine scrutiny:

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 Convener: In relation to those documents, we will have to send some background material to the relevant committees so that they can give the documents due consideration. I ask the clerk and the legal adviser to ensure that that material is forwarded.

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

SP 1373 (EC Ref No 10166/00 COM(2000) 5 final)

SP 1374 (EC Ref No 10963/00 COM(2000) 392 final COD 2000/0183)

SP 1375 (EC Ref No 10979/00 COM(2000) 386 final COD 2000/0188)

SP 1381 (EC Ref No 11113/00 COM(2000) 441 final)

SP 1392 (EC Ref No 11331/00 COM(2000) 528 final)

SP 1321 (EC Ref No 10605/00 COM(2000) 484 final)

SP 1338 (EC Ref No 10802/00 COM(2000) 347 final COD 2000/0158, COD 2000/0159)

SP 1341 (EC Ref No 10861/00 COM(2000) 469 FINAL)

SP 1358 (EC Ref No 10800/00 COM(2000) 477 final)

SP 1359 (EC Ref No 10801/00 SEC(2000) 1238)

SP 1389 (EC Ref No 11220/00 COM(2000) 475 final)

SP 1391 (EC Ref No 11414/00 COM(2000) 496 final)

SP 1396 (EC Ref No 11274/00 COM(2000) 538 final CNS 2000/0226)

SP 1006 (EC Ref No 7952/00 DROIPEN 14)
 SP 1092 (EC Ref No 7426/00 COM(2000) 272 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 1225 (EC Ref No 9440/00 COM(2000) 378 final)
 SP 1236 (EC Ref No 10233/00 COM(2000)431 final)
 SP 1249 (EC Ref No 9903/00)
 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 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 1021 (EC Ref No 8075/00 COM(2000) 238 final)

Cathy Jamieson: I have a comment regarding SP 1358, which deals with pricing policies for enhancing the sustainability of water resources. The Transport and the Environment Committee is collecting evidence on that matter and is about to undertake an inquiry into the future of the water industry in Scotland. Obviously, that inquiry will link into the Executive's proposals for legislation. It would be useful if this information went to the Transport and the Environment Committee. We could decide at a later stage whether to take action, but the Transport and the Environment Committee will timetable its inquiry tomorrow and it would be helpful if it could receive this information.

The Convener: Is that agreed?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: It is important that the committee is aware of the European dimension of its deliberations. This is one of the major issues on which it is not only what we do in Scotland or the United Kingdom that will have a major effect, but what happens in Europe.

Ms MacDonald: Documents SP 1373, SP 1374 and SP 1375 cover areas that the Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee has been investigating—the development of electronic networks and so on. What do we do when the information is not yet available? Do we send a note to that committee to make it aware that this is happening? I would not have known about the documents unless they had come to the European Committee.

David Mundell (South of Scotland) (Con): That is right.

Stephen Imrie: If the committee agrees, we

could get the material together. That would include the EC text and the explanatory memorandum—if we have it in our possession—from the lead department in Whitehall, plus any analysis that Christine Boch or I have undertaken. All that material could be sent to the Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee, even though the documents are deferred.

Ms MacDonald: There are a number of documents, such as procedures for the award of public supply contracts, on which my point makes sense. I just wanted to draw to the attention of the committee the fact that stuff is coming through to which we should alert other committees before it becomes a fait accompli.

14:30

The Convener: Can I just confirm whether you were talking about SP 1338?

Ms MacDonald: It was SP 1373, SP 1374 and SP 1375—just stick with those ones for now.

The Convener: Okay.

SP 1359 concerns a similar issue to SP 1358. Are we agreed that it should also be sent to the Transport and the Environment Committee?

Members indicated agreement.

Irene Oldfather: The committee has expressed an interest in SP 1297, and I wondered whether those papers were available. I think that we will be discussing that later in relation to our work programme. SP 1297 concerns postal services—I have flagged that up before.

The Convener: We will take that one later.

Are there any further comments on pages 3 to 7? If not, do we agree to take the recommended action on those documents?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: The recommendation for the following documents is that we take no further action but copy them to specific committees for their interest.

SP 1390 (EC Ref No 11168/00 COM(2000) 516 final)

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

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

SP 1331 (EC Ref No 10667/00 COM(2000) 459 final)

SP 1339 (EC Ref No 10862/00 COM(2000) 468 final 2000/0194 (COD))

SP 1385 (EC Ref No 10357/00)

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

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

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

SP 1224 (EC Ref No 9737/00)

SP 1259 (EC Ref No 10354/00)

SP 1260 (EC Ref No 10355/00)

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

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

The committees are listed.

