



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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INFORMATION NOTE

From : Working Party on Information

To : Coreper

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Subject : EU common communication priorities for 2012

1. According to the political declaration on "Communicating Europe in Partnership"¹ signed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on 22 October 2008, the EU institutions are due to identify a number of common communication priorities "*following their internal procedures and complementing, where appropriate, Member States' strategic views and efforts in this field, taking into account citizens' expectations*".
2. With regard to 2012, Member States' orientations have been communicated to the Working Party on Information (WPI) (10969/11, 10969/1/11 REV1 and 10969/2/11 REV 2 + ADD 1). The Presidency of the Council presented these orientations to the European Parliament and the Commission at the meeting of the Interinstitutional Group on Information (IGI) on 7 June 2011.

¹ OJ C 13, 20.1.2009, p. 3.

3. Based on discussions with the European Parliament and the Commission and exchanges of views within the WPI at its meetings on 15 July, 16 September and 27 October 2011, delegations converged towards the following list of priority communication topics ¹:
- a. **Economic recovery**, including:
 - (i). Economic governance
 - (ii). Europe 2020 - Growth and environmental sustainability
 - (iii). Competitiveness - Developing the internal market and the digital single market

 - b. **Building a citizens' Europe**, including:
 - (i). Removing obstacles to citizens' rights
 - (ii). The free movement of people
 - (iii). Empowering citizens: consumers' rights and the citizens' initiative
 - (iv). Demographic and immigration challenges

 - c. **Making the most of EU policies**, including:
 - (i). Maximising the added value of EU policies
 - (ii). The cost of non-Europe
 - (iii). The external dimension of the EU as a global actor.
4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to take note of delegations' favourable orientations on the common communication priorities for 2012 ensuing from the debate within the WPI.

¹ The EP has meanwhile agreed with this list of priorities at its Conference of Presidents meeting on 27.10.2011.