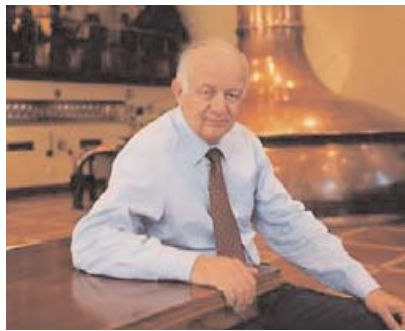


Newsletter

The Brewers of Europe



**Enlargement Newsletter - May 2004
4th edition**



**Preface by
Piero Perron,
President of
The Brewers of
Europe**

Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate the ten new members of the European Union for having accomplished the long awaited enlargement cycle with their tremendous efforts. We are henceforth stronger than before as we are now an enlarged Europe of 25!

It is with great excitement that I can also announce the application of the Maltese Brewers to join the family of The Brewers of Europe.

This year has been most fruitful as many interesting events have occurred and have paved the way for an ever better functioning of the European Union.

However, we must not forget our colleagues, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, who are set to join the European Union in due course. The Brewers of Europe will be more than happy to support and provide the necessary input to facilitate the remaining accession countries to reach the targets required in order to become Members States.

I would also like to point your attention to the recent Commission's Proposal on the Distance Purchasing Directive, which if once adopted by the Council of the European Union, could have a major impact on the flow of privately imported beer across Europe.

Please note that this 4th issue of The Brewers of Europe Enlargement Newsletter will be the last edition to be published. We hope you find the articles interesting!

Sincerely,

Piero Perron
President
The Brewers of Europe



The Brewers of Europe

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The Maltese Brewing Industry Applies for Brewers of Europe Membership



In April 2004 The Brewers of Europe received a formal application of membership from the Maltese brewing industry. The two Maltese breweries will be represented within The Brewers of Europe via the Maltese Federation of Industry.

The Maltese membership accomplishes the long period of close contacts which had been established and maintained via the Secretariat and Maltese breweries representatives over many years.

The Brewers of Europe General Assembly to be held on 28 May 2004 in Seville will formally endorse the application for membership. Malta will be the 17th European member association of The Brewers of Europe. Together with the 3 Associate Members Norway, Switzerland and Turkey, the total number of members will amount to 20.

Alcohol Misuse: A Constitutional Matter?



On the 29th April 2004, Ireland's EU presidency proposed a new draft text for the European Constitution, which

included the suggestion that the EU may "establish incentive measures designed to protect (...) public health regarding tobacco and the abuse of alcohol".

The new Constitution is to be the framework around which the new EU25 is constructed, and a specific proposal concerning alcohol abuse would also give the EU stronger powers to combat abuse when it affects more than one Member State. This amendment was presented at a Consultative Meeting of EU Health Ministers on 12th May 2004, where the Swedish Minister for Public Health, Mr Morgan Johansson, also gave a presentation on issues surrounding alcohol and public health, as a Swedish contribution to the European Commission's draft "Community strategy to reduce alcohol-related harm". The Intergovernmental Conference negotiations on the Constitution restart on 17th May 2004 and are scheduled to be concluded by the Dublin summit on 17th-18th June 2004. In other news, the conclusions from the European Court of Justice on the legitimacy of the Loi Evin, a law which bans television and radio advertising for alcoholic beverages in France, are expected soon and could have repercussions for the future of alcohol advertising in other EU Member States.

Commission's Distance Purchasing Proposal



The European Commission has recently adopted a proposal to facilitate the private purchasing at distance by the citizens. This proposal foresees that citizens who buy their beer and other alcoholic beverages via internet will enjoy the excise duty rate of the country of origin provided they arrange the transport. Furthermore it proposes to abolish the indicative levels which are currently 110 litres for beer per person.

Once this proposal becomes effective as it stands the increased private cross border purchases of alcohol could exert further pressure on the high excise duty countries. This effect could result in a significant reduction of excise duties in the high taxing countries.

The Brewers of Europe fully support the Commission proposal on distance purchasing, but call upon the high duty countries to lower their rates urgently so as to tackle the unsustainable situation of trade distortions across Europe.

The Second Self-Regulation Workshop with the New Members States and Candidate Countries



Following the success of the first Self-Regulation Workshop held in Brussels on 14 October 2003, a second Self-Regulation Workshop is to be held in the second half of 2004 in Warsaw. This workshop will take into account the progress to be achieved and will cover the challenges that lie ahead. The workshop is to be hosted by our Polish Member Association in Warsaw.

The Secretariat would like to obtain your feedback and suggestions for the discussions of the second self-regulation workshop.

New Commissioners role in the 'Transitory' Commission



On the 5 May 2004 the European Parliament reduced the current 30 temporary Commission to a total of 25 as of 1 November 2004. Once a new President has been designated on 1 November 2004, then France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK will no longer have two Commissioners representing their countries at the EU Commission.

As of November each Member State will therefore have only one Commissioner to represent their Country at the EU level.

The new Member States have full voting rights within the European Union, even though they have not yet been allocated to their individual portfolios.

To find out more about the ten new Commissioners [click here](#).

The Second Revision of the Packaging and the Packaging Waste Directive



The European Parliament and the European Council formally adopted the revision of the Packaging & Packaging Waste Directive 2004/12/EC, which replaces the 1994 Directive 94/62/EC with an aim to harmonise national measures to prevent and reduce the impact of packaging and packaging waste on the environment. The amendments of the Directive set the targets for recycling to 55% min. - 80% max.; recovery including incineration with energy recovery to 60%; 60% for paper/carton; 60% for glass; 50% for metal; 22.5% for plastics and 15% for wood. Member States will have to reach these targets by December 2008. Ireland, Greece and Portugal have been given a longer time period. The ten new Member States have until 2012 to reach the Packaging waste recovery and recycling targets established.



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