



Ständige Vertretung der
Bundesrepublik Deutschland
bei der Europäischen Union

German EU Presidency

01.01.-30.06.2007

*The Role of the Permanent Representation
to the EU in Brussels*

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28 February 2007*



Organisation Chart

Permanent Representative

Deputy Permanent Representative

Gen. Policy

- CFSP
- Institutions
- Defence
- Press
- Justice and Home Affairs
- Development
- Fight against Terrorism
- Family Women, Youth

Economy

- Extern. Trade
- Intern. Market
- Industry & Energy
- Technology, Innovation
- Telecommun.
- Environment
- Econ. Law

Finances

- Budget
- Taxes
- Customs
- Financial Services
- etc.

Food, Agriculture,
Consumer
Protection

Transport

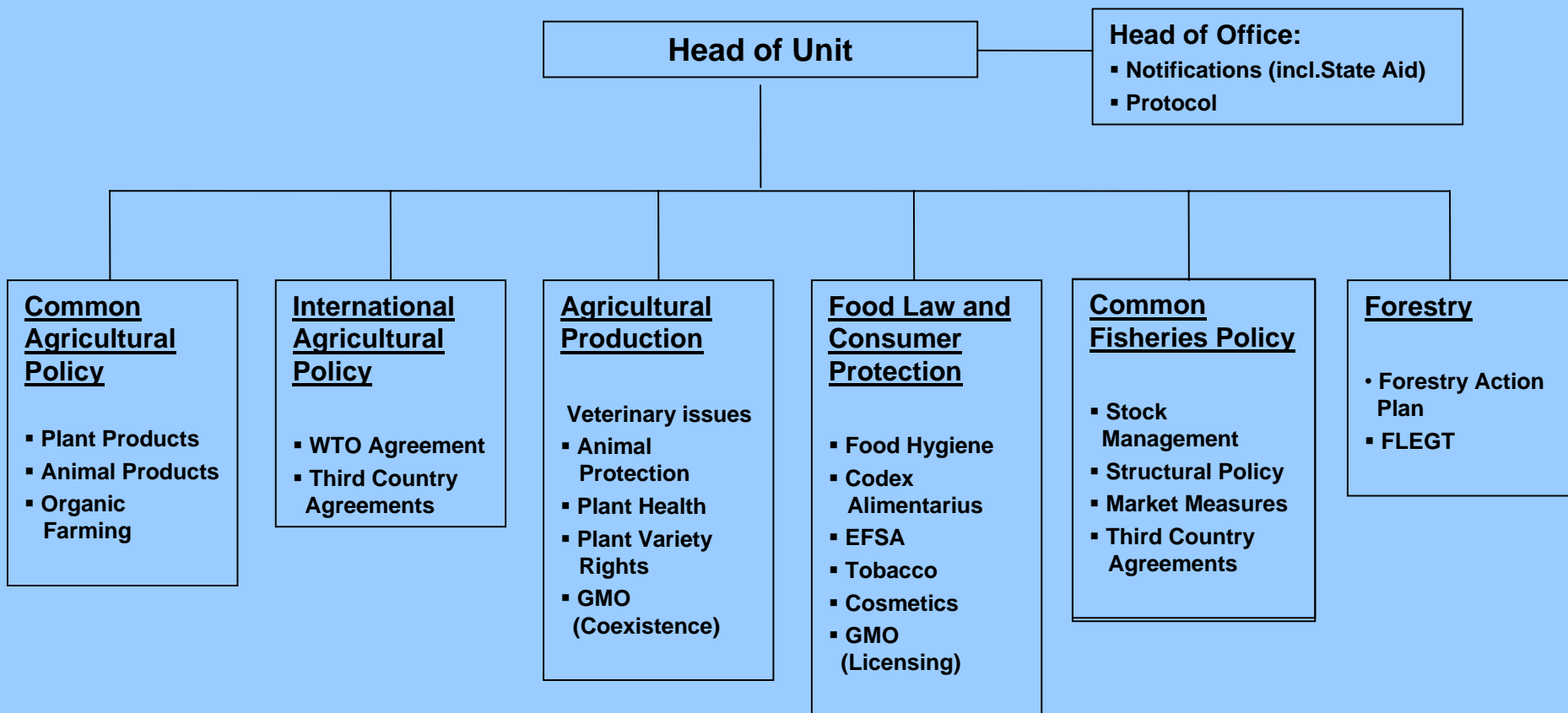
Labour & Soc. Aff.

