

COM (2009) 207**Alt_Investment**

This directive seeks to establish common requirements for the authorization and supervision of alternative investment fund managers (AIFM) in order to provide a coherent approach to the related risks and their impact on investors and markets in the EU and allowing AIFM to provide services and market EU funds throughout the EU single market, subject to compliance with strict requirements. Fund managers will be required to obtain authorisation from the relevant authority in their home member state and once authorized, an AIFM will be permitted to market funds established in the EU to professional investors in any member state. To obtain authorization, AIFM will have to hold a minimum level of capital in the form of liquid or short-term assets and appoint an independent depositary responsible for overseeing the fund's activities and ensuring that the fund's assets are appropriately protected. Said authorities will be empowered to set limits to leverage in order to ensure the stability of the financial system. A consultation was held on this issue and related documents were located on the Commission's website.

COM (2008) 543 Animal_Protection

This directive on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes was adopted to harmonise practices in the area of animal experimentation in the EU. However, due to a variety of weaknesses in that Directive, a number of Member States have established considerably more far-reaching measures in their national implementation whereas others apply only minimum rules. This uneven situation needs to be rectified to ensure that the objectives of the internal market are re-established. The proposal aims at ensuring a level playing field, throughout the EU, for industry and the research community, at the same time strengthening the protection of animals still used in scientific procedures in line with the EC Treaty's Protocol on Animal Welfare. Concretely, the new directive will (1) make it compulsory to carry out ethical reviews and require that experiments where animals are used be subject to authorisation, (2) include specific invertebrate species and fetuses in their last trimester of development and also larvae and other animals used in basic research, education and training, (3) set minimum housing and care requirements, (4) only allow animals of second or older generations to be used in testing, (5) encourage alternatives to animal testing, and (6) tighten national inspections, not only to ensure compliance, but as a means to promote the exchange of best practices and implementation of the principles the Three R's (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement to minimise the use of experimental animals).

COM (2009) 83 Ann_Accts_Micro_Entities

The European Council of 8-9 March 2007 underlined that reducing administrative burden is important for boosting the European economy, especially considering the potential benefits this can bring for SMEs. In this context, it called on the Commission to identify new "fast track" legislative proposals in order to reduce administrative burdens. Accounting and auditing have been identified as key areas for reducing administrative burden for European companies in order to enhance their competitiveness and release their growth potential.

COM (2009) 551 Asylum_Seekers

This proposal falls within the Policy Plan on Asylum which provides for the second phase of the Common European Asylum System. It aims to address the deficiencies in

procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection and to ensure higher and more harmonised standards of protection, thus progressing towards a common asylum procedure and a uniform status. The amendments that have been proposed are drawn from the responses received to the Commission's consultation on the Green Paper on the future of the Common European Asylum System which highlighted deficiencies concerning the terms of the Directive and the manner in which it is applied in practice. The minimum standards envisaged in 2004 are vague and ambiguous, in certain aspects, thus resulting in legal uncertainty. In view of the lack of clarity in regard to certain provisions and the incompatibility of certain standards with human rights or the applicable international law, the Commission proposes to recast the 2004 text at the same time as the recasting of Council Directive 2005/85/EC on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status ("Asylum Procedures Directive").

COM (2008) 815 Asylum Seekers Stds

This proposal, submitted in March 2008, seeks to recast the 2003 Reception Conditions Directive following the identification of a number of deficiencies by a 2007 evaluation by the European Commission and by consultations from various stakeholders. A 2007 Green Paper elicited 89 responses. The motivation for recasting the directive derives from the Commission's finding that Member States are allowed a "wide margin of discretion" in setting conditions for reception of asylum seekers. This proposal is part of a package, announced under the Policy Plan on Asylum, to harmonize and improve standards across the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

The main objective is "to ensure higher standards of treatment for asylum seekers with regard to reception conditions that would guarantee a dignified standard of living, in line with international law."

To that end, six key issues are addressed:

- 1) Scope of the directive: The proposal extends the scope of the directive in order to include applicants for subsidiary protection (meaning they are facing death penalty or execution, torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in their home country, or serious and individuals threat to their life or person by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict).
- 2) Access to the labor market: The proposal "provides that asylum seekers will be able to access employment after a period of maximum 6 months after lodging an application for international protection" and "stipulates that the imposition of national labour market conditions shall not unduly restrict access to employment for asylum seekers."
- 3) Access to material reception conditions: the proposal requires Member States to "consider the level of social assistance provided to nationals" when providing support to asylum seekers.
- 4) Detention: the proposal lays down stipulations for the detention of asylum seekers, and guarantees humane treatment for any detained asylum seekers.
- 5) Persons with special needs: Calling this "the most serious concern in the area of reception of asylum seekers," the proposal calls on Members States to implement measures to identify special needs of asylum seekers.
- 6) Implementation and improvement of national systems: reporting requirements of Member States are increased.

Current status (01/11/2011): awaiting first reading by the European Parliament. The

Council (Justice and Home Affairs) last debated the bill on September 22, 2011, and are expected to take it up again on December 13, 2011.

COM (2008) 306-2 CAP_Health_Check

This proposal follows the Commission Communication "Preparing the Health Check of the CAP reform" of 20 November 2007. It should be noted that this proposal is closely linked to the following procedures: CNS/2008/0103, CNS/2004/0105, and CNS/2008/0106. It is recalled that in recent months, there has been a sharp rise in the price of many agricultural commodities to exceptional levels. Their steady increase in 2006 and 2007 had already supported the conclusion that any remaining supply controls of the CAP (namely, dairy quotas and set-aside) should be removed. The Commission proposes further to break the link between direct payments and production and thus allow farmers to follow market signals to the greatest possible extent. Among a range of measures, the proposals call for the abolition of arable set-aside and a gradual increase in milk quotas before they are abolished in 2015, and a reduction in market intervention. These changes will free farmers from unnecessary restrictions and let them maximise their production potential. The Commission also proposes an increase in modulation, whereby direct payments to farmers are reduced and the money is transferred to the Rural Development Fund. This will allow a better response to the new challenges and opportunities faced by European agriculture, including climate change, the need for better water management, and the protection of biodiversity.

COM (2008) 614 Consumer_Rights

This proposal is a result of the review of the Consumer Acquis which covers a number of Directives on consumer protection. The Review was launched in 2004 with the objective to simplify and complete the existing regulatory framework. Four earlier directives concerning consumer rights contain minimum harmonisation clauses meaning that Member States may maintain or adopt stricter consumer protection rules. Member States have made extensive use of this possibility. The outcome is a fragmented regulatory framework across the Community which causes significant compliance costs for businesses wishing to trade cross-border. The internal market effects of the fragmentation are a reluctance by businesses to sell cross-border to consumers which in turn reduces consumer welfare. That review has shown that it is appropriate to replace those four Directives by this single Directive. This Directive should accordingly lay down standard rules for the common aspects and move away from the minimum harmonisation approach in the former Directives under which Member States could maintain or adopt stricter national rules.

