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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL, THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

Commission Legislative and Work Programme 2007

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL, THE
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COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME 2007

1. INTRODUCTION

In 2007 the European Union will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome. 50 years of European construction have brought peace, economic and social prosperity and stability, based on common values and principles. Europe is changing: welcoming two new Member States, facing up to the effects of globalisation and building a new role on the international scene. Citizens' expectations of the EU have increased over the last five decades. This is both a recognition of the EU's increased relevance and a challenge to all of Europe's leaders. EU citizens want a greater understanding of what the EU does and how it does it. They want to have a say in what the EU does. That is why at the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome in 2007, the Heads of State and Government together with the Commission and the European Parliament will renew their commitment to Europe in the Berlin Declaration, committing again to an enlarged, sustainable, open and competitive Europe, a Europe of political achievement and political goals.

2007 will also be a crucial year for the search of an institutional settlement. The European Council of last June has set a clear process and a timetable, and the incoming Presidency will have the task of presenting a report containing an assessment of the state of discussions with regard to the Constitutional Treaty and explore future developments. The Commission intends to fully participate in this process and will cooperate with the other institutions, with the aim of contributing to a comprehensive institutional settlement.

This Commission set out its strategic objectives at the start of its mandate: putting Europe back on the track of prosperity; reinforcing our commitment towards solidarity; strengthening citizens' security and, finally, projecting and promoting these priorities outside our borders with a stronger voice in the world.¹ These remain the core direction for the Commission's work, and the foundation for the partnership approach essential to realising ambitious policies in a complex world.

Two major policy agendas complement the renewed Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs and the Sustainable Development Strategy reconfirmed at the European Council in June:

- In autumn 2005, the European Union agreed to put globalisation at the centre of its policy agenda. At Hampton Court, a set of interlocking policies was identified as needing a European response: research and development, universities, demography, and energy, along with security and a more effective external response.
- In May this year, the Commission set out a twin-track strategy to move Europe forward, in its document "A Citizen's Agenda: Delivering Results for Europe". The institutional and constitutional issues facing Europe cannot be put on one side – but they can only be

¹ Ref. COM (2005) 12 final

tackled in parallel to the delivery of an active policy agenda focusing on citizens' expectations and needs. Concrete results will boost citizens' confidence in the European project and create the right conditions for an ambitious institutional agreement.

The past year has set the European Union on the path to realising an ambitious policy programme. The Lisbon Strategy has been re-launched and the Commission has set out how innovation can become the touchstone of the European economy – with a flagship for education, research and innovation in the shape of the European Institute for Technology. An interinstitutional agreement on the budgetary framework for the next seven years has been reached and the new financial programmes will start on 1 January 2007. The revision of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, adopted by the European Council in June on the basis of the Commission proposal, provides a comprehensive and long-term approach for putting EU policies on a more sustainable path. The Green Paper for the new energy policy for Europe includes concrete proposals on internal and external aspects of energy policy to be developed with the aim of achieving sustainability, competitiveness and security of energy supply. The Green Paper on a future maritime policy for the Union launched a debate on a truly integrated Maritime Policy which will release untapped potential in terms of growth and jobs while strengthening the protection of the marine environment. The "Europe in the world" paper set out how the EU could advance towards the goal of a global voice to match its economic weight. The Commission has continued to exert leadership in the international dialogue on the future international climate change regime.

This Work Programme maps out what the Commission will do to meet its strategic objectives in 2007. To develop its programme for 2007, the Commission has had the benefit of the reactions from the European Parliament, the Council and the other institutions to the Annual Policy Strategy for 2007. The structured dialogue established under the Framework Agreement between the European Parliament and the Commission and the "summary report" adopted by the Conference of Presidents have been particularly valuable and have illustrated how common goals can be worked into concrete actions and tangible results.

- As regards **prosperity**, the Commission will continue to promote the modernisation of the European economy through the renewed Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs, and a dynamic internal market, with an interlocking set of measures to foster knowledge, innovation and a sustainable environment for growth. This includes the creation of a European framework for economic migrants. The Commission will pursue the initiatives to promote external aspects of competitiveness set out in its 4th October 2006 Communication on "Global Europe, competing in the world". Energy will be a major focus, with the first European Strategic Energy Review heralding a new phase in European energy policy to help tackle climate change. The Commission will come forward with its views on the way forward for a new maritime policy.
- **Solidarity**, environmental protection, sustainable management and use of natural resources, and the health and wellbeing of citizens go hand in hand with growth and jobs. With 2007 being the "European Year of Equal Opportunities", Europeans will again be reminded of the social core at the heart of how Europe works. The Commission will take stock of the social situation in the EU, as requested by the European Council in June 2006, with a particular emphasis on questions of access and opportunity, and in view of building a new consensus on the social challenges facing Europe. Updating policies to match the needs of European society today is a key first step to making solidarity work effectively. It will also have to continue to drive forward its climate policy, with the aim of broadening international co-operation and achieving bigger emission reductions domestically.

- Action at European level is needed to ensure a high level of **security** and justice, safety and protection of citizens Europe faces new risks. Environmental and health risks, communicable diseases and natural disasters, as well as threats from terrorist attacks require rapid and effective response capacity at EU level. Law enforcement and criminal investigation across the EU will be pursued in the fight against crime and violence. Border control will be a key area for action in 2007, together with the extension of the Schengen Area.
- Europe needs to cultivate **a strong voice of its own in the world** to pursue goals such as sustainable development, global environment, peace, neighbourhood, cooperation and external competitiveness. Scientific, technological and other knowledge-intensive forms of cooperation based on mutual interest and mutual benefits hold particular potential for furthering those objectives Europe needs to improve coherence and coordination of the Commission's action with the work of the other European institutions and that of the Member States. Equally, Community external policies and the external aspects of internal policies must work together better.

A more focused Work Programme for the future

This year, the Commission proposes to take another step in the evolution of the Work Programme. The goal is for the Work Programme to be a more focused reflection of the priorities for the coming year; to help make inter-institutional discussion of forthcoming priorities more concrete; and to underline the message that better regulation actions are an integral part of the Commission's tasks. This means well targeted policies, tackling issues where subsidiarity shows that Europe can bring real benefits. The Commission has chosen to present a short list of strategic initiatives, selected because of their political relevance and advanced stage of preparation. The Commission is committed to adopting these measures next year, and they will not be subject to a mid-term review.

With this in mind, this Work Programme sets out the concrete actions at the core of the Commission's political delivery during 2007 – the Commission's strategic initiatives. A detailed list is provided in the Annex. In addition, the Commission commits to develop a series of priority initiatives, to be adopted over the next 12 to 18 months depending on the depth and intensity of preparation needed to meet the quality standards of Better Regulation. A detailed list with the areas where the Commission intends to develop priority initiatives is provided in the Annex.

In drawing up the lists of strategic and priority initiatives, the Commission has reflected the dialogue it has had, in particular with the European Parliament, since the adoption of the Annual Policy Strategy for 2007. The Commission is ready to listen to the views expressed by the other Institutions on its work programme.

The Commission is committed to ensuring the quality of its proposals. Impact assessment is carried out on initiatives with the potential for significant economic, social and environmental impacts. Therefore all items identified as "strategic initiatives" or "priority initiatives" will be subject to impact assessment, with Green Papers, Social Dialogue measures, 'convergence-type' reports, and transposition of international agreements normally being exempted from this requirement. The proposals put forward in the annexes have been or are the subject of wide public consultation, to ensure that citizens and all interested parties are fully involved in the decision-making process. Impact assessment procedures may also be applied for other items which do not feature in the Work Programme. The modalities for selection of these

additional items will be established in the context of the creation of the new impact assessment support and quality control function which will work under the direct authority of the President.

Next month, the Commission will adopt a strategic review of its Better Regulation activities, highlighting the progress made to date and identifying new initiatives. This Work Programme focuses on the forthcoming plans for simplification, and also outlines other measures in the pipeline.

2. THE PRIORITIES FOR 2007

Modernising the European economy

The Commission's core strategy for promoting sustainable growth and jobs in a dynamic, innovative and attractive Europe is now well-established. With the submission of national programmes, the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs has entered a new phase and there is a shared commitment to go further with the reform agenda, with EU action complementing national, regional and local efforts. The Commission's 2007 annual progress report to the Spring European Council on the renewed Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs will be adopted before the end of 2006, and thus follow-up will be an important theme for 2007. The consensus on innovation reached at the European Council in Lahti will put the spotlight on measures at both European, national and local level to stimulate innovation in all sectors of the economy.

Globalisation, enlargement and technological progress have all changed the rules of the game and present new challenges and opportunities for the internal market. The Commission is currently undertaking a *Single Market review*, to look at achievements to date, to identify gaps that need filling and to propose action to meet the challenges of the future and ensure that citizens effectively reap the benefits. Publication of this review will set the scene for the Single Market into the next decade.

Continuing its policy of looking at sectors where the Internal Market is not fully established, a key focus in 2007 will be *defence industries and markets*, where the need to respect the demands of national security has kept these industries apart from the competitive rigours of the internal market. The Commission will explore how the European dimension can help to tackle market fragmentation.

Over the past few years, the EU has been undertaking a major reform of agricultural markets. This process is continued with proposals for the *wine sector*, designed to guarantee a successful future for an industry where Europe has a real competitive edge.

The internal market also has an impact on the rapidly developing sector of space. A *European Space Policy* is needed to provide a frame for users and developers of space technologies and to ensure that EU policies take this dimension into account.

The consultation process on the Green Paper dealing with the future maritime policy for the Union will end in June 2007. The Commission will then present the results of this consultation including political conclusions and actions that can be implemented in the short-term.

Slovenia will join the Eurozone in 2007. The Commission will continue to assess the readiness of Member States with a derogation to adopt the euro and would start the practical preparations with the countries that would meet the criteria for the introduction of the euro in 2008.

Addressing the challenges of European society

At the heart of aspirations of European citizens, in particular young Europeans, is the breaking down of barriers to the opportunities offered by the European labour markets. "Flexicurity" has been acknowledged as a promising approach to marrying labour market flexibility and the development of skills with robust social protection. The Commission will put forward proposals to encourage common principles to stimulate *flexicurity*.

The Commission is undertaking a *comprehensive stocktaking of European society*, to serve as a basis for a new agenda for access and solidarity and for European policy-making into the next decade. As part of this exercise, the Commission will present a mid-term review of the implementation of its Social Agenda with a view to taking stock of EU achievements in delivering more and better jobs and offering equal opportunities for all.

A better management of migration flows

The pressures of demography have added to the need for the European labour market to attract economic immigrants. A European regime for *economic immigrants* would give them a secure legal status making clear the rules attached and the rights they should enjoy. Specific attention needs to be given to the position of *highly skilled migrants*, with a swifter response time to react to changing needs – something like a "green card" system.

An important tenet of the EU strategy in the field of migration will be a proposal on minimum sanctions for employers of illegally staying third-country nationals, in order to reduce both illegal immigration and the exploitation of such workers. In the field of asylum, the Commission will stimulate dialogue with all stakeholders involved with a view to the completion of the Common European Asylum Policy by 2010.