Health

Education &
Research



Organisation Chart of the Unit for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection





Tasks of the Permanent Representation as part of the Council

1. **Representation of German interests** in the European institutions
 - development of EU positions
2. **Monitoring and reporting** to the Federal Government (information, early warning)
3. **Part of the decision-making process** of the EU Council of Ministers
4. **Public relations work**
 - 2005: more than 9.400 visitors



Council Committees

1. Council Working Parties:

- Technical assistance
- about 240 groups, of which about 50 under the responsibility of the Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Unit

2. Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA):

- Preparation of meetings of the Agriculture Council
- 12 meetings

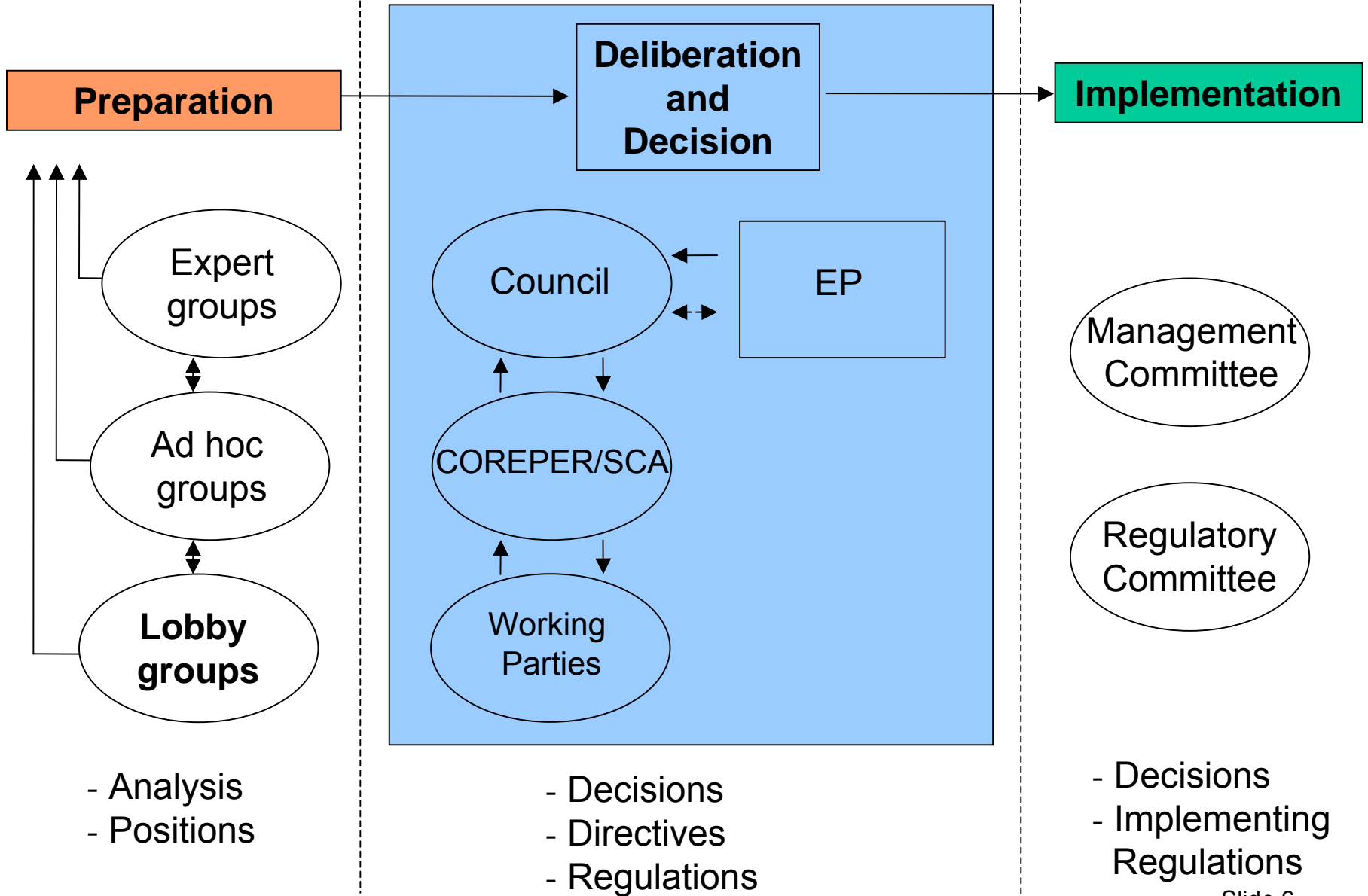
3. Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER)

- Preparation of meetings of the Agriculture Council

4. Council of Ministers

- 9 Council formations
- 6 meetings of the Council (Agriculture/Fisheries) during German Presidency

Decision-making at EU level





EU Presidency

- Member States assume Presidency in turn for **6 months each** (Art. 203 EC Treaty)
- Principle of unity: a Member State assumes Presidency over all policies and at all levels
- On 1 January 2007 Germany succeeds Finland
- Further rota:

2007	D, P	2014	GR, I
2008	SLO, F	2015	LV, L
2009	CZ, S	2016	NL, SK
2010	E, B	2017	M, GB
2011	H, PL	2018	EST, BG
2012	DK, CY	2019	A, RO
2013	IRL, LT	2020	FIN, D



Challenges to the Presidency

„La présidence coûte cher“

➤ Policy-making for Germany and the EU

- by assignment of priorities in the Presidency programme and Council agendas
- by additional specialised meetings and conferences
(Possibility for Stakeholder to participate)

➤ Representative at international level

➤ Presidency as the Community's “servant”

