New points
Irish referendum
New Access to docs proposals
ETI – Register etc
Blogs and TV / radio

The role of information and communication
in the governance of the European Union

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- **European Governance**
- the duty of the EU to inform (and to listen)
- the right of the citizen (and stakeholder) to know
- information needs to be 'clear, objective, comprehensive, relevant and easy to find'
- Decision-makers must: listen better, explain better and connect with citizens (European Commissioner Margot Wallström's web blog, 17 June 2005)

- **Openness and transparency**
- is the EU open and transparent?
- what is transparency?
- Complexity of policy making process
    - Decision-making procedures
    - 'Reform Treaty': Europe ditches clarity and embraces obfuscation?
- Language: Challenge of a multilingual EU

- **Information and communication policy**
- Action Plan to improve Communicating Europe by the Commission, 2005 / White Paper on a European Communication Policy, February 2006

    - **Listening.** Not just to inform EU citizens; but also to listen to them. and take their views into account.

    - **Communicating** how EU policies affect citizens' everyday life and what added value they bring.

    - **Connecting by going local,** that is by adapting messages to audiences in each Member State and conveying them through the channels those audiences prefer in the language they understand.

- Citizens' Agenda for Communicating Europe, October 2007

- **Access to documents**
- why access to documents is considered important
- Regulation(EC) 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, May 2001
- Registers of documents
- Green Paper launching a public consultation on reform of Regulation 1049/2001, April 2007 (COM (2007)185)

- **European Transparency Initiative, 2005 -**
- transparency of recipients of EU funds particularly agriculture and structural funds
- transparency of interests in EU Institutions especially EP and Commission
- transparency in the fight against fraud of the EU budget
- transparency of interests of lobbyists
- Communication: Follow-up to the Green Paper 'European Transparency Initiative', March 2007 (COM (2007)127 + SEC (2006)360)

- **Interactive Communication**
- two way process: 'Brussels' both 'disseminates' and 'receives' information.
- 'spontaneous' and 'structured' consultation
- Your Voice in Europe: Consultation through Communications, Conferences, Hearings and 'Chats'
- Communication with 'stakeholders' through 'lobbying' and regular contacts. CONECCS
- Regular dialogue with local and regional authorities' associations (NB Tripartite Agreements) eg. European Commission / Italian Government / Lombardy Region, 2004)
- Publishing in paper format and electronic methods
- Information networks

- **Better, simpler and more accessible legislation**
- Reduced legislative activity 'Better regulation'
- Better quality legislation after consultation
- Impact assessments
- Better quality drafting. Explanatory memorandum
- Greater use of alternative legislative instruments
- Consolidation, codification and recasting
- Simplification
- Making Community law more accessible (EUR-LEX, CELEX, PRELEX, OEIL etc)
- Comitology: reforms. Annual Report; List of committees; Register; Repository

- **Conclusions**
- democratic openness v operational efficiency
- reforms are meaningful
- but citizens are still not especially engaged

Further information

(most important and recent information in **bold**)

- Treaty of Nice: Declaration on the future of the Union [Text, p85] [Future of Europe website]

- Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, 2004 [Transparency and Openness noted in Preamble + Articles I-46.3; I-47.2-3; I-50; II-102; III-399]

- White Paper on European Governance [COM (2001)428 final (25.7.01)] [Governance website]

- Commission report on European governance (2003-2004) (SEC(2004)1153) (+ IP/04/1139)

- Communication … on a new framework for co-operation on activities concerning the information and communication policy of the European Union [COM (2001)354 final (27.6.01)] [IP/01/910] – Council Conclusions – European Parliament Report and Resolution – Economic and Social Committee Opinion

- Communication on an information and communication strategy for the European Union, June 2002 (COM (2002)350) (IP/02/984). Subject progress through PreLex

- Communication … on implementing the information and communication strategy for the European Union, April 2004 (COM (2004)196) (MEMO/04/89). Subsequent progress through PreLex

- **Action Plan to improve communicating Europe by the Commission, July 2005 (Text) (IP/05/995) + SPEECH/05/574, October 2005**

- **White Paper on a European Communication Policy, February 2006**
    - Website
    - COM (2006)35 final,
    - Consultation: European Charter on Communication / Code of Conduct on Communication, March 2006
    - Mrs Wallström's blog, February 2006
    - Speech by Mrs Wallström, May 2006 (SPEECH/06/271)
    - CEPS Policy Brief: The Commission's White Paper on Communication: Mapping a Way to a European Public Sphere, May 2006
    - Council of the European Union: Draft report of the Working Party on Information on the European Commission's White Paper on a European Communication Policy, May 2006
    - EESC Opinion, July 2006 : July plenary adopts its opinion in response to the White Paper on Communication Policy: no to a charter, yes to a proper legal basis! Go local but do the job together (Press Release, No.71, 2006)