Secure, competitive and sustainable energy

Energy has climbed to the top of the policy agenda. After a long period of relative stability, secure and affordable energy supplies can no longer be taken for granted. At the same time, the imperative of tackling climate change demands a different approach to energy use and energy production. Increased dependence on imports and higher energy prices have been read as a sign for the future. Only a European response, based on sustainability, competitiveness, energy efficiency and security, can deal with a challenge of this magnitude.

The Commission will present the first *Strategic Energy Review* for Europe, a comprehensive approach accompanied by an Action Plan with individual actions for the development of an EU energy policy. It will set the scene for a long-term approach to improve the internal market, to accelerate the use of new technologies, to diversify and secure supplies inside and from outside the EU, to control demand and to promote energy efficiency. In parallel, the Commission will put forward a Green Paper on options for EU climate change policy and the perspectives for international co-operation post-2012. It will also propose measures to secure the completion of a true *internal market for electricity and gas*. There will also be a revision of the EU *Emissions Trading Scheme* to provide for stability of investments and to step up the momentum on cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

The result will be a clear vision of what needs to be done in Europe to secure long-term energy for its citizens and to lead the world on climate change awareness.

Making Europe a better place to live

European public policy can have a real influence in helping citizens anticipate and react to a rapidly changing society. To deliver properly, it must be up to date, and perfectly attuned to the needs of modern society. Central to people's well-being is their health, a high quality environment and the services they can rely upon. A White Paper on *health strategy* will set out how the European level can contribute to health and help to shape health policy in Europe to best effect, facing up to the challenges of pandemics, improving food security, promoting health and contributing to future competitiveness. A European strategy will also be put in place in the field of *social services*, building on a wide consultation process on the impact of European law in this area. The Commission will also explore how the EU can make a contribution to better *urban transport*, used by millions of Europeans each day.

Security is also central to Europeans' well-being. Measures to *combat terrorism* will centre on fighting terrorism propaganda and limiting the transmission of expertise – such as explosives – for terrorist purposes. An Action Plan on enhancing the security of explosives will be adopted. The Commission will also focus its work on the fight against cyber crime and to foster public-private dialogue and cooperation in the security field.

Europe as a world partner

With the accession of Bulgaria and Romania, 2007 will mark another important stage in the European Union's historic process of enlargement. The annual *enlargement strategy paper* will provide an opportunity to take stock of and to assess the progress made by the other countries in the enlargement process, outlining the way ahead.

Europe is already established as the largest trader in the world. Its markets offer opportunities, and its products and services offer choice, for sustainable trade and investment partners worldwide. A renewed *market access strategy* will help to address barriers to trading relationships and to create new openings for trade and investment worldwide while taking into account competitiveness, social and environmental concerns.

Over the coming year, a key goal of the Commission will be to overcome the obstacles to an agreement in the Doha Development Round. This remains central to the health of the global economy. At the same time, the EU should pursue its Global Europe Communication to promote a dynamic policy of external competitiveness and cooperation to improve trade relations with key partners and to ensure the external dimension contributes to growth in Europe.

Negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements, which represent a cornerstone for the regional integration of the ACP countries and for their development, will be concluded by the end of 2007.

Particular attention will be paid to the reinforcement of the European Neighborhood Policy, the negotiation of Association Agreements with several major partners in Asia and Latin America, as well as to progress in the negotiations with major strategic partners such as Russia, China and Ukraine. The implementation of the European Security Strategy will be continued, in particular in the area of human security. The Commission will persist in its

stabilization efforts in the Middle East and in South Asia. It will also work towards further strengthening transatlantic relations.

Millions of Europeans travel all over the world each year. They need protection and support when in difficulty. Their rights to *diplomatic and consular protection* as EU citizens should be clear and they should be able to exercise those rights whenever needed.

3. DELIVERY: A DAILY TASK

New actions with a focus on political priorities form only one aspect of the Commission's work. Throughout the year, the Commission remains responsible for managing financial and operational programmes, within Europe and throughout the world. It has direct responsibility for managing a series of complex common policies and for ensuring the *acquis* is properly applied. It has a special role as guardian of the common European interest. The Commission will step up its efforts to communicate with European citizens and to explain the European project.

Management functions

2007 will mark the start of an extensive series of new financing programmes in the context of the new Financial Perspectives. These include a full set of new programmes in cohesion policy, in employment and social solidarity, in particular the European Globalisation Fund, and in rural development and fisheries. 2007 will see the finalisation of 27 national strategic reference frameworks and the approval of around 360 operational programmes in the framework of Cohesion Policy. Similarly for rural development 27 national strategy plans are being finalised and around 80 programmes will be adopted in 2007. The definition and launching of the new generation of programmes will secure the contribution of Cohesion Policy and rural development policies to the Union's economic modernisation and the Commission's strategy for growth and more and better jobs via the earmarking "Lisbon-related" Cohesion spending. There are also measures to stimulate competitiveness like the 7th Research Framework Programme, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP), the Life Long Learning Programme and the trans-European networks.

Complementing the legislative activity of the Union, these programmes provide a coherent political framework for EU action in areas of primary concern to EU citizens and contribute to the attainment of the four strategic objectives of the Commission. At the same time the Commission is continuously looking to deliver its on-going tasks such as ensuring proper implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform and increased competitiveness in agricultural markets. Continuous efforts are undertaken by the responsible Commission services to raise the quality of programmes and projects which are financed by the EU, an objective which also covers the work to promote their reliable financial management and the best value for money. These programmes also contribute to the smooth integration of new Member States and thus help the EU to continue to make a success of each enlargement. At the same time, recently adopted programmes will also extend beyond our borders, like the Instrument of Pre-Accession or the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. Furthermore a new set of external policy instruments will be introduced to promote development and cooperation and to deliver external assistance in over 150 countries around the world, to respond to trans-regional security threats or to promote human rights and democracy.

Managing the Community acquis

The Commission's role does not end with the adoption of a proposal by the Members of the Commission. It actively participates in shaping the measures finally adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, acting as an honest broker between the institutions to find the best solutions to serve the general interest of the Union.

The Commission also steers and prepares the work of many Committees bringing in expertise from across the EU, and making the regulatory process for EC legislation more effective and transparent through enhanced cooperation between supervisory authorities. This system enables the EU to respond much faster and in a more flexible manner to developments and facilitates the revision of detailed implementing measures where necessary. New rules for this system of "comitology" will increase the participation of the European Parliament in the regulatory process. The Commission will examine the legal acts adopted under the codecision procedure that may be subject to the "new regulatory procedure with scrutiny" and will amend, as agreed, the procedure for informing the European Parliament and the register functions.

The Commission is responsible for monitoring implementation and enforcement of the acquis by the Member States. To that effect, it ensures the due application of EC law in all Member States. Such monitoring activities can lead, when appropriate, to infringement procedures being initiated against Member States deemed to be in breach of their obligations under EC law. For the past year, the Commission has been reviewing the position concerning the application of Community law. The resolution adopted by Parliament on this issue in the Better Regulation package has been taken into account in this review. The Commission is preparing to announce its intentions in the Better Regulation Strategic Review document planned for adoption in November.

Making policy work

One of the central tasks of the Commission has always been to actively promote development and implementation of EU policy. The renewed Lisbon Strategy is an example of this. The strategy is now based on a firm consensus, but at the heart of the strategy is a recognition that good governance is needed to make the strategy genuinely effective. This means partnership. Member States have committed themselves to their national reform programmes, but the Commission provides a key monitoring role at every stage – in addition to delivering a series of EU level actions directly. This dynamic relationship is essential to translating policy aspirations into real action.

In many areas, the Commission has been given the task of monitoring progress. Annual stocktakings in areas like economic and social protection and gender equality allow for policy to be refined where needed. Longer-term assessments allow for new directions. For example, in 2007 the Commission will report on the Environment Technology Action Plan, and the European Union Solidarity Fund for disaster support. A mid-term review of both industrial policy and the modern SME policy will also be undertaken. The Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) will be launched, providing key environmental information to a range of users, for example to aid urban planning. In 2007, the annual report on Employment in Europe will review labour market developments, marking the 10th year of the European Employment Strategy and a new cycle of the open method of coordination in the social protection field will be launched.

Detailed monitoring is also provided by new mechanisms set up for defined purposes. A European Observatory of Energy markets will be set up in 2007, initially for electricity, gas and oil markets, with possible extension to other commodities at a later stage. The Commission will also pursue nuclear, aviation and maritime security inspections for which it is responsible.

International scene

The Commission plays a lead role in ongoing international negotiations. The EC is party to a number of international agreements. The Commission's negotiating role continues to grow as the objectives under the various Conventions evolve. The main areas include the environment (notably on climate change and biodiversity), agriculture, fisheries, trade and intellectual property. The Commission also conducts regulatory dialogue with key partners, including China, India, Japan, Russia, Brazil, Mexico and the USA. These are useful tools for avoiding regulatory conflicts, enhancing cooperation with other jurisdictions and helping to promote EU regulatory standards in the world, thereby pre-empting the impact of globalisation.

Connecting Europe to citizens

One of the Commission's fundamental objectives is to make EU policies understandable and relevant to the citizens. This includes a commitment to listen and to deliver, and to becoming more accountable, transparent and effective. A reinforced dialogue with the citizens requires adequate means and a continuous effort from all the EU institutions in terms of democracy, dialogue and debate, as in Plan D. The Commission will continue to try to better involve citizens in the policy process at all levels, particularly young people and women. The challenge is to improve the citizens' image of the EU, knowledge about the EU, and interest in the EU. The Commission will continue to build an operational and fruitful partnership with national, regional and local authorities and civil society in the Member States, as well as with other key stakeholders including the media.

The Commission launched a major new initiative to develop participation in Europe through the White Paper on Communication. Next year will see a new phase in this work, with an agenda of practical steps by EU institutions, Member States and civil society, underpinning the Commission's commitment to connect to citizens.

This Commission has made communication one of the strategic objectives for its term of office and has recognised that a renewed commitment to communication with Europe's citizens is of vital importance. In its 2005 Action Plan to improve Communicating Europe, the Commission has also decided to focus in its communication activities on key priorities to be selected, on the one hand on political priorities and, on the other hand, on a sound and deep understanding of the citizens' interest and concerns. Next year, the Commission will concentrate its communication activities on the priorities set out in annex, which have been established on the basis of the political priorities set up in the present work programme.

While concentrating its efforts and resources on key priorities, the Commission will continue to pursue and strengthen its efforts to better communicating Europe in all policy areas.

4. BETTER REGULATION: SIMPLIFICATION, CODIFICATION, WITHDRAWALS AND MEASUREMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

The aim of simplifying and modernising the regulatory environment in Europe is central to the work of the Commission. Meeting this cross-cutting strategic objective has led the Commission to develop and pursue a far-reaching Better Regulation agenda, with a view to making further progress towards the Lisbon objectives for jobs and growth.

This priority will be reflected both in the preparation and design of its work programme initiatives and in specific initiatives to simplify existing legislation. The Commission will develop a modern, efficient and effective regulatory culture throughout Europe. The good progress made in recent years will be built upon in 2007, with the lessons identified as part of the forthcoming strategic review of Better Regulation allowing the Commission to further refine its approach and to ensure that the expectations of Europe's citizens and economic operators for a simple and effective regulatory environment are met.

