

Brussels, 22 November 2004
PRE 67/04 (Presse)

The 2624th session of the Council of the European Union (**COMPETITIVENESS - Internal Market, Industry and Research**) will take place on 25 and 26 November 2004, in the Justus Lipsius Building, Brussels, under the Presidency of **Mr Laurens BRINKHORST**, Minister for Economic Affairs and **Ms Maria VAN DER HOEVEN**, Minister for Education, Culture and Science, **of Netherlands**.

The Council will start at **9.30** on Thursday 25 November and at **10.00** on Friday 26 November.

The following points will be discussed at this session :

HORIZONTAL QUESTIONS

- Economic and competitiveness situation
= *Information from the Presidency*
- Mid-term review of the Lisbon strategy – Kok Report
= *Policy debate*
- Better Regulation - Simplification of legislation
= *Council conclusions*

INDIVIDUAL POLICY FILES

REACH

- Regulation concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, and
- Directive amending Council Directive 67/548/EEC in order to adapt it to REACH Regulation
= *Policy debate*
- Directive on **Services in the Internal Market**
= *Policy debate*

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- Directive on **cross-border mergers** of companies with share capital
 - *General approach*
- Council Regulation laying down rules for the monitoring of trade between the Community and third countries in **drug precursors**
 - = *Political agreement*
 - (Public deliberation)**
- Commission Communication on **Textiles and clothing** after 2005 – Recommendations of the High Level Group
 - = *Council conclusions*
- **Space policy**
 - = Preparation of the first "Space Council" (before the opening of the "Space Council")
 - = Approval of the guidelines on the progressive development of the European Space Programme (after the conclusion of the "Space Council")
- **ITER**: Amendment of negotiating directives on international negotiations for the future establishment of an ITER legal entity for ITER construction and operation
 - = *Council Decision*
- Commission Communication on Science and technology, the key to Europe's future: Guidelines for **future European Union policy to support research**
 - *Policy debate*
 - *Council conclusions*

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