COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 25 May 2000

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LIMITE

CATS 42

NOTE

from :	the Dutch delegation
to :	Council
Subject :	Draft conclusions for the meeting of the JHA Council on 29 and 30 May 2000 on the provision of information to national parliaments concerning cooperation in the JHA field

The Council notes with interest the findings contained in the report by the Council Secretariat on the current practice in the Member States concerning information to national parliaments in the filed of Justice and Home Affairs[1], as presented to the Council during its meeting on 29 and 30 May 2000.

In this light, the Council underlines the importance of the Protocol on the role of national parliaments in the European Union, annexed to the Treaty on European Union.

The Council is particularly conscious of the fact that cooperation in the JHA field directly affects the citizens of European Union. For this reason, during the transitional period laid down in Title IV of Part Three of the EC Treaty, effective involvement of both the European Parliament and national parliaments is essential. To enable national parliaments to fulfil their role in this process, the agenda for meetings of the Council dealing with implementation of Title IV of Part Three of the EC Treaty and Title VI of the Treaty of the European Union and any documents relating to the items involved need to be available in all languages in good time.

[1] Doc. 8163/1/00 CATS 31 REV 1.

The Council therefore recalls the obligation under Article 2 (1) and (2) of its Rules of Procedure[1], which implies that the provisional agenda and any documents relating thereto should be sent to the Member States and the Commission at least 14 days before the beginning of a Council meeting.

In this regard, the Council particularly refers to the statement on the aforementioned provisions in its Rules of Procedures for the Council minutes, to the effect that the provisional agenda for a JHA Council meeting and any documents relating thereto should be sent to the Member States at least 21 days before the meeting in question.

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[1] OJ L141/13 of 12 june 1999.