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Annex to the

**Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament
Common Actions for Growth and Employment: The Community Lisbon Programme**

{COM(2005) 330 final }

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Note :

The Commission recalls that the foreseen initiatives, particularly in the regulatory domain, will fully comply with its better regulation policy aimed at improving regulation through impact assessments, simplification of existing EU legislation, screening of pending legislative proposals and consideration of alternatives to legislation.

Legend :

Key Actions are presented in bold and indicated with a “*” sign.

Measures which the Commission has already adopted or completed are indicated with a “+” sign.

I. Regulatory Actions

N.	Policy Action	Context of this specific policy measure	Estimated contribution to jobs and growth	COM adoption (quarter)	Status	Final adoption (year)
KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION						
1	+ * Community Patent Regulation and implementation measures	The Community Patent is a key development to create favourable framework conditions for business to innovate and invest. It should be complemented by Council decisions setting up the Community patent jurisdiction.	A unitary patent will save costs for business, thus encouraging patenting, exploitation of research and diffusion of knowledge. The Community patent jurisdiction would avoid the expense, inconvenience and confusion that can occur when judgements in several national courts are required.	Pre-2004	COM adopted /completed	2005
2	Review of regulatory framework for electronic communications	EC regulation has prompted liberalisation and competition in European electronic communications over the last years. This is a key sector of the economy where fast evolution is driven by technological change and market competition. Regulation must keep pace with technological and market developments, e.g. stimulating innovative and competitive broadband services, or efficient spectrum management. This review was foreseen in the current EC regulatory framework on electronic communications.	An appropriate regulatory framework is essential to stimulate digital convergence and drive powerful market developments with a significant impact on competitiveness and job creation.	4/2006	COM planned	2006
3	Directive on audio-visual content (to replace TV without frontiers Directive)	The "TV without frontiers" directive has played a key role regarding the European internal market for TV broadcasts, supporting the competitiveness and public interest in this sector. However, it is now necessary to adapt this Directive to the new market and technological realities, which blur the boundaries between hitherto clearly distinct media and ICT sectors.	Apart from its cultural and political impact, Television is a very important source of economic development and jobs, in its own right and also indirectly through its impact in other sectors of the economy, e.g. sports. Addressing the changing environment of the sector should increase its contribution in terms of growth and jobs.	4/2005	COM planned	2005
4	+ Eco-design requirements Directive	The Directive is part of a package of measures to increase the efficiency of the whole energy supply and demand chain. This should reduce Europe's external energy dependency, ensure affordable prices to all end consumers (both industries and households), and increase EU competitiveness. In addition, this Directive will also help to meet the Union's Commitment under the Kyoto Protocol and contribute to the free movement of energy-using products within the EU.	The measures envisaged under this Directive will contribute to attain the 20% energy saving by 2020 announced in the Green Paper on an energy efficiency plan. They will also stimulate investment, in particular at local and regional level, increasing the competitiveness of EU companies, stimulating economic growth and creating at least 1 million new jobs (direct and indirect job impacts).	Pre-2004	COM adopted /completed	2005
ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO INVEST AND WORK						
5	+ * Directive on Services	Improvement of the functioning of the Internal Market for services.	Removing restrictions and simplifying administrative procedures will create important business opportunities for cross border services activity and thus free up enormous growth and job creation potential. The resulting increase in EU gross value added should be of approx 0.8% and the net employment creation of approx 600,000 jobs. (Source: Copenhagen Economics).	1/2004	1st reading	2006
6	* Doha Development Agenda	Conclude a balanced and ambitious agreement with the 148 members of WTO in areas including agriculture, non-agricultural market access, services and rules (especially trade facilitation, geographical indications and anti-dumping).	The conclusion of the Agenda should improve market access for EU products to third countries, notably through a significant reduction of industrial tariffs and restrictions in services, trade facilitation and the strengthening of disciplines for non-tariff measures.	04/2006	Ongoing	2006

7	*	Directive on the legal framework for payment systems	The Directive will contribute to the consolidation and completion of the integration of the financial services markets.	Creation of an integrated EU wide infrastructure for payments will facilitate cross border economic activity.	3/2005	COM planned	2006
8	*	Framework Directive on clearing and settlement of securities actions	The Directive will contribute to create a single market in securities and to make cross-border clearing and settlement effective, safe and efficient at European level.	The measure will contribute to enterprise competitiveness and economic growth by improving the conditions for cross border economic activity.	1/2006	COM planned	2007
9	*	Proposal on the Common Consolidated Tax Base	This proposal is part of the Commission strategy aimed at removing cross-border tax barriers in the area of corporate taxation.	The proposal should result in a better allocation of resources within the internal market and a reduction of compliance costs. The associated increase in potential output and downward pressures on costs and prices will lead to significant welfare gains.	avr-08	COM planned	2010
10	*	State aid measures					
10a	*		R&D and Innovation aid Framework Enhances Member States' abilities to support research and innovation. The Framework will be preceded in September 2005 by a Communication launching a broad consultation on possible measures to render the state aid rules more supportive of innovation activities.	The new framework will make it easier to provide financial support for research and innovation. The prevailing R&D Framework could be extended with new provisions to assist young innovative companies, support clustering or encourage training and mobility, leading to enhanced enterprise competitiveness and new employment opportunities.	2/2006	COM planned	N/A
10b	*		Revised Guidelines on State aid to risk-capital Enhances Member States' abilities to enhance access to risk capital, notably for SMEs.	Increased access to risk capital by small and medium sized companies, particularly in knowledge intensive sectors, should stimulate enterprise growth and employment creation.	2/2006	COM planned	N/A
10c	*		Consolidated single block exemption on certain aid measures to support SMEs, training and employment, R&D, environmental protection, etc. Facilitates Member States' administration of State aid policy by extending the scope of the existing block exemptions and consolidating exemptions in a single legislative act.	Reduced administrative burden for Member States; clarity, simplicity, efficiency and predictability of the rules.	4/2006	COM planned	N/A
10d	*		Revised Regional Aid Guidelines. Better targeting of state aid towards "Lisbon" objectives and further concentration of regional aid in less favoured regions.	A better targeting of regional aid should contribute to the overall redirection of public resources to socially more valuable activities. It should also result in a reduction of State aid that distorts competition and thereby impedes necessary structural change.	4/2005	COM planned	N/A
10e	*		Review of the environmental state aid guidelines. Better targeting of state aid towards "Lisbon" objectives, notably through enhanced possibilities to support environmental investments.	Positive impact on jobs and competitiveness through higher efficiency of European enterprises. The guidelines should help support environmental technologies, which are a growth industry in several MS	2006/2007	COM planned	N/A
10f	+ *		State aid rules for Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI). The provision of effective and high quality Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI) is a key component of the European welfare state and is essential for ensuring social and territorial cohesion.	SGEI typically concern major sectors of the economy such as telecommunications, postal services, transport, energy provision, etc. A proper management and high quality of SGEI can highly contribute to competitiveness.	03/2005	COM adopted	N/A