COM (2008) 466 GWB_Copyright_Knowledge_Econ

The purpose of this proposal is to open up debate on how to both secure the rights of intellectual property owners and promote the free movement of knowledge and information in the internal market. The Commission strives to secure copyright protections strong enough to encourage authors and publishers to create and disseminate their products, but also strives to protect the freedoms and advance the knowledge and education of the public at large. The Green Paper will initiate a structured debate to reevaluate the current legal framework on copyrights and eventually arrive at a mutually beneficial solution. The Commission will focus on future changes in the fields of scientific and scholarly publishing, search engines, library access, researchers, and access by those with disabilities. Access to the

consultation documents was provided through an institutional website (CIRCABC, part of the European Commission homepage).

COM (2008) 467 ERI

Research infrastructures are large-scale projects typically environmental observatories, genomic data bases, imaging systems, clean rooms for nano-electronics, irradiation facilities for materials research and super-computers. Yet, although they play a key role in the construction of an efficient research and innovation environment, they are becoming increasingly complex and more expensive thus placing them beyond the reach of a single research group, region, nation or even continent. One of the major difficulties for setting up new European research infrastructures - other than scarcity of resources and the complexity of technical and organisational issues, is the lack of an adequate legal framework that allows for the creation of appropriate partnership with partners from different countries. In short, an ERI will be a legal entity with a legal personality and the right to be recognised as such in all of the EU Member States. It will be based on membership namely, the Member States, third countries and intergovernmental organisation. Their primary role will be the establishment and operation of research infrastructures. The Commission proposes that the structure of an ERI be flexible. Members will be allowed to define, in the Statutes, member rights and obligations and other internal arrangements. Members' liability on ERI debt will, in principle, be limited to their respective contributions albeit that some flexibility will be included in the statutes to modify any such arrangements. The applicable law will be Community law, the law of the State of the statutory seat or that of the State of operation regarding certain safety and technical matters. The Statutes and their implementing rules must comply with such applicable law.

COM (2008) 396 Euro_Private_Company

The purpose of this proposal is to facilitate the creation and operation of small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) and enhance their market competitiveness by reducing compliance costs as part of the Small Business Act for Europe (SBA) package. The proposal enables SMEs to be created and operated pursuant to uniform principles in all Member States and to establish subsidiaries in every member state in which they desire to do business. It seeks to reduce compliance costs arising from disparities between national rules. The proposal mandates electronic application options, closed lists of materials and a single legality check for SPE registration. It further allows SPEs flexibility with shares and sets the minimum capital requirement at €1. Consultations were held for this proposal but related documents on interest groups were not able to be downloaded from the website cited in the consultation.

COM (2008) 165 GWB_Anti_Trust_Breach

This White Paper puts forward policy proposals designed to ensure all victims of breaches of EU antitrust regulations “have access to effective redress mechanisms so that they can be fully compensated,” as guaranteed by community law. The White Paper, published in April 2008, follows a 2005 Green Paper which argued that various legal and procedural problems prevented victims from obtaining adequate redress and compensation for losses due to these breaches. The white paper advocates reforms to the legal framework for collecting damages, reforms to the mechanisms of compensation for victims, and the strengthening of private enforcement of antitrust regulations without harming the already strong public enforcement of these regulations.

This white paper was preceded by an impact assessment report, an external impact study, and a public consultation, during which 175 submissions were received. The EESC adopted an opinion on March 25, 2009, and the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the White Paper on March 26, 2009.

COM (2010) 348 GWB_Contract_Law

This Green Paper was written to explore options to simplify the contract laws regulating contracts that are written between companies in different EU member states. There has been divergence in contract laws between member states which had led to extra transactional costs and increased uncertainty. To address these issues, the Green Paper explores ways to harmonize the contract laws and make progress towards an optional European Contract Law. There was an open consultation held that garnered responses from 202 interest groups and 101 individuals. The European Parliament adopted a resolution welcoming open debate about the Green Paper and the possibility of setting up an optional instrument as a means of regulation for interinstitutional agreement.

COM (2010) 284 GWB_Corporate_Gov

This Green Paper was written about corporate governance in the wake of the economic crisis. An open consultation was held that garnered 183 responses from interest groups and 10 from individuals. The results of this consultation showed that there was indeed a need for stronger infrastructure to protect consumers and increase safeguards in the financial services sector. In the end, the European Parliament adopted a resolution that took these recommendations into consideration. It recognized that there was not a one-size-fits all approach but that there could be strong minimum standards for all members. Some of the specifics of the resolution include the establishment of mandatory risk committees; annual reports on internal control systems; regular external evaluation of boards of directors; and strict remuneration policies.

COM (2010) 561 GWB_Crisis_Lessons

This paper invites discussion on the various possible causes of the 2008 economic collapse, specifically focusing on the quality of auditing services provided by and incentivized by the current market and regulatory structure. Questions focus on the ethical and oversight issues that are perceived as threatening the legitimacy of the auditing profession, such as firms' non-independence and payment by the subjects of their reviews. The question also focuses on the concentration of high-end auditing service among the small number of elite firms. The questions also request input on what level of oversight should be applied to the audit firms themselves, such as what level of disclosures they should be required to make.

COM (2010) 571 GWB_EProcurement

The purpose of this Green Paper is to initiate a discussion on the expansion of e-Procurement within the European Union. E-Procurement, referring to the use of electronic communications and transaction processing by governmental institutions and other public sector organizations when buying supplies and service or tendering public works, has potentially far reaching consequences. The Green Paper seeks to address ways in which to phase in e-Procurement among members of the EU—which, it is hoped, will generate a positive impact on the performance of public administration. While the Green Paper consciously recognizes that implementation must be done at the national and regional level, there is a recognized role for the EU in the realm of

standardization, the encouragement of efficient and commercially viable solutions, and the encouragement of prominent contracting authorities to engage in e-Procurement.

COM (2009) 163 GWB_Fisheries

The fishing industry is essential to supplying food to European citizens and supporting livelihoods in European coastal areas. Ensuring its future is, and must remain, an important policy objective for the European Union. Fish stocks have been overfished for decades and the fishing fleets remain too large for the available resources. This combination means that too many vessels chase too few fish and many parts of the European fleet are economically unviable. The outcome has been a continuous decrease in the amounts of seafood fished from Europe's waters: more than half of the fish consumed on the European market is now imported. The high volatility of oil prices and the financial crisis have exacerbated the low economic resilience of fishing. European fishing activities must be clearly based on economically rational principles. Fleets must improve their economic resilience and adapt to changes in the environment and markets. Some steps are being taken to adapt including voluntary laying-off of vessels and a move towards less fuel-intensive fishing practices. Some initiatives have been undertaken to improve quality, consumer information and the match between supply and demand in order to increase economic viability. These steps, however, fall far short of what is necessary to adapt to change and restore the economic viability of the sector. The Common Fisheries Policy is now entering a new round of reform. This Green Paper aims to stimulate a debate on the reform to provide the Commission with feedback and guide its work.

