



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 13 November 2006 (14.11)
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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: Working Party on Information
to: Coreper/Council
Subject: Content of the Official Journal series

After consulting an interinstitutional working group¹, the Management Committee of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities has suggested a number of changes to the structure of the Official Journal (OJ) to overcome certain problems with the current classification of documents published in it.

The changes involved are minor ones. They respect the OJ's existing structure and their only purpose is to make the OJ easier to read.

The most important changes are the following:

L series:

- The French title of headings L I and L II is slightly changed to align it with the Treaties and the titles in the other languages ("Acts adopted under the EC Treaty/Euratom Treaty whose publication is obligatory/not obligatory").

¹ Representatives of the institutions' legal services took part in this working group.

- Acts adopted on the basis of the EU Treaty will be published under a separate new heading (L III: Acts adopted under the EU Treaty).
- Acts adopted by bodies created by international agreements will be published under the same heading as international agreements (L II: Acts adopted under the EC Treaty/Euratom Treaty whose publication is not obligatory).
- A new heading L IV (Other acts) would contain EEA acts and rules of procedure.

C series:

- C-series acts will be divided into five new categories.
- Recommendations that are not binding acts will be published under heading C I instead of L II as at present. Interinstitutional agreements and joint declarations will be published under C II unless the institutions concerned decide otherwise.
- The "Announcements" under C V relate to procedures where publication of the announcement starts a time period running.

Following examination of this matter by the Working Party on Information on 9 November 2006, Coreper is invited to suggest to the Council that it authorise its representative on the Publications Office's Management Committee to agree to the suggested new structure in the Annex, so that the necessary steps can be taken to implement it as from 1 January 2007.

Suggested new structure for the Official Journal

Official Journal L series (*headings 1 to 4*)

Treaties¹

L I Acts adopted under the EC Treaty/Euratom Treaty whose publication is obligatory

- (a) Regulations
- (b) Directives
- (c) Decisions adopted jointly by the European Parliament and the Council

L II Acts adopted under the EC Treaty/Euratom Treaty whose publication is not obligatory

- (a) Directives
- (b) Decisions
- (c) Recommendations
- (d) Agreements
- (e) Acts adopted by bodies created by international agreements
- (f) Budgets

L III Acts adopted under the EU Treaty

- (a) Acts adopted under Title V of the EU Treaty
- (b) Acts adopted under Title VI of the EU Treaty
- (c) Other acts

¹ i.e. definitive version following ratification, published in a separate edition.

L IV Other acts

- (a) European Economic Area
- (b) Rules of procedure

Official Journal C series (*headings 5 to 9*)

C I Resolutions, recommendations, guidelines and opinions

- (a) Resolutions
- (b) Recommendations
- (c) Guidelines
- (d) Opinions

C II Information

- (a) Interinstitutional agreements
- (b) Joint Declarations
- (c) Information from European Union Institutions and bodies
 - European Parliament
 - Council
 - Commission
 - Court of Justice
 - Court of Auditors
 - Economic and Social Committee
 - Committee of the Regions
 - European Central Bank

C III Preparatory acts

- (a) Member States' initiatives
- (b) European Parliament
- (c) Council
- (d) Commission

- (e) Court of Justice
- (f) Economic and Social Committee
- (g) Committee of the Regions
- (h) European Central Bank
 - legislative opinions
 - recommendations

C IV Notices

- (a) Notices from European Union Institutions and bodies
 - European Parliament
 - Council
 - Commission
 - Court of Justice
 - Court of Auditors
 - Economic and Social Committee
 - Committee of the Regions
- (b) Notices from Member States
- (c) Notices concerning the European Economic Area
 - from Institutions
 - from Member States
- (d) Notices from third countries

C V Announcements

- (a) Administrative procedures
- (b) Court proceedings
- (c) Procedures relating to the implementation of the common commercial policy