11	Interinstitutional agreement on a common approach to impact assessment	The 'common approach' is meant to be a first step in agreeing a common methodology for impact assessment, in line with the inter-institutional commitment of November 2003 on Better Lawmaking.	Agreement on a 'common approach' will help to ensure that all three Institutions carefully consider the potential impacts of their actions on jobs and growth.	3/2005	COM planned	2005
12	Extension of Directive 98/34 to services	Directive 98/34/EC has proven to be a very valuable instrument to remove obstacles and create a truly internal market for products and information society services. The proposal to extend this Directive to Services is complementary to the proposed Directive on Services. It should contribute to the smooth functioning of the Internal Market for services by 2010.	By facilitating the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services, the proposal will contribute to the creation of new employment opportunities and economic growth.	2/2006	COM planned	2007
13	Free trade agreement with Mercosur	Conclude a free trade agreement with Mercosur (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay). It would be a wide-reaching agreement covering goods, services, investments and public procurement. This would be part of a region-to-region Association Agreement, which would also include a political as well as a cooperation chapter.	The agreement would support multilateral market opening by pursuing further market access for EU industrial and agricultural products as well as EU service providers. It would also contribute to the creation of rules in a vast number of areas to secure trading conditions for EU firms.	N/A	Ongoing	N/A
14	Free trade agreement with Gulf Cooperation Council	Conclude a wide-reaching free trade agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council (Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Bahrain and Kuwait). The region-to-region agreement will cover trade in goods (industrial and agricultural), services, investment and public procurement and will hence reinforce the customs union of the Gulf states.	The agreement would support multilateral market opening by pursuing further market access for EU industrial and agricultural products as well as EU service providers. It would also contribute to the creation of rules in a vast number of areas to secure trading conditions for EU firms.	2006	Ongoing	2006
15	Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreement (TIEA) with Canada	Contribute to enhance EU-Canada trade and investment relations through the development of bilateral measures on investment, government procurement, Intellectual Property Rights, rules on services, trade facilitation, sustainable development and SMEs. The agreement should also cover regulatory co-operation on standards and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Matters (SPS)	The agreement would enhance access to Canadian markets through bilaterally agreed rules on (i) increased transparency, including in regulatory matters, (ii) facilitation of trade and access to government procurement, and (iii) better protection of EU products.	02/2007	Ongoing	2007
16	Public procurement markets in third countries	Improve the EC's position when negotiating access to the procurement markets of third countries. Action will be confined to well-targeted cases where the EU industry is facing barriers abroad.	Enhance the business opportunities for EU companies in public tenders abroad. Public procurement is probably the biggest trade sector sheltered from multilateral disciplines and it represents up to 15% of GDP, often reserved to domestic goods or suppliers.	2005	COM planned	2006
17	+ Air services agreement with third countries	The successful conclusions of negotiations with the USA and other third countries would open the way to increased competition, better service and to the needed consolidation of the air industry. The aviation external policy agenda was adopted in March and is being implemented through individual country negotiating mandates.	The EU/US open aviation area would generate at least an extra 17 million passengers per year, creating between 3000 and 9000 jobs in the airliner sector and more than € 5 billion in consumer benefits	1/2005	COM adopted /completed	2005
18	International co-operation within 3rd maritime safety package: implementation of international maritime safety standards	Promoting maritime safety actions within assistance programmes for neighbouring countries (MEDA initiatives for the Mediterranean) and developing ad hoc bilateral contacts with key partners of the EU, such as the US, China, Japan and Russia. Ensuring a pro-active role of the Community within international organisations (International Maritime Organisation, International Labour Organisation). The principle of maritime safety co-operation will also be included in future legislative initiatives.	Ensuring a level playing field with regard to the implementation of internationally agreed safety standards will allow competition in international maritime transport to develop on fairer grounds, improving the competitive stance of EU operators.	3/2005	COM planned	2006
19	+ Cross Border mergers (10th Company Law Directive)	The Directive will contribute to modernisation of company law facilitating cross border mergers and takeovers.	The measure will contribute to enterprise competitiveness and economic growth by improving the conditions for cross border economic activity.	Pre-2004	Adopted	2005

