

Thursday 9 October 2008

II

*(Information)*INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES
AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Communicating Europe in partnership

P6_TA(2008)0463

**European Parliament decision of 9 October 2008 on the approval of the joint declaration on
Communicating Europe in Partnership (2007/2222(ACI))**

(2010/C 9 E/11)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 255 of the EC-Treaty,
 - having regard to its resolution of 13 March 2002 on the Commission communication on a new framework for cooperation on activities concerning the information and communication policy of the European Union ⁽¹⁾,
 - having regard to its resolution of 10 April 2003 on an information and communication strategy for the European Union ⁽²⁾,
 - having regard to its resolution of 12 May 2005 on the implementation of the European Union's information and communication strategy ⁽³⁾,
 - having regard to its resolution of 16 November 2006 on the White Paper on a European communication policy ⁽⁴⁾,
 - having regard to the decision of the Conference of Presidents of 25 September 2008,
 - having regard to the proposed joint declaration on Communicating Europe in Partnership,
 - having regard to Rule 120(1) and 43(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (A6-0372/2008),
- A. whereas communication is an important element of both representative and participatory democracy,
- B. whereas one of strengths of the democratic elements of the EU is connected to communication structures at the European level which link the institutions with citizens,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 47 E, 27.2.2003, p. 400.⁽²⁾ OJ C 64 E, 12.3.2004, p. 591.⁽³⁾ OJ C 92 E, 20.4.2006, p. 403.⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 314 E, 21.12.2006, p. 369.

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- C. whereas the experience gained from past European elections and referendums suggests that those who are aware of, and interested in, EU issues are more likely to participate, while those who are not as well informed are less likely to do so; whereas this was once again confirmed by research done following the Irish referendum,
- D. whereas communicating on the European Union requires the political commitment of EU Institutions and Member States at all levels,
1. Approves the joint declaration on Communicating Europe in Partnership annexed to this decision and decides to annex the declaration to its Rules of Procedure; calls for the declaration to be published in the Official Journal of the European Union;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this decision and the annex hereto to the Council and the Commission.

ANNEX

COMMUNICATING EUROPE IN PARTNERSHIP

Objectives and principles

1. The European Parliament, Council and the European Commission attach the utmost importance to improving communication on EU issues in order to enable European citizens to exercise their right to participate in the democratic life of the Union, in which decisions are taken as openly as possible and as closely as possible to the citizens, observing the principles of pluralism, participation, openness and transparency.
2. The three Institutions wish to encourage the convergence of views on the communication priorities of the European Union as a whole, to promote the added value of an EU approach to communication on European issues, to facilitate exchanges of information and best practices and develop synergies between the Institutions when carrying out communication relating to these priorities, as well as to facilitate cooperation among the Institutions and Member States where appropriate.
3. The three Institutions recognise that communicating on the European Union requires a political commitment of EU Institutions and Member States, and that Member States have their responsibility to communicate with citizens about the EU.
4. The three Institutions believe that information and communication activities on European issues should give everyone access to fair and diverse information about the European Union and enable citizens to exercise their right to express their views and to participate actively in the public debate on European Union issues.
5. The three Institutions promote the respect of multilingualism and cultural diversity when implementing information and communication actions.
6. The three Institutions are politically committed to achieving the above objectives. They encourage the other EU institutions and bodies to support their efforts and to contribute, if they so wish, to this approach.

A partnership approach

7. The three Institutions recognise the importance of addressing the communication challenge on EU issues in partnership between Member States and the EU institutions to ensure effective communication with, and objective information to, the widest possible audience at the appropriate level.

They wish to develop synergies with national, regional and local authorities as well as with representatives of civil society.

They would like for that purpose to foster a pragmatic partnership approach.

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8. They recall in this respect the key role of the Inter-institutional Group on Information (IGI) serving as a high-level framework for the Institutions to encourage political debate on EU-related information and communication activities in order to foster synergy and complementarity. To that purpose, the IGI, co-chaired by representatives of the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission, and with the participation of the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee as observers, meets in principle twice a year.

A framework for working together

The three Institutions intend to cooperate on the following basis:

9. Whilst respecting the individual responsibility of each EU institution and Member State for its own communication strategy and priorities, the three Institutions will, in the framework of the IGI, identify yearly a limited number of common communication priorities.

10. These priorities will be based on communication priorities identified by the EU Institutions and bodies following their internal procedures and complementing, where appropriate, Member States' strategic views and efforts in this field, taking into account citizens' expectations.

11. The three Institutions and the Member States will endeavour to promote appropriate support for communication on the priorities identified.

12. The services responsible for communication in Member States and EU institutions should liaise with each other to ensure successful implementation of the common communication priorities, as well as other activities linked to EU communication, if need be on the basis of appropriate administrative arrangements.

13. The Institutions and Member States are invited to exchange information on other EU related communication activities, in particular on sectoral communication activities envisaged by the Institutions and bodies, when they result in information campaigns in Member States.

14. The Commission is invited to report back at the beginning of each year to the other EU Institutions on the main achievements of the implementation of the common communication priorities of the previous year.

15. This political declaration has been signed on [date].

Use by Parliament of the symbols of the Union (new Rule 202a)

P6_TA(2008)0472

European Parliament decision of 9 October 2008 on insertion in Parliament's Rules of Procedure of a new Rule 202a on the use by Parliament of the symbols of the Union (2007/2240(REG))

(2010/C 9 E/12)

The European Parliament,

— having regard to its resolution of 11 July 2007 on the convening of the Intergovernmental Conference ⁽¹⁾, in particular paragraph 23 thereof,

— having regard to the letter from its President of 12 September 2007,

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 175 E, 10.7.2008, p. 347.