Simplification programme

In particular, the Commission is implementing a far-reaching **rolling simplification programme** designed to lessen the burden on economic operators and citizens. This rolling programme originally covered about 100 initiatives, of which more than 20 have already been delivered. Following a major update of the rolling programme in 2006, 47 simplification initiatives will be presented in the course of 2007. Major simplification initiatives will be presented in many policy areas, in particular for product regulation, agricultural legislation, environmental and labour market legislation, and statistics. In addition, the Commission will pursue simplification in cases where legislation is adopted through Comitology.

Codification

In 2007, the Commission will step up its work appreciably to reduce the volume of the acquis and improve its accessibility and implementation. Following the 2006 update and re-launch of the indicative programme to **codify the acquis**, the Commission aims to present around 350 codification initiatives in the period up to 2008. In 2007 alone, the Commission will present around 100 proposals to the legislator for codification of Council and Parliament acts. The European Parliament and the Council are called upon to ensure the speedy adoption of codification proposals.

Screening of pending proposals

In 2007, the Commission will also complete its screening of **proposals pending before the legislator**. In 2005-2006, a first screening of proposals dating from before 2004 led to the Commission withdrawing 68 proposals. A similar screening exercise of more than 80 pending proposals dating from 2004 (until 22 November 2004) has enabled the Commission to announce the withdrawal of a further 10 pending proposals. In accordance with the Framework Agreement, the Commission hereby informs the other institutions of its intention to withdraw these pending proposals.

Administrative costs reduction

The Commission is already delivering on its commitment to reduce administrative costs in EU. Administrative costs are the costs for private and public actors such as those incurred in meeting legal obligations to provide information on their activities. They are only a part of the wider compliance costs of legislation. Based on the results of a pilot study, a large measurement project of administrative costs will start next year in cooperation with Member States. By comparing the results obtained in 4 Member States where baseline measurements have already been done (NL, UK, DK, CZ), the pilot identified policy areas that are most responsible for creating administrative burdens and at determining the methodological aspects that need to be taken into account in the larger measurement study. A Commission action programme for reducing administrative costs will be presented early 2007, providing input for the setting of a common cost reduction target at EU level and indications of areas most suitable for rapid reduction of administrative costs, and how this can be achieved.

Other better regulation tools

As announced, the **tools to ensure quality and delivery** of high quality legislation will be further consolidated in 2007. Key Commission initiatives will be prepared through integrated impact assessment and consultation of stakeholders and experts, as appropriate. In the coming months, a dedicated function under the direct authority of the President will begin work to ensure quality support and control of the Commission's impact assessments. Moreover, in 2007, the external evaluation of the Commission's impact assessment system will be concluded which may lead to revision of the Commission's Impact Assessment Guidelines, e. g. to help adhere to the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

ANNEX

COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE AND WORK PROGRAMME 2007

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

| Title | Type of proposal or act | Description of scope and objectives |
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| <p>1. Energy initiatives</p> <p>a) Strategic Review of the Energy Policy for Europe</p> <p>b) Measures to ensure the completion of the internal market for electricity and gas</p> | <p>a) Non-legislative action/ Communication</p> <p>b) Legislative Proposal/Directive Legal basis: Arts 95 and 100 EC Treaty</p> | <p>a) The SEER intends to establish the key elements of an energy policy for Europe encompassing the three main energy policy objectives: sustainability, competitiveness and security of supply. It should offer a long-term strategy to be followed by the European Union and the individual Member States in order to ensure full consistency and to allow a single voice at international level.</p> <p>Various policy options with different weight on each of the main policy objectives will be tested and the best possible options should be retained and proposed by the Commission to the European Council.</p> <p>One of the policy options should set a certain level of carbon-free energy sources to promote at the same time sustainability and security of supply, while maintaining the requested level of competitiveness of the European economy and the affordability of energy. Several scenarios will be made, resulting in different set of measures to be taken to achieve the objectives.</p> <p>b) The following measures are to be considered and will be proposed following impact assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - revision of Directive 2003/54 - revision of Directive 2003/55 - revision\extension of Regulation 1228/03 including new guidelines - revision\extension of Regulation 1775/05, including new guidelines - revision of Directives 2004/67 and 2005/89 - Directive/Regulation on gas storage (or possibly included in revision of 2003/55) <p>These changes will have the objective of further improving access to energy networks via reinforcement of independence of system operators, increasing coherence of energy regulation at national and European level, increasing the degree of transparency and market surveillance and protecting customers.</p> |
| <p>2. Migration initiatives</p> <p>a) Legislative proposal for a general framework directive addressing labour immigration</p> <p>b) Proposal for a directive on the conditions of entry and residence of highly skilled workers</p> <p>c) Proposal for a Directive on minimum sanctions for employers of illegally resident third-country nationals</p> | <p>a) Legislative Proposal/Directive Legal basis: Art 63 EC Treaty</p> <p>b) Legislative Proposal/Directive Legal basis: Art 63 EC Treaty</p> <p>c) Legislative proposal/ Directive Legal basis: Art 63(3) (b) EC Treaty</p> | <p>a) The specific objective is to promote better integration of economic immigrants in the labour market and to establish fair and clear rules and rights for them. A secure legal status for economic immigrants – where their rights both as workers and as members of the host society will be clearly identified and recognised – will protect them from exploitation, therefore increasing their contribution to the EU's economic development and growth.</p> <p>b) The specific objective is to devise admission procedures, capable of responding promptly to fluctuating demands for migrant labour in the labour market, i.e. capable of effectively and quickly filling labour market gaps, also with a view to addressing the consequences of the demographic trends in Europe.</p> <p>c) To contribute to effectively tackling/reducing employment of illegally staying third-country nationals in order, at the same time, to reduce illegal immigration and exploitation of such workers.</p> |

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| 3. Communication on the Single Market Review | Non-legislative action/Communication | <p>The Communication on a Citizens' agenda calls for a forward-looking review of the Single Market. Its aim is to assess the experience of the Single Market since 1992, to identify successes and gaps and see what action is needed to ensure that the Single Market continues to deliver on its economic promise, and to ensure that citizens effectively reap the benefits.</p> <p>The review should set out a clear and coherent vision for the Single Internal Market. It should offer clear policy directions for the years to come and serve as a useful instrument to re-connect the citizen to the SM.</p> |
| 4. Social reality stocktaking | Non-legislative action/Report | <p>In June 2006, the European Council, recognising that the complex dynamics of social change within our societies need to be better understood in order to strengthen Europe's response to globalisation, asked the Commission to take stock of the social situation in the Union, with a particular emphasis on questions of access and opportunity.</p> <p>This stock-take will examine the main drivers behind the social transformations in European societies. It will look at how these changes can be assessed against benchmarks of well-being. It will attempt to open a debate about some of the key factors that contributes to wellbeing – such as economic opportunity, the quality of working life, the challenges of the ageing society, demography and new patterns of family life, poverty and inequality, the barriers to good health and social mobility, crime and anti-social behaviour, and diversity and multiculturalism.</p> <p>This exercise in exploring Europe's social reality aims at building a new consensus on the social challenges facing Europeans.</p> |
| 5. Proposal for a revision of the Council Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism | Legislative Proposal/Decision | <p>Devising effective solutions towards fighting terrorism propaganda through various media.</p> <p>Limiting the transmission of expertise, in particular on explosives and bomb making, for terrorist purposes.</p> |
| 6. Emissions Trading Scheme. Proposal for amending Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 2003 establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community and amending Council Directive 96/61/EC, as amended | Legislative Proposal/Directive Legal basis: Art 175(1) EC Treaty | Review of the EU Emission Trading Scheme and amendment of the existing Directive with a view to improve the functioning and extending the scope for the third trading period starting in 2013 |
| 7. Communication on "Pathways towards more Flexicurity: achieving better combinations of flexibility and security" | Non-legislative action/Communication | The objective of the Communication is to explore flexicurity and help Member States adopt by the end of the year a set of common principles. The Communication will highlight the current situation pertaining to flexicurity within Member States and possible pathways to enhance flexicurity |
| 8. Communication on "A European Strategy for Social Services of general Interest" | Non-legislative action/Communication | On the basis of further consultations with Member States (e.g. high level group on health policies and the Social Protection Committee) and relevant stakeholders, this follow-up communication will set out the further steps to be taken in order to develop a more systematic approach in the application of Community law and principles in the field of social services. |
| 9. Community Framework for safe and efficient health services | Legislative Proposal Legal basis: Art 95 EC Treaty | <p>The specific objective is to establish a Community framework for safe, high-quality and efficient health services in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure patient safety wherever healthcare is provided throughout the Community; - address uncertainties over application of Community law to health services that create obstacles to cross-border healthcare; - and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health services throughout the EU. |
| 10. Proposal on actions to strengthen Diplomatic and Consular Protection | Non-legislative action/Communication | This proposal will be the follow-up of a Communication on this issue adopted by the end 2006. Given the increasing number of EU citizens travelling abroad and therefore likely to resort to diplomatic or consular protection in case of a problem, the low level of information on their rights is not acceptable. To make citizens aware of their fundamental right to diplomatic and consular protection outside the EU. To implement common standards and common procedures among Member States when |

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| | | helping EU citizens abroad. |
| 11. White Paper on health strategy | Non-legislative action/White Paper | The Health strategy aims at: - bringing together all health initiatives to improve security and promote health; - shaping a policy agenda on key health themes; - monitoring progress with targets and indicators; - implementing mechanism and Community instruments. |
| 12. Communication on the Renewed Market Access Strategy | Non-legislative action/Communication | L'adaptation des modalités d'action de la Stratégie est nécessaire pour développer l'ouverture des marchés mondiaux, au bénéfice de l'UE comme des pays tiers. Il s'agit d' utiliser l'ensemble des instruments de politique commerciale. Les objectifs principaux sont la facilitation des exportations de biens et de services, et des investissements, notamment dans les pays émergents et la levée des barrières à l'accès aux marchés et l'aide aux entreprises travaillant dans les secteurs à plus fort potentiel afin de tirer profit de la spécialisation sectorielle mondiale. |
| 13. Communication on a European Space Policy, incorporating a European Space Programme | Non-legislative action/Communication | The overall objective will be to devise a coherent and comprehensive European Space Policy, covering the EU and the European Space Agency (ESA), together with the policies and activities of the Member States, matching user needs on the demand side to the strategic potential of space systems and technologies. The Policy will be directed towards exploiting space technologies and systems in support of the Union's policies and objectives. It will provide the political backdrop for the coordination by these bodies of their existing programmes under the umbrella of a European Space Programme. |
| 14. Communication on the way forward for a future maritime policy | Non-legislative action / Communication | As foreseen in the Green Paper Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union adopted by the Commission in June 2006, the Communication will summarize the results of the consultation process following the Green Paper, will draw political conclusions and will present certain follow up actions that can be implemented in the short term. |
| 15. Green paper on urban transport | Non-legislative action/ Green Paper | The Green paper will assess the benefits that would result from a European policy on urban transport. The Green Paper will also identify the problems/challenges, (possible) new actions including 'early actions', (possible) responsibilities, it will propose actions through which the EU can add value, and it will include a list of questions for further consultation. |
| 16. Green Paper on Post-2012 Climate Change | Non-legislative action/Green Paper | The Green Paper will help identify areas where action is needed at Community level to support the EU's adaptation to the increasing adverse effects of climate change. The need to consider EU-level action on adaptation was flagged in the Commission Communication "Winning the Battle against Global Climate Change". |
| 17. Proposal for a Council Regulation on common market organisation of wine (*) | Legislative Proposal/Regulation Legal basis: Art 37 EC Treaty | The reform of the common market organisation for wine aims mainly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to increase the competitiveness of the EU's wine producers; • to create a wine regime that operates through clear, simple rules that ensure balance between supply and demand; and • to create a wine regime that preserves the best traditions of EU wine production and reinforces the social and environmental fabric of rural areas. The proposal for the Council Regulation was preceded by a Commission Communication setting out guidelines for the legislation (COM (2006) 319 final of 22 June 2006). |
| 18. Defence initiatives a) Communication on defence industries and markets b) Proposal for a Regulation on the Transfer of Defence Products | a) Non-legislative action/Communication b) Legislative proposal/ Regulation Legal basis: Art 95 EC Treaty | Defence industries have so far been kept out of the implementation of the internal market. Member-States have maintained national control over defence equipment markets and related industries (based on Article 296 of EC Treaty). Markets are therefore fragmented, leading to similar fragmentation of research efforts and industrial bases. As the problem is the market fragmentation, it is unlikely to be solved solely at Member States level. The Commission wants to encourage the competitiveness of the European defence sector, taking into account the specific characteristics and needs of this sector, by reinforcing the commercial status of the European industry for defence products, which would further develop a European defence industry capable of supporting the ESCP and the task of Member States to guarantee national security. In particular, it will lead to a reinforced synergy between military and industrial needs as concerns defence-related products. Besides, it is commonly recognised that the high level of fragmentation of the defence market has hampered the efficiency of |

