Commission proposal on cancer screening

The Commission proposal recommends screening programmes comprising:

- mammography tests for breast cancer in women from 50 to 69 years;
- fecal occult blood tests for colon cancer in men and women from 50 to 74 years; and
- Pap smear tests for uterine cervical cancer, with the first test taking place between 20 and 30 years.

The proposal will be considered by the Health Ministers of the Member States of the European Union. Adopting the recommendation does not mean the Member States are compelled by law to implement such screening programmes but makes them a political priority. The recommendation could be extended to include other cancer screening tests where their value in systematic cancer-screening programmes is scientifically established.

1. What types of cancer does the Commission proposal involve?

   A. Blood, breast and brain cancer
   B. Breast, uterine cervical and lung cancer
   C. Breast, colon and blood cancer
   D. Breast, uterine cervical and colon cancer
European Union's comments on draft Unesco Convention

Negotiations have started on a draft Convention on protecting the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions. The aim is to recognise states' rights and specify their duties in terms of preserving and promoting cultural diversity and to establish a framework to foster international cooperation in this area. The European Union has already submitted comments on the draft Convention, in particular underlining:
- the all-important need for compliance with human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed by international law; the Convention must not weaken these rights and freedoms in the name of culture or tradition;
- the importance of international cooperation, in particular vis-à-vis developing countries, in coping with cultural vulnerabilities.

2. What aspects do the European Union's comments focus on:
   A. The importance of international cooperation and respect for human rights
   B. The fact that respect for culture and tradition is more important than respect for human rights
   C. The fact that international cooperation is of secondary importance
   D. None: the European Union has still to put forward its comments
How to submit a complaint to the European Ombudsman

Write to the Ombudsman in any of the European Union languages, setting out clearly who you are, which institution or body of the European Union you are complaining against and the grounds for your complaint. A complaint must be made within two years of the date on which you learned the facts on which your complaint is based. You need not be individually affected by the maladministration. You must have contacted the institution or body concerned already, for example by letter. The Ombudsman does not deal with matters that are currently before a court or that have already been settled by a court. The Ombudsman will examine your complaint and will inform you of the outcome of his investigation. A complaint can be made by writing a letter to the European Ombudsman or by using the form enclosed.

3. What time limit must be met when submitting a complaint to the Ombudsman?
   A. Complaints can be submitted to the Ombudsman at any time, without any time limit
   B. A minimum period of two years must elapse after the court has delivered its verdict
   C. The time limit to comply with is two years from the time the complainant became aware of the facts
   D. In serious cases, a complaint can be submitted even more than two years after the event
Animal welfare during transport

A political agreement on a Regulation will considerably improve the provisions governing animal transport in Europe. This Regulation increases accountability by identifying clearly who is responsible for what and when, which will help enormously in ensuring that the rules are properly enforced throughout the animals’ journey. It provides for the introduction from 2007 of new, more effective enforcement tools such as checks via a satellite navigation system. It also introduces much stricter rules for journeys of more than eight hours, in particular by substantially upgrading vehicle standards. The Regulation recognises that stress suffered by animals is mostly due to loading and unloading and therefore introduces rules to deal with situations before and after transport, for example at slaughterhouses or in ports.

4. What is one change the new Regulation makes?
   A. From 2007, parties concerned may no longer use a satellite navigation system
   B. Journeys will henceforward be limited to eight hours
   C. Standards for transport vehicles will be more severe
   D. The Regulation lessens the accountability of those involved
There are 45 000 road deaths per year in Europe, a number which governments all over Europe are trying hard to reduce. At the same time, 60 000 deaths are caused by air pollution. In both cases, children, in particular those living in urban areas, are the most vulnerable. Many cities and towns across Europe are already working hard on promoting alternative means of transport: they are providing good, efficient public transport, they offer incentives to citizens that go for environmentally friendly cars, they try to give the city centre back to pedestrians, etc. Mobility Week is an event where they can present new initiatives and see what others are doing. It focuses on the benefits of sustainable modes of transport and policies that improve air quality, reduce noise and enhance people’s quality of life.

5. What section of the population is most vulnerable to road deaths and pollution?
   A. Children living in cities and towns
   B. Motorists who frequently drive in urban areas
   C. The elderly because they are more sensitive to air pollution
   D. Travellers who use a highly polluting mode of transport
Measures taken by the Commission to control foot-and-mouth disease

According to a note from the Court of Auditors, during the crisis the Commission quickly took the necessary emergency measures, such as notifying the Member States of outbreaks, carrying out surveillance, slaughtering sheep imported from the United Kingdom before the crisis, and closing the markets. Shortcomings in the arrangements and in their application in the Member States as regards the number of vets, the notification of outbreaks and the speed at which slaughters were carried out were identified by the Commission during the crisis, but it was too late to remedy them.

