COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 22.10.2004
COM(2004) 706 final

2003/0274 (COD)

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 251 (2) of the EC Treaty

concerning the

common position of the Council on the adoption of the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and the Council amending Decision 1419/1999/EC establishing a Community action for the European Capital of Culture event for the years 2005 to 2019

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1- BACKGROUND

Proposal sent to the EP and the Council (Document COM (2003) 700 -2003/0274(COD))	17 November 2003
Opinion of the Committee of the Regions	21 April 2004
Opinion of the European Parliament at the first reading	22 April 2004
Common position adopted	21 October 2004

2- SUBJECT OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL

The Decision of the European Parliament and the Council 1419/1999/EC provides for participation by the 15 old Member States in the European Capital of Culture event, in chronological order between 2005 and 2009.

The sole aim of the proposal for an amendment to this decision is to enable the new Member States to be integrated quickly into the European Capital of Culture event. The Commission has thus proposed that, from 2009, the new Member States be added to the list of current Member States in the Decision, in a chronological order to be agreed upon by the new Member States.

3- COMMENTS ON THE COMMON POSITION

The Council has unanimously adopted the Commission's amended proposal. The proposal included only amendment 1 voted by the Parliament (introducing a recital on adjusting the budget to allow for the fact that there will be two capitals per year).

4- CONCLUSIONS

The Commission therefore considers that the text of the common position is acceptable.