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| <p>c) Proposal for a Directive on the coordination of procedures for award of public contracts in the defence sector</p> | <p>c) Legislative proposal/ Directive Legal basis: Art 95 EC Treaty</p> | <p>procurement processes and the functioning of the Internal Market. In this context, the extensive use of the exemption provided by Article 296 TEC is a major problem, since it leads to the use of uncoordinated national procurement rules and different procurement practices in market segments which de jure fall under Community rules. All this reduces transparency and openness in defence markets and contributes greatly to the current market fragmentation. The Commission will adopt before the end of 2006 an "Interpretative Communication on the application of Article 296 of the Treaty in the field of defence procurement." In parallel, the Commission carries out an Impact Assessment in order to assess whether a possible Directive on defence procurement would be useful, by introducing more flexible rules which are better suited to the specific nature of defence markets.</p> |
| <p>19. Enlargement initiatives</p> <p>a) Strategy Paper on Enlargement</p> <p>b) Progress Reports on Croatia, Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia (including Kosovo) and Montenegro.</p> <p>c) Partnerships on Croatia, Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia (including Kosovo).</p> | <p>a) Non-legislative action/ Communication</p> <p>b) Non-legislative action/ staff working papers</p> <p>c) Legislative proposal/ Decision Legal basis: Art 310 EC Treaty</p> | <p>a) The "Strategy Paper" contains the main findings of the Progress Reports and includes proposals for policy recommendations.</p> <p>b) The Progress Reports assess the progress made by Croatia and Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia towards accession as well as the progress made in implementing the Stabilization and Association process by Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia including Kosovo.</p> <p>c) The Partnerships (Accession or European Partnerships) define for each country priorities to be met in the short or medium term. They are based on the findings of the Progress Reports.</p> |
| <p>20. European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) initiatives</p> <p>a) Communication on ENP</p> <p>b) Black Sea Cooperation</p> <p>c) Progress reports on Action Plan implementation with 11 partner countries</p> | <p>a) Non legislative action/Communication</p> <p>b) Non legislative action/staff working papers</p> <p>c) Non legislative action/Communication</p> | <p>a) After a debate with Council and Parliament and other stakeholders, including partner countries, under German Presidency the Commission will make specific proposals to strengthen the ENP in areas such as deeper economic and trade integration, greater mobility for ENP citizens in the EU, and a Neighbourhood Investment Fund. It will set out proposals for successor arrangements with Ukraine, Moldova and Israel, whose Action Plans will expire in 2008. The Communication will also review progress on implementing existing ENP Action Plans with 11 partner countries (see point c below).</p> <p>b) Proposals for enhanced EU presence in Black Sea cooperation, including regional ENP partners as well as Russia and Turkey, as a major contribution to regional stability and security</p> <p>c) Review of 11 country Action Plans and assessment of progress towards the overall objectives of the European Neighbourhood Policy</p> |
| <p>21. Follow-up to the White Paper on a European Communication Policy</p> | <p>Non-legislative action/ Communication</p> | <p>The main policy objective is to set up an agenda of practical steps by EU institutions, Member States and civil society, underpinning the Commission's commitment to connect to citizens and consolidate the democratic foundations of the European project, including development of a European public sphere.</p> <p>Actions proposed reflect the suggestions flowing from the White Paper as well as the subsequent public consultation and stakeholder conferences held in 2006 and 2007. The proposals will focus on establishing common principles for communication rights; empowering citizens (civic education); co-operation with media; improved methods of analysing and understanding</p> |

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| | | public opinion as well as developing partnerships with all key institutional partners in the Member States to add stronger recognition of EU dimension in national political discourses. |
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PRIORITY INITIATIVES

| Title | Type of proposal or act | Description of scope and objectives |
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| <p>Eurozone initiatives:</p> <p>a) Convergence report – 2007</p> <p>b) Proposal for Council Decision(s)</p> <p>c) Proposal for a Council Regulation on conversion rates of the currencies of the Member States concerned to the euro</p> | <p>a) Non-legislative action/ Communication</p> <p>b) Legislative proposal/ Decision. Legal basis: Art 122 (2) EC Treaty</p> <p>c) Legislative proposal/Regulation. Legal basis: Art 123 (5) EC Treaty</p> | <p>a) At the request of a Member State with a derogation, the Commission and the ECB each prepare a convergence report in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 121(1) of the EC Treaty. The reports examine to what extent the Member State has achieved a high degree of sustainable convergence on the basis of the 4 convergence criteria. The compatibility of their national legislation with Community law also forms part of the assessment.</p> <p>b) If one or more Member States are deemed to fulfil the conditions for euro adoption, their derogation is abrogated by the Council</p> <p>c) If one or more Member States are deemed to fulfil the conditions for euro adoption, the Council decides on conversion rates of new euro area entrants</p> |
| <p>Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the support scheme in the cotton sector accompanied by a proposal for a regulation amending Chapter 10a of Title IV of Council Regulation (EC) N° 1782/2003.</p> | <p>Legislative Proposal / Regulation Legal basis: Art. 37 (2) of the EC Treaty and Protocol N° 4 on cotton, annexed to the 1979 Act of Accession (in particular paragraph 6 thereof).</p> | <p>On 7 September 2006, the European Court of Justice annulled the 2004 cotton reform because the decision on the reform failed to take into account all relevant factors, in particular all labour costs and the viability of ginning undertakings which the Court considered necessary to assess profitability of the crop. The current regime may continue to be applied until the adoption of a new regulation.</p> |
| <p>White Paper on Damage Actions for breach of EC Competition Rules</p> | <p>Non-legislative action/ White Paper</p> | <p>The White Paper will suggest possible follow-up to the 2005 Green Paper which examined various procedural and technical barriers in the Member States which prevent undertakings and individuals injured by breaches of EC competition law from taking successful private legal action in order to recover compensation from the infringer for the loss suffered. The main objective is to ensure effective implementation of the finding of the European Court of Justice that the full effectiveness of the Treaty would be put at risk if it were not open to any individual to claim damages for loss caused by conduct liable to restrict or distort competition, and that there is an obligation to provide for effective means to exercise the right to damages.</p> |
| <p>Commission Communication on the implementation of National strategies for Green public procurement based on EU-wide target setting and regular monitoring and benchmarking.</p> | <p>Non-legislative action/ Communication</p> | <p>Raise political profile by proposing EU-wide target for Green public procurement; increase implementation by giving guidance to MS for the adoption of national action plans on green public procurement and by proposing regular benchmarking and monitoring by the Commission and the MS</p> |
| <p>White Paper on the Integration of EU Mortgage Credit markets</p> | <p>Non-legislative action/ White Paper</p> | <p>White Paper on mortgage credit announcing any initiatives to be proposed by the Commission to promote the creation of an EU mortgage credit market, based on the results of wide-spread consultation following the 2005 Green Paper 'Mortgage Credit in the EU'.</p> |

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| Proposal for a Directive on the coordination of procedures for the award of concessions | Legislative proposal/ Directive Legal basis: Arts. 47(2), 55 and 95 EC Treaty | The public consultation on the Green Paper on Public-private Partnerships (PPPs) and Community law on public procurement and concessions showed the demand for a stable, consistent legal environment for the award of concessions at EU level. In spite of the economic importance of concessions, only few provisions of secondary Community legislation coordinate the award procedures for works concessions. Apart from these provisions, the contracting bodies are free to decide how to select the private partner, although in so doing they must nonetheless guarantee full compliance with the principles and rules resulting from the Treaty. For their part, the award of service concessions is only governed by the EC Treaty principles. EU level coordination appears to be best suited to provide the necessary legal certainty, reconciling it with the alleged need for flexibility of public authorities and creating a level playing field for economic operators. |
| Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the cross-border transfer of the registered office of a limited liability company | Legislative proposal/ Directive Legal basis: Art 251 EC Treaty | The draft proposal contains a simple framework allowing the transfer of the registered office of a limited liability company without winding up in the Home Member State or formal re-incorporation in the Host Member State. The directive will ensure continuity of the company's legal personality. It will also contain specific provisions on employee participation. |
| Proposal for a Directive on the Solvency of insurance companies (Solvency II) (*) | Legislative proposal/ Directive Legal basis: Arts 47(2) and 55 EC Treaty | Insurance companies face increased competition, convergence between financial sectors and international dependence. In line with similar developments in the banking sector and following international developments in solvency, risk management and accounting, the new solvency regime aims at the protection of policyholders and beneficiaries. It will improve the competitiveness of EU insurers and provide for a better allocation of capital resources, without causing significant market disruptions and impeding innovation in the insurance industry. |
| Proposal for an Amendment of Directive on Undertakings for Collective Investments in Transferable Securities (UCITS) | Legislative proposal/ Directive Legal basis: Arts 47(2) and 95 | The Directive introduced the concept of UCITS passport, allowing a fund, subject to a simple notification, to be offered to retail investors in any EU jurisdiction once authorised in its home country. The Directive's provisions defining investment limits, information requirements and other UCITS features were drafted with a view to protect investors. While the UCITS passport has encountered some problems in its practical implementation, it has paved the way for cross-border sale of investment funds. However, it has not been enough to facilitate industry consolidation and greater efficiency. The objective of this proposal is to modernise the existing regulatory framework so that it will achieve its objectives (market efficiency and investor protection) in a context where structural changes are transforming the environment in which the investment fund sector evolves. Operational objectives: 1) to eliminate barriers to the integration of the European fund market; 2) to encourage cost savings at different levels of the fund industry value-chain and to ensure that those savings are passed on to investors; 3) to provide the appropriate framework for investors to make informed investment decisions |
| Commission Recommendation on the proportionality between capital and control in EU companies | Non-legislative action/Recommendation | The main objective is to identify existing deviations from the proportionate allocation of ownership and control across EU listed companies; to evaluate their economic significance and whether such deviations have an impact on EU financial markets. This will allow the Commission to evaluate whether the present regime concerning shareholder voting rights across the EU is an obstacle for financial market integration in the EU, which is an essential condition for maximising the benefits of enlargement for all EU 25 Member States. |
| Communication on other VAT rates than the standard rate | Non-legislative action/Communication | The Commission intends to use the results of an independent quality think tank study for : - the evaluation of the current situation in the enlarged EU-25 notably in terms of job creation, economic growth, and the proper functioning of the internal market; - the discussion on the necessity and/or possibility of new proposals in the field of VAT reduced rates. Any proposals should be directed towards enhanced consistency in the application of VAT rates in the EU and their contribution to the proper functioning of the internal market, as well as coherence with established policy objectives. The clarification of the scope of reduced VAT rates will eliminate an uncertainty for businesses and citizens. |
| Proposal for a Council Directive on the modernisation of VAT provisions relating | Legislative proposal/ Directive | The current provisions are out of date and at the very least need to be modernised. The overall legal and regulatory environment in which the industry operates does not keep pace with the evolution of the industry and conflicts with the bias |