20	Transfer of companies' registered seat (14th Company Law Directive)	The Directive will contribute to modernisation of company law facilitating cross border mergers and takeovers.	The measure will contribute to enterprise competitiveness and economic growth by improving the conditions for cross border economic activity.	3/2005	COM planned	2006
21	+ Proposal to simplify the current VAT compliance obligations	This proposal is part of the Commission's VAT strategy to modernise and simplify the current VAT arrangements.	Reduction of compliance costs for companies carrying out VAT taxable activities in other Member States	4/2004	COM adopted/ completed	2005
22	e Customs: Modernised Community Customs Code	The modernised Customs Code will be the legislative pillar of e Customs, initiative necessary to keep pace with the changes of the environment in which Customs and traders operate, particularly in respect of the rapid adoption of electronic data exchange.	Trade facilitation and reduction of compliance costs for companies carrying out imports into/exports out of the European Community, particularly if various Member States are involved.	3/2005	Ongoing	2008
23	Revision of the New Approach to technical harmonisation and standards/Global Approach to conformity assessment	The New Approach to technical harmonisation and standards and the Global Approach to conformity assessment require simple definition of the essential requirements for types of products, rather than detailed technical specifications, thus promoting innovation and competitiveness. A general review is required to strengthen this tool.	Ensuring the free movement of goods through technical harmonisation will improve economic integration and facilitate trade. It is estimated that the trade of products covered only by the major sectors regulated by the New Approach directives largely exceeds the € 1500 billion per year. Speeding up and improving the system will enhance the effectiveness of the Internal Market.	1/2006	COM planned	2007
24	+ 3rd railway package	The 3rd railway package aims to complement the regulatory framework for rail interoperability and safety, to pursue the Internal market project for rail passenger services and to enhance the service quality of rail transport.	The enhanced technical harmonisation and interoperability of international rail transport services, further market opening for international rail passenger services, and higher quality of rail transport services should improve the offer of rail services and consequently trigger increased demand. Overall increased efficiency will also improve the sector's competitiveness, supporting growth and employment.	1/2004	1st reading	2006
25	+ Directive on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures (Eurovignette)	This Community framework is an important complement to the internal market, guaranteeing sustainable freedom of movement. The directive will help reduce congestion and the undesirable external effects of road transport. Differentiated tolls will encourage the use of less polluting vehicles, the routes chosen for goods will be optimised, roads with a low environmental impact will be preferred and users will be encouraged to change their behaviour by taking account of the real costs of transport. The revenue from charging will finance trans-European network projects.	The directive should lead to a more rational and efficient use of network capacity. In the long term, economic operators will be encouraged to reorganise their logistical chain and to adapt their modal choices, with beneficial effects not only for the environment but also for the productivity and competitiveness of the transport sector.	Pre-2004	2nd reading	2006
CREATING MORE AND BETTER JOBS						
26	+ Directive (+ 2 recommendations) on fast track visa and work permit arrangements for third country researchers	The current visa and work-permit arrangements throughout the EU are not adapted to allow for fast and smooth access to the EU research system of third country researchers, who are needed to contribute to knowledge development in the EU. This has a negative effect on the attractiveness of the EU to the best third country researchers and means that the EU is not using the best human resources available worldwide for knowledge production.	Smooth and rapid access of third country researchers will allow enterprises and public research institutions to effectively tap the world's best human resources in R&D. As such the measure will contribute directly to raising the necessary HR-capacity in the EU attracting further research investments.	2/2004	COM adopted / completed	2005
27	Legislation on portability of supplementary pension rights	Improved portability of pension rights should enhance labour mobility within the EU.	By reducing one important obstacle to labour mobility the measure will improve the effectiveness and the integration of the EU labour markets	01/2005	COM planned	N/A
28	+ Directive on recognition of professional qualifications	The Directive will facilitate the mobility of skilled professionals.	The Directive will facilitate cross border economic activity by making the conditions for migration easier.	Pre-2004	COM adopted	2005
29	+ Recast proposal on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunity and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation	The proposal, adopted in the context of regulatory simplification, aims at recasting different directives dealing with the principle of equal treatment between men and women in employment and occupation related matters.	By enhancing the principle of equal treatment, this recasting proposal should improve the rate of female participation in the labour market.	2/2004	1st reading	N/A

II. Financing actions

N.	Policy Action	Context of this specific policy measure	Estimated contribution to jobs and growth	COM adoption (quarter)	Status	Final adoption (year)
1 *	Decision on operational programmes for the structural and cohesion funds	Programmes will be adopted in accordance with the Community strategic guidelines which identify the most important areas for the realisation of Community priorities, in particular in light of the renewed Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs.	Each operational programme will include a series of thematic and territorial priorities which will be quantified with a limited number of performance and impact indicators (including number of jobs created) identified.	3/2006	COM Planned	3/2006
2 *	Decision on rural development programmes	Programmes will be adopted in accordance with the Community guidelines for rural development which identify the most important areas for the realisation of Community priorities, in particular in light of the renewed Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs.	The resources devoted to the diversification of the rural economy and quality of life in rural areas under rural development programming and Leader should contribute to the the creation of employment opportunities. These effects will be quantified in the programmes.	4/2006	COM planned	2006
3 + 3 *	Regulations for the Structural and Cohesion Funds post 2007	The Structural and Cohesion Funds are the largest financial instrument that the Union, in partnership with national and regional authorities, has at its disposal for investments to promote growth and employment.	Funding is heavily concentrated on regions with high growth potential, and on thematic areas which offer a high social return on public investments, such as infrastructure, innovative capacity and human capital.	3/2004	1st reading	2006
KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION						
4 + 4 *	7th Framework programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007 to 2013)	The proposed 7th Framework Programme is the major Community financial instrument for strengthening knowledge generation, complementing Member State and private sector research efforts. It has four main programmes: Cooperation - transnational projects to strengthen excellence in key areas of science and technology; Ideas - to support investigator driven research; People - to strengthen human resources in research; and Capacities - to develop and fully utilise research capacities across the EU.	By strengthening the production and exploitation of knowledge in Europe, FP7 will help to stimulate the development of new products and processes, generating growth and employment, and enhancing competitiveness. The following estimates have been made of the additional effects of FP7 compared with the option of continuing with the existing FP as it is ("business-as-usual scenario"). FP7 will have an additional impact on growth of between around 0.5 and 1 percent of extra GDP by the year 2030.	2/2005	1st reading	2006
5 +	Framework programme for competitiveness and innovation (2007-2013)	The programme will stimulate entrepreneurial initiative, the supply of capital for start-ups and expanding SMEs, the uptake of ICTs, innovation in enterprises, as well as the market uptake of environment friendly and energy efficient technologies - issues for which market gaps have been identified and value added can be achieved through EU cooperation.	The impact assessment estimated that in particular the equity and debt financing instruments for start-ups and growing SMEs could contribute to the creation or maintenance of up to 350,000 jobs over a period of 5 years.	2/2005	1st reading	2006
6 +	European Investment Bank: Innovation 2010 initiative	The Innovation 2010 initiative (i2i) provides the framework for EIB financing of activities linked to the Lisbon Agenda until the end of the decade. It establishes a new indicative lending envelope of EUR 20 billion for the period June 2003 to December 2006.	EIB's Innovation 2010 Initiative is financing primarily R&D, innovative technologies human capital formation and ICT networks. Such targeted support is expected to have a significant impact on innovation. The initiative will also stimulate the creation and development of small business, by providing equity and facilitating access to bank credit.	2/2005	COM adopted /completed	2006
7	Climate Change Financing Facility (EIB fund, later possibly follow-up of Post-2012 Climate change communication in terms of technology push policy)	The Facility would support to the EU Emission Trading Scheme and climate change policy in general, and contribute to the implementation of the Environmental Technologies Action Plan (COM(2004) 38 final).	The instrument would fund new, cost-saving investments in production capacities, helping accelerate the innovation cycle in related activities. It would also facilitate the necessary long-term structural change in production systems.	N/A	COM Planned	N/A
8	Legislative proposals, if necessary, on the framework of each joint technology initiative.	In drawing attention to the necessity of pursuing an active industrial policy, the Spring European Council 2005 recognised the role of "technology initiatives based on public-private partnerships in strengthening the competitive advantages of the industrial base while ensuring the complementarity of action at national, trans-national and European level". For the 7th Research Framework Programme, the Commission has proposed the introduction of multi-financed large-scale "Joint Technology Initiatives" in fields of major European public interest, identified through dialogue with industry.	The key objectives of Joint Technology Initiatives include coherent implementation of European research efforts, accelerated generation of new knowledge, concentration of efforts on projects geared to Europe's industrial competitiveness goals, enhancement of the technology verification process and guidance of investment towards operational and marketable solutions.	2/2006	COM planned	2006

ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO INVEST AND WORK							
9	+	SESAME (European air traffic control infrastructure modernisation programme) for the implementation of the Single European Sky	As set out in the Community Strategic Guidelines for cohesion, financial support from the Structural Funds and the European Social Fund (ESF) in particular should be geared towards the delivery of the priorities of the Lisbon Strategy.	the single European Sky should result in: Approximately 20 bn € net present value within the aviation sector through increased capacity and productivity, improved flight efficiency and better use of aircraft; Approximately 60 bn € societal benefits essentially stemming from GDP effects as a result of increased output of air transport and passengers' time savings; 14,000 jobs created in the aviation sector. Approximately 150,000 in a wider context as a result of sustained air traffic growth and increased competitiveness of the European aeronautical sector.	2/2005	COM planned	2005
10	+	Trans-European transport networks including Quick Start Programme for transport	The Community has the task of contributing to the establishment and development of trans-European networks in the area of transport (TCE Articles 154 and 155). Investment in key TEN transport infrastructure strengthens the interconnectivity of networks, the dynamics of the internal market and territorial cohesion. Compliance with the Decision calendar for the TEN transport priorities approved by the Union in April 2004 should be ensured. The European Growth Initiative, endorsed by the European Council in December 2003, includes accelerated public investment in a Quick-start list of 30 transport cross-border project sections which are part of the TEN priority projects. It includes Galileo (satellite-based radio navigation for all modes of transport), for which the conclusion of international cooperation agreements is underway, with the aim to promote Galileo applications and extend the installation of land segment components in certain parts of the world.	New investments in the TEN transport priorities projects decided by the Council and Parliament would lead to: - GDP level increase by 0.2% - 0.3% by 2020 - up to 1 million permanent jobs to be added to the 3 million temporary jobs created during construction - time-savings on travelling in interregional routes of around 8 billion euro per year and a reduction of 14% in congestion delays (not included in the GDP calculation). As for Galileo, the profit/costs ratio has been established to be very high. The world market of goods and services related to satellite radionavigation doubled between 2002 and 2003, from 10 billion to 20 billion euros. It should approach 300 billion euros by 2020. Galileo should create almost 150,000 jobs and the corresponding service and equipment market is estimated at about € 9 billion a year.	Pre-2004	COM adopted /completed	2004
11	+	Trans-European transport Networks for Energy and Quick Start Programme for Energy	The Community has the task of contributing to the establishment and development of trans-European networks (TCE Articles 154 and 155). Investment in key TEN energy infrastructure strengthens the interconnectivity of networks, the dynamics of the internal market and territorial cohesion while promoting security of energy supply. The TEN-E Guidelines will be adapted to enlargement.	In an energy-intensive economy adequate energy supply and distribution are essential for the functioning and well being of society. The demand for energy emerges from all sectors, in particular industry, transport and households. Energy infrastructures are key assets. Infrastructure development and market development are inherently linked.	Pre-2004	COM adopted /completed	2004
12	+	Marco Polo Programme (I and II)	Marco Polo I is an EU's intermodality market-oriented programme to shift international freight off the road towards more environmentally friendly modes: short sea shipping (SSS), rail and inland waterways (IWW). The Programme contributes to fighting road congestion and improves freight transport performance. The overall budget is EUR 100 million for 2003-2006. Marco Polo II proposes a budget of € 740 million for the 2007 - 2013 Financial Perspectives. It adds "Motorways of the Sea" and "Traffic Avoidance" to the existing actions, provides better support for ancillary infrastructure, and broadens its geographical scope to Wider-Europe.	In the first 2 project selection rounds of Marco Polo a total EC subsidy of € 35 million, shifted the contracted total of 26 billion tonnes-kilometres off the EU roads towards railways, SSS and IWW. The total eligible costs of these projects are € 746 million resulting in a subsidy leverage factor of 21. Additionally, 15 EUR in external costs are saved for each € 1 of EC-subsidy spent, resulting in an environmental benefit of € 525 million. Thus, Marco Polo funds trigger large private investments into new innovative transport services creating skilled local jobs. According to the ex-ante assessment of Marco Polo II, an EC-budget of € 740 million would achieve at least total investments of € 2.1 billion and environmental benefits of € 4.5 billion. As with Marco Polo I, the effect on jobs will be significant. Additionally, EU neighbouring countries may be integrated through bilateral agreements (by contributing into the programme).	Pre-2004	COM adopted /completed	N/A
CREATING MORE AND BETTER JOBS							
13	+	Integrated Lifelong learning programme	Community spending programme for education and training	The programme increases the level of EU spending on education and training, contributing to the development of human capital and citizenship	3/2004	COM adopted /completed	2006
14	+	Institute for equal opportunities	The Institute should promote gender equality. Its creation was proposed by the European Council in June 2004 and has also been demanded by the European Parliament.	Equality between men and women is not only a fundamental right and a Community objective enshrined in the Treaty, but it is also prerequisite for achieving the Lisbon objectives particularly as regards female employment rates.	1/2005	1st reading	2006
15	+	Proposal establishing a Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity - Progress	Progress will financially support the implementation of the Social Agenda which is the Community roadmap for action in the employment and social area as part of the Lisbon Strategy	By providing financial means for actions in the areas of employment, social protection and inclusion, working conditions or anti-discrimination Progress will be conducive to employment creation, greater social cohesion and ultimately higher growth.	3/2004	1st reading	2006

