



Results of the 2003 Greek Presidency by Policy Area

A Scoreboard

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External Relations			
Dossier	Achievement	Policy objective	Comments
CFSP/ESDP	<p>Significant progress was made towards better defined common policies on security, defence and foreign affairs, through the further development of military and crisis management capabilities and the launching of the European Security Strategy.</p>	<p>The Security Strategy identifies three key objectives for the EU: Extending the zone of security around Europe; Strengthening the international order; Countering the new threats.</p> <p>The development of the first EU Security Strategy responds in a timely and structured way to the need for the EU to address major global security challenges, including terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, failed states and organized crime. A clear Security Strategy will enable the EU to consider these new threats to international peace and security in a strategic manner, which in turn will facilitate a rapid, effective response to crises.</p>	<p>The Iraq crisis, as well as popular demand for a stronger EU voice on the international scene, have led the EU to introduce a more strategic, coherent, capable and dynamic focus to the development of the common foreign and security policy and European security and defence policy.</p> <p>At the Gymnich meeting in Katellorizo in May, Foreign Ministers mandated SG/HR Javier Solana to produce the first draft of an EU Security Strategy, for consideration at the Thessaloniki European Council.</p> <p>At Kastellorizo, at the invitation of the Greek Presidency, ministers also began to discuss their respective national foreign policy objectives, with a view to reconciling differences and capitalising on convergences as far as possible, in the interests of building a more effective</p>

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<p>WMD</p> <p>WMD (cont)</p> <p>Terrorism</p>	<p>A Joint Action Plan on Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction was adopted at the June 16 GAERC in Luxembourg</p> <p>An EU External Action in the fight against terrorism (including CFSP/ESDP) has been adopted at the June 16 GAERC.</p>	<p>In an era of globalisation, European security is increasingly effected by violent conflicts, failed states, and organised crime beyond the Union's borders. An effective policy to deal with these challenges is therefore an urgent priority.</p>	<p>CFSP.</p>
<p>Operational Capabilities</p>	<p>The Union declared at GAERC on 19 May, its operational capability across the full range of Petersburg tasks. During the Greek Presidency, the first three crisis management operations have been launched and are underway: EU Police Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina; CONCORDIA in FYROM; and ARTEMIS in Bunia, Democratic Republic of Congo.</p>	<p>This development marked an important step in the progressive creation of a common European Security and Defence Policy. The effort to develop effective European influence over international security issues is now matched by an ability to take rapid, effective action.</p> <p>Complementary action alongside NATO and other international partners will</p>	<p>Further development of the emerging common European security and defence policy has been one of the key priorities of the Greek Presidency.</p> <p>The deployment of EU forces in three crisis management operations will provide valuable lessons and experience for future missions, should they prove necessary.</p>

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		continue to produce mutual benefits and a fairer sharing of responsibility for dealing with security challenges.	
European Capabilities Action Plan (ECAP) ECAP (cont)	Rapid and systematic progress in implementing the ECAP, within the set timeframe of the end of 2003. The way ahead was defined by the establishment, among others, of the ECAP Project Groups.	The aim of the Action Plan was to identify and remedy capabilities shortfalls that would allow the full operationality of the EU's 60,000-strong crisis management force, through the creation of expert panels and working groups.	The Greek Presidency promoted the work of the ECAP panels alongside SG/HR Javier Solana, on behalf of the Council, and has mapped out the way ahead by the establishment of the ECAP Project Groups. The next crucial step will be to address outstanding financing and resourcing issues.
	The so-called 'permanent arrangements' between the EU and NATO have been concluded, providing the framework for a strategic partnership in crisis management.	To enhance the operational capability of the Union, and provide the framework of an effective partnership to meet global challenges.	The conclusion and implementation of EU-NATO permanent arrangements will also contribute to effective multilateral cooperation, which is the interests of the international community.