David Mundell: Given that SP 1041, on which we received a report, has been highlighted, it would be worthwhile—

The Convener: Which page is that on?

David Mundell: Page 8—the second document in our report. It would be useful to raise with the Executive what plans it has to help Scottish small and medium-sized enterprises access this funding.

The Convener: We will try to do that before the document is copied to the committees.

Bruce Crawford: I am not sure whether this is the appropriate place to raise the matter of the working time directive, about which I have been lobbied. I am told that it is coming out but I have not seen it yet. Could the clerk try to make it available for us? There are concerns about the impact on the haulage industry and on Scotland. Apparently there are specifically Scottish issues compared with south of the border. We have not received the directive, although I have been watching out for it. Where is it in the system?

Stephen Imrie: As the convener said, we are still wading through some of the backlog. A number of documents in our possession are not part of this list of documents. I would be happy to advise all members whether that document is in our possession.

The Convener: I suggest that members speak to the clerk about any such directive, so that he is aware of the issue. It can be taken into account when we compile the agenda.

Irene Oldfather: I think that the working time directive has been agreed—it is a question of the UK implementing it.

Bruce Crawford: On that directive—

The Convener: We will leave that and let the clerk explore it.

Stephen Imrie: I will try to find out whether the directive has been agreed. Even if that is the case, it would be in the committee's remit to investigate the implementation of the directive and the Scottish Executive's activities in that field. There are two bites of the cherry: what happens before a directive is agreed and how it is implemented—whether it falls into a devolved area.

Ms MacDonald: What does

“Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 96/22/EC concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and beta-agonists”

mean? It sounds such fun.

The Convener: Which page and number are you reading from?

Ms MacDonald: SP 1235 on page 12. Is that about giving cows funny things to eat?

Stephen Imrie: I will be slightly tongue in cheek. For health and safety reasons, we do not bring all 100 documents to the meeting. However, I am advised that that concerns a chemical material either to stimulate lactation in cows or to stimulate their growth. I will provide further details to the member afterwards, if she is still interested.

Ms MacDonald: I must have that.

The Convener: Do you mean the document or the substance? [*Laughter.*]

Do we agree to take the recommended action on those documents?

Members indicated agreement.

The Convener: It is recommended that we take no further action on the following documents:

SP 1301 (EC Ref No 10898/00)

SP 1303 (EC Ref No 10690/00 COM(2000) 126 final)

SP 1304 (EC Ref No 10624/00 COM(2000) 458 final COD 2000/0201)

SP 1306 (EC Ref No 10760/00 COM(2000) 460 final)

SP 1307 (EC Ref No 10761/00 COM(2000) 486 final)

SP 1308 (EC Ref No 10663/00 COM(2000) 450 final)

SP 1309 (EC Ref No 9638/00 SEC(2000) 1049)

SP 1310 (EC Ref No 10111/00 COM(2000) 417 final)

SP 1312 (EC Ref No 10676/00)

SP 1313 (EC Ref No 10186/00)

SP 1314 (EC Ref No 10549/00 COM(2000) 446 final)

SP 1316 (EC Ref No 9892/00)

SP 1325 (EC Ref No 10712/00)

SP 1326 (EC Ref No 10675/00)

SP 1327 (EC Ref No 10711/00)

SP 1330 (EC Ref No 10780/00 COM(2000) 479 final)

SP 1336 (EC Ref No 10786/00 COM(2000) 412 final 2000/0177 (CNS))

SP 1343 (EC Ref No 1)

SP 1354 (EC Ref No 10725/00 COM(2000) 448 final 2000/192 (COD))

SP 1355 (EC Ref No 10731/00 COM(2000) 481 final)