6.  Which statement is correct regarding the arrangements put in place by the Commission?
   A. Slaughtering of sheep imported from all Member States was carried out sufficiently quickly
   B. The procedure was slowed down because the Member States refused to close their markets
   C. During the crisis, shortcomings were identified solely as regards the number of vets
   D. It was too late to remedy the shortcomings in the arrangements
Fifth Conference of International Investigators

Comparing aspects of best investigative practice for interviews, for the protection of complainants and for the referral of cases to court was the major issue at the Fifth Conference of International Investigators. Participants also discussed the practical use of the Uniform Guidelines for Investigations endorsed one year before. These Guidelines set out common basic principles for the work of investigative services worldwide. They seek to help all bodies involved in international inquiries to carry out their investigations efficiently and in an open, transparent and accountable manner and thereby ensure the protection of fundamental rights.

7. Which statement is correct concerning the Guidelines?
   
   A. They were worked out at the Fifth Conference of International Investigators
   B. They are targeted exclusively at bodies involved in solving national inquiries
   C. They contribute to ensuring respect for fundamental rights in the conduct of international inquiries
   D. They will have no impact on the effectiveness of international inquiries
The common organisation of the market in raw tobacco

The Court of Auditors made the following observations in particular regarding the common organisation of the market in raw tobacco:
- The process by which the Commission drew up its proposals for the 1998 reform was based on unreliable data and its analysis of the market was inadequate. The measures taken were largely ill-adapted from the outset and proved to be ineffective in many areas.
- The measures implemented did not bring significant improvements in income from tobacco-growing or the anticipated market balance. The value of production was also put at risk by anti-competitive behaviour in the form of price agreements in the three largest producer states.

8. What is one of the reasons why the Commission's proposals were ineffective?
   A. The market analysis was too rigorous and therefore took too much time
   B. The reason why the measures were ineffective cannot be identified
   C. The proposals were drawn up on the basis of a market analysis and data that were unreliable
   D. The measures were initially well-adapted but the way the market developed made them out of date
Reducing air pollution

The European Commission is seeking input from the public on the measures to be included in a new comprehensive action plan to reduce air pollution. This plan, which is to be drawn up by mid-2006, will have a direct impact on people’s lives. The Commission is therefore launching an Internet consultation to reach the largest possible number of people. Each European citizen loses about nine months of life expectancy owing to poor air quality. Recent studies show that more than 22,000 premature deaths each year are due to high ozone levels. The consultation will involve asking simple questions that are understandable to all.

9. Which statement regarding the action plan to reduce pollution is correct?
   A. The Commission still has nine months to draw up and apply the plan
   B. The plan will be drawn up on the basis of input from at least 22,000 people
   C. The action plan will only impact on people living in urban areas
   D. One of the aims of the plan is to improve air quality
Combating climate change

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our generation. The first Kyoto commitment period ends in 2012. We need to start preparing right now for what comes after. The international community will soon start discussing how we can build on the Kyoto Protocol and launch a new phase of international cooperation on climate change. We will need to step up our efforts, set more ambitious targets and apply new approaches to meet those targets. It is important to make use of society's knowledge and expertise and to take what people think into account. Consulting the stakeholders will allow us to define an EU contribution based on science and enjoying wide support.

10. Which of the following statements is correct?
   A. It is too early to start preparing today because the Kyoto Protocol only ends in 2012
   B. What people think is not important because they know nothing about climate change
   C. The targets should be even more ambitious in the future
   D. Efforts made have been more than satisfactory
EUROCEAN 2004, the blue landmark of the European Research Area

Seas and oceans are a vital resource for Europe and the world, particularly in terms of fishing and extracting minerals. But our oceans are now under intense pressure from over-exploitation and more than ever need to be managed in a sustainable way. To help ensure the protection and sustainable use of marine resources, 500 leading scientists, policy makers and other stakeholders will meet for three days starting today at the EUROCEAN 2004 conference. The Commission will present the latest EU research on marine science, with 130 projects. EUROCEAN 2004 is jointly organised by the European Commission and the Irish Presidency of the European Union. EU-funded marine research project participants will showcase their research and development (R&D) results at the Conference.

