



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 16 July 2010 (22.07)  
(OR. en,de)**

**12096/10**

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**Interinstitutional file:  
2010/0044 (COD)**

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**CULT 59  
INST 265  
PARLNAT 43  
CODEC 677**

**COVER NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council

to: delegations

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No. Cion prop.: 7094/10 CULT 20 + ADD 1 + ADD 2

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Subject: Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council  
establishing a European Union action for the **European Heritage Label**  
o *Opinion<sup>1</sup> of the Austrian Parliament in accordance with the principle of  
subsidiarity*

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Delegations will find attached, for their information, an opinion from the Austrian Federal Council's EU Committee on the above proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> The opinion is available in English, on the internet site "Interparliamentary EU information exchange" (IPEX), at the following address:  
[http://www.ipex.eu/ipex/cms/home/Documents/dossier\\_COD20100044/pid/52552](http://www.ipex.eu/ipex/cms/home/Documents/dossier_COD20100044/pid/52552).

REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA  
Federal Council  
The President

Vienna, 5 July 2010

ref.: 27000.0040/19-L2.1/2010

Dear Sir,

At its sitting on 30 June 2010, in the course of consideration of the following EU draft legislation:

COM(2010) 76 final

Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a  
European Union action for the European Heritage Label  
(27794/EU XXIV.GP),

the EU Committee issued the following Committee statement:

**"Committee statement**

**concerning COM(2010) 76 final**

**Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a  
European Union action for the European Heritage Label  
(27794/EU XXIV.GP)**

On 9 March 2010 the European Commission published a proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council to establish a European Union action for the European Heritage Label. The objective is to give European citizens a greater sense of belonging to the European Union, based on their shared cultural heritage, and at the same time provide incentives for tourism. The European Heritage Label has existed since April 2006 as an intergovernmental initiative, which Austria has not been involved in to date. The Commission now wishes to transform the European Heritage Label into a formal European Union action.

In order to resolve any remaining open issues and contradictions, such European Union action would have to be based on clear definitions and criteria. In particular:

- The relationship between this action and other existing initiatives, such as the UNESCO World Heritage List and similar European awards, should be clarified. Currently, the proposal only refers to "complementarity" to be ensured by the Commission and the Member States, without specifying the exact meaning of that point.
- Greater emphasis should be placed on increasing young people's knowledge and appreciation of their common European history and values. The European Heritage Label may provide a special added value in this area.

Against this background, the EU Committee of the Federal Council therefore expects the Federal Minister in charge, in the context of the European Heritage Label:

1. to advocate an explicit clarification of the relationship between the European Heritage Label and similar initiatives of UNESCO, the Council of Europe and other existing awards, and
2. to advocate a further strengthening of the didactic component of the European Heritage Label, at both the national and the international level.

(Complimentary close)

(s.) Martin Preinerder

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