- Neutrality and impartiality in Council negotiations, appropriate account of all Member States' positions
- → Working out compromises, (where necessary) putting aside own interests
- (where important national interests are at stake: pulling the emergency brake, passing negotiations on to the following Presidency)



The Programme of the German EU Presidency 2007

Based on

- the **18-Month Programme of the 3 Presidencies Germany, Portugal und Slovenia** (first so-called “Trio-Presidency”)
- previous work of the Finnish Presidency
- European Commission strategic working programme for 2007



Political Priorities in the Programme of the German Presidency 2007

❖ Developing the EU (making the Community capable of taking action)

- Promoting the **Constitution process** (aim: conclusion in 2008)
- Meanwhile: making the interaction of institutions **under the current law** more efficient (Team Presidency, cooperation in the area of justice and home affairs)

❖ Building the economic, social and ecological future of Europe

- Better conditions within the internal market by reducing bureaucracy in order to help small and medium-sized enterprises (incl. agriculture)
- Future-oriented Research and Development, Energy, Social and Tax Policy
- Better Environment Protection: Climate, environmentally-friendly mobility, biological diversity
- Modern and reliable agricultural policy, incl. food safety
- Reinforcement of trade and international competitiveness

❖ EU as an area of freedom: Better internal and external security

- Enhanced cooperation in criminal and civil court cases
- Neighbourhood policy (incl. Russia) / Enlargement
- Improved legal certainty for citizens and enterprises



Priorities of Agricultural Policy

1) High Priority: Simplification of the CAP

- Step-by-step merging of current 21 market organisations
unification of certain horizontal rules
- Evaluation of Cross Compliance

2) WTO Negotiations/ Agreement with Mercosur

3) Follow-up to Biomass action plan/ Energy crops

- Enhanced support for cultivation of energy crops
Conference 5/6 March 2007 in Nuremberg
“Fuelling the Future – Renewable Resources show the way
forward for Rural Areas in Europe”

4) Amendment of rules for Organic Farming

- Basic rules for labelling (EU Label)
- Importation of organic products (equal conditions for third
country suppliers)



Priorities of Agricultural Policy

5) Amendment of rules for plant protection products and sustainable use of pesticides

- More efficient and harmonised licensing procedures
- Common EU-wide instructions for use
- Simplification of data protection

6) Implementation of the Action Plan for Animal Welfare

- Ban on dog and cat fur
- Amendment of the Directive on Animal Testing

7) COM proposal: Animal by-products

- Revision of hygiene rules for animal by-products not meant for human consumption
- Aim: Simplification of current rules (2nd quarter 2007)



Priorities of Agricultural Policy

8) Proposal for a Directive: Labelling, Circulation and Registration of Feed

- Currently: Implementation of the EUCJ judgement on open declaration (probable adoption end 2006)
- Fundamental revision of Feed Directive 2002/2/EC (not until 3rd quarter 2007)

9) Animal Health Strategy 2007-2013

- Final Report on evaluation adopted
- Discussion of the first draft of the Animal Health Strategy
- Autumn 2007: Communication from the Commission



Current Priorities of Agricultural Policy - accompanying events -

Possibilities of Stakeholders to participate in conferences in Brussels:

- (1) **Quality Conference** (DG AGRI/German Pres) 5/6 February 2007:
Further development of product information on foodstuffs
and quality labels in the EU
- (2) **Conference on the Action Plan for Animal Welfare**
(DG SANCO/German Pres) 28 March 2007:
particularly about labelling of Animal Welfare
- (3) **Conference on the future of the CAP**
(DG AGRI) 17 April 2007:
 - Preparation of the „Health Check“
 - Post-2013 orientation of the CAP



Weighting of votes in the Council

Member State	Votes	Population [%] ³
Germany	29	16,8
France	29	12,7
United Kingdom	29	12,2
Italy	29	11,9
Spain	27	8,8
Poland	27	7,8
Romania	14	4,4
Netherlands	13	3,3
Greece	12	2,3
Portugal	12	2,1
Belgium	12	2,1
Czech Republic	12	2,1
Hungary	12	2,1
Sweden	10	1,8
Bulgaria	10	1,6
Austria	10	1,7
Denmark	7	1,1
Slovakia	7	1,1
Finland	7	1,1
Ireland	7	0,8
Lithuania	7	0,7
Latvia	4	0,5
Slovenia	4	0,4
Estonia	4	0,3
Cyprus	4	0,2
Luxembourg	4	0,1
Malta	3	0,1
Total	345	491 Mio. (100%)
Qualified Majority ^{1,2}	258	62,0
Blocking Minority	91	
1) and more than 14 Member States		
2) on request: check if min. 62% of total population is represented		
3) Source: Eurostat 2005		



Work with associations

The Permanent Representation is not the expert side – but a “hinge” between the European Institutions and the German Government

- **Position Papers** and written information about dossiers in the decision making process and special problems (from associations as well) are always **useful**:
- targeted with priorities
 - not too long
 - focussed on the key problems
 - coalitions with other associations on national and european level
- **Personal contacts** and explanation of positions are always **helpful**



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Thank you!