



Brussels, 20 May 2008
PRE 026 (Presse)

The 2871st session of the Council of the European Union - **COMPETITIVENESS (Internal Market, Industry and Research)** - will take place on 29 (9:30) and 30 (10:00) May 2008 at the Justus Lipsius Building, in Brussels, under the Presidency of **Mr Andrej Vizjak**, Minister of Economy, **Mr Gregor Virant**, Minister of Public Administration, and **Ms Mojca Kucler Dolinar**, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology of Slovenia.

The following points will be discussed at this session:

COMPETITIVENESS (29 May 2008):

– A Fresh Impetus for Competitiveness and Innovation of European Industry

Communications from the Commission on:

- A Lead Market Initiative for Europe
- Pre-Commercial public procurement
- removing the obstacles for cross-border investments (venture capital)
- a strategy for a stronger European defence industry
- the Competitiveness of the Metals industries
- innovative and sustainable forest-based industries in the EU

– Policy debate

– *Council conclusions*

– Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: "Second Strategic Review of Better Regulation in the European Union"

– Presentation by the Commission

– *Council conclusions*

– Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "Enhancing the patent system in Europe"

– Progress report

– Exchange of views

RESEARCH (30 May 2008):

- Proposal for a Council Regulation setting up the Fuel cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking ("JTI – FCH")
 - Adoption
- Commission Recommendation on the management of intellectual property in knowledge transfer activities and Code of Practice for universities and other public research organisations ("IP Charter Initiative")
 - Presentation by the Commission
 - Council resolution
- *Council conclusions* on "European Research Infrastructures and their regional dimension"
 - Adoption
- *Council conclusions* on "Family-friendly Scientific Careers: towards an integrated model"
 - Adoption
- *Council conclusions* on the launch of the Ljubljana Process - towards full realisation of ERA
 - Exchange of views
 - Adoption
 - (*Public debate*)

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Press conferences will be held by the President of the Council at the end of each session.

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