For your information. We came under pressure on the above in the press room today and have clarified our line as follows:

"It is not the role of the Commission to express a position on questions of internal organisation related to the constitutional arrangements in the Member States.

Concerning certain scenarios such as the separation of one part of a Member State or the creation of a new State, these would not be neutral as regards the EU Treaties. The Commission would express its opinion on the legal consequences under EU law, on request from a Member State detailing a precise scenario."

Michelle