

JHA Council conclusions on transparency in JHA and the public register of Council documents (19 March 1998)

Caption: Conclusions of the 2075th meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council, held on 19 March 1998, on the public register of the documents of the Council of the European Union and on transparency concerning cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs.

Source: Press Releases. [ON-LINE]. [Brussels]: Council of the European Union, [06.12.2006]. 6889/98 (Presse 73). Available on http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/jha/6889EN8.htm.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/jha_council_conclusions_on_transparency_in_jha_and_the_public_register_of_council_documents_19_march_1998-en-65891f4c-083f-49e4-8b19-a810f487befe.html

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[...]

Openness and transparency in Justice and Home Affairs

In order to make progress on openness and transparency in its activities in the field of Title VI of the Treaty on the European Union, the Council declared that it was in favour of:

- (i) making available to the public the calendar of the K4 Committee and other JHA working groups;
- (ii) increasing the number of press briefings on JHA matters during each Presidency, subject to each Presidency's view of the appropriateness at the time. These would not be specifically linked to meetings of the K4 Committee;
- (iii) making available a progress report towards the end of each Presidency on JHA business. Such a document would be drawn up under the responsibility of the Presidency. It could be supplemented, as necessary, by explanatory publications on JHA matters, taking account of the resources available;
- (iv) having an open debate in JHA matters during each Presidency where a suitable topic arises subject to the demands on time of other agenda items;
- (v) making available to the public proposals in the field of JHA at the same time as they are made available to the European Parliament. As a first step, they would be made available, for example, on the Internet, but the Council would aim to make arrangements as soon as possible to allow their publication in the Official Journal;
- (vi) making available a list of measures adopted by the Council in the field of JHA.

[...]

Transparency

Public register of Council documents

The Council, bearing in mind to make the policy of access to its documents more effective, has decided that the register of unclassified Council documents should be made public on the basis of the following guidelines:

1. In the context of openness and transparency, a register of Council documents will be developed by the Council General Secretariat as a complement to the existing system of electronic storage of Council documents, as soon as possible, preferably during 1998.
2. The register will contain titles, dates and document codes of unclassified Council documents. To preserve the Council's right not to communicate a document, the register will not display the content of the documents.
3. The register will be made available to the public via the Internet. It will be a multilingual tool offering an adequate range of facilities enabling any citizen to identify Council documents.
4. The General Secretariat will take appropriate organizational measures in order to guarantee its reliability and exhaustiveness.

5. According to the General Secretariat, the implementation of the register will not require any additional budget provision or additional staff.
6. The General Secretariat will take steps to publicise the existence of the register and submit a report on its functioning after six months of operation.