11. Which statement about EUROCEAN 2004 is correct?

A. It is an annual forum that brings scientists and researchers face to face with the citizens
B. It is a conference organised by associations working to protect the marine environment
C. It is a scientific project to be presented alongside 129 other projects
D. It is a conference on the marine environment that brings together those with a professional interest in the seas and oceans and researchers specialising in this area
New measures to improve market access to port services

The European Commission has adopted a new proposal for a Directive on Market Access to Port Services, which aims to boost the competitiveness of EU ports and to help to reduce congestion and environmental pollution, in particular by promoting maritime transport. This new EU legislation introduces specific, clear rules on access to the market for the provision of port services, which is almost the only transport sector where no Community legal framework exists, and it seeks to create a level playing field for competition between ports. The port services market is characterised by the complexity and variety of the applicable national rules, the heterogeneous nature of the port services and the diversity of the ports. Proper account therefore needs to be taken of each port’s specificities and their relevance for its users, operators, owners, etc.

12. What is the objective, amongst others, of the European Commission’s proposal for a Directive?
   A. To encourage national moves to draw up suitable regulations
   B. To reduce environmental pollution by stimulating the use of maritime transport
   C. To stimulate competition between ports by laying down specific rules for each port
   D. To limit the number of ports by introducing strict Community rules
   E.
Trade and development: success stories in EU trade-related assistance

Trade is a key priority for the EU’s development policy. As well as working to achieve improved market access and international trade rules, the EU also provides assistance to help developing countries with the practicalities of benefiting from international trade. Such efforts have been a success. Fair trade projects in India and Mexico, for example, have boosted micro-businesses, brought women into the labour markets and launched new brands. Trade-related assistance aims to help companies and sectors as well as regions, governments and institutions in developing countries. It covers an amazingly diverse range of issues including assistance in multilateral negotiations, customs reforms, infrastructure improvements, product-safety schemes and support to private companies in accessing export markets.

13. What is one of the objectives of the EU in this area?
   A. To teach concepts that the countries must then put into practice on their own
   B. To assist developing countries in a range of trade-related areas
   C. To take charge of all multilateral negotiations and customs reforms
   D. To limit market access to help a growing number of women on the labour market
EU eco-label: European Flower Week takes off!

European Flower Week seeks to promote the EU's eco-label in nine member countries. A wealth of different marketing activities are planned to raise the profile of the Flower and show people how to find products and services that have been awarded the prestigious European eco-label. Activities vary according to local priorities. Retailers and producers, consumer and environmental groups and national authorities take part. The Flower is the EU eco-label and allows producers who sell their products across Europe to use the same label everywhere. It was established in 1992 to promote, across Europe, products which have a reduced environmental impact. Products applying for the Flower are checked by independent bodies for compliance with strict ecological and performance criteria.

14. What is one of the aims of European Flower Week?
   A. To step up quality checks on all products in nine Member States for a week
   B. To introduce an EU eco-label that does not yet exist in order to respond to demand from producers
   C. To promote an EU eco-label that certifies compliance with strict ecological criteria
   D. To promote respect for the environment and in particular for flowers that are becoming extinct
Restructuring and conversion of vineyards

The European Commission has adopted two decisions on the restructuring and conversion of vineyards. Member States can obtain annual subsidies for the restructuring and conversion of a set number of hectares of vineyards. Improvement of the quality of vines and the alignment of supply and demand are priorities. The vineyard restructuring and conversion programmes financed by the EU offer wine producers the support needed for these actions. The Commission grants the subsidies to Member States on the basis of objective criteria, taking into account particular situations and needs, and based on the Member State’s share of the total EU area under vines. Each Member State's indicative subsidy can be adjusted taking into account the purposes of the scheme and within the limit of available funds and following the Member States' notification of their actual expenditure and expenditure forecasts.

15. What is one of the aims of the subsidies made available to the Member States?

A. An increase in the number of hectares under vines of all wine producers
B. Better alignment of supply and demand for reasons of food security
C. The granting of the same amount of funding in all Member States in order to remain objective
D. Support for practical measures to improve the quality of vines
Amateur sport: European Commission seeks to end discrimination

Is there any reason why a European citizen established in a Member State other than his or her own should be able to vote, and indeed stand in local elections when their children, educated in the same country, are not allowed to take part in amateur sports competitions? According to the European Commission, this paradox could arise in certain Member States. The practice of an amateur sport is essential to European citizens living in other EU countries as it helps them to integrate more fully into the life of their host country. The Commission considers that the right to take part in certain competitions organised by a sports federation must be regarded as a social benefit and that restrictions in this field based on nationality cannot be justified. The principle of equal treatment in social benefits has already been established in the area of the free movement of workers.