- **Plan D**

    - Communication: The Commission's contribution to the period of reflection and beyond: Plan-D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate (COM (2005)494 final), October 2005 (+ Press Release: IP/05/1272 + SPEECH/05/396). See also the earlier: Communicating the Constitution: 10 concrete actions by the Commission, February 2005

    - Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions — The Commission's contribution to the period of reflection and beyond: Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate (COM(2005) 494 final) (OJ C65, 17.03.06, p92)

- **Council of the European Union:** [Report](#) on Member States' information and communication activities during the reflection period, May 2006

- Communication: A Citizens' Agenda - Delivering Results For Europe, May 2006 ([COM(2006) 211](#)) / Communication: The Period of Reflection and Plan D, May 2006 ([COM(2006) 212](#)) (+ [SPEECH/06/297](#) / [SPEECH/06/305](#))

- **Debate Europe:** European Commission launches 20-language Internet Discussion Forum on the Future of Europe ([IP/06/377](#)) / Debate Europe! The Future of Europe Internet forum has reached one million hits ([IP/06/989](#)) ([Debate Europe website](#))

- **October 2007: European Commission expected to adopt new Communication on information and communication [[Further information](#)]**

- Commission President Barroso announces portfolios including Commissioner for planning Communication strategy, August 2004 [[IP/04/1029](#)] + [Hearing of Margot Wallström (institutional relations and communication)](#), September 2004. Commissioner's Wallström [website](#)

- Decision-makers must: listen better, explain better and connect with citizens (European Commissioner Margot Wallström's [web blog](#), 17 June 2005)

- **[Transparency Initiative](#), 2005**

- **Green Paper on the European Transparency Initiative, May 2006**
  - Website: [Consultation process of the Green Paper](#)
  - COM (2006) [Text](#)
  - Press Release [IP/06/562](#)
  - Alter EU: EU fails to develop credible transparency rules: [Press Release](#), 03.05.06
  - EPACA: Public Affairs Consultancies welcome European Commission proposals: [Press Release](#), 03.05.06
  - EESC Hearing on ETI, July 2006 ([Preview](#))(Press Release, [CES/06/75](#))

- **Follow-up to the Green Paper 'European Transparency Initiative', March 2007** ([COM (2007)127](#) + [SEC (2006)360](#))

- EUROPA: [Language policy](#)

- Why citizens are central to good governance ([OECD Observer](#), 2001). See also [Civil Society and the OECD](#), 2003-04

- Communication … eEurope 2002: Creating a EU framework for the exploitation of public sector information [[COM (2001)607 final (23.10.01)](#)]] [[IP/01/1481](#)] [[SPEECH/01/485](#)]

- [[IPM website](#)] [[Your voice in Europe](#)]

- Action plan for better consultation and accountability: modernisation plan for clearer and better European legislation: Communication … Consultation

document: Towards a reinforced culture of consultation and dialogue..., June 2002 (IP/02/825) (COM (2002)277)

- Tripartite Agreements: eg. European Commission / Italian Government / Lombardy Region, 2004)

- Regulation (EC) No. 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents [32001R1049]   First evaluation, January 2004 (COM (2004)45 final)

- 2001/320/EC: Council Decision of 9 April 2001 on making certain categories of Council documents available to the public [32001D0320]

  - Registers: European Commission – European Parliament - Council + Comitology Committees

- OECD: Policy Brief: Public sector modernisation: open government, 2005

- Transparency in the European Union still problematic (Statewatch, April 2003)

- EU annual reports on access to documents - still a very long way to go (Statewatch, June 2003)
    - Statewatch: Observatory: Freedom of information in the EU

- Report from the Commission on the application in 2003 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents
  COM/2004/0347 final

- Third annual report of the Council on the implementation of Regulation No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, May 2005

- Report on Public access to Parliament, Council and Commission documents (implementation of Regulation 1049/2001/EC). European Parliament: Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs (Rapporteur: Michael Cashman), September 2003+ Resolution.

- Report from the Commission on the implementation of the principles in EC Regulation No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (COM (2004)45 final)

- **Fifth annual report of the Council on the implementation of Regulation No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, April 2007**

- **Green Paper launching a public consultation on reform of Regulation 1049/2001, April 2007 (COM (2007)185) (IP/07/511)**

- **Statewatch Briefing Note on the Commission's Green Paper on public access to documents, April 2007**

- **Statewatch lodges two complaints against the European Commission with the European Ombudsman, [Press Release](#) 19.04.07 (+ *Statewatch*, Vol.17, No.2, July 2007, p1-2)**

- **European Data Protection Supervisor: Public access to documents and data protection** *in* **[Annual Report 2006](#), p36 (see also [Background Paper](#), No.1, 2005)**

- **European Ombudsman: Ombudsman: Citizens should have greater access to EU documents ([Press Release](#), EO/07/10, July 2007) (Text of full [Report](#)) (European Voice, Vol.13, No.29, 26.07.07, p3: Ombudsman calls for more transparency)**

- Codification of the Acquis communautaire,[[COM (2001)645 final](#)]