COM (2009) 44 GWB_TENT

This paper invites discussion on ways to better integrate the Trans-European transport network (TEN-T). TEN-T is intended to establish the transport infrastructure necessary to connect EU member states markets to boost economic, social, and territorial cohesion. It also integrates EU environmental protection standards in order to promote sustainable development. This paper provides a review of current TEN-t policy and offers recommendations for potential improvements on current policy. Foremost, TEN-T policy envisions a single transportation network incorporating innovative, intelligent transport systems as its ultimate outcome. Some of the issues for future consideration include: The incorporation of a priority network, the differing needs of passengers and freight traffic, airports, waterborne transport, further integration of intelligent transport systems, and using community financial instruments to support TEN-T implementation. A consultation on this paper was held, to which a wide range of private and governmental stakeholders contributed.

COM (2010) 695 GWB_VAT

The purpose of this Green Paper is to re-examine the existing value-added tax (VAT) system in the EU and determine the efficacy of reforming VAT given the current economic climate. Specifically, this proposal debates the merits of simplifying, strengthening and streamlining the VAT system. A value-added tax is defined as a consumption tax placed on a product whenever value is added at a stage of production and at final sale. The VAT system constitutes a major source of revenue for national budgets of the EU Member States, but it suffers from numerous shortcomings. These issues include its costly complexity, susceptibility to fraud and evasion, and incompatibility with many elements of the modern service-and-technology-driven

single market economy. During the past decade, VAT reform has consisted mainly of patchwork, incremental band-aids rather than comprehensive, long-term solutions. This proposal discusses measures to overhaul the VAT system's policies on intra-EU transactions and other issues in order to maximize positive elements like revenue collection and minimize problematic areas such as fraud and evasion. A public consultation was held for this Green Paper and related documents were located on the Commission's website.

COM (2008) 436 Heavy_Goods_Vehicles

The purpose of this proposal is to amend the Council Directive 1999/62/EC in order to address the negative externalities generated by heavy goods vehicles. This Directive is part of a larger package that aims to internalize the external costs of transport in the EU, particularly those costs that lead to adverse climate change. The Directive would provide for Member States to integrate tolls levied on heavy goods vehicles such that the amount generated is reflective of the cost of air pollution and noise pollution caused by this traffic, as well as the costs generated for other vehicles. Those member states that wish to participate will need to harmonize their charging principles, replete with a mechanism to notify and report particular tolling schemes. The Directive also calls for the charges on heavy goods vehicles to be collected via an electronic system to streamline the process. Nothing in the Directive prevents particular member states from applying unique regulatory charges on urban roads that are designed to reduce traffic congestion or counter negative environmental impact in "built up areas." Both an internet consultation and a stakeholder meeting were held. The Council made several changes when it adopted its position at the first reading which broadened the scope of the vehicles that could be tolled. When the text was adopted, it was determined that the revenues generated from the tolls should be used to make transportation more sustainable. Furthermore, it called for a report to be written within the next four years to determine the effectiveness of the directive and to potentially revise the directive if needed.

COM (2008) 458 UCITS_Transfer

The Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS) Directive, passed in 1985, created a single market for investment fund as a way to encourage business and investment opportunities. This framework laid out certain eligibility requirements for cross-border investments, as well as a number of regulations to protect investors. The current proposal would make changes to the 1985 Directive, which would correct a number of problems with the current system. The corrections include: Removing barriers to investment by simplifying the investment process; reversing the growing trend of small investment funds by encouraging mergers or pooling assets; addressing the lack of organizational flexibility (although the Impact Assessment recommends the status quo); providing more detailed information to investors to correct for oversimplification of current information. These provisions will increase the overall efficiency of the European Union investment market. No consultations were held for this specific directive, but consultations were held in 2007 for an exposure draft regarding new legal provisions.

COM (2009) 502 Insurance_Pension_Authority

This proposal is part of a larger framework of financial oversight reforms proposed in the wake of the recent financial crisis. In May 2009, the Commission proposed the

establishment of a European System of Financial Supervisors (ESFS) and a European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB). The ESRB would monitor potential threats to financial stability that arise from macro-economic developments and from developments within the financial system as a whole, while the ESFS would provide financial supervision through three European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs): a European Banking Authority (EBA), a European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA), and a European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA). In general, the objectives of the EBA, the EOPA, and the ESMA are to contribute to: (i) improving the functioning of the internal market, including in particular a high, effective and consistent level of regulation and supervision, (ii) protecting depositors, investors, policyholders and other beneficiaries, (iii) ensuring the integrity, efficiency and orderly functioning of financial markets, (iv) safeguarding the stability of the financial system, and (v) strengthening international supervisory coordination. The ESAs will be Community bodies with a legal personality. On November 24, 2010, the Council promulgated Regulation (EU) No 1094/2010, establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority), amending Decision No 716/2009/EC and repealing Commission Decision 2009/79/EC. The ESRB, EBA, and ESMA were also established by regulation at this time. The seat of the EIOPA is Frankfurt am Main, and the EIOPA, like the other ESAs, is accountable to the Parliament and Council.

COM (2008) 663 Medicinal Products

The purpose of this directive is to amend Directive 2001/83/EC and Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 to address the gap in the current pharmaceutical legislation as regards the provision of information to the general public on prescription-only medicinal product for human use. Directive 2001/83/EC on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use provides for a harmonized framework on advertising of medicines at Community level, the application of which remains a responsibility of Member States. This legislation prohibits the advertising to the general public of medicines subject to prescription. However, neither the Directive nor Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 include detailed provisions on information on medicinal products, providing only that certain information supply activities are exempted from the advertising provisions. The main elements of the proposals include: clarifying that the provision of information on prescription-only medicines directly to the public by marketing authorization holders is allowed; establishing harmonized conditions on the content of information which marketing authorization holders are allowed to disseminate; establishing harmonized quality standards for such information; determining the authorized channels of information provision; introducing the obligation for Member States to establish a monitoring system to ensure that the abovementioned provisions on content of information, quality standards and dissemination channels are complied with and ensure enforcement in case of non-compliance; and ; establishing specific monitoring rules for information disseminated through websites. This proposal received a large number of responses to a public consultation and also significant input from Member States; as such it was amended significantly (78 amendments were adopted by the EP in November 2010), specifically relating to patients rights, conformity with the constitutions of Member States, and the distinction between advertising and information regarding pharmaceuticals. On 10 November 2011, an amended proposal amending Directive 2001/83/EC was presented

by the Commission, and on 10 February, 2012, an amended proposal for regulation was presented for re-consultation by the Commission. Debate by the Council is scheduled for 22 June, 2012.