III. Policy Development

N.	Policy Action	Context of this specific policy measure	Estimated contribution to jobs and growth	COM adoption (quarter)	Status	Final adoption (year)
1 + *	Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion, 2007-2013	The Community Strategic Guidelines will be the basis for the elaboration of the structural and cohesion fund programmes. The Guidelines identify the policy areas of highest importance for the realisation of the Community priorities.	Each operational programme will include a series of thematic and territorial priorities which will be quantified with a limited number of performance and impact indicators (including number of jobs created) identified.	3/2005	COM adopted	
2 + *	Community Strategic Guidelines on Rural Development	These Strategic Guidelines will identify the most important areas for the realisation of Community priorities, in particular in light of the renewed Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs and the Göteborg objectives.	The resources devoted to the diversification of the rural economy and quality of life in rural areas under rural development programming and Leader should contribute to the creation of employment opportunities. These effects will be quantified in the programmes.	2/2005	COM adopted /completed	
KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION						
3 + *	State aid action plan	Clarifies State aid policy in the context of the Lisbon Strategy and notably the objective of 'less and better targeted aid'; provides guiding principles as well as roadmap for State aid reform	The measure should lead to better targeted State aid, entailing a redirection of public resources to socially more valuable activities that have a higher potential to stimulate growth and create employment. It should also lead to a reduction of State aid that distorts competition and impedes necessary structural change.	2/2005	COM adopted	
4 *	Communication on a Modern Industrial Policy	This communication will confirm the principles of Europe's industrial policy in the context of the renewed Lisbon mid-term review. It will build on a screening of industrial sectors that will include an analysis of the sectoral implications of R&D/innovation, skill requirements, trade-related policies, and regulations. On this basis, the Communication will outline the application of the industrial policy instruments responding to the specific challenges of individual sectors. It will become the basis for a work programme for the coming years.	Competitiveness assessments of specific sectors in terms of (1) knowledge, (2) regulation, (3) environment, (4) external dimension, (5) employment and (6) geographical dimension (incl. restructuring needs) will lead to better designed policy instruments to take account of the challenges of specific sectors. The manufacturing industry generates a gross value-added output of some €1750 billion and employs some 200 million workers in the EU.	3/2005	COM planned	
5 *	Commission Communication on investing in research (3 % of GDP objective and Action Plan) - achievements and the way forward	In this Communication, the Commission will confirm the importance of increasing R&D investment towards the EU target of 3% of GDP and it will assess the disappointing progress so far. It will then identify the main challenges ahead and outline Community actions to help Member States address them, with two main lines of action: (1) increasing and improving public support to R&D, and (2) creating a dynamic single market of knowledge and technology to underpin the single market of goods and services.	Knowledge is recognised to be the main resource that Europe can leverage to boost growth and jobs in a sustainable way. The challenge is to enable businesses established in Europe to compete and grow in an increasingly knowledge-intensive globalised economy. This is becoming vital for Europe's economy as large companies, which account for most business research, increasingly relocate their R&D in the most attractive areas worldwide. Studies suggest that reaching the 3% target by 2010 could create 1.7% additional GDP and 1.6 million jobs. Between 2010 and 2020 it would result in an additional GDP growth per year of almost 0.5% on average, and a further 3.4 million jobs.	3/2005	COM planned	
6 +	Sectoral and regional follow-up to the Communication on restructuring	The Commission adopted its communication on restructuring and employment in March 2005, as a contribution to the ongoing debate on anticipating and managing change.	In the framework of globalisation and deeper European integration, anticipating and managing change will contribute to fully exploit the potential of economic restructuring, while aiming at minimize its social impacts. The follow-up will include the mobilisation of all relevant actors, particularly social partners.	N/A	COM adopted /completed	
7 +	Commission report to the European Council on Technology Platforms and Joint Technology Initiatives	Technology Platforms and Joint Technology Initiatives should lead to the timely development and deployment of new technologies, foster sustainable development and develop new technology-based public goods and services. They are key to achieve technological breakthroughs necessary for Europe to remain at the leading edge in high technology sectors as well as accompany the restructuring of traditional industrial sectors. The conclusions of the Spring European Council 2005 called for such a report.	Technology platforms contribute to a number of key policy objectives which are essential for Europe's future competitiveness in both sectors of significant strategic and economic importance and more traditional industrial sectors with still a high employment content.	2/2005	COM adopted /completed	

