



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 7 December 2004 (08.12)
(OR. fr)**

15681/04

POLGEN 52

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : Presidency

to : Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject : Draft European Decision of the Council laying down measures for the implementation of the European Decision of the European Council on the exercise of the Presidency of the Council

1. Article 4 of the draft Decision of the European Council on the exercise of the Presidency of the Council, **set out in Declaration No 4 on Article I-24(7) of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe** provides that the Council shall adopt a European Decision laying down measures for the implementation of that Decision.

Declaration No 4 also provides that the Council should begin preparing the Decision in question as soon as the Treaty is signed and should give its political approval within six months.

The Presidency has therefore drawn up a draft Council Decision to this effect.

2. Following discussions on this subject, the Presidency proposes that Coreper should:
- agree to the draft Decision set out in Annex I;
 - suggest that the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 13 and 14 December 2004 should give its political approval to the draft Decision, and enter the statements set out in Annex II in the Council minutes.

Draft
European Decision of the Council
laying down measures for the implementation of
the European Decision of the European Council
on the exercise of the Presidency of the Council

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, and in particular Article I-24(7) thereof,

Having regard to the European Decision of the European Council on the exercise of the Presidency of the Council, and in particular Article 4 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Measures should be laid down for the implementation of the European Decision of the European Council on the exercise of the Presidency of the Council.
- (2) Those measures include the order in which the pre-established groups of three Member States are to hold the Presidency in turn for periods of 18 months as from 1 January 2007.
- (3) In accordance with Article 1 of the abovementioned European Council Decision, the composition of the groups must take account of the diversity of the Member States and geographical balance within the Union.
- (4) The division of responsibilities among the Member States within each group is determined by Article 1(2) of the abovementioned European Council Decision. In either of the situations provided for in that Article, the Member States within each group will by common accord determine the practical arrangements for their collaboration,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The order in which the Member States, divided into groups of three, shall hold the Presidency of the Council as from 1 January 2007, in accordance with Article 1(1) of the European Decision of the European Council on the exercise of the Presidency of the Council, is set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

1. Each member of a group as referred to in Article 1 shall in turn chair for a six-month period all configurations of the Council, with the exception of the Foreign Affairs configuration. The other members of the group shall assist the Chair in all its responsibilities on the basis of a common programme.
2. The members of a group as referred to in Article 1 may decide alternative arrangements among themselves.
3. In either of the situations provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2, the Member States within each group shall by common accord determine the practical arrangements for their collaboration.

Article 3

The order in which the Member States shall hold the Presidency as from 1 July 2020 shall be decided by the Council by 1 July 2017.

Article 4

This Decision shall take effect on [the day of its adoption].

It shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Done at,

For the Council
The President

Annex to ANNEX I

Germany	January-June	2007
Portugal	July-December	
Slovenia	January-June	2008

France	July-December	
Czech Republic	January-June	2009
Sweden	July-December	

Spain	January-June	2010
Belgium	July-December	
Hungary	January-June	2011

Poland	July-December	
Denmark	January-June	2012
Cyprus	July-December	

Ireland	January-June	2013
Lithuania	July-December	
Greece	January-June	2014

Italy	July-December	
Latvia	January-June	2015
Luxembourg	July-December	

Netherlands	January-June	2016
Slovakia	July-December	
Malta	January-June	2017

United Kingdom	July-December	
Estonia	January-June	2018
Bulgaria	July-December	

Austria	January-June	2019
Romania	July-December	
Finland	January-June	2020

Statements for entry in the Council minutes

1. The provisions of this draft Decision, and the list annexed thereto, shall not interfere with the application of specific agreements on collaboration between the Netherlands and Luxembourg, including collaboration in respect of responsibilities which they exercise in the framework of the Union.

2. If the draft decision of the European Council on which political agreement has been reached cannot be formally adopted by January 2007, the European Council will, in due time, take a decision establishing the order of Presidencies on the basis of the texts in force; the order of Presidencies in that decision will be that provided for in the abovementioned draft decision, subject to any unanimously approved amendments.
