

General Affairs Council conclusions on transparency of Council proceedings (29 May 1995)

Caption: Conclusions of the 1847th General Affairs Council meeting, held on 29 May 1995, concerning the transparency of the work of the Council of the European Union.

Source: Press Releases. [ON-LINE]. [Brussels]: Council of the European Union, [28.11.2006]. 7481/95 (Presse 152). Available on http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/028a0022.htm.

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**1847th Council meeting
- General Affairs -
Brussels, 29 May 1995**

[...]

Transparency of Council proceedings

The Council examined in detail the Danish Government's note and the suggestions by the Swedish authorities.

The Council reaffirms its determination to work towards greater transparency of its proceedings within the guidelines framed by the European Council, while maintaining the effectiveness of the decision-making process.

1. The outcome of votes on legislative acts is now made public as a matter of course. The Council has never used the possibility of an exception provided for in its Rules of Procedure, nor does it intend doing so in the future.
2. The Council will hold more frequent debates which are broadcast to the public ("open debates") on important matters affecting the interests of the Union or on major new legislative proposals. The Presidency proposes that such debates be held at the start of each half year. For June 1995 the Presidency will be proposing at least two debates. The Presidency proposals for the second half of the year will be announced in July.
3. The Council will ensure that the press and the public are regularly and fully briefed prior to each of its meetings. To that end the General Secretariat of the Council will circulate, where necessary in liaison with the Presidency, all the relevant background information relating to the texts under discussion.
4. The Council instructs Coreper to consider the conditions under which public access to minutes of Council meetings could be facilitated.

For this purpose, the Council instructs Coreper to look into the establishment of a procedure which would make it possible, when each set of minutes is adopted, to determine whether the information contained in them, as described in Article 9(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, can be made accessible to the public and under what conditions. It also instructs Coreper to continue examining the practice of statements in the minutes in order to work out how to make better use of such statements and thereby to facilitate public access to minutes. Coreper is to report back to the Council by 1 October 1995.

[...]