

Operational Programme of the Council for 2006 submitted by the incoming Austrian
and Finnish Presidencies

GLOSSARY

2005 Joint Employment Report: The Council examines the employment chapters in the National Reform Programmes (NRPs) and adopts together with the Commission a Joint Employment Report. That report contains country-specific information as well as a comparison and synthesis of developments.

3% Action Plan: Part of the EU-strategy of increasing investment to 3% of the EU's total GDP by 2010 as called for by the Barcelona Summit in March 2002.

6th Community Environment Action Programme: lays down the objectives, timetables, priorities regarding the EU's environmental policy. It focuses on four priority areas for action: These are climate change, nature and biodiversity, environment and health as well as the management of natural resources and waste.

ACP = Africa, Caribbean and Pacific The 78 ACP States are signatory countries of the Cotonou Agreement signed in 2000 which is an ambitious ACP-EU partnership agreement covering development, co-operation and trade issues and establishing a political dialogue.

ADR = Alternative Dispute Resolution refers to any means of settling disputes outside the courtroom. ADR typically includes arbitration, mediation, early neutral evaluation and conciliation.

Andean Community (CAN – Comunidad Andina) Sub-regional organisation between Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. Established in 1969, based in Lima, Peru.

Annex XI of Regulation (EC) No 883/04 Regulation No 883/2004 on the co-ordination of social security systems contains a fundamental reform and a simplification of the rules for co-ordination in the field of social security. Annex XI of the Regulation will contain special provisions for the application of member states' legislation.

ARF = ASEAN Regional Forum Established in 1994, ARF is an informal multilateral dialogue of 24 countries addressing security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

Art. 133 Committee: Article 133 of the Treaty of Amsterdam provides for the establishment of a special **committee** appointed by the Council to assist the European Commission in carrying out the Union's Common Commercial Policy.

ASEAN = Association of South East Asian Nations Established in 1967, ASEAN is a regional organisation between Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam. Permanent Secretariat based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

ASEM = Asian-Europe Meeting: An informal forum of dialogue bringing together the EU and the 10 ASEAN countries as well as China, South Korea and Japan. Launched in 1996; last Summit: Hanoi October 2004.

Avian Influenza (also called fowl plague, avian flu, and bird flu) is a highly contagious viral disease with up to 100% mortality in domestic fowl. All types of birds are susceptible to the virus but outbreaks occur most often in chickens and turkeys. The infection may be brought by migratory wild birds. Humans are only rarely affected.

Barcelona Process, see: Euro-Mediterranean Partnership

Battle Groups Force packages at high readiness based on combined arms, battalion sized (1500 troops) and reinforced with combat support elements. The development of Battle Groups will strengthen the EU's ability to respond to possible UN requests.

Better Regulation: The **Better Regulation (Better Legislation)** initiative aims at simplifying and improving the regulatory environment of the EU and represents a key component of the Lisbon Strategy. To ensure that regulation is used only when necessary and that the burdens imposed by regulation are proportionate to its benefits, the Commission has a number of processes and tools in place (for instance withdrawal or modification of pending legislative proposals, measures to simplify and reduce existing legislation, better quality of new commission proposals, alternatives to legislation and measurement and reduction of administrative burdens in member states).

European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States: became operational in May 2005. The Agency assists MS with the training of national border guards, carries out risk analyses, follows up on the development of research relevant for the control and surveillance of external borders and provides MS with the necessary support in organising joint return operations.

Bretton Woods Institutions: IMF=International Monetary Fund and the World Bank which were conceived at the international conference at Bretton Woods in 1944. While the World Bank offers loans and advice to developing countries, the IMF was established to promote international monetary cooperation and exchange stability.

Broad Economic Policy Guidelines (BEPGs): provide the framework for defining economic policy objectives and orientations of the Member States and the European Community. **Integrated Guidelines:** Their purpose is to increase Member States' involvement and implementation of the Lisbon-Agenda as well as to facilitate the monitoring process. Based on a three-year cycle they comprise the treaty-based broad economic policy guidelines and the employment guidelines. They also serve as a basis for drawing up the **national programmes** and the Community Lisbon Programmes.

BSE (Bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or more commonly **mad cow disease**) is a relatively new neurodegenerative disease of cattle characterized by progressive destruction of the brain, which is transmissible to humans. (Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease).

CAP= Common Agricultural Policy. The fundamental **reform of the CAP** of 2003 foresees that in the future, the vast majority of subsidies will be paid independently from the volume of production and will be linked to the respect of environmental, food safety and animal welfare standards. The CAP reform aims to promote a market focussed, sustainable agricultural system throughout Europe.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: The **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** of 2000 is a supplementary agreement to this Convention and seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology.

CEPOL = European Police College Established on 1 January 2001 to train member-states' senior police officers by optimising cooperation between CEPOL'S various component institutes.

