

Folketinget — Erhvervsudvalget
Christiansborg, den 26. april 2005

Erhvervsudvalget (2. samling)
ERU alm. del - Bilag 100
Offentligt

Til

udvalgets medlemmer og stedfortrædere.

Ekstraordinært rådsmøde om konkurrenceevne

- gennemgang i ERU tirsdag 3. maj 2005, kl. 13.00

Udvalget har netop fra Økonomi- og Erhvervsministeriet fået oversendt vedlagte program vedr. det ekstraordinære rådsmøde om konkurrenceevne 10. maj 2005 (bilag 1) .

Efter aftale med Erhvervsudvalgets formand vil gennemgangen i Erhvervsudvalget finde sted tirsdag 3. maj, kl. 13. Gennemgangen af dagsordenen i Europaudvalget forventes at finde sted onsdag 4. maj.

Lissabon og Innovation

Rådsmødets ene hovedemne er færdiggørelse af Rådets midtvejsevaluering af Lissabon-processen, der handler om styrket vækst og udvikling af den europæiske økonomi og konkurrenceevne i de kommende 5 år. Hovedmålet med Lissabon-processen (2000 – 2010) har været at bringe Europa op på en vækst i samme størrelsesorden som den amerikanske.

Hidtil har man haft nationale planer for såvel beskæftigelse som for produktivitet. Nu ønsker man én samlet vækstplan for hvert medlemsland og én samlet vækstplan for EU, se KOM(2005)141 i bilag 2 .

Rådets andet punkt vedrører det nye rammeprogram for Innovation og Konkurrenceevne (CIP), som EU planlægger for perioden 2007-2013.

Med venlig hilsen
Finn Skriver Frandsen,
udvalgssekretær.

bilag 1

21.04.2005

Konkurrenceevnerådet - 10. Maj 2005

(Gennemgang af dagsordenen i ERU tirsdag 3. maj 2005, kl. 13.00)


Foreløbig dagsorden

1. **Opfølgning på midtvejsevalueringen af Lissabon strategien - Integrerede retningslinier, KOM (2005) 141 af 12.04.2005**
= **Orienterende debat**

 2. **Rammeprogram for Innovation og Konkurrenceevne (2007-2013) (CIP)**
= **Udveksling af synspunkter, KOM (2005) xxx**

 3. **Eventuelt**
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Bilag 2





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Commission tables 3-year blueprint for growth and jobs

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IP/05/414

Brussels, 12 April 2005

[Figures and graphics available in PDF and WORD PROCESSED]

Commission tables 3-year blueprint for growth and jobs

Last month the Spring European Council gave its full support to the European Commission's "Partnership for Growth and Jobs" to re-launch and re-focus the Lisbon Strategy. Following this decision, the European Commission today adopted a new 3-year "Integrated Guidelines Package" for 2005 to 2008 designed to spur growth and jobs in Europe. Recommending concrete priority actions it lays out a comprehensive strategy of macroeconomic, microeconomic and employment policies to redress Europe's weak growth performance and insufficient job creation. The new integrated guidelines bring a simpler, more focused EU economic governance by reducing the number of guidelines and by concentrating on core measures to create growth and jobs. Today's package will give guidance to Member States to establish their newly established "national reform programmes" by autumn 2005.

"Last month EU leaders made clear that they are ready to do the necessary to put the Union on a higher growth path and to realise our social and environmental ambitions. Today we are getting down to work. We should face the challenges with a spirit of realistic optimism. There are many examples which show that change can be successful. The EU has a strong potential to develop further its competitive advantages. It is now crucial that actions are pursued with determination to exploit fully that potential," said President José Manuel Barroso.

Today's integrated guidelines underline that Member States and the EU should take every opportunity to involve regional and local governments, social partners and civil society in the implementation of the integrated guidelines. They should detail progress made in this area in the Lisbon reporting framework.

On the basis of the guidelines, Member States will draw up 3-year national reform programmes. Member States will report each autumn on the reform programmes in a single national Lisbon report. The Commission will analyse and summarise these reports in an EU Annual Progress Report in January each year. On the basis of the progress report, the Commission will propose amendments to the integrated guidelines, if necessary. For more information on the new governance structure, see MEMO/05/123.

Macroeconomic policies for growth and jobs

The macroeconomic dimension of the guidelines focuses on policies that will support a well-balanced economic expansion and the full realisation of current growth potential. This means that macro-economic policies should secure stability over the economic cycle, and safeguard economic sustainability in the face of ageing populations. Finally, Member States should promote an efficient allocation of resources.

- To secure **economic stability**, the Commission calls on Member States to avoid policies that reinforce strong demand in an economic upturn and reduce demand during a downturn. Where necessary, Member States should take measures to correct current account deficits that risk being unsustainable, and to promote wage and unit labour cost increases that are consistent with price stability and productivity trends.
- To safeguard **economic sustainability**, in view of the onset of ageing populations, Member States are called on to pursue a satisfactory pace of debt reduction, ensure that pension and health care systems are financially viable while remaining socially adequate and accessible, and to take measures to raise employment rates and labour supply.
- To promote **economic efficiency**, Member States should ensure that tax and expenditure systems strengthen growth potential and pursue reforms to enhance flexibility, mobility and adjustment capacity in response to globalisation, technological advances and cyclical changes.