COM (2010) 484 OTC_Counterparty_Repository

This proposal was written to establish common rules to increase security and efficiency of over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives. It came about as a response to a communication in March 2009 called “Driving European Recovery.” It is part of a larger international effort to stabilize the financial system, particularly the OTC derivatives market. It is consistent with the Frank-Dodd Act. A consultation was held that received 111 responses, 100 of which were authorized for publication. There were also several meetings with member states and stakeholders. The regulation has yet to pass. On 24 January the Council adjusted several of its positions in light of negotiations with the European Parliament including compromises on the procedure for authorizing central counterparties and pension schemes.

COM (2008) 414 Patient_Rights

Uncertainty regarding the general application of the right to reimbursement for healthcare services provided in another EU Member States has created obstacles to the free movement of both patients and health care services. This is best illustrated by the high number of patients who should have been entitled to reimbursement for cross-border healthcare but who did not claim it. Based on that concern as well as ECJ jurisprudence the purpose of this Regulation is to establish a clear Community framework to facilitate cross-border healthcare. The proposed Directive will apply to all healthcare provisions, regardless of how it is organised, delivered or financed.

COM (2008) 665 Pharmacovigilance

The purpose of this proposal is to amend, as regards pharmacovigilance, Directive 2001/83/EC on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use. It has been estimated that 5% of patients entering into hospitals are there due to an adverse drug reaction (ADR). Furthermore, ADR is the fifth most common cause of hospital death. At present, certain adverse reactions are only detected after a medicine has been authorized and the full safety profile of medicinal products can only be revealed after they have entered the market. As a result, it has been deemed that pharmacovigilance rules are necessary for the protection of public health in order to prevent, detect and assess adverse effects of medicinal products. The current proposal seeks to provide clear roles and responsibilities for interested parties, strengthen transparency and communication, introduce risk management planning for new medicinal products, and strengthen reporting systems and data collection, among many other objectives.

COM (2009) 363 Safe_Gas_Supply

Council Directive 2004/67/EC established a legal framework at Community level to safeguard security of natural gas supply and to contribute to the proper functioning of the internal gas market in the case of supply disruptions. However, under the current measures, Member States still enjoy a large margin of discretion as to the choice of measures. Where the security of supply of a Member State is threatened, there is a clear risk that measures developed unilaterally by that Member State may jeopardise the proper functioning of the internal gas market. Recent experience has demonstrated the reality of that risk. To allow the internal gas market to function even in the face of a

shortage of supply, it is therefore necessary to provide for a more coordinated response to supply crises, both concerning preventive action and the reaction to concrete disruptions of supply. In response to the Russian-Ukrainian gas crisis in January 2009 causing an unprecedented disruption of gas supplies to the Community via Ukraine, the European Council and the European Parliament have called for an accelerated revision of the existing Directive.

COM (2008) 636 Sex_Equality

This directive amends the Community legal framework concerning the application of the principle of equal treatment between women and men for self-employed workers and their spouses. This proposal will repeal Directive 86/613/EEC and will be applicable as regards those aspects not covered by Directives 2006/54/EC, 2004/113/EC and 79/7/EEC, in order to implement more effectively the principle of equal treatment between women and men engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity, or contributing to the pursuit of such an activity.

COM (2008) 459 Tobacco_Excise_Duty

A number of EU tax provisions, dating back to 1993, exist that seek to reduce the amount of smoking. In accordance with these provisions the Commission has held a four-yearly review of existing legislation. In July the Commission presented a fourth such report suggesting a number of significant amendments to existing Community legislation in order to modernise the existing rules and to ensure a level playing field for tobacco manufacturers and operators. This proposal for a Directive suggests a number of important amendments to existing Community legislation in order to modernise and simplify the existing rules, make them more transparent and better integrate public health concerns. In addition, it also deals with the alignment of excise duties for fine-cut smoking tobacco ("roll-your-own") with excise duties for cigarettes. The Commission makes the following proposals:

- 1) abolish the "most popular price category" (MPPC) as a reference point for EU minimum requirements on excise duties and for measuring the importance of specific excise duty within the total tax burden.
- 2) to increase gradually the minimum requirement for cigarettes in line with internal market objectives and health considerations.
- 3) to allow Member States greater flexibility to apply specific duties and to levy minimum excise duties on cigarettes.
- 4) to bring gradually the minimum rates for fine-cut tobacco intended for the rolling of cigarettes into line with the rate for cigarettes.
- 5) to adjust for inflation the minimum requirements for tobacco products other than cigarettes and fine-cut tobacco intended for the rolling of cigarettes.
- 6) to amend the definition of cigarettes, cigars and other tobacco products and monitoring the arrangements for tobacco taxation.

COM (2008) 779 Tyre_Fuel_Eff_Label

This regulation was introduced as a proposal in November 2008, with the objective to "promote the market transformation towards fuel-efficient tyres, also called low-rolling-resistance tyres (LRRTs)." This objective is reached through three key components: reducing the environmental impact of road transport, reducing traffic noise, and improving road safety. To that end, proposed labels will supply information on fuel efficiency, wet grip, and external rolling noise. The proposal notes that

technological improvements have reduced the rolling resistance of some tyres, leading to a difference of 10% in total fuel consumption between the best- and worst-performing tyres. Input was solicited from stakeholders via the internet, and 14 responses were submitted between April 28 and May 30, 2008. An external study was also conducted. This regulation stipulates requirements for a printed label, to be affixed to tyres to which this directive applies, as well as promotional literature accompanying the tyre, to provide information to consumers. This regulation ((EC) No 1222/2009) was promulgated November 25, 2009.

COM (2009) 21 VAT_Common_Sys

The aim of the proposal is to increase the use of electronic invoicing, reduce burdens on business, support small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and help Member States to tackle fraud. The proposal simplifies, modernises and harmonises the VAT invoicing rules. In particular, it eliminates the current barriers to e-invoicing in the VAT Directive by treating paper and electronic invoices equally.

COM (2009) 324 GWB_ICT_Standardization

European ICT needs sound framework conditions to fully contribute to the growth and jobs agenda and in this context standardisation plays an important role. Moreover, as ICT tools are used in all economic sectors, an effective EU ICT standardisation policy can encourage the faster uptake of new technologies and applications thereby contributing to the competitiveness of the European economy as a whole. In order to renew the European ICT standardisation policy, the Commission launched a review with a study to analyse the current EU ICT standardisation policy and bring forward recommendations for its future development. While the European ICT standardisation policy should continue to be based on the principles of voluntary and market led standardisation, technology neutrality and balance of interest, the following are the most prominent areas for improvement of the current system:

- Establish an ICT standards policy that accommodates the global dynamics and requirements of the ICT sector and reflects the varying needs of the infrastructure and application domains;
- Allow for a more integrated approach in ICT standardisation and the use of ICT standards and specifications;
- Strengthen competitiveness of industry and fair competition by fostering the implementation of standards and specifications;
- Strengthen collaboration and cooperation in ICT standards development, both Europe-wide and globally.