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| to financial services including insurance (*) | Legal basis: Art 93 EC Treaty | towards vertical integration. Companies are thus prevented from further refining their economic and legal structures to increase their competitiveness. Changes should be directed towards modernising the rules, ensuring their consistency with established policy objectives and reducing the need to seek clarification through litigation |
| 4 th Report on Economic and Social Cohesion | Non-legislative action/ Report | Report to the European parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions on the progress made towards the economic and social cohesion and the contribution made to this by the European and national policies as well as by Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund, the EIB and the other financial instruments (Articles 159 EC Treaty and 45 Regulation (EC) n°1260/1999). |
| Communication on "Delivering the Lisbon Agenda on the ground: Cohesion Policy's programmes 2007-2013" | Non-legislative action/ Communication | This Communication aims at assessing the extent to which the new Cohesion Policy's programmes 2007-2013 intend to move forward the implementation of the renewed Lisbon Agenda (notably the results of the earmarking exercise and the increase of expenditure committed to innovation). |
| Communication and proposal for a Council regulation on stepping up the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing | Legislative proposal/ Regulation Legal basis: Art 37 EC Treaty | Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is a major threat worldwide against sustainability of fish stocks and marine biodiversity. It also causes considerable losses to coastal communities and to fishermen operating legally. The FAO Plan of Action of 2001 reflected consensus among the international community that all appropriate means should be devoted to tackling IUU fishing. Following the adoption of an Action Plan by the European Community in 2002, a new strategy has to be defined, taking stock of what has already been achieved and identifying what new actions are required. |
| Communication on a policy for the progressive elimination of discards in European Fisheries | Non-legislative action/ Communication | The objective is to reduce wastage in fisheries operations and increase the sustainability of fishing by the progressive elimination of discards and reduction of by-catches. |
| Commission Communication on water scarcity and droughts | Non-legislative action/ Communication | This follows from the request of a number of Member States to initiate a European action on water scarcity and droughts made during the Environment Council of 9 March 2006. The Commission presented a first information note to the Environment Council in June 2006 in which it committed itself to considering what further action to address water scarcity and drought issues could be taken at EU level, based on an in-depth assessment. |
| Action Plan on Sustainable Production and Consumption (SCP) | Non-legislative action/ Action Plan | The European Council requests the Commission to develop an EU-SCP-Action Plan by 2007 in the context of the renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) of June 2006. The objective is to promote sustainable consumption and production by addressing social and economic development within the carrying capacity of ecosystems and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation. |
| Legislative proposal for Regulating Carbon Capture and Geological Storage (CCS) | Legislative proposal/ Directive Legal basis: Art 175 EC Treaty | Carbon capture and storage is a new technology that could make a significant contribution to the reduction of CO2 emissions, both in the EU and globally. The environmental acquis will require adaptation to this technology, to remove unwarranted barriers by establishing a legal framework for CCS in the EU, to ensure legal certainty for investors across Europe, and to manage new environmental risks. |
| White Paper: "Towards a European Climate Change Adaptation Programme" | Non-legislative action/White Paper | Produce a White Paper entitled <i>Towards a European Climate Adaptation Programme</i> , taking into consideration responses from the consultation of the Green Paper on Adaptation (to be published end 2006) and listing specific actions on adaptation to be undertaken by the Commission. |

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| Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to motor vehicles using liquid or compressed gaseous hydrogen | Legislative proposal/ Regulation Legal basis: Art 95 EC Treaty | This Regulation lays down the requirements for the type approval of hydrogen systems and hydrogen components for motor vehicles of categories M and N. It also includes requirements for the installation of specific components or systems in those vehicles. The main objective is to ensure the proper functioning of the internal market for hydrogen-powered motor vehicles while providing for a high level of public safety and a high level of environmental protection. |
| Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the type approval of heavy-duty vehicles and engines with respect to their emissions (Euro VI proposal) (*) | Legislative proposal/ Regulation Legal basis: Art 95 EC Treaty | The proposal will apply to heavy-duty vehicles. The main objective of the proposal is to lay down the Euro VI limits for pollutant emissions. This is primarily an internal market objective, closely linked to the aim of environmental protection. |
| Legislative initiative to reduce CO ₂ emissions from Light duty vehicles | Legislative proposal/Legal basis: Art 175 EC Treaty | Scope: Reduction of the average CO ₂ emissions and improving the fuel efficiency from passenger cars (M1) and light-commercial vehicles (N1) sold in the EU25. Objective: the type of instrument and the objective will be established taking into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The progress made by the car industry under the current voluntary agreements to reach 140 g CO₂/km in 2008/9 • The Community objective of 120 g CO₂/km by 2012 • The consistent and comprehensive approach to CO₂ reductions (to be outlined in Commission Communication end of 2006) |
| Revision of Directive 2001/81/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2001 on national emission ceilings (NEC) for certain atmospheric pollutants | Legislative proposal/ Directive Legal basis: Art 175 EC Treaty | Establishing national emission ceilings (kton/year) to be respected by Member States by 2020 for SO ₂ , NO _x , VOC, NH ₃ and primary Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5}). To save about 1.71 million life years from exposure to particulate matter, to reduce acute mortalities from exposure to ozone by 2.200 relative to the position in 2000 and to reduce the threat to the natural environment from both acidification and eutrophication by 55% from what is technically possible, SO ₂ emissions will need to decrease by about 82%, NO _x emissions by about 60%, VOCs by about 51%, ammonia by about 27% and primary PM _{2.5} by about 59% relative to emissions in 2000. |
| Review of existing legislation on industrial emissions (*) | Legislative proposal/ Directive Legal basis: Art 175 EC Treaty | The current Community legal framework on the regulation of industrial emissions is complex and comprises the following main pieces of legislation: the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive (96/61/EC) and several sectoral Directives, namely the Large Combustion Plants (LCP) Directive (2001/80/EC), the Waste Incineration (WI) Directive (2000/76/EC) and the Solvents Emissions (SE) Directive (1999/13/EC). The interaction between these instruments raises a number of issues, for instance as regards the alignment of scope, the consistency of definitions, the interaction of operative requirements and monitoring and reporting by Member States. The general objective of the review is to evaluate the scope to improve the functioning of the current legal framework related to industrial emissions and the interaction between the various legislations, while not altering the underlying principles and the level of ambition of the present legal framework. More specifically, the review aims at: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. clarifying certain legal and technical issues, taking into account the outcome of the Thematic Strategies 2. assessing ways to streamline existing legislation on industrial emissions to improve its environmental performance 3. assessing the use of market-based instruments or other instruments to strengthen the implementation of the current legislation and to promote innovation. |
| Commission communication on the implementation and enforcement of EC environmental law | Non-legislative action/Communication | There is a need to bring all different approaches to improve the implementation of environmental legislation in the Member States. This initiative was warmly welcomed by the Conference of Presidents of the commissions of the EP in their report on the APS 2007. |

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| White Paper on nutrition | Non-legislative action/ White Paper | The document will establish a strategy on nutrition at EU-level. Its objectives will be to promote healthy lifestyles (good diet and higher levels of physical activity) in order to halt the rising prevalence of overweight and obesity, and the chronic conditions that weight issues cause (such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, some cancers etc). The strategy will put forward a comprehensive approach to improving lifestyles and promote a partnerships approach to implementing actions. The strategy will build on existing mechanisms such as the EU Platform for Diet and Physical Activity which promotes exchange and co-ordination between stakeholders. The Community action in this field is also important for the coherence of the single market as actions in this area may affect free movement of food products. |
| Working together to improve security: Public Private Partnerships in the field of European Security | Non-legislative action/ Communication | The Communication will present a general programme for public-private cooperation in the security field, including questions regarding security research, fight against terrorism and crime, improved border controls and management of visa requests, and protection of personal data. |
| Communication " EU Action Plan for the enhancement of the security of explosives and firearms" | Non-legislative action/ Communication | Stimulate debate and dialogue with all actors involved in the security of explosives (experts from Europol and Situation Center, national experts from the Member States, Commission and the Council Terrorism Working Party) which will be taken into account in the preparation of an EU Action Plan for the enhancement of the security of explosives and firearms. |
| Communication on the fight against cyber crime | Non-legislative action/ Communication | Cyber crime is an area where concerted action at EU level is urgently needed. In the Council and Commission Action Plan implementing the Hague Programme on strengthening freedom, security and justice in the European Union, it is announced that a Communication on Cyber crime will be adopted in 2006. In the meantime, the decision has been taken to present two separate Communications, one dealing with preventive measures, the other with repressive measures. The latter, the planned Communication on cyber crime should set out the future approach of the EU-wide combat against cyber crime. |
| Communication on the animal health strategy 2007-2013 | Non-legislative action/ Communication | The proposal aims at: -Presenting the Community Animal Health Policy (CAHP); -Presenting clear objectives reflecting customer priorities; -Assessing the budgetary impact (Community financial perspectives 2007-2013); -Ensuring the coherence of CAHP with the other EU policies and international agreements (SPS); -Minimising the regulatory burden; -Providing the CAHP with an appropriate budget and an adequate financial instrument. |
| Regulation 1774/2002 on animal by-products | Legislative proposal/ Regulation Legal basis: Art 152 EC Treaty and Art 35 of Reg. 1774/2002 | The key objective is to review the health rules on ABPs taking into account the experience gained in applying Regulation 1774/2002. Removing disproportionate provisions and clarifying the scope of the Regulation would lead to a clear text, making the measures more effective and efficient. The review will reduce unnecessary burden and negative impacts, increasing benefits by simplifying and avoiding duplication of administrative procedures for national authorities and operators. |
| Communication on Organ donation and transplantation | Non-legislative action/ Communication | Organ transplantation is currently a common technique used in medicine. Transplants are in many cases the only treatments to end-stage organ failures. This process is not risk-free to the donor and the recipient. The Commission, under article 152 of the Amsterdam Treaty, has the right to establish the necessary measures for setting high standards of quality and safety of organs. Organ transplantation is a very complex area that can only be addressed by taking all factors into account. |
| Communication of the Commission on the follow-up to the Green Paper on "Adapting labour Law for ensuring flexibility and security for all" | Non-legislative action/ Communication | Follow up by the Commission on the public consultation launched by the 2006 Green Paper on the future of labour law. It will summarise the results of the public consultation and outline directions of work which may lead to legislative or non-legislative initiatives. |