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European Armaments Cooperation	Agreement on the creation in 2004 of an inter-governmental agency in the field of defence capabilities development, research, acquisition and armaments.	This agency will contribute to developing defence capabilities, enhancing European armaments cooperation, strengthening the EU defence industrial and technological base, creating a competitive European defence market, and promoting research in strategic technologies.	This agency will be subject to the Council's authority and open to participation by all member states. It will strengthen Europe's industrial potential in this domain.
Enlargement	<p>The Treaty of Accession with Cyprus, Malta, Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia was finalised and signed in Athens on the 16th of April.</p> <p>Accession negotiations with Bulgaria and Romania continued at an unabated pace. In particular, Bulgaria closed chapters transport and environment and Romania chapters free movement of goods, free movement of capital and taxation. Bulgaria has now 25 provisionally closed chapters and</p>	<p>The Greek Presidency policy objectives were to finalise the Treaty of Accession with the ten countries that concluded negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2002 and to make significant progress in accession negotiations with the two remaining negotiating candidates (Bulgaria and Romania).</p> <p>As regards Turkey, the aim was to adopt the revised Accession Partnership, which constitutes the cornerstone of EU-Turkey relations in particular in view of the decision to be taken by the</p>	Monitoring of the implementation of the <i>acquis</i> and of the commitments made by the acceding states was intensified through the submission of monitoring reports by the Commission in February and May.

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	<p>Romania 19. The Thessaloniki European Council took stock of progress achieved in the enlargement process and paved the way for the completion of the process with Bulgaria and Romania. In particular, the Union committed itself to support Bulgaria and Romania in their efforts to achieve the objective of concluding negotiations in 2004 and stressed that discussions or agreement on the new financial perspective, shall not impede the pursuit and conclusion of accession negotiations.</p> <p>Revised Accession Partnerships were adopted with Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey.</p>	European Council in December 2004.	
<p>Western Balkans</p> <p>Western</p>	<p>Adoption of European Council conclusions on <i>“The Thessaloniki Agenda for the Western Balkans: Moving towards European Integration”</i>. Agreement on increase of European funds to the region by 210m</p>	<p>The Greek Presidency’s principal objective was to reinforce the European orientation of the Western Balkan countries, including by enriching the EU’s stabilisation and association policy, using elements from the</p>	<p>At the Spring European Council, EU leaders reiterated that the future of the Western Balkans is within the EU and pledged full support for the countries’ endeavours to consolidate democracy and stability and to promote economic</p>

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Balkans (cont)	<p>euros.</p> <p>Adoption of a Joint Declaration between the EU and the Western Balkans countries at the EU-Western Balkans Summit in Thessaloniki on June 21.</p>	enlargement process.	<p>development.</p> <p>The Thessaloniki European Council built on that commitment by introducing new practical cooperation initiatives, including ‘European Partnerships’ for each country, twinning arrangements and a system of enhanced political dialogue at ministerial level.</p>
EU-US Relations	<p>Several joint statements, including on Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Trade and Energy Cooperation, were adopted at the EU-US Summit in Washington on 25 June.</p> <p>Significant progress was also made towards concluding agreements on transport security.</p> <p>The Presidency also launched a communications strategy to better promote mutual understanding, among the business and academic communities on both sides of the Atlantic, as well as</p>	<p>Following the much-publicised differences over the war in Iraq, the Greek Presidency worked hard to reinforce what remains the most important strategic partnership in the world.</p> <p>The Greek Presidency aimed not only to restore relations, which is in the mutual interests of both parties, but also to reshape them in accordance with the new global challenges of the 21st century.</p> <p>To this end, the Presidency</p>	<p>The EU and US, as two of the most influential players in international affairs, share a responsibility to work in partnership as a force for progress in the world.</p> <p>In Washington, EU and US leaders will take stock of collective efforts to address a range of global issues, with a view to achieving concrete deliverables. Experience has shown that the EU and US relationship has been most successful and productive when the two sides develop policies together, taking account</p>