8	+	EU Guidelines or recommendations to make research careers more attractive including in the private sector - Commission Recommendation for Charter and Code of conduct	The availability of numerous, well trained and motivated researchers in the EU is a prerequisite to attract and sustain investments in research. Therefore, targeted efforts are needed to provide researchers with attractive long term career prospects. This can be achieved improving their employment and working conditions, making the R&D "professions" more attractive and creating more favourable conditions for every form of mobility within a given research career path.	The recommendation should contribute to create an open, competitive and attractive European labour market for researchers. This will foster a more effective knowledge production system, which in turn will attract more research investments.	1/2005	COM adopted	
9		EU Guidelines to ensure an optimal EU-wide use of fiscal incentives in favour of R&D	Guidelines aimed to improve the conditions for investment in research through pro-active taxation measures	Tax incentives can help to address market failures creating positive external effects with an impact on R&D investment, thereby contributing to research jobs and enterprise competitiveness.	2/2006	COM planned	
10		EU Guidelines or recommendations to improve research collaboration and technology transfer between public research and industry	The guidelines would contribute to the creation of a more uniform playing field regarding the management of knowledge and intellectual property in the frame of cross-border R&D collaborations and technology transfer activities. They would be one of the main constituents of the forthcoming Commission guidelines to improve university-research collaboration and technology transfer with industry ("EU framework for technology transfer") announced in the 2005 Spring Report COM(2005)24.	Improved collaboration and technology transfer between public research organizations and industry can have a potentially high impact on the innovative performance of European enterprises. A recent UK study (2005) found that, without the significant input of government progress in this area would be much slower.	4/2006	COM planned	
11		i2010 - European information society/ implementation plan: inclusion initiative (incl. eSkills); eGovernment Action Plan; strategy for secure information society; strategy for broadband communications and convergence	i2010 should contribute to improve the quality of ICT infrastructure and services, which are key for the efficiency and innovative capacity of European enterprises.	ICT makes an increasing contribution to growth and jobs, both directly -through the economic weight of ICT sectors- and indirectly, as ICT solutions diffuse to the rest of economy.	2006	COM planned	
12		Green Public procurement (Promotion of the handbook for Green Public Procurement (GPP) in national and local public authorities, support to MS for the preparation of national Action Plans for GPP (2006), possible agreement of EU and national targets for GPP)	This initiative should mobilise public funding to create or enlarge markets for green investments. It is part of the implementation of the Communication on Integrated Product Policy (COM(2003)302) and of the Environmental Technologies Action Plan (COM(2004) 38 and COM(2005) 16)	Besides environmental benefits, Green Public Procurement can lead to a reduction of (external) costs throughout the life-cycle of investments, triggering innovation in sectors where public authorities are major customers (i.e. public transport, construction of road-and waterways).	2006	COM planned	
13	+	Green Paper on a European Plan for Energy Efficiency	Efforts to increase the efficiency of the whole energy supply and demand chain should reduce Europe's external energy dependency, ensure affordable prices to all end consumers (both industries and households) and increase EU competitiveness. They are also key for the Union to comply with its international commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.	An effective EU energy efficiency policy should not only lead to a 20% energy saving by 2020, but will also vigorously stimulate investment, increase enterprise competitiveness-notably of SMEs-, create at least 1 million new jobs (direct and indirect job impacts) and result in better living conditions for EU citizens.	2/2005	COM adopted /completed	
ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO INVEST AND WORK							
14	+	Market inquiries and competitiveness assessments in key sectors	The market inquiries should allow identify obstacles to effective competition and allow the Commission to address restrictive practices. This action is part of the broader objective to adopt a more pro-active enforcement of the competition rules (Articles 81, 82 ECT).	Removal of obstacles to competition should foster competitiveness in high-value added sectors and stimulate the liberalisation of network utilities	2/2005	COM adopted	
15	*	Intellectual Property Right (IPR) enforcement strategy	The IPR enforcement strategy adopted in November 2004 by the Commission focuses on effective implementation and enforcement of existing IPR laws and proposes to identify priority countries where enforcement actions should be concentrated. It responds to the increase in counterfeiting and piracy worldwide, an associated increased public concern (losses for right-holders, health, safety and quality concerns for consumers, link with organised crime).	Widespread infringements of intellectual property rights deprive right-holders of the revenue from their investment in R&D, marketing, creative effort, quality control, etc. Fake goods affect negatively market-shares, sales volume, reputation, employment and ultimately the viability of certain IP-based activities/companies. High levels of IPR violations also discourage foreign investment and transfer of technology.	N/A	N/A	
16	*	Better regulation					

16a	+		<p>Communication on Better Regulation and follow-up measures. The Communication set the framework to simplify and improve regulation, as well as reducing the burdens associated with complying with it. Follow-up measures include: an external evaluation of the Commission's impact assessment system and impact assessment methodologies; initiatives to facilitate the use of alternatives to legislation; adoption of principles and minimum standards for consultation; and a simplification programme.</p>	<p>An improvement of the regulatory environment will help create more conducive conditions for economic growth and improved productivity. SMEs will benefit most from lower regulatory burdens. Ensuring a flexible regulatory response will also foster rules that are workable and rapidly updated so as to respond to technological change thereby encouraging innovation.</p>	1/2005	COM adopted	
16b	*		<p>Communication on administrative costs The measure is aimed at minimising the administrative costs imposed by legislation. This Communication is part of the broader Better Regulation initiative, as endorsed in March 2005 in the Communication on Better Regulation for Growth and Jobs.</p>	<p>Reduction in administrative burden directly linked to Community legislation at EU and national level will improve the regulatory environment, enabling firms to compete more effectively on all markets, making market entry easier for new firms, thus stimulating the creation of more firms, and more jobs.</p>	4/2005	COM planned	
16c	*		<p>Communication on outcome of screening of pending proposals. The measure is part of the broader Better Regulation initiative, as endorsed in the Communication on Better Regulation for Growth and Jobs, of March 2005.</p>	<p>Proposals pending before the Parliament and Council should respect the EU's higher "better regulation" standards and help achieve the Lisbon objectives of growth and jobs. The screening of pending proposals may lead the Commission to amend or withdraw pending proposals.</p>	3/2005	COM planned	
16d	*		<p>Communication on the Commission's simplification programme. The measure is part of the broader Better Regulation initiative, as endorsed in the Communication on Better Regulation for Growth and Jobs, of March 2005. In this Communication the Commission announced its intention to present for October 2005 a communication concerning the new phase of its simplification programme developing an integrated sectoral approach for simplification.</p>	<p>The Commission will identify specific legislations disproportionately burdensome and complex for EU business and will adopt initiatives or proposals for simplification. The improvement of the regulatory framework at the EU level will have a positive impact on competitiveness.</p>	3/2005	COM planned	
17		Communication on SME policy	<p>The Communication will highlight the important role that SMEs of various types can play in delivering stronger, lasting growth and more and better jobs. The Communication will also identify the market failures that hamper access to finance by European SMEs. The Communication will in particular identify obstacles to the development of venture capital in the EU.</p>	<p>The Communication will focus on measures to increase SMEs' competitiveness and to unlock their potential to stimulate growth and job creation. Improving access to finance by SMEs will be a key issue. Proposed measures in other fields should include: promoting the entrepreneurial spirit and encouraging more people to become entrepreneurs, facilitating business transfers, reducing the skills gap, improving market access, or further developing support services.</p>	4/2005	COM planned	
18	+	EU-US regulatory cooperation and transparency	<p>The EU-US June Summit adopted an Economic Declaration which sets up an EU-US high-level Regulatory Co-operation Forum. The Forum shall facilitate the exchange of views and best practice on a more horizontal level drawing on the many sectoral regulatory dialogues already existing.</p>	<p>Facilitation of the access of European companies to the US market through standardised rules.</p>	2/2005	COM adopted /completed	
19		Policy paper following up to Green Paper Financial Services Policy	<p>Consolidation and completion of the integration of the financial services markets.</p>	<p>Initiatives in this field will improve the framework for cross border trading and investment, diversification of investment portfolios, and wider access to capital at lower cost. This will boost cross border trade and investment.</p>	4/2005	COM planned	

