

PRESIDENCY INFORMATION NOTE

Subject: *Preparation of the European Council (Tampere, 15/16 October 1999)
– Presidency presentation on procedure*

The European Council meeting in Tampere offers a unique opportunity for Heads of State or Government to reaffirm the priority they attach to building up the European Union as an area of freedom, security and justice, and thus bringing it closer to its people. This is an aim which was launched by the Treaty of Amsterdam and has been subsequently reaffirmed and consolidated at the level of Heads of State or Government in Cardiff and Vienna. The European Council of Tampere will represent the next step in this process. It is the importance which they attach to this project which has lead Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen to write to their fellow Heads of State and Government in order to engage their personal commitment and to learn their views by means of the recently completed tour of capitals conducted by the German and future Finnish Presidencies accompanied by representatives of the Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council.

A provisional timetable for bringing this work forward is set out in the Annex.

Preparation for Tampere – Provisional timetable

Month	Procedural steps
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of method of work, 7.7.1999 • Discussion at JHA-committees on the basis of thematic discussion papers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee on Civil Law Matters, 5.7.1999 - Article 36 Committee, 22-23.7.1999 - Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum, 26.7.1999 • High-Level Working Group on Asylum and Immigration, 29.7.1999
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informing the European Parliament (committee level) • High-Level Working Group on Asylum and Immigration, 8.9.1999 • Preparation at Coreper level • General Affairs Council, 13.9.1999 • Justice and Home Affairs Council (informal), 16-17.9.1999 • Beginning of the Tour of Capitals
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the Tour of Capitals • Preparation at Coreper level • Informing the European Parliament (plenary session) • Justice and Home Affairs Council, 4-5.10.1999 • General Affairs Council, 12.10.1999 • European Council in Tampere, 15-16.10.1999
October-December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up