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| Revision of Directive 88/378/EC on the safety of toys (*) | Legislative proposal/Directive Legal basis: Art 95 EC Treaty | The main policy objectives are the simplification of the current legislation, the improvement on the safety of toys by clarifying essential safety requirements, the improvement in the functioning of the Internal Market by developing conditions for a better common approach by national market surveillance authorities in the implementation of the legislation in force. |
| Framework Decision (or Decision) on the protection of witnesses and individuals who cooperate with the judicial process | Legislative proposal/ Decision Legal basis: Art 31(10) EU Treaty and Art 61 EC Treaty | In some areas of criminality, such as organised crime and terrorism, there is an increasing risk that witnesses will be subjected to intimidation. All persons have a civic duty to give sincere testimony as witnesses, if so required by the criminal justice system, there should also be greater recognition given to their rights and needs, including the right not to be subject to any undue interference or be placed at personal risk. Member States have a duty to protect witnesses against such interference by providing them with specific measures of protection aimed at effectively ensure their safety. |
| Erasmus Mundus II: Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a programme for the enhancement of quality in higher education and the promotion of intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries | Legislative proposal/ Decision Legal Basis: Art 149 EC Treaty | The overall aim is to foster cooperation with third countries and the broad human and social development partners through an international scholarship scheme which increases the attractiveness of European higher education world-wide, promotes its presence in the international higher education scene, encourages the enhancement of quality in higher education and the promotion of intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries. |
| Communication on the European Research Area – New horizons and further steps | Non-legislative action/ Communication | The Communication marks the launch of a major initiative on the European Research Area. It will take stock of progress towards an ERA since first launched in 2000, assessing successes and failures, exploring new ideas, taking account of new developments such as the ERC, etc. and defining new possible actions in concrete terms. The COM will be presented to Council, Parliament and the public for debate, with a view to presenting proposals for concrete initiatives in a second COM in 2008 in the context of the revision of the financial perspectives as well as paving the way for FP8. |
| Communication on the Mid Term review of the Life Sciences and Biotechnology Strategy | Non-legislative action/ Communication | Need to refocus and to concentrate the actions on issues which are a) relevant and b) where common action has the means to make a difference. In addition, there is a need to consider assigning concrete deliverables for actions, which will permit a more thorough monitoring and evaluation of the current Strategy for the years to come, and help reflection for possible post 2010 initiatives This review will be supported by a study on the challenges, consequences and opportunities of biotechnology in Europe which will be produced by the JRC in April 2007 (Bio4EU study). |
| Communication on the mid-term review of the implementation of the Social Agenda (2005-2010) | Non-legislative action/ Communication | The Communication will aim at taking stock of the implementation of the Social Agenda, in particular to what extent it has contributed to the realisation of the EU social goals in delivering more and better jobs and offering equal opportunities for all. In light of this assessment, it will propose a new agenda for access and solidarity, and if necessary signal a refocus of priorities in the employment and social fields and details ways to improve the governance and implementation of the Agenda for the years to come. |
| Strategic Energy Technology Plan | Non-legislative action/ Communication | The Strategic Energy Technology Plan should help to accelerate the development of promising energy technologies and to create the conditions to bring such technologies to the market. |
| New legislative proposals amending the regulatory framework for electronic | Legislative proposal/ Directive Legal basis: Art 95 EC | The main objective of the legislative proposals is to enhance the ability of the current framework to deliver on its initial objectives by proposing adaptations that take account of experience to date and expected market and technological changes in |

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| communications networks and services (*) | Treaty | the future. The creation of a competitive single market for electronic communications services and networks in Europe with corresponding benefits for citizens is the ultimate aim. |
| Green Paper on Universal Service in Electronic Communications | Non-legislative action/ Green Paper | The Communication on the Review of the EU Regulatory Framework for eCommunications of 29 June 2006 (COM(2006) 334) proposed only some minor amendments to the Universal Service Directive (2002/22/EC) announcing that the Commission would publish a Green Paper on universal service in 2007 to launch a wide ranging public debate to reflect the role and concept of universal service in the 21 st century. The Green Paper could lead to legislative proposals in 2008 (in line with the timetable set out in Article 15(1) of the Universal Service Directive). |
| European e-Inclusion strategy | Non-legislative action/Communication | In the 2006 Riga e-Inclusion Ministerial Declaration, the Member States have called for the Commission to come forward in 2007 with a coherent e-Inclusion approach within the i2010 framework. This Communication will constitute a key component in making clear what the Commission undertakes on the citizen dimension of the Information Society. It will propose a strategy for e-Inclusion highlighting new opportunities for socially disadvantaged people and for less-favoured areas to contribute to economic, natural and territorial cohesion. |
| Communication on strengthening mobile TV in the Internal Market | Non-legislative action/ Communication | Mobile TV will offer new and exciting services like live TV, time-shifted TV as well as on demand audiovisual content broadcast. This is a real opportunity for Europe. Mobile TV's combination of mobility and personalised, on-demand consumption will be able to meet consumers increasing demands for more choice and more individual treatment. This Communication therefore aims to support the introduction and take-up of mobile TV across the EU by addressing three main issues: (i) ensuring that sufficient harmonised spectrum is available (ii) technical aspects and standardisation (iii) contributing to a regulatory environment that is conducive to investment and innovation in the sector. |
| Communication sur un réseau ferroviaire orienté fret | Non-legislative action/Communication | Le transport de fret par rail ne se développera que s'il est plus efficace et s'il offre une meilleure qualité de service. Même si l'ouverture actuelle des marchés favorise sa dynamisation, d'autres actions sont nécessaires pour stimuler davantage le secteur. La communication présentera un plan d'actions pour faciliter le développement d'un réseau orienté fret qui pourrait déboucher à long terme sur le développement d'un véritable réseau dédié fret. |
| Freight Transport Logistics Action Plan | Non-legislative action/Communication | This Communication will list the actions considered necessary to foster better use of transport infrastructure and better logistics in Europe. A set of actions will be needed both at soft and legislative level. These actions could include addressing bottlenecks to freight transport logistics, developing ICT interoperability, enhancing coordination and mutual recognition of logistics training etc. It represents a follow-up to the Communication on freight transport logistics of June 2006 which launched a broad consultation on the subject. |
| Communication on the implementation of the NAIADES action programme on inland waterway transport | Non-legislative action/Communication | This communication will consider the state of progress of the NAIADES action programme adopted by the Commission in January 2006. This action programme provides for actions at European, national and regional level. The Communication will look at the state of play of these actions. It will also address the issue of legal and financial framework conditions necessary to support the development of inland waterway transport. |
| Communication on a European Ports Policy | Non-legislative action/ Communication | The Communication will outline the findings of the stakeholder consultation and possible measures to be proposed. Six consultation workshops with stakeholders planned for the period November 2006 – May 2007. Issues for discussion are, <i>inter alia</i> : relations with service providers (fair competition, concessions, position of port authorities), port-internal operational bottlenecks (cargo-handling and capacity, technical-nautical services), sustainable development of port capacity and environmental issues, general transport policy issues, inter-port cooperation, port financing (State Aid, transparency of accounts and financial autonomy of ports), port-external operational bottlenecks (hinterland connections, customs, logistics), |

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| | | competition of non-EU ports, pro-active behaviour port sector and positive image of seaports. |
| Legislative proposal on the cross-border enforcement of sanctions in the field of road safety | Legislative proposal/ Regulation Legal basis: Arts 71 and 156 EC Treaty | In the Commission Recommendation on enforcement in the field of road safety (2004/345/EC) the Commission has engaged itself to submit a proposal for a directive on enforcement contributing to the objective of 50% reduction of the annual number of road deaths in 2010. Enforcement is a key issue in bringing accident numbers down. However, without action at EU level, sanctions are often not enforced for non-resident traffic offenders. The proposal under examination would focus mainly on the setting up of a cross border enforcement system assuring that violations committed in a Member State by drivers from another Member State can be followed up. |
| Communication on complementarity, division of labour and scaling up of development aid | Non-legislative action/ Communication | The EU has committed itself to increasing the quantity of its aid (both Community and bilateral funds) in parallel to the announced scaling up of its ODA levels. In order to do so, the EU has adopted an Action Plan on Aid Effectiveness that entails 9 deliverables to be implemented before 2010. One of the deliverables is to address the duplications, gaps and lack of synergies between EU donors that hamper the impact of EU aid and represent unnecessary transaction costs. This Communication represents the achievement of a structured process with Member States that aims at establishing a set of operational principles on the division of labour. It will also entail elements on how to have a strategic use of co-financing to support the implementation of these principles. |
| Green paper on the establishment of the second phase of the Common European Asylum System | Non-legislative action/ Green Paper | Stimulate debate and dialogue with all stakeholders involved in asylum policy which will be taken into account in the preparation of the second stage legal instruments to be proposed by the Commission in order to complete the Common European Asylum Policy by 2010. |
| Communication on the results of the public consultation on the Green Paper on trade defence | Non-legislative action/ Communication | This Communication will draw conclusions in the light of the public consultation on the Green Paper on trade defence instruments announced in the Global Europe Communication. On the basis of submissions from stakeholders, authorities, and other interested parties, the Communication will identify the main conclusions and follow-up actions. |
| Council Regulation applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences – second cycle of the GSP scheme for 2009-2011 | Legislative proposal/ Regulation Legal basis: Art 133 EC Treaty | Implementation of the second cycle (for the period from 2009 to 2011) of the Community's GSP scheme, in accordance with the ten-year guidelines optimising conditions for goods originating in developing countries to gain access to the EU's market |
| Communication on stocktaking of EU-Africa relations | Non-legislative action/ Communication | The Commission will prepare a communication reviewing the state of play of EU-Africa relations (including the EU Strategy for Africa and the Joint EU-Africa Strategy). |
| Addressing transregional security threats through the Stability Instrument | Non-legislative action/ Communication | In view of the approval of the Instrument for Stability, the Communication will take stock of EU assistance efforts aimed at alleviating and preventing security threats and make proposals to improve the effectiveness and coherence of EU external assistance in areas related to security policy. It will propose ways to complement the actions at national and regional levels with a specific framework of responses to challenges of a global or trans-regional nature. The Communication will follow up on earlier Commission initiatives (such as efforts within the domain of conflict prevention, the Commission communication on the external dimension of JLS, the Commission communication on Security System Reform, etc.) |
| Global Agreements with ASEAN countries | Legislative proposal/ Decision Legal basis: Art 181 EC Treaty | Proposal for a decision to conclude Framework Agreements for partnership and cooperation with Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia (1 st semester), Malaysia and Philippines (2 nd semester). Proposal for negotiating directives for Framework Agreements for partnership and cooperation with Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos (1 st semester). Proposal for negotiating directives for the accession to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation. |