20	Interpretative communication on intra-EU investment in the financial services sector	The Communication should contribute to the consolidation and completion of the integration of the financial services markets.	Initiatives in this field will improve the framework for cross border investment, diversification of investment portfolios, and wider access to capital at lower cost. This will improve cross border trade and investment.	3/2005	COMplanned	
21	Communication on entrepreneurship education and learning	The Communication will promote a more entrepreneurial culture, starting with young people and from education. It will help Member States formulate more systematic approaches to entrepreneurship education, with the aim to enhance the role of schools and universities in creating a more entrepreneurial culture in Europe.	Systematic action in the area of entrepreneurship will have an impact on attitudes of young people towards entrepreneurship, on the development of relevant skills and on the number of successful start-ups.	3/2005	COMplanned	
22	Driving forward the agreed agenda with ASEAN: TREATI (Trans Regional EU-ASEAN Trade Initiative)	Develop EC-ASEAN dialogue and regulatory co-operation on trade issues focusing on standards, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Matters (SPS), forests, investment and trade facilitation, and support ASEAN economic integration	Facilitation of the access of European companies to Asian markets through standardised rules.	N/A	N/A	
23	Extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries	The Communication on Policy challenges and budgetary means of the enlarged Union recognises the role of the TENs as a key policy area and proposes priorities for the external dimension and cooperation. The Commission also adopted a strategy paper European Neighbourhood Policy, which addresses the opportunities and challenges created by the shift of EU external borders following the enlargement.	Good transport connections between the European Union and its neighbours are essential for trade and economic development. Smooth, safe and secure transport systems reinforce sustainable economic growth and competitiveness and ensure smooth movement of passengers, goods and services. However, the possibilities for the Community to finance transport investments outside its territory will remain limited.	4/2004	COMplanned	
24	Green Papers on Asset Management and Mortgage Credit	Consolidation and completion of the integration of the financial services markets.	<u>Asset Management</u> : initiatives will lead to a cost-effective fund industry, which will diversify risk more efficiently, allow retail investors to earn higher returns and make capital available for investment projects. <u>Mortgage Credit</u> : initiatives will lead to more increased border mortgage credit activity, to a more competitive and attractive market environment for mortgage businesses that operate across borders and to more choice and better prices for consumers.	3/2005	COMplanned	
25	eCustoms initiative	The eCustoms initiative aims at creating a European electronic environment for customs and trade, which is consistent with the operational and legislative projects and developments scheduled or underway in the areas of customs and indirect taxation.	Reduction of compliance costs for companies carrying out imports into/exports out of the European Community, particularly if various Member States are involved.	3/2005	COMongoing	
26	+ Revised Impact Assessment Guidelines	The measure is part of the broader Better Regulation initiative. The Guidelines are the culmination of a period of intense internal reflection and has taken into account stakeholder comments and views. The Guidelines also integrate the impact of EU legislation on competition in impact assessments.	Clearer and more effective guidance to Commission services will help to ensure that the potential impact on growth and jobs of Commission initiatives is properly analysed and taken into consideration.	3/2005	COMcompleted	
27	(Pilot) Internal Market Information System	IMI aims to support the emphasis on governance and partnership with Member States set out in the Internal Market Strategy. It is intended as a general tool to support the implementation of internal market legislation.	Improved administrative cooperation between Member States will reduce barriers to cross-border economic activity and will lead to a better functioning of the Internal Market.	4/2005	COMplanned	

28	Communication on Home State Taxation	The measure addresses, in the area of corporate taxation, the issues which most hamper SMEs in their cross-border activities.	Better corporate taxation would lead to better resources allocation in the internal market and reduction of compliance costs, implying an increase in the potential output and downward pressures on costs and prices.	3/2005	COMplanned	
29	Communication on Customs actions to combat counterfeiting	Measure to protect business from unfair competition from piracy and counterfeiting	Will help protect existing jobs and encourage investment in the EU.	3/2005	COMplanned	
30	Intelligent Transport Systems for logistics and intermodality	Road vehicle on board systems (including the digital tachograph) and multi-modal real-time for people on the move will facilitate passenger intermodality. It should enable services such as road user charging, vehicle identification, freight management or e-safety. It can also enhance traffic management by replacing the need to install expensive traffic counting systems in roads, as well as providing the platform for value added services such as dynamic route guidance and 'pay as you go' insurance.	ITS should result in reduced road congestion, which is estimated to cost the equivalent of 1% of GDP. ITS measures can also bring environmental benefits and contribute to the target to halve the number of fatalities by 2010. Through the use of ITS, inter-modality policies can ensure efficient use of inland navigation, railways and short sea shipping, as key elements of a competitive and sustainable chain of inter-modal freight transport.	2006	COMplanned	
31	Rail network interoperability, capacity and safety	The Community will take the necessary measures to ensure the interoperability of rail networks, notably in the field of technical standardisation. In particular the Commission will adopt technical specifications for interoperability of conventional rail and foster the deployment of the European Railway Traffic Management System (ERTMS). Deployment of ERTMS will enable both high-speed and conventional trains to carry a single European system on board.	The adoption of technical interoperability specifications will increase the competitiveness of the rail sector as a whole. Standardisation also reduces maintenance costs and favours international traffic, in particular in the field of freight transport. ERTMS will reduce costs for infrastructure managers. Its deployment over a decade on a European scale will strengthen the high speed railways market share and will contribute to stopping the marginalisation of rail freight. ERTMS deployment is very labour intensive requiring highly technical skills.	2005	COMplanned	
CREATING MORE AND BETTER JOBS						
32	* Action plan on legal migration	Following the European Council conclusions of November 2004 on legal migration, the Commission adopted in January 2005 a Green Paper in order to launch a broad discussion on the Community rules for admitting economic migrants and on the added value of adopting such a common framework. Drawing on the inputs received, the Commission aims to adopt an action plan on legal migration.	Economic migration, if properly managed, is a key asset for the economic and social development of Europe and the competitiveness of EU enterprises. In the light of demographic decline and the expected fall in employment levels, migration is a growing necessity to meet labour market needs and sustain economic growth. The action plan should provide a response to these challenges and make progress towards an EU framework on economic migration.	4/2005	N/A	
33	* Consultation on European Institute of Technology	The consultation should explore with the Member States and public and private stakeholders the practical modalities to the creation of the European Institute of Technology.	The EIF should attract the best minds and companies and strengthen knowledge and innovation throughout Europe.	1/2006	COMplanned	
34	* Proposal for European qualifications framework	Proposal aimed to promote geographical and occupational mobility, in the context of the initiative Education and Training 2010.	Better transparency and recognition of qualifications and competences should lead to a better allocation of human resources and a more integrated European labour market.	2/2006	COMplanned	
35	+ Anticipate and accompany restructuring: adoption of Communication and consultation of Social Partners	The Social Agenda foresees that the Commission will develop a strategy for managing restructuring operations. The strategy focuses on improved interaction between the relevant European policies, greater involvement of the social partners, enhanced synergy between policies and financial levers and the adaptation of the frameworks of legislation and agreements.	The Communication will reinforce the capacity of all the actors (companies, workers, regions, etc.) to anticipate and better manage change and restructuring, thus enhancing the potential for employment growth and competitiveness. The Forum will constitute an important factor for building partnerships at Community level around policies designed to enhance the Union's capacity to cope with change.	1/2005	COMadopted /completed	
36	+ Restructuring forum	The Forum regroups all the actors concerned by restructuring. It is a forum of discussion of all the policies and measures which may contribute to better anticipating and managing restructuring.	The Forum will constitute an important factor for building partnerships at Community level around policies designed to enhance the Union's capacity to cope with change.	1/2005	COMadopted /completed	
37	Social Dialogue	Social dialogue is a key feature of the European social model. The social partners are increasingly called upon to take an active part in attaining the objectives of the Lisbon strategy on growth and employment.	In the context of the overarching objective to achieve higher growth and jobs, the social partners can play a fundamental role by, inter alia, ensuring better productivity, sustainable employment, inclusive labour markets, higher participation rates and an adaptable workforce.	N/A	Ongoing	
38	+ Confronting demographic change [Green paper]	The green paper will promote a reflection on the policy response to cope successfully with demographic ageing.	The action is linked to the goals of increasing employment, active ageing and ensuring a long term basis of sustainable growth.	1/2005	COMadopted	

