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
    - Policy debate
- 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*

  = *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*

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- Community patent
  = (a) Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Community patent
    ➢ *Political agreement*

  = (b) Proposed amendments to the European Patent Convention

  = *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.