COM (2008) 809 Haz_Mat_Electric

This proposal clarifies Directive 2002/95/EC restricting the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment (RoHS Directive), in order to simplify its implementation, improve its application at national level, adapt it to scientific and technical progress and ensure that it is coherent with other legal texts of the Commission. The basic objectives and mechanisms of this Directive have not been changed. The ultimate aim is the elimination of certain hazardous substances from electrical and electronic equipment; where this is temporarily not possible, exemptions are granted. No new substances are proposed to be banned.

COM (2008) 801 Metrology

The purpose of this proposal is to repeal eight metrology Directives currently in place

in order to simplify and improve legislation in this field. The proposals in question range from legislation on Cold Water Meters for Non-Clean Water, Alcohol Meters and Alcohol Tables, Tyre Pressure Gauges for Motor Vehicles, and Calibration of Ship Tanks. The legislative proposal notes that the instruments at issue are increasingly less in use and that the repeal of the Directives would not create any new barriers to the free movement or to additional administrative burdens.

COM (2008) 778 Energy_Labeling

The purpose of this proposal is to recast Council Directive 92/75/EEC on the indication by labelling and standard product information of the consumption of energy and other resources by energy-related products. As it currently stands, the Energy Labelling Directive (ELD) has been shown to restrict the potential to further mitigate climate change, hinders the potential to contribute to an EU-wide target of energy efficiency gains of 20% by the year 2020, and hampers the achievement of the goals of sustainable production and consumption. The proposal seeks to extend the scope of the ELD, currently restricted to household appliances, to allow for the labeling of all energy-related products including the household, commercial and industrial sectors and some non-energy using products such as windows which have a significant potential to save energy once in use or installed—means of transport are excluded from the Directive.

COM (2008) 151 Intl_Road_Safety

The objective of this proposal is to facilitate the enforcement of sanctions against drivers who commit an offence in another Member State than the one where their vehicle is registered. The purpose of this system is to ensure that enforcement with respect to such offences takes place regardless of where in the European Union the offence has been committed and regardless of the place of registration of the vehicle with which it has been committed. The offences covered by the proposal are speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol ("drink-driving"), not using a seat belt, and failing to stop at a red light. These are the traffic offences which cause the greatest number of accidents and deaths on the roads. The proposal aims at setting up an EU electronic data exchange network in order to identify the holder of a vehicle so that the authorities in a Member State where the offence has been committed sends the vehicle registration number and other relevant information to the other Member States or the State of residence if this can be identified and requests information on the vehicle holder. The exchange of information between Member States takes place via an electronic network. Once the State where the offence was committed has received the requested information, it sends an offence notification to the vehicle holder using the standard form in annex. The proposal does not deal with harmonising road traffic rules, nor with harmonisation of penalties for road traffic offences. It merely contains provisions of a purely administrative nature for putting in place an effective and efficient system of cross-border enforcement of the main road traffic offences. It does not interfere with Member States qualifications of these traffic offences, which can be either of an administrative or of a penal nature. Neither does it interfere with Member States' laws in terms of who should be liable for the offences in question.

COM (2008) 817 Passenger_Rights

This proposal is intended to ensure adequate levels of protection to passengers in bus and coach transport in particular to disabled persons and persons with reduced

mobility. It aims at establishing rights of coach and bus passengers in order to improve the attractiveness of and confidence in coach and bus transport as well as to achieve a level playing field between carriers from different Member States and between other modes of transport. In principle the proposal lays down provisions on:

- 1) liability in the event of death or injury of passengers and loss of or damage to their
- 2) luggage;
- 3) non-discrimination on grounds of nationality or place of residence with regard to transport conditions offered to passengers by bus or coach undertakings, assistance for disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility;
- 4) obligations of bus and coach undertakings in the event of cancellation or delay of a journey;
- 5) information obligations;
- 6) handling of complaints;
- 7) general rules on enforcement.

COM (2008) 640 Cross_Border_Payments

The purpose of this proposal is to replace Regulation (EC) No 2560/2001 on cross-border payments in euro in order to adapt it to market developments (emergence of the Single Euro Payments Area), to enhance the protection of consumer rights and to provide an adequate legal framework for the development of a modern and efficient payment system within the EU. The current regulation, which applies to credit transfers and ATM cash withdrawals and electronic payments made in euro up to an amount of EUR 50,000, guarantees that when a consumer makes a cross-border payment in euro, the cost is the same as that of a corresponding payment in euro made within his own member state. The current proposal seeks to address a series of weakness identified in a review process in 2005.

COM (2008) 553 Animal_Protection_K

The purpose of this proposal is to improve the welfare of animals at the time of slaughter or killing, encourage innovation in regards to the stunning and killing techniques, and provide a level playing field within the internal market for the operators concerned. Presently, roughly 360 million pigs, sheep, goats and cattle and over four billion poultry are killed in EU slaughterhouses per year. In addition, the fur industry kills 25 million animals per year while the hatcheries kill 330 million day-old-chicks. Although the protection of animals at the time of slaughter has been covered by Community legislation since 1974, and was reinforced by Directive 93/119/EC, there exist substantive discrepancies susceptible to affect the competitiveness between various operators. This unequal enforcement across Member States is the target of the present Directive—replacing Directive 93/119/EC. The Directive will: specifically change the legal instrument from a directive to a regulation, allow for greater flexibility for operations regarding the adoption of guidelines on detailed technical matters, and will develop new learning mechanisms that are based on robust science to make animal welfare a better understood concept and integrated into the daily task of operators who handle animals, slaughter-men, and official inspectors, among other changes.

COM (2008) 316 Car_Safety

The purpose of this proposal is to set out harmonized rules on the construction of motor vehicles for the purpose of ensuring the functioning of the internal market while at the same time providing for a high level of safety and environmental protection.

Furthermore, the proposal seeks to enhance safety vehicles by requiring the mandatory fitting of some advanced safety features. The proposal also seeks to enhance the environmental performance of vehicles by reducing the amount of road noise and vehicle CO2 emissions from tires. Finally, the proposal contributes to the competitiveness of the automotive industry by simplifying the existing vehicle safety type-approval legislation, improving transparency and easing administrative burden.

COM (2010) 815 EU_Budget

For the sake of legal clarity and in order to facilitate the negotiations of the European Parliament and the Council, it merges and replaces two earlier Commission proposals on the revision of the Financial Regulation in a single text and under a standard legislative format (no recast). These two earlier proposals concerned on the one hand, the triennial revision of the Financial Regulation and, on the other hand, the revision of the FR to align it with the Lisbon Treaty, including the obligations of Member States concerning internal control and audit and their resulting responsibilities in shared management. Therefore, these two earlier proposals are withdrawn. Additionally, the proposal also incorporates the changes to the FR due to the adoption of the Regulation No 1081/2010 regarding the creation of the European External Action Service ('EEAS').

