

Brussels, 13 May 2004  
PRE 025/04 (Presse)

The 2583rd session of the Council of the European Union (**COMPETITIVENESS - Internal market, Industry and Research**) will take place on 17 (15H00) and 18 (9H30) May 2004, in the Justus Lipsius Building, Brussels, under the Presidency of **Ms Mary HARNEY, T. D.**, An Tánaiste, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

The following points will be discussed at this session:

- Competitiveness and innovation - **Public debate**
  - = Information on the informal Ministerial meeting held in Ireland from 25 to 27 April 2004
  - = Commission Communication: "Fostering structural change: an industrial policy for an enlarged Europe"
  - = Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee: "Life sciences and biotechnology – a strategy for Europe – second progress report and future orientations"
  - = Commission Communication: "A pro-active Competition Policy for a Competitive Europe"
  - = State Aid Scoreboard: Spring 2004 update
    - *Council conclusions*
  
- Better regulation
  - = *Council conclusions*
  
- REACH
  - = Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency and amending Directive 1999/45/EC and Regulation (EC) (on Persistent Organic Pollutants)
  - = Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 67/548/EEC in order to adapt it to Regulation (EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals
    - *Policy debate*

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- ITER
  - = *Information from the Commission on the state of play*
- Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the presentation of a proposal for a Directive and two proposals for recommendations on the admission of third-country nationals to carry out scientific research in the European Community
  - = *Exchange of views*
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on cooperation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws ("the Regulation on consumer protection cooperation")
  - = *Information from the Presidency*
- Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the Internal Market and amending Directives 84/450/EEC, 97/7/EC and 98/27/EC (the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive)
  - = *Political agreement - **Public deliberation***
- Amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning sales promotions in the Internal Market
  - = *Political agreement - **Public deliberation***
- Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications
  - = *Political agreement - **Public deliberation***
- Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the patentability of computer-implemented inventions
  - = *Political agreement - **Public deliberation***
- Community patent
  - = (a) Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Community patent
    - *Political agreement*
  - = (b) Proposed amendments to the European Patent Convention
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing the Community Customs Code
  - = *Political agreement - **Public deliberation***

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A press conference will be held by the President of the Council at the end of the session.