

European Council in Cardiff (15 and 16 June 1998)

Conclusions of the Presidency

[...]

IV. Bringing the Union closer to people

27. A sustained effort is needed by the Member States and all the institutions to bring the Union closer to people by making it more open, more understandable and more relevant to daily life. The European Council is therefore particularly concerned to see progress in policy areas which better meet the real concerns of people, notably through greater openness, and progress on environment and justice and home affairs.

Openness

28. The European Union is committed to allowing the greatest possible access to information on its activities. The Internet is being used to provide more information on the European Union, including shortly a public register of Council documents. The Commission, the Council and the European Parliament should prepare rapid implementation of the new provisions on openness in the Treaty of Amsterdam.

29. The European Council welcomes the Commission's use of the Internet to promote an effective dialogue with citizens and business on their single market rights and opportunities.

30. The European Council noted the outcome of the People's Europe 98 conference. It welcomed the participation of representatives from all parts and sections of society across Europe, and the conference's contribution to public debate. It encouraged future Presidencies and the Commission to promote such public debate.

31. The European Council invites the Council and the Member States to consider ideas to promote more contacts between young people, e.g. through the Internet, and the scope for tackling social exclusion among young people, including through sport.

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