COM (2010) 726 Energy_Mkt_Integrity

The purpose of this proposal is to develop rules which clearly prohibit market abuse on wholesale markets in electricity, natural gas, and related products. It also outlaws trading on insider information and attempts at market manipulation in the energy market. The regulation also provides the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators with the powers necessary to monitor the energy markets and access complete transactional data in the energy markets, which market participants will now be required to provide to the Agency.

COM (2010) 542 Quadricycles

The purpose of this proposal is to simplify the existing framework for new two- or three-wheel vehicles and quadricycles (also known as L-category vehicles) entering the EU market. The proposal also seeks to contribute to a lower, more proportionate share of overall road transport emissions and to increase vehicle safety for L-category vehicles. The proposal is in response to a number of concerns the Commission have identified with the current framework—ranging from its complexity, vehicle functional safety aspects related to type-approval requirements, and the lack of a legal framework for vehicles fitted with new technologies. The Commission has also noted its desire to address the level of emissions and the increasing share in total road transport emissions (which are decreasing overall) as well as the selling and registration of certain vehicles, systems, and components or separate technical units imported in the EU market which do not comply with the current type-approval requirements regarding vehicle functional safety.

COM (2010) 372 Coal_Mines

The purpose of this proposal is to establish rules for state aid to the coal industry. Out of a variety of options the Committee has decided to propose regulation that will allow Member States to grant clearly degressive operating aid to coal mines aimed at covering current production losses as long as it is accompanied by an orderly winding-down of activities in the context of a well-defined mine closure plan. Additionally, the

regulation allows Member States to grant aid for the social and environmental costs linked to the closure of coal mines.

COM (2010) 66 GWB_Climt_Change_Forests

The purpose of this Green Paper is to launch a debate on options for an EU approach to forest protection and information in the framework of the EU Forest Action Plan.

Given that climate change will increasingly challenge forests throughout Europe, this Green Paper seeks to ensure that they can continue to perform their socio-economic and environmental functions—including the provision of jobs, income and raw materials for industry and renewable energy, protection of soil, human settlements and infrastructure, the regulation of freshwater supplies, and their role as “sinks” to absorb carbon dioxide. The resulting debate from this Green Paper is intended to highlight relevant problems and address adequate solutions to the aforementioned problem.

COM (2010) 629 GWB_Sustainable_Dev

The purpose of this Green Paper is to solicit input about appropriate EU policy toward the developing world. Specifically, the questions get at finding an impactful and efficient role in which the EU’s efforts and investment achieve significant and positive results. The range of issues invoked is standard for the “sustainable development” conversation: education, climate change, security, energy use, anti-corruption, north/south disparities all included. Implicit in the questions is an admission that current EU policy has been at best inefficient and perhaps even harmful in some situations. A core tension that the questions seek to unwind is the conflict between the EU’s own internal development and how that impacts its policies toward external development. EU trade policy is provided as a specific example of this tension. Finally, the paper also makes the central admission that all of its policies and actions are interrelated, and that there is a nexus between trade, security, energy, climate change, and all of the various topics “sustainable development” cues, and that only through coordinated action that takes into account those relations can beneficial and efficient policy be executed.

COM (2008) 725 GWB_EU_Workforce_Health

The purpose of this Green Paper is to introduce a discussion on the challenges facing the EU health systems, specifically in the realm of increased demand and restricted supply as well as the need to respond both to local health needs as well as major public health crises. The major challenges facing the EU health systems include a rapidly ageing population, new technology that increases the range of diagnosis, prevention and treatment, re-emerging health threats from communicable diseases, as well as rising health care costs. The Green Paper seeks to increase the visibility of issues facing the EU health workforce, addressing the problem of ageing through promotion of good health throughout the lifespan, protecting citizens from health threats, and supporting new health systems and technologies. Furthermore, the Green Paper seeks to identify where there appears to be room for further action regarding the health system.

COM (2009) 175 GWB_Civil_Comm_Judgements

This Green Paper accompanies the Report from the Commission on the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 44/2001 on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters ("the Regulation"). Its purpose is to launch a broad consultation among interested parties on possible ways to improve the operation of the Regulation with respect to the points raised in the Report.

COM (2009) 614 GWB_Business_Registers

Business registers play an essential role in providing access to up-to-date and official information on companies; they register, examine and store company information, such as information on a company's legal form, its seat, capital and legal representatives, and they make this information available to the public. They may also offer additional services, which may vary from one country to another. The minimum standards of the core services are set by European legislation; in particular Member States have to maintain electronic business registers since 1 January 2007. Nevertheless, in Europe, business registers operate on a national or regional basis: they only store information on companies registered in the territory (country or region) where they are competent. However, while official information on companies is easily available in the country of their registration, access to the same information from another Member State may be hindered by technical or language barriers. In these circumstances, facilitating cross-border access to official and reliable company information for creditors, business partners and consumers is necessary to ensure an appropriate degree of transparency and legal certainty in the markets all over the EU. To achieve this, the cross-border cooperation of business registers is indispensable. This Green Paper describes the existing framework and considers possible ways forward to improve access to information on businesses across the EU and more effective application of the company law directives.

COM (2009) 622 GWB_Citizen_Initiative

The purpose of this Green Paper is to solicit input in defining the procedure and standards of the Citizens' Initiative process in Europe. The questions attempt to determine the appropriate thresholds and procedural standards. For example, what portion of a state's population must sign the petition for that state to count as part of the initiative? Also, what portion of all EU states must be part of an initiative before it must be considered. The Green Paper also asks what type of procedure should be applied to the evaluation process as well as whether that procedure should be consistent. The Green Paper also considers what level of information and disclosure should be required of the petitions.

COM (2010) 370 GWB_Insurance_Guarantee_Scheme

The purpose of this White Paper is to summarize a policy change the Commission advocates related to insurance guarantee schemes (IGS). These schemes were brought to international attention after the economic collapse of 2008 when some insurance companies were unable to meet their obligations. The Commission advocates an EU-wide structure for guaranteeing insurance payments, in life and non-life insurance policies, covering people as well as legally-recognized entities. Within this structure, there would be a failsafe in each state to pay beneficiaries in the case of insurance company insolvency. The Commission hopes its proposal will increase efficiency, remove destructive incentives from the market, evenly protect all parties, and stabilize a damaged market lacking in confidence.