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| Human Rights and Democracy | Non-legislative action/ Communication | Communication on the broad orientations which will inspire the promotion of democracy and human rights on the basis of the future European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights |
| Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents | Legislative proposal/ Regulation Legal basis: Art 255 EC Treaty | The purpose of the proposed Regulation is to improve Regulation 1049/2001 taking account of experience gained in its implementation, the case law developed over the last years and the results of the public consultation to be held at the end of 2006. |
| White Paper on Communication: operational proposals | Non-legislative action/ White Paper | The scope of the operational proposals is to define concrete action plans with financial measures on the basis of the proposals defined on the final report on the follow-up of the White Paper on the following items: - defining common principles: A new institutional instrument for communication; - empowering citizens – European meeting places; - working with the media and new technologies; - understanding European public opinion, and - doing the job together: towards a new partnership on EU communication" |

(60 initiatives)(*) initiatives also contributing to the simplification programme

SIMPLIFICATION INITIATIVES

| Title | Type of simplification action | Description of scope and objectives |
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| Proposal for a Council Regulation on common market organisation of wine | Revision | The reform of the common market organisation for wine aims mainly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to increase the competitiveness of the EU's wine producers; • to create a wine regime that operates through clear, simple rules that ensure balance between supply and demand; and • to create a wine regime that preserves the best traditions of EU wine production and reinforces the social and environmental fabric of rural areas. The proposal for the Council Regulation was preceded by a Commission Communication setting out orientations for the legislation (COM (2006) 319 final of 22 June 2006). |
| Cross compliance report and relevant legislative proposals for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy | Revision | Report with appropriate legislative proposals on the implementation of the cross compliance mechanisms of Council Regulation (EC) NO 1782/2003 establishing common rules for direct support schemes |
| Council regulation on information & promotion actions for agricultural products | Recast | L'objectif de cette initiative est de définir les conditions, les procédures et les contrôles en matière de cofinancement des programmes d'information et de promotion des produits agricoles sur le marché intérieur et dans les pays tiers. L'initiative se traduira par une réduction des 4 règlements actuels relatifs à la promotion des produits agricoles (2 du Conseil et 2 de la Commission) en 2 règlements (1 du Conseil et 1 d'application de la Commission). |
| Amendment of the rules concerning applications for export licenses | Revision | Redrafting of Art 25 of Commission Regulation (EC) N° 1291/2000 will clarify that (for reasons of efficiency) the electronic versions of certificates referred to in Art. 19 may be submitted to the issuing body instead of to the importer / exporter. |
| Commission Regulation 800/1999 on proof of import for differentiated refunds | Revision | For the payment of differentiated refunds exporters must submit a copy of the customs import document of the third country concerned, proving that the products are imported for domestic use and that all import duties were paid. In some third countries, such proof is only to be obtained at excessive cost and it is non existent in free zones. |
| Commission Regulation (EC) No 917/2004 on beekeeping | Revision | The objective is to give Member States greater flexibility to adapt financial allocations, allowing better realisation of the programme and benefiting production and marketing conditions in this sector. Commission autonomous act |
| Commission Regulation (EC) No 2808/98 and implementing rules of Regulation (EC) No 2799/98 (operative events and exchange rates) | Revision | The proposal concerns the harmonisation of operative events and exchange rates in the different CAP sectors, relating to amounts, prices and aids to be converted in euros or in another national currency of Member States. The repeal of certain sectoral regulations and modification of Regulation (EC) NO 2808/98 in order to use a single exchange rate instead of an average rate for amounts are under consideration. Commission autonomous act |
| Simplification of standard periodic agricultural instruments | Revision | The objective is to replace multiple sectoral rules by horizontal ones and simplify management mechanisms through the modification of periodic agricultural instruments relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocation of quantities for import tariff quotas; - Tendering procedures for export refunds; - Tendering procedures for public storage; |

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| | | - Fixing of export refunds (including respect of WTO commitments). Commission autonomous act |
| Horizontal rules for private storage of agricultural products | Revision | The aim is to replace multiple sectoral rules by horizontal ones and simplify management mechanisms relating to the private storage of agricultural products. It is planned to carry out a legal review of the existing sectoral provisions with a view to eliminating unnecessary provisions and to harmonising the system of private storage, and to adopt a horizontal regulation for the rules concerning private storage. Commission autonomous act |
| Commission Regulation (EC) No 2295/2003 on egg labelling | Revision | The existing implementing Regulation (EC) No 2295/2003 will be redrafted to take into account the changes introduced by the new Council Regulation (EC) No 1028/2006. Commission autonomous act |
| Horizontal rules on tender procedures for export refunds for certain agricultural products | Revision | The aim is to replace multiple sectoral rules and simplify management mechanisms relating to tendering procedures concerning export refunds for certain agricultural products, through the adoption of a horizontal regulation for the tendering procedure concerning export refunds for certain agricultural products. Commission autonomous act |
| Horizontal rules on import tariff quotas managed through a system of import licences | Revision | The aim is to replace multiple sectoral rules by horizontal ones and simplify management mechanisms relating to import tariff quotas managed by a system of import licences (excepted bananas) by means of a legal review of the existing sectoral provisions with a view to eliminating unnecessary provisions and to harmonising regulations opening the import tariff quotas. Commission autonomous act |
| Commission Regulation (EC) No 382/2005 on the Common organisation of the market in dried fodder | Revision | The objective is to amend the implementing Regulation to reduce obligations for non-processors (farmers and downstream sector) under the regulation and to remove obsolete provisions. Commission autonomous act |
| General block exemption Regulations on the application of Arts 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to regional aid, SME, R&D, environmental aid, employment, training | Revision | The new General block exemption Regulation (GBER) will cover areas already covered by existing block exemptions concerning training, employment, SME, and new areas like innovation, environment, risk capital and regional aid. State aid covered by this GBER will not have to be notified to the Commission. The GBER will gather all provisions concerning State aid exempted from the notification obligation in one single document and by increasing the number of cases exempted from prior notification, thereby reducing the administrative burden for MS. |

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| Notice on the execution of recovery decisions | Revision | A more effective execution of recovery decisions by Member States has been identified as a priority objective in the State aid action plan This notice should provide guidance to Member States on how they should ensure that the Commission's recovery decisions are properly executed. |
| Implementing regulation, state aids procedural aspects | Recast | The implementing regulation provides guidance to Member States on a number of specific State aid procedural aspects (notification, calculation of recovery interests, reporting). The objective is to - Adapt the Regulation to accommodate the increased use of electronic exchanges between the Commission and the Member States; - Revise provisions regarding the recovery interests to bring them into line with economic reality; - Revise the annual reporting requirements for transparency and monitoring purposes. |
| Repeal of Council Decision 85/368/EEC on a system for the comparability of vocational education and training (VET) qualifications | Repeal | Following the adoption of the draft Recommendation of the Council and the EP on a European Qualifications Framework COM(2006)479, the Decision has become outdated and is no longer sustainable, notably because of the rapid development of qualifications. |
| Revision of Directive 2001/23/EC 'Transfer of Undertakings' | Revision | The main objective is to clarify and simplify the application of Directive 2001/23/EC to cross-border operations and introduce any amendments, after consultation of the Member States and social partners. |
| Codification of Directive 89/655/CEE and its amendments, Directives 95/63/EC and 2001/45/EC, concerning the health and safety minimum requirements for the use of work equipment at work | Codification | Codification. |
| Revision of Directive 88/378/EC on the safety of toys | Recast | The main policy objectives are the simplification of the current legislation, the improvement on the safety of toys by clarifying essential safety requirements, the improvement in the functioning of the Internal Market by developing conditions for a better common approach by national market surveillance authorities in the implementation of the legislation in force. |
| Proposal for Regulation of EP and Council on type approval of heavy-duty vehicles and engines with respect to their emissions (Euro VI proposal) | Revision | Harmonised vehicle emission standards have long been a feature of EU policy. The proper functioning of the single market in the European Union requires common standards limiting the emission of atmospheric pollutants from motor vehicles The proposal will apply to heavy-duty vehicles. The main objective of the proposal is to lay down the Euro VI limits for pollutant emissions. The proposal will repeal four directives. |
| Simplification of Council Directive 76/768/EEC on Cosmetic Products | Recast | The purpose of this proposal is to recast legislation on cosmetics products, as part of a more general simplification strategy concerning goods. As such, it was announced in the 2005 simplification communication. |
| Recast of Directive 89/106/EEC on Construction Products | Recast | The purpose of this proposal is to clarify the scope and the objectives of the existing Directive and to simplify the implementing mechanisms, ensuring proper functioning of the internal market for construction products, while avoiding constraints and obligations, e.g. administrative costs, which are disproportionate to the benefits to be expected. . |

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| Repeal of Directive 84/539/EEC on electro-medical equipment used in human or veterinary medicine | Repeal | This Directive has become obsolete. The applicable standard specified in the Annex dates back to 1979. It is the intention to broaden the scope of Directive 93/42/EC on medical devices which currently only addresses medical devices for human beings to extend to the veterinary devices. |
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| Review of existing legislation on industrial emissions | Recast | <p>The objectives is to improve the current legal framework related to industrial emissions, and to streamline the interaction between the various legislation, while not altering the underlying principles and the level of ambition of the present legal framework.</p> <p>As regards the scope of the present initiative, it includes reviewing the Directive 96/61/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC) and related industrial emissions legislation (Directive 2001/80/EC on large combustion plants, Directive 2000/76/EC on the incineration of waste, Directive 1999/13/EC on the use of organic solvents in certain activities and installations).</p> |
| Revision of Regulation (EC) No 1980/2000 on a revised Community eco-label award scheme | Recast | <p>The recasting aims at substantially enhancing the political profile and hence the market take-up of both voluntary instruments. The changes will focus on the substance with special attention for the needs of SMEs, the institutional set-up and the links to other policy instruments in particular Green Public Procurement.</p> <p>The objective is to create a more business friendly system by involvement of key stakeholders in the decision-making process, outsource routine criteria development to a dedicated body, link Eco-label closely with Green Procurement and reduce the procedural burden for the Commission.</p> |
| Revision of the Regulation (EC) 761/2001 allowing voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) | Recast | <p>The recasting aims at substantially enhancing the political profile and hence the market take-up of both voluntary instruments. The changes will focus on the substance with special attention for the needs of SMEs, the institutional set-up and the links to other policy instruments in particular Green Public Procurement.</p> <p>The objective is to raise attractiveness for SMEs by reduction of administrative burden for companies, simplify access to EMAS for company-clusters and reduce procedural requirements by cutting red tape.</p> |
| Review of the Directives on waste from the titanium dioxide industry | Recast | <p>The objective is to merge the existing three Directives related to the waste from the titanium dioxide industry (78/176/EEC, 82/883/EEC, 92/112/EEC) and to delete obsolete provisions, keeping the same level of environmental protection.</p> |
| Development of the Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) | Communication/recast | <p>Communication outlining the vision, objectives, actions and timetable for the development of the Shared Environmental Information System. It will be accompanied with appropriate legislative proposals to streamline the environmental reporting. It will announce simplification measures for environmental reporting to be presented in 2007.</p> |
| Recast of Council Regulation (EC) No 850/98 for the conservation of fishery resources through technical measures for the protection of juveniles of marine organisms | Recast | <p>Major revision of current technical measures in order to reduce their complexity and number, reinforce consistency and provide for simpler procedures for later updating and revision. More enforceable technical measures will be established in close cooperation with stakeholders.</p> |
| New legislative proposals amending the regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services | Revision | <p>The main objective of the legislative proposals is to enhance the ability of the current framework to deliver on its initial objectives by proposing adaptations that take account of experience to date and expected market and technological changes in the future. The creation of a competitive single market for electronic communications services and networks in Europe with corresponding benefits for citizens is the ultimate aim.</p> |