Ensuring a dynamic and well-functioning euro area

Macroeconomic policies and microeconomic reforms to foster growth and jobs have an added importance for the euro area because of its recent subdued economic performance and because sharing the euro strengthens the linkages between national economies. For this reason, the BEPGs call on euro area Member States to safeguard fiscal discipline by paying particular attention to their medium-term budgetary objectives and by pressing forward with structural reforms that will improve the euro area's competitiveness and improve its capacity to adjust to shocks. At the same time, Member States are also called upon to improve the external representation of the euro area so as to strengthen its presence on the world stage.

Microeconomic reforms to raise the EU's growth potential

There are many reasons why the EU is currently not exploiting its economic potential to its full:

Member State's implementation record of Internal Market legislation is worsening (3.6% of all directives were not implemented on time in November 2004 compared to 2.2% in June). The number of infringements (more than 1000) remains stubbornly high.

The synergies from jointly addressing research, regulatory and financing challenges at the European level (where for reasons of scale or scope individual member states cannot succeed in isolation to tackle market failures) have not always been fully exploited.

Europe is suffering from insufficient R&D expenditure, partly due to the low share of high tech manufacturing which remains low compared to Europe's main competitors. The EU is currently spending around 2% of GDP on R&D, barely up from the level at the time of the launch of the Lisbon strategy. Moreover, only around 55% of research spending in the EU is financed by industry.

Unnecessary or costly regulation at EU or national level is a real brake on the economy: The existing regulatory environment in the EU is overly complex and consequently represents an obstacle for growth.

Sometimes the impact of draft EU legislation is not properly assessed and the consequences on the business community unclear.

In today's guidelines the Commission lays out a comprehensive and coordinated set of measures to address these problems to increase the efficiency and adaptability of the European economy and thereby raise its growth potential.

To make Europe a **more attractive place to invest and work**, the Commission calls upon Member States to extend and deepen the Internal Market, ensure open and competitive markets, create a more attractive business environment, promote a more entrepreneurial culture, develop a supportive environment for SMEs, and expand and improve European infrastructure. The Commission particularly encourages Member States:

- to speed up the transposition of Internal Market directives and accelerate financial market integration,
- to reduce distorting state-aid,
- to ensure rigorous economic, social and environmental impact assessment of regulation and,
- to open up network industries to competition.

To **spur knowledge and innovation for growth**, the Commission encourages Member States to increase and improve investment in R&D, facilitate innovation and the uptake of ICT, encourage the sustainable use of resources, strengthen the synergies between environmental protection and growth, and contribute to a strong European industrial base. Amongst the measures recommended are policies:

- to increase and improve the effectiveness of public expenditure on R&D,
- to attract more students into scientific, technical and engineering disciplines,
- to develop and apply environment-friendly technologies and,
- to commit to the setting up of joint European technology initiatives.

New Employment Guidelines for more and better jobs

Unemployment rates are projected to decrease, albeit slowly, to 8.7% in 2006. The estimated overall employment rate is 62.9% for EU-25 in 2003, which is significantly below the agreed target level of 70%. Progress towards the female employment rate target of 60% has been slow, with the rate now standing at 56.1% for EU-25, but is expected to pick up again.

The employment rate of older workers, which continued to climb to just over 40.2% has the largest gap to bridge towards the 50% target for 2010. At the same time, progress in improving quality in work has been mixed and the economic slowdown has raised the profile of social inclusion problems. Long-term unemployment increased again after several years of decline and seems unlikely to fall in the near future.

To address these problems, the Commission's proposal on the guidelines for the Member States' employment policies reflects the renewed focus on jobs under the re-launched Lisbon Strategy. These new employment guidelines (EGs), to run from 2005 to 2008, continue to reflect the EU's overall goal of achieving full employment, quality and productivity at work, social and territorial cohesion. They specifically mention, for the first time, the need to modernise social protection systems.

The proposal's three broad headings for action reflect the key recommendations of Wim Kok's Employment Taskforce. The headings are to:

- attract and retain more people in employment and modernise social protection systems
- improve adaptability of workers and enterprises and the flexibility of labour markets
- increase investment in human capital through better education and skills.

The new set of eight Employment Guidelines advocate a "lifecycle approach to work" that tackles the problems faced by all age-groups. They refer to the need to:

- Implement employment policies aiming at achieving full employment,

improving quality and productivity at work, and strengthening social and territorial cohesion.

- Promote a lifecycle approach to work
- Ensure inclusive labour markets for job-seekers and disadvantaged people
- Improve matching of labour market needs
- Promote flexibility combined with employment security and reduce labour market segmentation
- Ensure employment-friendly wage and other labour cost developments
- Expand and improve investment in human capital.
- Adapt education and training systems in response to new competence requirements.

The full document is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/growthandjobs/index_en.htm