COM (2008) 794 GWB_Consumer_Redress

The purpose of this proposal is to ensure that citizens and businesses, particularly Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises can use in practice the opportunities offered to them by the Single Market and the European area of justice. Specifically, the idea of collective redress refers to the ability of citizens and businesses to take action when harmed by a

breach of any EU legislation that creates substantive rights. Collective redress allows citizens and businesses who are victims of the same breach to bundle their claims in the form of a representative body. The main purpose of the proposal, then, is to identify common legal principles on collective redress.

COM (2010) 365 GWB_EU_Pension_System

Member States are responsible for pension provision: this Green Paper does not question Member States' prerogatives in pensions or the role of social partners and it does not suggest that there is one 'ideal' one-size-fits-all pension system design. The principles of solidarity between generations and national solidarity are key in this regard. At EU level, national retirement systems are underpinned by a framework of activities spanning from policy coordination to regulation. Some common themes need to be addressed in a coordinated way such as the functioning of the internal market, the requirements of the Stability and Growth Pact, or ensuring that pension reforms are consistent with the Europe 2020 strategy. Sound and adequate pension systems, enabling individuals to maintain, to a reasonable degree, their living standard after retirement, are crucial for citizens and for social cohesion. The impact of public pension expenditure on public finances in one Member State may have serious repercussions in others. EU policy coordination on pensions has proven useful and necessary to make progress at Member State level. Pension funds are an integral part of financial markets and their design can promote or inhibit the free movement of labour or capital. Europe 2020 emphasises higher and better quality employment and positive transitions: both are decisive for workers (women and men) to accrue pension rights. Its 75% employment target requires employment rates significantly higher than the present levels in the age group 55 to 65. Other goals include tackling bottlenecks in the completion of the single market, for example making the internal market in financial products safer and more integrated and facilitating the mobility of all workers and citizens across the EU. This Green Paper takes an integrated approach across economic, social and financial market policies and recognises the links and synergies between pensions and the overall Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

COM (2010) 433 Fin_Conglomerate_Supervision

About 20 years ago, financial groups with business models that combine the provision of services and products in different sectors of financial markets began to develop. These became known as financial conglomerates. Conglomerates may include banks, insurance undertakings, investment firms and possibly asset management companies. Directive 2002/87/EC ('FICOD') introduced group-wide supplementary supervision. The objective of this supplementary supervision was to control potential risks arising from double gearing (i.e. multiple use of capital) and group risks, that is, the risks of contagion, management complexity, concentration, and conflicts of interest, which could arise when several licenses for different financial services are combined. The aim of this legislative proposal is to amend the IGD, the FICOD and the CRD in order to eliminate unintended consequences and technical omissions in the sectoral directives and ensure that the objectives of the FICOD are effectively achieved.

COM (2008) 704 Credit_Rating_Agencies

credit rating agencies active in the EU are mainly governed by the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) code of conduct, which is based on

voluntary compliance, and are subject to a yearly assessment by the Committee of European Securities Regulators (CESR). It is commonly agreed that credit rating agencies contributed significantly to recent market turmoil by underestimating the credit risk of structured credit products. The great majority of subprime products were given the highest ratings, thereby clearly underestimating the major risks inherent in those instruments. Furthermore, when market conditions worsened, the agencies failed to adapt the ratings promptly. The Commission intends to develop the regulatory framework for the issuance of credit ratings in order to ensure a high level of investor confidence and consumer protection. The proposal lays down conditions for the issuance of credit ratings which are needed to restore market confidence and increase investor protection. It introduces a registration procedure for credit rating agencies to enable European supervisors to control the activities of rating agencies whose ratings are used by credit institutions, investment firms, insurance, assurance and reinsurance undertakings, collective investment schemes and pension funds within the Community. Credit rating agencies will have to comply with rigorous rules to make sure (i) that ratings are not affected by conflicts of interest, (ii) that credit rating agencies remain vigilant on the quality of the rating methodology and the ratings and (iii) that credit rating agencies act in a transparent manner. The proposal also includes an effective surveillance regime whereby European regulators will supervise credit rating agencies.

COM (2008) 49 Cosmetic_Products

The purpose of this proposal is to establish an internal market for cosmetic products while ensuring a high level of protection of human health. The Committee specifically aims to end the differences in regulation and administrative action in force that exists between Member States. Crucial aspects of this proposal include the introduction of a consistent set of definitions, a glossary of ingredient names, and the strengthening of market control.

COM (2009) 593 Light_Vehicle_Emissions

The purpose of this proposal is to reduce emissions from light-duty vehicles and complements by ensuring that the average specific emissions of new light commercial vehicles registered in the EU do not exceed 175 g CO₂/km. The proposal also includes incentives for early market deployment of low emitting light-commercial vehicles, and provisions to promote eco-innovations.

COM (2010) 142 Generalized_Tariff_Preferences

The European Union grants trade preferences to developing countries in the framework of the generalised system of preferences (the GSP). The GSP is implemented through successive Regulations applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences with a period of application of three years at a time. The current scheme is established by Council Regulation (EC) No 732/2008 which will expire on 31 December 2011. After this date operation of the GSP will lapse unless appropriate legislative action is taken to ensure continuity. The remaining period of application of the GSP Regulation is insufficient to permit the preparation of a Commission proposal on a successor regulation through the ordinary legislative procedure. It is, however, desirable to ensure continuity in the operation of the scheme beyond 31 December 2011. The consequences of any discontinuity in legal cover for GSP would be that all imports under GSP would revert to standard most favoured nation treatment, except for those from least developed countries which would be covered by the Everything But Arms

(EBA) regime. It is proposed to maintain the current Regulation beyond 31 December 2011 with minimum changes until such time as a successor Regulation is agreed and enters into force. Given prevailing uncertainties about the time it will take to complete the legislative process on a successor Regulation, it is proposed to extend the validity of the current GSP Regulation until 31 December 2013. This should create an adequate window for the successor Regulation to be prepared and agreed with sufficient notice for economic operators and beneficiary countries to make themselves ready for any changes made without running the risk that an open-ended extension would in effect perpetuate the status quo and delay opportune reforms in the scheme.

COM (2009) 66 EU Asylum Support Office

The purpose of this proposal is to establish a European Asylum Support Office which will help regulate and implement a Community policy regarding asylum procedures. The agency will not have decision-making powers and will engage in support activities that act as an incentive to practical cooperation on asylum. The Office will focus on supporting practical cooperation on asylum, supporting Member States under particular pressure and contributing to the implementation of the Common European Asylum System.