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EU-US Relations (cont)	<p>the media.</p> <p>Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition Agreements were signed at the Summit.</p>	<p>commissioned a series of papers on the future of transatlantic relations from international experts (to be published as the Kastellorizo Report), which will form the basis of proposals to take EU-US relations forward as a partnership of equals.</p>	<p>of each others' interests and concerns, and maximising the use of resources. We should therefore continue to build on successful cases of EU-US cooperation (Western Balkans, fight against terrorism, Afghanistan, and Middle East Peace Process) and keep on developing new areas for cooperation.</p> <p>The MLA/Extradition agreement is a clear example of how we can work together.</p>
Iraq	<p>The Greek Presidency did its best to avoid and mend divisions within the EU and succeeded in forging common EU positions on the Iraq crisis.</p> <p>The Presidency called an Extraordinary European Council in February, where a common EU position was adopted.</p> <p>At the Informal Council called for the signature of the Accession Treaty in Athens in April, and at the informal</p>	<p>The Presidency's principal objective was to broker a common EU position on Iraq's failure to comply with the UNSC resolution 1441 on weapons inspections.</p> <p>After the war, the Presidency worked to ensure that a coordinated and effective effort by the EU to rapidly restore the rule of law and provide humanitarian aid for the Iraqi people.</p>	<p>Common positions were adopted at the GAERC in January and March; at an extraordinary European Council in February; and at the Athens informal Council in April, even if these were later overtaken by events.</p> <p>Looking forward, the Iraq crisis may come to be seen as a positive turning point in the development of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). In order that in future the EU is</p>

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	Foreign Ministers meeting at Kastellorizo in May, it was agreed that the United Nations should play a central role in the post-conflict nation building of Iraq.		able to respond more effectively to global threats including WMDs and international terrorism, foreign ministers agreed in May that a “security strategy” should be drawn up setting out the EU’s policies – and possible responses - in these areas.
Middle East Peace Process Middle East Peace Process (cont)	The Middle East Roadmap drawn by the Quartet was published and adopted by Israel and the Palestinian Authority.	<p>Following agreement on the roadmap by the Quartet in 2002, the primary objective during the Greek Presidency was to ensure that the roadmap was published and endorsed by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority.</p> <p>Resolution of the Arab/Israeli conflict is a strategic priority for Europe. The EU has long maintained that the roadmap is the only path to peace. It is important that the basic principles – in particular the ultimate “two-state solution” - are accepted by both sides. This happened at the Aqaba summit.</p>	<p>The Presidency, along with High Representative Javier Solana and Commissioner Chris Patten, has devoted considerable time to nurturing relationships with both Israelis and Palestinians.</p> <p>One of the roadmap’s great strengths is that it represents the will of the entire international community, led by the Quartet (the US, EU, UN and Russia).</p> <p>The Greek government is fully prepared to continue, beyond its Presidency, to use its excellent relationships with both sides to help the Italian Presidency to move the peace process forward.</p>

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Economic and Financial Affairs			
Dossier	Achievement	Policy objective	Comments
Coordination of Economic Policies	Agreement on improved rules for implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact.	A more robust and realistic framework for the implementation of rules relating to the Stability and Growth Pact; use of cyclically adjusted deficits when judging movement towards close-to-balance position.	It was important to both reaffirm the basic principles and implementation mechanisms of the SGP, while recognising the need for some flexibility to economic conditions.
Broad Economic Policy Guidelines	Agreement on revised BEPGs and streamlining with Revised Employment Guidelines.	The new three-year BEPGs focus on the medium term policies necessary to improve the economic situation in the EU: creating the best economic conditions to promote growth, reforms to create more and better jobs, strengthening the sustainability of public finances.	The medium term perspective and specific recommendations to individual policy actors provide a clearly improved policy framework.
Savings Tax	Adoption of the tax package, including the Directive on taxation of savings.	The Directive will ensure that all EU citizens pay a minimum of effective taxation on income earned from savings anywhere in the EU. In order to finalise adoption of the Directive, it was necessary to conclude negotiations with Switzerland, whereby the Swiss government has agreed to implement a comparable taxation scheme to the EU.	At the beginning of June, what was hailed by many as an historic agreement on one of the most politically sensitive and technically complex dossiers of recent years was concluded. The Commission first published proposals on taxation of savings in 1989. This agreement enabled a conclusion to be reached on the entire tax package