39	Communication on Social and Health Services of General interest	In line with the commitment undertaken in the White Paper on Services of General Interest, a Communication will be presented setting out a systematic approach in order to identify and recognise the specific characteristics of social and health services of general interest and to clarify the framework in which they operate and can be modernised.	This should contribute to ensuring a good climate for the operation of modernised social services including employment services.	N/A	COMplanned	
40	Open method of coordination (OMC) in the field of social protection / social inclusion: common objectives on inclusion, pensions and healthcare reforms	The initiative should streamline the separate OMC processes in relation to social inclusion, pensions and health care systems with a view to ensure better internal coordination and linkages with the other Lisbon processes.	A central aim will be to strengthen the contribution of social inclusion policies and the modernisation of social protection systems with a view to stimulating growth and jobs.	4/2005	COMplanned	
41	Promote the integration of people excluded from the labour market	Consultation of social partners and civil society on possible new approaches to the integration of people excluded from the labour market.	This action can contribute to improve employment participation rates.	3/2005	COMplanned	
42	Monitoring policies for sustained integration of young people into the labour market, via the mutual learning programme on employment	The initiative is part of the development of strategies for reducing youth unemployment.	The action can contribute to improve labour market opportunities for young people	2005	COMplanned	
43	Incorporate youth dimension in Social Inclusion Strategy	The initiative should contribute to develop inclusion strategies for young people.	Lifting young people out of situations of exclusion will enhance their chances to integrate the labour market.	2005	COMplanned	
44	Proposal for a European credit system for lifelong learning	Proposal aimed to promote geographical and occupational mobility, in the context of the initiative Education and Training 2010.	Better transparency and recognition of qualifications and competences should lead to a better allocation of human resources and a more integrated European labour market.	2/2006	COMplanned	
45	Education and Training 2010: Follow-up measures	The Commission envisages a series of measures to take forward the Education and Training 2010 work programme, which is the Community strategic framework of co-operation in the fields of education and training. These include a Communication on the 2006 Joint interim Report on Education and Training 2010, to improve the governance and ownership of the programme; a proposal aimed to promote geographical and occupational mobility; a proposal on a quality charter for mobility; a proposal on competences for lifelong learning; and a Communication on adult learning.	The various measures should strengthen progress towards common objectives in the field of education and training. High quality human capital and enhanced labour mobility are key for competitiveness and job creation.	Pre-2004	COMongoing	
46 +	Follow-up to the European Youth Pact: Communication on 'European policies concerning youth. Addressing the concerns of young people in Europe: implementing the European Youth Pact and promoting active citizenship'	The Communication aims to improve education, training, mobility, employment and social inclusion of young Europeans	The measures proposed should help reduce youth unemployment, ensure that educational attainment levels are improved and that young people are equipped with the necessary key competences.	2/2005	COMadopted /completed	
47	Youthpass - tool for recognition of youthwork	The Youthpass should provide a common framework for validating informal and non-formal learning	The measure should contribute to develop human capital and enhance employability of young people by recognising skills and competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning	2006	COMplanned	
48	European Voluntary Service	Developing new forms of European Voluntary Service should contribute to encourage mobility and develop skills and competences in young people.	The measure should contribute to develop human capital and enhance employability of young people	2005	COMongoing	
49 +	European Year of Worker's mobility in 2006	The objectives of the Year are anchored within the Treaty objectives to promote the free movement of workers and to enhance occupational and geographic mobility (as identified in the Employment Guidelines). A number of new developments are due to take place in 2006, including the decisions on the transitional measures following the 2004 enlargement, the follow up of the "Skills and mobility" Action Plan or the follow up of current actions in the field of social security and pension rights.	The Year should raise awareness of the rights of workers to free movement and of the existing possibilities for geographic and occupational mobility. Increased labour mobility can lead to a more efficient allocation of human capital and increased growth and employment.	01/2005	COMadopted	
50 +	European Year on Equal Opportunities for all in 2007	The Commission's Communication on the Social Agenda for the period 2005-2010, emphasised the importance of promoting equal opportunities for all in order to achieve a more cohesive society. It announced the Commission's intention to develop a new framework strategy on non-discrimination and equal opportunities for all.	Eliminating discrimination in order to reap the benefits of diversity is an important element in the development of a more competitive and dynamic economy and society.	01/2005	COMadopted /completed	