16. Which statement regarding the paradoxical situation that could arise in some Member States is correct?
   A. The Commission considers that the right to take part in certain competitions is not a social benefit
   B. Practising an amateur sport does not help people to become integrated into the life of their host country
   C. There is discrimination in amateur sport only, not at other sporting levels
   D. Nationality cannot be a criterion for exclusion from amateur sports competitions
European Commission approves Italian regional aid to develop road-sea combined transport

The Commission has authorised a set of aid measures to restructure road haulage and to develop combined transport. The objective of the aid scheme is to promote road–sea combined transport services on long-distance links between ports in Sicily and other Italian and Community ports. The scheme has been designed as an experimental pilot project and aims to achieve a structural change in the current system by encouraging road hauliers, in particular smaller companies, to form organisational groups to make better use of combined road-sea transport. Beneficiaries will be small and medium-sized transport enterprises established in the European Union that engage in road-haulage activities on their own account or on behalf of third parties. However, undertakings already engaged in combined road-sea transport operations and those currently operating combined road-rail transport will not be eligible under the measure.

17. What is one of the objectives of the aid measures?

   A. To encourage enterprises to form organisational groups to give a boost to road haulage
   B. To encourage large enterprises to combine their haulage operations with those of smaller firms
   C. To promote short-distance links between Italian ports and other Community ports
   D. To encourage small enterprises to form groups in order to combine road and sea transport
European Commission adopts rules on aid for agriculture and fisheries

The European Commission has adopted a Regulation concerning aid for the agriculture and fisheries sectors. The Regulation exempts, for a period of three years, the requirement for prior notification of national aid of up to €3,000 per farmer and fisherman. This will help farmers and fishermen to cope with crisis situations. To avoid distortions of competition, Member States granting such aid will have to observe an overall ceiling roughly equal to 0.3% of agricultural and fisheries output. They may grant aid fulfilling all the conditions in the Regulation without prior approval by the Commission. But they will have to keep registers to show both ceilings have been respected. The Regulation will also cover aid granted to companies processing and marketing agricultural and fisheries products.

18. What is one of the effects of the new Regulation?
   A. To increase the share of national aid to the agricultural and fisheries sectors
   B. To do away with the notification requirement under all circumstances and for an unlimited period
   C. To distribute a flat-rate amount of €3,000 to assist farmers and fishermen
   D. To reduce red tape in order to deal with a particular crisis situation
The future of Europe’s cities: the European City Summit

More than 600 representatives from cities in all EU Member States are meeting for the European City Summit. The European Commission has invited mayors, representatives of community groups and other stakeholders to discuss the new challenges facing cities in the enlarged EU. The agenda includes a discussion of the Commission’s proposals for future European policy in this field. Cities are the driving force for economic growth and innovation. They are in the frontline in the battle for environmental sustainability and social integration. The Commission proposes to strengthen the role of cities in the next generation of European development programmes due to start in 2007. The proposal would mean enhanced funding for projects in cities, more decentralised management and greater emphasis on exchanging best practices.

19. Which of the following statements is correct?
   A. The only role the cities must play is to organise projects to encourage social integration
   B. Only mayors and representatives of community groups can take part in the European City Summit
   C. The new EU development programmes will be implemented from 2007 onwards
   D. Exchanging best practice does not need greater emphasis
Peaceful uses of nuclear energy: cooperation agreement with Japan

Today the European Commission adopted a recommendation to the Council to conclude an agreement on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy between the European Atomic Energy Community and Japan. The agreement will provide a stable framework for the development of nuclear trade between the two Parties and for closer cooperation in other areas of common interest, such as research into nuclear fission and radioprotection. The cooperation agreement with Japan on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy is of particular interest to the EU since it is the first to be negotiated with a country that is one of the main clients of the European nuclear industry. The agreement lays the foundations for a commercial relationship set initially to run for 30 years. Industry will thus have the stable and predictable long-term framework it needs to conclude and implement commercial arrangements in the nuclear field.

20. Which statement is correct as regards the development of nuclear trade?
   A. This will be the second agreement to be negotiated with one of the EU’s principal clients
   B. The sector offers no long-term prospects for industry
   C. The cooperation agreement with Japan covers the development of nuclear trade only
   D. There could be synergy in nuclear-fission research between the EU and Japan
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