- Interinstitutional Agreement on a more structured use of the recasting technique for legal acts' ([Official Journal C77, 28.3.02, p1-3](#))

- Better lawmaking 2002' ([COM (2002)715 final](#))

- Updating and simplifying the Community acquis' ([COM (2003)71 final](#))

- First report on the implementation of the framework action 'Updating and simplifying the Community acquis' ([SEC(2003) 1085](#))(Technical Annex) ([COM(2003) 623](#)) + 2004 Update: [COM (2004)432](#) and [SEC (2004)774](#)

- Example of recognition that some existing law is obsolete and should be withdrawn [OJ C307, 11.12.04, p2](#)

- Interinstitutional agreement on better law-making, December 2003 ([OJ C321. 31.12.03, p1-5](#))

- **[Impact Assessment website](#)**

- Report from the Commission on monitoring the application of Community law (2003) – overall position, 21st annual report ([COM (2004)839](#))

- Communication …Better Regulation for Growth and Jobs in the European Union ([COM (2005)97 (16.3.05)](#)) + [SEC (2005)175](#)

- United Kingdom: House of Lords: European Union Committee: Ensuring effective regulation in the EU. 9th [Report](#) (Session 2005-06) HL33 + [Press Release](#), September 2005

- Report … 'Better Lawmaking 2004' pursuant to Article 9 of the Protocol on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. 12 th report ([COM (2005)98 final 21.3.05](#))

- Better regulation: Commission intends to withdraw one third of screened proposals (See [IP/05/1189](#) and [MEMO/05/340](#) (27.9.05)

- Report: Better lawmaking 2005 ([COM (2006)289](#) + [SEC (2006)737](#))

- **Report: Better lawmaking 2006 (14th Report), June 2007 [COM (2007)286](#) / [SEC (2007737](#)**

- **European Parliament: Better regulation in the EU - MEPs adopt four reports, September 2007 (Press Release, 4.9.07)**

- The Regulation on public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents in the European Union: are citizens better off? *European Law Review*, Vol.28, No.3, June 2003, p324-348

- EU politics on television news: A cross-national comparative study. *European Union Politics*, Vol.4, No.3, September 2003, p305-327

- Is there a case for an EU information television station (European Commission, 2006 Report)

- Interactive policy development: Undermining or sustaining democracy *Public Administration*, Vol.83, No.1, March 2005, p179-199

- Promise and problems of e-democracy. Challenges of online citizen engagement (OECD, 2003) [Browse text]

- The politics of the Commission as an information source (Olivier Baisnée) / Advertising Europe: The production of public information by the Commission (François Foret) *in* Politics and the European Commission (Routledge, 2004)

- After the European Elections, before the Constitution Referenda: Can the EU communicate better? (Sebastian Kurpas, Christoph Meyer and Kyriakos Gialoglou). CEPS Policy Brief, No.55, July 2004

- Europe: A rigged dialogue with society (The Economist, Vol.373, No. 8398, 23.10.04, p42)

- The great non-communicator? The mass communications deficit of the European Parliament and its Press Directorate (Peter J. Anderson and Aileen McLeod) *in Journal of Common Market Studies* Vol.42, No.5, December 2004, p897-917

- Lobbying in the EU (Centre for a Social Europe: Briefing, February 2005)

- Access to information in the European Union: A comparative analysis of EC and Member State legislation (Europa Law Publishing, 2005 ISBN: 90-768-7146-9) About the book

- Free access to Public documents *in* The European Union. A polity of states and peoples (Hart Publishing, 2005, ISBN: 1-84113-529-1 p225-229)

- Accountability (The Commission) *in* A democratic audit of the European Union (Palgrave, 2004, p130-161 ISBN: 0-333-99282-2)

- Transparency and the EU legislator *in Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol.43, No.3, September 2005, p637-654

- Transparency: The key to better governance (Christopher Hood / David Heald, eds) (OUP, 2006 ISBN: 978-019-726383-9 £30) (only one chapter specifically deals with transparency at the EU level but other chapters deal with interesting questions of transparency) (see also review of this book 'The uphill road to free information' in the *Financial Times*, 9 October 2006)

- Civil society and the Social Dialogue in European Governance *in* Yearbook of European Law 2005 (OUP, 2006, p261)

- Citizens are far from bored with the EU (European Voice, Vol.13, No.21, 31.05.07, p9)

- Citizens need to participate too (EV Vol.13, No.24, 21.06.07, p14)

- **Can the right to know be put in the treaty? (EV, Vol.13, No.27, 12.07.07, p13)**

- **Better law-making *in* Better Regulation (Hart Publishing, 2007 ISBN: 978-1-84113-715-5, p311-320)**

- Article: Assessing EU strategies for publicity *by* Thorsten Hüller (*Journal of European Public Policy*, Vol.14, No.4, June 2007, p563-581

- Article: Openness in the legislative process in the European Union *by* Magdalena Elisabeth de Leeuw (*European Law Review*, Vol.32, No.3, June 2007, p295-318