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| Repeal of Decision 2003/548/EC Decision on leased lines | Repeal | There is no need or justification for mandating specific retail services. In the public consultation on the 2006 review, it is proposed that the concept be removed altogether by legislative amendment of the Universal Service Directive. |
| Repealing Directive 87/372/EC on the frequency bands to be reserved for cellular digital band-based mobile communications | Repeal | Policy initiative linked to previous actions in radio spectrum policy: WAPECS, IMT2000 extension bands, policy agenda outlined in COM(2005)411 A new Commission Decision pursuant to Decision 676/2002/EC will regulate the use of the 900 MHz band in the EU. |
| Revision of Regulation (EC) No 2195/2002 on the Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV) | Revision | The objective is to update and revision of the existing Commission Regulation (following targeted and wide stakeholder consultations). The update of the CPV Regulation is necessary to maintain an efficient and simple procurement system that is easily applied for both suppliers and bidders |

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| Proposal for a directive on the solvency of insurance companies (Solvency II) | Recast | Insurance companies face increased competition, convergence between financial sectors and international dependence. In line with similar developments in the banking sector and following international developments in solvency, risk management and accounting, the new solvency regime aims at the protection of policyholders and beneficiaries. It will improve the competitiveness of EU insurers and provide for a better allocation of capital resources, without causing significant market disruptions and impeding innovation in the insurance industry. |
| Revision of Regulation (EC) No 258/97 on novel foods | Recast | Revision of the Novel Food Regulation is needed to clarify the legislation after removal of GM food from the scope, create a more favourable environment for innovation for the food industry and facilitate internal and external trade. This will: -Tighten and streamline the authorisation procedure for novel/new foods and thus make it more predictable for the applicants. - Tailor the safety assessment to different types of foods allowing foods with safe history of use outside the EU to enter the EU more easily than is presently the case. -Take into account new technologies with an impact on food (e.g. nanotechnology, animal cloning). |
| Revision of the existing legislation on feed labelling and authorisation/withdrawal procedure of feed materials (Directives 79/373/EEC, 96/25/EC, 82/471/EEC and 93/74/EEC) | Recast | Recast, modernisation and replacement of Directives 79/373/EEC, 96/25/EC, 82/471/EEC and 93/74/EEC to amend the existing feed labelling requirements, to extend the non-exclusive list of feed materials and to align the authorisation procedures with principles and provisions set out in the General Food Law. |
| Revision of existing Regulation on general food labelling and nutrition labelling | Revision and repeal | The key objective is to update the current rules on general food and nutrition labelling, taking into account the experience gained in applying Directives 2000/13/EC and 1990/496/CEC. There is a need to ensure that there is legislation that meets consumers' needs, is not too burdensome for the industry, and that can adapt to a continually changing market. This requires a new approach that strikes a balance between flexibility and prescription and between action at the national and EU level. The proposed Regulation will repeal the above mentioned Directives and will clarify and simplify the laws on general food and nutrition labelling. |
| Proposal for a Council Directive on the marketing of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants intended for fruit production | Recast | Recasting of Council Directive 92/34/EEC. Amendments concerns inter alia a new definition of marketing, as well as technical measures which will be adopted based on an appropriate evaluation and on technical and scientific progress. Two objectives can be identified: To clarify and simplify the regulatory framework in which business operates. To improve the legislation based on technical and scientific progress and to the new marketing environment in line with the new CAP. |
| Review of the Timeshare Directive (94/47/EC) | Review | The objective is to enhance legal certainty for consumers as the same rules will apply to all long-term holiday products. Level playing field for business as traders marketing and selling the new products in the market will have to comply with the same rules as "classic timeshare". Update of the list of requirements for the prospectus and the contract will provide modernisation. The scope is extended to bring under the Directive other long-term holiday products which have been developed since the adoption of the current directive. |
| Rules of Origin (based on the Community Customs Code) | Recast | The Commission intends to simplify the rules of origin by proposing new rules which will determine the position in negotiation on GSP as well as in the context of the new Economic Partnership Agreements with the ACP countries. |

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| Modernisation of VAT provisions relating to financial services including insurance | Revision | The current provisions are out of date and at the very least need to be modernised. The overall legal and regulatory environment in which the industry operates does not keep pace with the evolution of the industry and conflicts with the bias towards vertical integration. Companies are thus prevented from further refining their economic and legal structures to increase their competitiveness. Changes should be directed towards modernising the rules, ensuring their consistency with established policy objectives and reducing the need to seek clarification through litigation |
| Revision of Directive 92/12/EEC on general arrangements for products subject to excise duty and holding, movement and monitoring of such products | Recast | Simplification and modernisation of requirements and computerisation of procedures by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - modernizing and simplifying the provisions of the directive wherever possible - integrating into the directive judgements of the ECJ as well as guidelines of the excise committee - adapting the directive to support the computerization of procedures for the movement of excise products under suspension of excise duty (the EMCS project) |
| Revision of Regulation (EC) No 1334/2000 of 22 June 2000 setting up a Community regime for the control of dual-use items and technology | Recast | The proposal provides for simplification of legislation, and of the administrative procedures for public authorities. A number of measures will simplify the work for the Community administrations, for example improved system of sharing denials using a template provided by the Commission, a comitology procedure for changes to the annexes and for the adoption of guidelines); and the work of private entities, such as adoption of best practices for the implementation of the Regulation, harmonisation of the conditions of use of export authorisations and their format, e-systems for the management of licence applications. |
| Recast of Directives 96/26/EC and 98/76/EC on the conditions of admission to the occupation of road haulage and road passenger transport operators | Recast | The objective is to ensure harmonised application of the rules, a clear understanding of what is required, maintain mutual recognition of qualifications, protect the right of establishment, rationalise the market, improve service quality and road safety. The amendment of existing rules will strengthen, clarify and simplify the application of the three qualitative criteria of good repute, financial standing and professional competence, by which operators gain admission to the occupation. |
| Recast of conditions of access to road transport market (Regulations (EC) No 881/92, 684/92, 3118/93, 12/98 and 484/2002) | Recast | The objective is to ensure a harmonised application of the rules, a clear understanding of what is required, protect the right of establishment, rationalise the market, improve service quality and road safety. The amendment of existing rules to strengthen, clarify and simplify the access to the market, conditions for cabotage and the applicability of driver attestation to EU drivers. |
| Revision of Regulation (EC) No 2299/89 on a code of conduct for computerised reservation systems | Revision | Regulation (EC) N° 2299/89 was adopted in a market context where almost all airline bookings were made via computerised reservation systems (CRS) and where most CRS were owned and controlled by airlines. With the divestment of airlines and the development of internet bookings, the market context has changed and the regulation now seems to be standing in the way of an efficient functioning of the market: a revision of the regulation is necessary. |

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| | | <p>The main policy objective is to increase market efficiency by giving more room to market forces. Increased competition in the sector should make it possible to improve the quality of services offered and to reduce the distribution costs in the air transport sector.</p> <p>At the same time, careful consideration will be given to potential competition issues and the continued need for sector-specific safeguard rules will be studied.</p> |
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(47 initiatives)

WITHDRAWALS OF PENDING PROPOSALS

| Title | COM/SEC number | Justification |
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| Proposal for a Council Decision on the system of the European Communities' own resources | COM(2004)501/1 | Obsolete since replaced by 2006 Proposal for a Council Decision on the system of own resources and the related Commission working document on the UK correction [COM(2006) 99], which implements the December 2005 European Council conclusions in the own resources area. |
| Proposal for a Council Regulation on the implementing measures for the correction of budgetary imbalances in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Council decision on the system of the European Communities' own resources | COM(2004)501/2 | See above |
| Recommendation for a Council Recommendation with a view to giving early warning to Italy in order to prevent the occurrence of an excessive deficit | SEC(2004)485 | This recommendation can be withdrawn, as the Council decided not to adopt it (no adoption by the Council 5/07/2004). |
| Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted by the Community within the ACP-EC Council of Ministers on the amendment of Decision No. 1/2003 of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers of 16 May 2003 regarding the accession of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement | COM(2004)609 | The proposal COM(2005)51/final 2-2 replaces and cancels this proposal related to the accession of Timor-Leste to the 9 th EDF. |
| Proposal for a Council Decision adjusting the financial resources of the 9 th European Development Fund further to the accession of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement | COM(2004)610 | The proposal COM(2005)51/final 2-2 replaces and cancels this proposal related to the financial amount. |
| Proposal for a Council Decision to improve co-operation between police and security services in the fight against terrorism | COM(2005)695 | Taking into account that the Situation Centre in the Council has "de facto" strengthened its role as the focal point at European level for the pooling of information coming from the security services, and that it has acted upon its existing mechanisms to exchange information with Europol, so that in particular the envisaged national contact points no longer serve their purpose, the Commission now considers that legislation is no longer necessary and has changed its approach. This has been confirmed by the negative reactions that the proposal has been met with by the Council and Parliament. The proposal has therefore become obsolete. |

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| Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 relating to the investigations carried out by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) | COM(2004)103 | Remplacée par nouvelle proposition adoptée par la Commission en mai 2006 (ainsi que l'amendement du Regl.1074/1999, voir point suivant). |
| Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 relating to the investigations carried out by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) | COM(2004)104 | Remplacée par nouvelle proposition adoptée par la Commission en mai 2006 (ainsi que l'amendement du Regl.1073/1999, voir point précédent). |
| Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/388/EC by reason of the accession of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia | COM(2004)295 | Obsolète : Le contenu de cette proposition a été repris par la Directive du Conseil 2006/18/EC du 22/02/2006. |
| Proposal for a Council Decision authorising the Czech Republic and Poland to apply a reduced rate of VAT on certain labour-intensive services in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 28(6) and (7) of Directive 77/388/EEC | COM(2004)296 | Obsolète : Le contenu de cette proposition a été repris par la Directive du Conseil 2006/18/EC du 22/02/2006. |

(10 initiatives)

COMMUNICATION PRIORITIES FOR 2007

The following list of communication priorities are selected on the basis of political priorities, notably as defined in the CLWP 2007 and research and analysis of public opinion and media monitoring:

Prosperity (Growth and Jobs):

- Education: 20 years of the Erasmus Programme
- Research and Innovation, including the EIT and the ERC
- Single Market review
- Energy Review for Europe
- “Flexicurity
- Immigration
- Better regulation and simplification

Solidarity:

- Social reality stocktaking
- Cohesion and rural development (2007-2013)
- Environmental protection
- European Year of equal opportunities
- Preparations for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008

Security and freedom:

- Fight against organised crime and terrorism
- Border control

Europe in the world:

- Enlargement
- Neighbourhood Policy
- Market access strategy

Future of Europe:

- Plan D and the constitutional debate
- 50th Anniversary of Treaties of Rome