



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

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EurActiv to stimulate participation of NGO's, industry and other stakeholders in dialogue on future of Europe

A few weeks ago, the European Commission published a white paper on governance. EurActiv believe that this is an important attempt by the Commission to start winning back the trust of citizens in the European institutions.

Since its creation, EurActiv has been the leading web portal for information and debates on all aspects of European affairs. It stimulates the development of a true dialogue, by reporting the views of all stakeholders in the "*Community of EU Actors*". *EU Actors* are all stakeholders in the European debate (European institutions, national governments, NGO's, industry, professions, and the media). This puts EurActiv in a crucial position to bring together the point of view of all stakeholders.

Managing Director & Publisher Christophe Leclercq declared: "Transparency and efficiency have been the twin pillars of EurActiv ever since our web portal was first launched. Its success today is a testimony to the need for easy access to information on EU affairs.

With several thousand visitors visiting its web portal every month, EurActiv is uniquely qualified to contribute to the Commission communication efforts.

Indeed, the white paper on Governance states: "Accordingly, the EU's Europa website is set to evolve into an inter-active platform for information feedback and debate, ***linking parallel networks across the Union.***" In a similar way the eEurope Paper approved in Lisbon was referring to "***establishing a discussion forum and feedback, possibly by independent moderators***"

As Editor Willy De Backer says: "EurActiv is ready to play an even greater role in this new context."

⇒ **Notes to the Editor**

The **EurActiv** portal provides at no cost information to the “*Community of EU Actors*” (representatives from corporations, professionals, industry federations and NGOs, together with the EU institutions and the press). Acting as a gateway, the site gives easy access to a wealth of information on EU news and policies, including an online directory.

Thanks to its exclusive Crosslingual™ system, the portal will be accessible in French starting in October 2001 and in German in January 2002.

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In addition, 50 federations and non-profit associations provide policy positions and moral support to EurActiv.com.

Among those are the European Employers Federation (UNICE), the EU Committee of the American Chamber of Commerce, and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

⇒ **More background information available at www.euractiv.com**

Additional information & interviews

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