

# Case T-319/03

Graham French and Others

v

Council of the European Union  
and Commission of the European Communities

(Application initiating proceedings — Formal requirements —  
Manifest inadmissibility — Action for damages)

Order of the Court of First Instance (Fifth Chamber), 20 February 2004 II-771

## Summary of the Order

*Procedure — Application initiating proceedings — Formal requirements — Identification of the subject-matter of the dispute — Summary of the pleas raised — Action seeking compensation for damage caused by a Community institution*

*(Statute of the Court of Justice, Arts 21, first para., and 53, first para.; Rules of Procedure of the Court of First Instance, Art. 44(1)(c) and (d))*

Under the first paragraph of Article 21 of the Statute of the Court of Justice, which, pursuant to the first paragraph of Article 53 of the Statute, applies to proceedings before the Court of First Instance, and under Article 44(1)(c) and (d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Court of First Instance, the application must state, among other things, the subject-matter of the proceedings, and contain the form of order sought and a summary of the pleas in law on which the application is based. Those matters must be sufficiently clear and precise to enable the defendant to prepare its defence and the Court to rule on the application, if necessary without further information. In order to guarantee legal certainty and sound administration of justice, it is necessary, for an action to be admissible, that the basic legal and factual particulars relied on be indicated, at least in summary form, coherently and intelligibly in the application itself.

In order to satisfy those requirements, an application seeking compensation for damage allegedly caused by a Community institution must state the evidence from which the conduct alleged against the institution can be identified, the reasons for which the applicant considers there is a causal link between the conduct and the damage it claims to have suffered, and the nature and extent of that damage.

(see paras 13, 14)