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Economic and Financial Affairs			
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			introduced in 1997.
Energy Taxation	Adoption of Directive on taxation of energy products	The Directive will both improve the functioning of the Internal Market and help to meet the environmental objectives of the Community and the Kyoto Protocol.	After five years of negotiations, in March agreement was reached on the Directive on minimum levels of taxation for energy products including mineral oils, coal, gas and electricity.
Energy Taxation (cont)			
Financial Services Action Plan/ Pension Funds Directive	Adoption of Directive on institutions for occupational retirement provision	This Directive is a major step towards the creation of an Internal Market for occupational pensions, under a prudential framework strong enough to protect the rights of future pensioners. The Directive will ensure that occupational pension transactions attain a high level of security and efficiency.	In May, agreement was finalised on the Directive on pension funds. When the Commission proposal was originally published in October 2000, it was the subject of around 100 amendments at first reading by the European Parliament. Following negotiations with the EP during its second reading, the Council was able to approve all of the EP's second reading amendments.
Financial Services Action Plan/ Financial Prospectus Directive	Adoption of Council common position on Directive on financial prospectuses.	This Directive will make it easier and cheaper for companies to raise capital throughout the EU. It will also reinforce protection for investors by guaranteeing that all prospectuses, wherever they are	Following the political agreement reached in November 2002, the Presidency finalised agreement on the Council common position on the Directive on financial prospectuses in

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Economic and Financial Affairs			
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		issued in the EU, provide them with the clear and comprehensive information they need to make investment decisions. As such, it is a crucial part of the EU's Financial Services Action Plan, which is one of the keys to the Lisbon Strategy.	March.

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Transport and Energy			
Dossier	Achievement	Policy objective	Comments
External Relations in Air Transport	<p>The Transport Council on 5 June agreed on a package of measures which passed responsibility to the Commission for negotiating air transport agreements.</p> <p>During the EU-US Summit on 25 June the EU and the US issued a joint statement announcing their intention to open negotiations in the Autumn for the creation of an 'open aviation area'.</p>	<p>This agreement authorises the Commission to negotiate a Community-level agreement with the US, aimed at creating an 'open aviation area' to replace the so-called 'open skies' agreements, as well as other more restrictive agreements, agreed bilaterally by the Member States.</p> <p>The Commission is also authorised to negotiate Community-level agreements with other third countries to replace certain specific provisions agreed bilaterally by Member States. This agreement will increase competition in the aviation sector, delivering clear benefits for European travellers.</p>	<p>This is the most significant development for the European aviation sector since the creation of the internal market. The achievement has been hailed by many as an historic agreement on one of the most politically sensitive issues proposed by the Commission in recent years.</p> <p>The issue was first raised when the Commission brought eight Member States to the European Court of Justice in 1998 to challenge the legality of their bilaterally negotiated air transport agreements with the United States.</p>
Airport Slots	<p>Political agreement (pending the European Parliament's First Reading opinion) on the draft Regulation temporarily relaxing the rules on the allocation of slots at Community</p>	<p>The Regulation provides for a temporary suspension of the so-called 'use it or lose rule' contained in the existing Community Regulation on slots. This should enable airlines to deal more</p>	<p>It was important to 'de-link' this proposal from the ongoing technical review of the existing Slots Regulation, which requires more in-depth consideration. Once the EP's opinion has</p>

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Transport and Energy			
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	airports.	effectively with the drop in demand caused by the war in Iraq and the SARS virus.	been received, the Council should be able to conclude this issue rapidly at a forthcoming meeting.
Second Railway Package Second Railway Package (cont)	Political agreement on the Second Railway Package.	Improve the institutional framework for freight transport by rail, by liberalising freight transport as of 1 January 2006 and cabotage as of 1 January 2008.	A liberalisation package which also emphasises safety and interoperability issues, with the objective of increasing the market share of rail transport in overall transport modes.
Liberalisation of Energy Markets	Adoption of a package of legislative measures for the liberalisation of EU energy markets.	<p>This package of measures will drive a full opening of EU markets, by ending the asymmetries and distortions of competition seen in recent years. The agreement ensures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full opening of commercial gas and electricity markets by 2004; • Full opening of domestic markets for consumers by 2007. <p>This will deliver considerable benefits to businesses and consumers, in terms of increased choice and lower prices.</p>	<p>The Greek Presidency was delighted that agreement was reached with the European Parliament on this difficult and sensitive issue. The result is a massive boost for the competitiveness of the EU economy.</p> <p>Tony Blair once called this dossier “a collective test of our leadership”. We have now passed that test. The European Commission made this proposal in March 2001. After two years of long negotiations, the vote in second reading by the European Parliament should allow</p>

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Transport and Energy			
Dossier	Achievement	Policy objective	Comments
			rapid final adoption by the Council in the coming weeks.