SP 1357 (EC Ref No 10732/00 COM(2000) 482 final)
 SP 1360 (EC Ref No 10847/00 COM(2000) 492 final)
 SP 1363 (EC Ref No 10888/00 COM(2000) 474 final)
 SP 1364 (EC Ref No 10903/00 COM(2000) 494 final)
 SP 1366 (EC Ref No 10538/00 COM(2000) 488 final)
 SP 1368 (EC Ref No 10938/00 COM(2000) 502 final)
 SP 1369 (EC Ref No 10960/00 COM(2000) 384 final COD 2000/0186)
 SP 1370 (EC Ref No 10961/00 COM(2000) 385 final COD 2000/0189)
 SP 1371 (EC Ref No 10962/00 COM(2000) 393 COD 2000/184)
 SP 1372 (EC Ref No 10964/00 COM(2000) 394 final COD 2000/185)
 SP 1376 (EC Ref No 10318/00)
 SP 1377 (EC Ref No 10319/00)
 SP 1382 (EC Ref No 10968/00)
 SP 1388 (EC Ref No 11178/00)
 SP 1400 (EC Ref No 9875/00 COM(2000) 381 final)
 SP 1235 (EC Ref No 10060/00 COM(2000) 320 final)
 SP 1302 (EC Ref No 10196/00 COM(2000) 418 final)
 SP 1305 (EC Ref No 10788/00 COM(2000) 449 final)
 SP 1311 (EC Ref No 10590/00 COM(2000) 439 final)
 SP 1315 (EC Ref No 10017/00)
 SP 1317 (EC Ref No 10730/00 COM(2000) 480 final)
 SP 1318 (EC Ref No 10763/00 COM(2000) 463 final)
 SP 1319 (EC Ref No 10775/00 COM(2000) 457 final)
 SP 1320 (EC Ref No 10587/00 COM(2000) 447 final)
 SP 1323 (EC Ref No 10627/00 COM(2000) 452 2000/0196(ACC))
 SP 1324 (EC Ref No 10496/00 COM(2000) 451 final COD 99/0158)
 SP 1328 (EC Ref No 10851/00 COM(2000) 476 final)
 SP 1329 (EC Ref No 10729/00 COM(2000) 473 final)
 SP 1332 (EC Ref No 10733/00 COM(2000) 483 final)
 SP 1333 (EC Ref No 10731/00 COM(2000) 453 final)
 SP 1334 (EC Ref No 10515/00 COM(2000) 351 final)
 SP 1335 (EC Ref No 10522/00 COM(2000) 419 final)
 SP 1337 (EC Ref No 10601/00 COM(2000) 429 final)
 SP 1340 (EC Ref No 10680/00 COM(2000) 455 final)
 SP 1345 (EC Ref No 9957/00 ADD1 COM(2000) 92 final)
 SP 1346 (EC Ref No 9957/00 ADD 2 COM(2000) 92 final (VOLUME II))
 SP 1347 (EC Ref No 9957/00 ADD 3 COM(2000) 92 final (VOLUME III))
 SP 1348 (EC Ref No 9957/00 ADD 4 COM(2000) 92 final (VOLUME IV))
 SP 1349 (EC Ref No 9957/00 ADD 5 COM(2000) 92 final (VOLUME V))

SP 1350 (EC Ref No 9957/00 ADD 6 COM(2000) 92 final (VOLUME VI))
 SP 1352 (EC Ref No 10495/00 COM(2000) 443 final)
 SP 1353 (EC Ref No 10682/00 COM(2000) 470 final)
 SP 1361 (EC Ref No 10863/00 COM(2000) 512 final 98/0303 (COD))
 SP 1362 (EC Ref No 10864/00 COM(2000) 525 final 98/0333 (COD))
 SP 1367 (EC Ref No 10935/00 COM(2000) 399 final)
 SP 1383 (EC Ref No 11408/00)
 SP 1384 (EC Ref No SEC(2000) 1439 final)
 SP 1386 (EC Ref No 11107/00)
 SP 1393 (EC Ref No 11278/00 COM(2000) 540 final)
 SP 1394 (EC Ref No 11277/00 COM(2000) 541 final)
 SP 1395 (EC Ref No 11276/00 COM(2000) 435 final)
 SP 1397 (EC Ref No 11263/00 COM(2000) 510 final)
 SP 1398 (EC Ref No 11203/00 SEC(2000) 1363 final)
 SP 1399 (EC Ref No 10826/00 COM(2000) 517 final)
 SP 1322 (EC Ref No 10895/00 COM(2000) 490 final)
 SP 1378 (EC Ref No 10447/00)
 SP 1379 (EC Ref No 10636/00)
 SP 1380 (EC Ref No 9630/1/00 REV 1)
 SP 1351 (EC Ref No 10829/00 COM(2000) 495 final)
 SP 1365 (EC Ref No 9639/2/00 Rev 2)
 SP 1387 (EC Ref No 11344/00)
 SP 1066 (EC Ref No 8330/00 COM(2000) 239 final)
 SP 1136 (EC Ref No 8261/00 COM(2000) 273 final)
 SP 1242 (EC Ref No 9828/00 COM(2000) 364 final)
 SP 1255 (EC Ref No 9896/00)
 SP 1271 (EC Ref No 9984/00 COM(2000) 383 final)
 SP 1279 (EC Ref No 10419/00 COM(2000) 411 final)
 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 962 (EC Ref No 7422/00 COM(2000) 190)

Is that agreed?

Members indicated agreement

The Convener: We have agreed to take the remaining agenda items in private.

14:37

Meeting continued in private until 16:56.

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