COM (2010) 368 Deposit Guarantee Scheme Recast

Events in 2007 and 2008 showed that the existing, fragmented DGS system has not delivered on the objectives set by Directive 94/19/EC on Deposit Guarantee Schemes (DGS), in terms of maintaining depositors' confidence and financial stability in times of economic stress. The current about 40 DGS in the EU, which cover different groups of depositors and deposits up to different coverage levels, impose different financial obligations on banks and therefore limit the benefits of the internal market for banks and depositors. Moreover, schemes have proved to be underfinanced in times of financial stress. Directive 2009/14/EC was adopted as an emergency measure to maintain depositors' confidence, in particular by increasing the coverage level from EUR 20 000 to EUR 100 000 by the end of 2010. Directive 2009/14/EC contained a clause providing for a broad review of all aspects of DGSs. The need to reinforce DGSs by presenting appropriate legislative proposals was reiterated in the Commission communication of 4 March 2009 Driving European recovery. This proposal is part of a package on guarantee schemes in the financial sector, which also comprises a review of investor compensation schemes (Directive 97/9/EC) and a White Paper on insurance guarantee schemes.

COM (2008) 40 Info Consumers

This proposal, adopted by the European Commission, provides consumers with the clarity to make judicious decisions about their nutrition. It involves improving both legibility of labels and consistent enforcement of labeling standards. Modernized labeling gives consumers the essential information to make informed purchases unobstructed by an overload of indecipherable facts and figures. This regulation improves the legibility of labels and simultaneously addresses procedural issues such as country of origin and ingredient lists. The proposal, drawing on research showing consumer confusion at modern food labels, ultimately aims at improving overall health and nutrition among EU citizens by simplifying the information presented on labels and imposing standards of labeling on the food industry. The Commission sought extensive outside consultation in evaluation of this proposal.

COM (2008) 668 Fake_Drugs

there is an alarming increase in the EU of medicinal products which are falsified in relation to their identity, history or source. These products are, from the point of view of EU pharmaceutical legislation, illegal insofar as they do not comply with the Community rules for medicinal products. Moreover, the number of falsifications of innovative and life-saving medicines is increasing. In this way, in 2007, many thousand packs of falsified life-saving drugs reached patients in the EU. The underlying causes for falsified medicinal products remaining undetected in the legal supply chain are manifold, but can be reduced to four aspects: (i) falsified medicinal products can not always be easily distinguished from originals; (ii) the distribution chain has become very complex and is only as strong as its weakest link; (iii) there are legal uncertainties as to the regime applicable to products introduced into the EU while allegedly not being placed on the market; (iv) lastly, already the active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) entering the manufacturing process may be a falsification of the original API. In order to address the risk of falsified medicinal products entering the legal supply chain, the Commission proposes a number of amendments to Directive 2001/83/EC. These include:

- 1) certain obligations for stakeholders other than wholesale distributors, who are involved in the distribution chain. These stakeholders are typically involved in the transactions without actually handling the products (for example, by auctioning or brokering products);
- 2) a legal basis for the Commission to render obligatory specific safety-features (such as a serial number or a seal) on the packaging of prescription-medicines;
- 3) a prohibition in principle of manipulating (i.e. removing, tampering with, or over-labelling) safety features on the packaging by stakeholders situated "in-between" the original manufacturer and the last stakeholder in the distribution chain (typically the pharmacist) or end user (doctor/patient);
- 4) compulsory audits of wholesale distributors of medicinal products in order to ensure reliability of business partners;
- 5) strengthened requirements for imports of API from third countries if it could not be established that the regulatory framework in the respective third country ensures a sufficient level of protection of human health for products exported to the EU;
- 6) audits of manufacturers of API;
- 7) stricter rules for inspections including increased transparency of inspection results through publication in the EudraGMP database managed by the EMEA.

COM (2009) 576 Institution_Powers

This proposal complements the package of proposals on financial supervision presented by the Commission on 23 September 2009, with a view to strengthening financial supervision in Europe. Having proposed a battery of legislative measures designed to beef up financial supervision in Europe, in particular by the creation of a European System of Financial Supervisors and three new European supervisory authorities, the Commission is proposing that certain changes are made to existing legislation on financial services to allow the new authorities to work effectively. The areas in which amendments are proposed fall broadly into the following categories:

- 1) definition of the appropriate scope of technical standards as an additional tool for supervisory convergence and with a view of developing a single rule book;

- 2) the possibility for the authority to settle disagreements in a balanced way to those areas where common decision making processes already exist in sectoral legislation; and
- 3) General amendments which are common to most sectoral legislation and necessary for the directives to operate in the context of new authorities for example, renaming the level 3 committees to the new authorities and ensuring the appropriate gateways for the exchange of information are present. It is also proposed that the ESAs will be given the duty to establish, publish and regularly update registers and lists of financial actors in the Community and other important issues, which is currently the duty of each national competent authority.

COM (2010) 371 Investor_Compensation

This proposal extends the scope of compensation under the Investor-Compensation Schemes (ICSD) and amends Directive 97/9/EC. The proposal aims at improving the practical functioning of the ICSD, at clarifying the scope of the ICSD taking into account the financial crisis and recent changes in the EU regulatory landscape, at reducing gaps in the regulatory system and disparities between the protection of clients of investment firms and of banking depositors. In the light of the existing differences in the functioning of the schemes at national level, the proposal introduces common rules to ensure a degree of harmonisation in the funding of the schemes and in the day-to-day practice. It also introduces a provision of a borrowing mechanism among national schemes as a last resort tool to compensate any temporary needs from schemes, subject to a rigorous assessment carried out by the European Securities and Markets Authority and to the obligation to repay any loan within the maximum period of five years.

COM (2009) 321 CAP_Common_Rules

This proposal is basically amending existing European agricultural policy to harmonize different countries' policies on agricultural lending with the entire European Union.

COM (2010) 747 GWB_Pub_Records

The mobility of European citizens is a practical reality, evidenced in particular by the fact that some 12 million people study, work or live in a Member State of which they are not nationals. This mobility is facilitated by the rights attached to citizenship of the European Union: in particular the right to freedom of movement and, more generally, the right to be treated like a national in the Member State of residence. These rights are enshrined in primary EU law and implemented by means of secondary legislation. European citizens are, however, still confronted each day with many obstacles to the exercise of these rights. One reason for these problems is that citizens are required to present public records to the authorities of another Member State in order to provide the proof needed to benefit from a right or to comply with an obligation. These documents can vary considerably. They can be administrative documents, notarial acts such as property deeds, civil status records such as birth or marriage certificates, miscellaneous contracts or court rulings. Very often these documents are not accepted by the authorities of a Member State without bureaucratic formalities that are cumbersome for citizens. Civil status records used by a Member State's authorities to record the main events governing people's status (birth, marriage, death) do not necessarily have an effect in another Member State. Each Member State applies its own rules in this respect, and they vary from one State to another. For example, paternal filiation established in one Member State with respect to a child born there will not

necessarily be recognised in another Member State because of the difference in national rules applicable to the matter. In response to these concerns, the Commission is launching, by means of this Green Paper, a broad consultation on matters relating to freedom of movement of public documents (Part 3) and recognition of the effects of civil status records (Part 4). The consultation aims to gather contributions from interested parties and the general public with a view to developing EU policy in these areas together with the relevant legislative proposals.