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Competitiveness and Employment			
Dossier	Achievement	Policy objective	Comments
Better Regulation	Inter-institutional agreement on better regulation between the Council, Parliament, and Commission.	To simplify and reduce regulatory burden for business.	A significant achievement with an original deadline for conclusion of December 2002.
Community Patent	Political agreement on the Council Regulation establishing a Community Patent.	<p>This Regulation is an important step towards a well functioning Internal Market where innovation, entrepreneurship and competition are encouraged and rewarded.</p> <p>The Community Patent will give inventors the option of obtaining, with just one application, a single patent that is legally valid throughout the European Union, at a fraction of the existing cost of doing so.</p>	<p>A political compromise was reached after many years of negotiations (the original idea having been floated in the 1960s).</p> <p>The Regulation sets out the main principles and features of the jurisdictional system for the Community Patent, as well as the language regime, costs, role of national patent offices and distribution of fees.</p>
Revised European Employment Strategy (EES)	Agreement on a revised European Employment Strategy.	The Employment Strategy is a crucial factor in improving Europe's competitiveness and a key contributor to the Lisbon goal of full employment.	The Spring European Council in Brussels set the general direction for both the revised EES and the broad economic policy guidelines, both of which were finalised at the Thessaloniki European Council.

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Competitiveness and Employment			
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<p>European Social Dialogue: Establishment of a Tripartite Social Summit</p> <p>European Social Dialogue: Establishment of a Tripartite Social Summit (cont)</p>	<p>Establishment of a Tripartite Social Summit for growth and employment.</p>	<p>This agreement acknowledges the importance of a dynamic dialogue with social partners. It gives social partners a formal opportunity to convey their views to European leaders at the time when they are making the most important decisions for the EU in this area.</p>	<p>The Council's decision delivers on the Laeken European Council commitment from December 2001 to bring together the Troika, the Commission and the European social partners. The first meeting of the Tripartite Summit was held on 20 March, on the eve of the Spring European Council.</p>
<p>Temporary Agency Workers</p>	<p>Some progress was made towards a Council common position on the draft Directive on temporary agency workers.</p>	<p>This draft Directive aims to provide a minimum EU-wide level of protection to temporary agency workers. It introduces the general principle of "non-discrimination" for temporary workers. Under these provisions, a temporary worker may not be treated worse, in terms of basic working conditions, than comparable permanent workers in identical or similar jobs.</p>	<p>In discussions in the Employment and Social Affairs Council, there has been widespread recognition of the importance of a Directive on working conditions for temporary agency workers.</p> <p>At the 3 June Council, delegations acknowledged the significant efforts made by the Presidency to resolve the outstanding questions, but it was recognised that fundamental differences remained. The Presidency therefore reluctantly concluded that the Council</p>

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EU Staff Regulation	The decision reached at the May GAERC, following a proposal by the Presidency, provides the basis for new EU Staff Regulations.	The Greek Presidency took the initiative to complete the dossier on Staff Regulations for EU officials. New Staff Regulations protect the quality and diversity of the European civil service, reinforce its multilingual character, establish a merit-based career system, and ensure discipline and accountability over the Union's administrative expenditures.	<p>The Presidency tried to ensure the widest possible consensus, not only among Council members but also with Commission, other European institutions, and representatives of employees. These consultations are continuing, with a view to putting the finishing touches on the new Staff Regulations by year's end.</p> <p>This brings an important process to a successful close. More importantly, it prepares the European civil service to open its doors to staff from the new member-states. In this sense, it is a key part of the enlargement process, which was one of the key priorities of the Greek Presidency.</p> <p>It is also part of the wider process of internal reform to enhance efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and accountability in the European civil service.</p>

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Statute and Financing of European Political Parties	The Council reached political agreement, on the basis of a compromise suggested by the Presidency, on a draft Regulation aimed at establishing rules on the statute and financing of European political parties.	Institutionalisation of European Parties and support the creation of a European political identity accessible to the citizens.	The Presidency offered a compromise covering a number of issues that had previously remained outstanding, namely the conditions in which a political party may qualify for European political party status, rules relating to contributions from member parties and donations, and the use of funds for election campaigns.

