
2. The Economic and Social Committee delivered its Opinion on 29 October 2003.

3. At its meeting on 11/13 February 2004, the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1), while awaiting the outcome of the first reading in the European Parliament, reached broad agreement on a number of amendments to the Commission proposal, as set out in 6376/04 PI 21 CODEC 219, on the understanding that if these amendments were to be accepted by the European Parliament as a package, the Permanent Representatives Committee would recommend to the Council to adopt the proposed Directive at first reading.

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1 OJ C 32, 5.2.2004, p. 15.
4. The European Parliament concluded its first reading on 9 March 2004 by adopting 45 amendments to the Commission proposal (7012/04 CODEC 308 PI 31 CULT 19), which correspond to the above-mentioned text agreed upon by the Permanent Representatives Committee.

5. The Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) is therefore invited to suggest to the Council, as an A item of one of its forthcoming meetings, to:

- approve the amendments proposed by the European Parliament at first reading and adopt the proposed Directive as amended, the text of which, following scrutiny by the Legal/Linguistic experts, appears in document PE-CONS 3636/04 PI 33 CODEC 354 OC 224, with Austria and Italy abstaining;

- enter into its Minutes the statement contained in the Addendum to this Note.