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Go

MAY JUN JUL 2005 2006 2007

JUN 13 2006

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What's new? | Search | Glossary | Contact | About EUROPA

European Union Documents Documents of individual institutions

European Commission

Green papers and white papers
Green papers are discussion papers published by the Commission on a specific policy area. Primarily they are documents addressed to interested parties - organisations and individuals - who are invited to participate in a process of consultation and debate. In some cases they provide an impetus for subsequent legislation. The consultations can be accessed on the [Your voice in Europe](#) site.

White papers are documents containing proposals for Community action in a specific area. They sometimes follow a green paper published to launch a consultation process at European level. While green papers set out a range of ideas presented for public discussion and debate, white papers contain an official set of proposals in specific policy areas and are used as vehicles for their development.

Registers: access to internal documents
The registers will help you to identify categories of document, related to various activities of the Commission:

- [Commission meeting](#);
- [Work programme](#);
- [Register of COM, SEC and C documents](#):
 - COM documents: proposed legislation and other Commission communications to the Council and/or the other institutions, and their preparatory papers;
 - SEC documents: internal documents associated with the decision-making process and the general operation of Commission departments;
 - C documents: legal acts adopted by the Commission in the exercise of its own or delegated powers;
- [Register of the Committees' deliberations](#);
- [Application of Community law](#);
- [Codecision](#);
- [Contact the President](#).

Clicking on one of these categories will take you to a list of references and, in some cases, give you direct access to the full text.

59 captures
13 Jun 2006 - 29 Jan 2018

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EUROPA

News
Activities
Institutions
The EU at a glance
EU Documents
Information sources

Home page
[European law](#)

Documents common to all the institutions

Documents of individual institutions

- [European Parliament](#)
- [Council of the European Union](#)
- [European Council](#)
- [European Commission](#)
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- [Court of auditors](#)
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