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Information Society			
Dossier	Achievement	Policy objective	Comments
Electronic Democracy	The Presidency launched the e-Vote initiative, an experiment to bring e-democracy to the Union and to create new mechanisms for improving participatory democracy.	To create a new 'electronic demos' that will help break down barriers between European citizens and institutions, nations and regions, and improve the democratic legitimacy, transparency, and accountability of our enlarged Union.	<p>Based on the Greek tradition of participatory democracy, e-Vote is part of our goal of making democracy the guiding principle of the information society.</p> <p>This was the first time such an extensive, online consultation of European citizens has been organised at EU level. The unprecedented response - over 163.000 people from across Europe - proves that citizens recognise the impact of EU policies on their lives and want to participate in the decision-making process.</p> <p>For the first time, participatory democracy will be included in new EU Constitution. This is a positive step, but we need to go further. The Greek government intends to develop further e-democracy tools to increase the transparency, legitimacy and</p>

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Information Society			
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			accountability of EU policy-making.
The Re-Use of Public Sector Documents	Political agreement on the re-use of public sector documents.	To create an institutional framework which regulates the further use of public sector documents.	This agreement will lead to easier and more productive use of public sector documents and will further the goal of equal access for all in the information society.
e-Safe	Political agreement on a multi-year action plan for safer use of the Internet.	To create the conditions for a safer use of the Internet and combat illegal and harmful content.	An environment of trust and safe use of the Internet is instrumental in promoting the information society.
European Network and Information Security Agency	Political agreement on a proposal for a regulation establishing a European Network and Information Security Agency.	The proposed agency aims at ensuring the safe use of information systems through criminal prosecution of attacks against them, especially with regard to the acts of organised criminal groups engaging in piracy and the destruction of websites.	This decision will increase safety in the widely used area of information systems and provide a better institutional framework for the development of the information society.
e-Learning	Political agreement on the e-Learning Programme.	To adopt a multi-annual programme for the effective integration of information and communication technologies in education and training systems in Europe.	A digitally literate population and enhanced human capital are the basic buildings for an inclusive European information society.

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Justice and Home Affairs			
Dossier	Achievement	Policy objective	Comments
Asylum (cont)			<p>definitively under the Italian Presidency.</p> <p>The EU needs an international asylum system that will allow effective management of asylum seekers as well as the safeguarding of their human rights. The Commission Communication of 3 June 2003 on more accessible, equitable and managed asylum systems, is a good basis for further discussions on this issue.</p>
Illegal Immigration, External Borders, Repatriation	<p>Review of the roadmap on these three issues, including relations with third countries, at the Thessaloniki European Council.</p> <p>The Presidency commissioned a comprehensive report on illegal immigration, trafficking of human beings, external borders, and return of illegal residents.</p>	<p>The Thessaloniki European Council will reach agreement on the development of a common policy in these areas. Most importantly, there must be agreement on financing aspects of the policy.</p>	<p>Agreement on the sensitive financial considerations for the development of a common policy in the areas of illegal immigration, border control and return policies will allow the Union to concentrate on developing practical policies.</p> <p>The Greek Presidency has always maintained that progress in tackling illegal immigration must go hand in hand with the development of a more comprehensive approach to managed</p>

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Justice and Home Affairs			
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		recognition and enforcement of judgements.	

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Environment and Consumer Policy			
Dossier	Achievement	Policy objective	Comments
Environmental Diplomacy	<p>The Greek Presidency created a new European diplomacy on the environment and sustainable development, building on the European Strategy on Environmental Integration adopted in Barcelona.</p> <p>At the Spring Council, the Presidency used the Lisbon Process to deliver a competitive and sustainable economic model for the EU, through the development of environmental technologies.</p> <p>The Presidency created a network of international diplomats and experts on sustainable development and environmental integration, to improve cooperation in bilateral and multilateral negotiations.</p>	To underline the importance of the environment as a precondition for sustainable economic growth.	<p>Technological innovation can provide the solution to many of the economic, social and environmental challenges the EU faces today.</p> <p>Enlargement and the investment needed to comply with the environmental <i>acquis</i> create a great opportunity for the EU and its new members to increase environmental technologies.</p>
Maritime Safety	Adoption of the Regulation on the phasing out of single hull oil tankers.	This Regulation aims to accelerate the phasing-out of single-hull tankers and prohibit their carriage of heavy oil. The	The Commission's proposal for a Regulation was made only a few days after the Prestige oil tanker disaster. The

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Environment and Consumer Policy			
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Maritime Safety (cont)		oldest and most vulnerable types of single-hull tankers, constructed before 1982, will be phased out when they reach 23 years of age, compared with 28 years of age under current rules. Other categories of large single-hull tankers will be phased out by 2010. The carriage of heavy oil in single-hull tankers will be immediately prohibited.	European Parliament approved the Council common position with only very few amendments, enabling an agreement to be reached within only 7 months on this important issue. With this new regulation, the EU will now apply rules as strict as those applicable in the US for the phasing-out of single-hull tankers.
Environmental Liability	Political agreement on certain core elements of the Directive creating an EU environmental liability system.	This Directive is a crucial instrument in the prevention and remedy of environmental damage by economic operators. In line with the 'polluter pays' principle, the Directive aims to make operators financially responsible for the necessary preventative and remedial measures.	After complex negotiations, the Council was able to reach a compromise based on a proposal tabled by the Greek Presidency. Once the remaining issues are resolved, the Council will adopt a common position. Greece will fully support forthcoming Presidencies in their efforts to ensure that this draft Directive can be passed to the European Parliament for second reading before the Parliamentary elections in 2004.
GMOs	Adoption of Regulation on trans-	The Regulation adopts strict EU rules	The finalisation of this regulation

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Environment and Consumer Policy			
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	boundary movements of GMOs in the form of a common position, as amended by the European Parliament in second reading.	governing the import and export of GMOs. The aim of the regulation is to transpose into EU law the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, aiming to avert biotech dangers resulting from international trade in live GMOs. The Regulation is intended to fulfil the requirements under the protocol on exporters, by establishing a common system on notification and information for GMO movements.	ensures the creation of a safer and more transparent system for trade in GMOs.
Energy and Water Initiatives	The Greek Presidency organised a conference in May, with the World Bank, to examine potential implications of a future water crisis. As a result, a regional cooperative process was launched, which will use sustainable management of water resources as a means to promote peace and stability.	To use shared water resources as a catalyst for cooperation in the Mediterranean,	External affairs is increasingly about the tensions arising from lack of economic/social opportunities, environmental stress, and competition for resources.

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Agriculture			
Dossier	Achievement	Policy objective	Comments
CAP Reform	Agreement on the package of Commission proposals to reform the Common Agricultural Policy	<p>Reform of the CAP is essential for two reasons:</p> <p>i) Enlargement necessitates a comprehensive reassessment of the EU's single biggest item of expenditure.</p> <p>ii) Our international partners have made it clear that agriculture – and specifically reform of the CAP – is one of the keys to the successful conclusions of the Doha Round at the WTO. The EU therefore needs to find a solution that balances the legitimate requirements and expectations of its agriculture sector; the need for fair and balanced EU financing; and our commitment to fair international trade.</p>	<p>After long and sometimes arduous negotiations, agreement was reached on 26 June on fundamental reforms of the CAP. The reforms will completely change the way the EU supports its farm sector.</p> <p>The new CAP will be geared towards consumers and taxpayers, while giving EU farmers the freedom to produce what the market wants. In future, most subsidies will be paid independently from the volume of production – in a Single Farm Payment.</p> <p>To avoid abandonment of production, Member States may choose to maintain a limited link between subsidy and production under well defined conditions and within clear limits. The Council further decided to revise the milk, rice, cereals and other sectors.</p>

Results of the 2003 Greek Presidency by Policy Area: A Scoreboard



Dossier	Achievement	Agriculture Policy objective	Comments
			<p>This reform will also strengthen the EU's negotiating hand in the ongoing WTO trade talks. The SFP will enter into force in 2005, or 2007 at the latest if a Member State needs a transitional period due to specific agricultural conditions.</p>