Civilian Headline Goal ("2008 Headline Goal") calls for the structured development of EU capacities to conduct civilian crisis management missions.

Co-decision procedure: Introduced by the Treaty of Maastricht co-decision is a legislative procedure which puts the European Parliament on an equal footing with the Council by empowering it to adopt legislation jointly with the latter. It covers all areas requiring a qualified majority in the Council with the exception of agriculture and commercial policy.

Common Spaces EU-Russia: At the EU Russia Summit in May 2005 the EU and Russia confirmed their commitment to further strengthen their strategic partnership through adopting roadmaps for four designated "Common Spaces": economic issues and the environment; issues of freedom, security and justice; external security, including security and crisis management; research, education and cultural aspects.

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Community Patent: Obtaining a **single patent** legally valid throughout the European Union would not only simplify protections, but also substantially reduce patenting costs. Today, the dossier is still deadlocked after 13 years of discussion.

Convention on Biological Diversity Adopted in 1992, the convention sets out commitments in three main areas: the conservation of the variety of life on Earth, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources. see also **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, UNEP**

COP= Conference of the Parties

Declaration on combating terrorism: Following the bombings in Madrid on 11 March 2004 the European Council adopted a **declaration on combating terrorism** calling for a solidarity clause whereby all Member States are required to mobilise all their resources in the event of a terrorist attack against one of them.

Doha Development Agenda (DDA): The WTO's fourth Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar in 2001 launched a new round of multilateral trade negotiations - the "**Doha Development Agenda**" (**DDA**) - aiming at both further trade liberalisation and new rule-making, underpinned by commitments to substantially strengthen assistance to developing countries.

ECB = European Central Bank. Its main task is to maintain the Euro's purchasing power and thus price stability in the Euro-area. The Euro area is comprised of 12 European Union countries that have introduced the Euro since 1999. **TEN = Trans-European Networks:** Cross-border infrastructures in the fields of transport, energy and telecommunications. The Community promotes the expansion of trans-European networks in order to be able to fully benefit from the advantages of the Internal Market.

EDA = European Defence Agency Headquarters in Brussels. EDA was established in 2004 to support the Member States in their effort to improve European defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to generally sustain the ESDP.

EFC = Economic and Financial Committee: A consultative Community body set up at the start of Stage Three of Economic and Monetary Union.

EFSA = European Food Safety Authority Headquarters located in Parma, Italy. Established in 2002 it provides independent scientific advice on all matters linked to food and feed safety - including animal health and welfare as well as plant protection - and on nutrition in relation to Community legislation.

EIB = European Investment Bank: the EU's financing institution. Its task is to lend money for projects of European interest (such as rail and road links, airports, environmental schemes), particularly in the less well-off regions, candidate countries and the developing world.

Enhanced Security Dialogue (ESD): In 2004 the EU and the US decided to strengthen their policies and activities in the fields of counter-terrorism and domestic security by establishing an **Enhanced Security Dialogue (ESD)**. Co-operation and co-ordination between the EU and US departments ensure the effectiveness of the dialogue on security issues.

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Enterprise Policy Scoreboard is published annually by the European Commission and serves as a tool to monitor the business environment in the EU. On the basis of several indicators progress is evaluated and Member States are ranked accordingly.

EPSCO Council = Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council formation

ESA = European Space Agency, Headquarters located in Paris. Its mission is to shape the development of Europe's space capability. ESA has 17 Member States. It is an entirely independent organisation although it maintains close ties with the EU through an **ESA/EC Framework Agreement**.

EU Rapid Reaction Capability. It is one of the priorities of the EU to develop a rapid reaction capability based on the civil protection modules. The EU MS endorsed contingencies of fire brigades, Red Cross societies or military units and other services to protect and help the affected population. These modules are independent and self-sufficient units operating under national responsibility.

EUCPN: The European Crime Prevention Network was officially established to improve the exchange of crime prevention information and best practice mainly among the Member States. It consists of National Representatives designated by each Member State and crime prevention contact points and covers all types of criminality with particular attention to juvenile, urban and drug-related crime.

EUFOR operation Althea The EU launched this military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 2 December 2004. The main objectives of Operation Althea are to maintain a safe and secure environment and to support the international community's High Representative as well as the local authorities.

EU-LAC = EU-Latin America and the Caribbean The LAC group consists of the Rio group (Mexico, Central American countries, Andean Community, Mercosur) and the 15 members of the Caribbean Community. The first EU-LAC Summit took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1999.

EURO V and EURO VI emission standards: future emission limits for vehicles expected to be stricter than the existing ones, are still to be defined by legal acts of the EC. While Euro V is meant to replace Euro IV as a standard for light vehicles, Euro VI will be applied on heavy duty vehicles.

Eurojust is a relatively new European Union body established in 2002 to enhance the effectiveness of the competent authorities within Member States when dealing with the investigation and prosecution of serious cross-border and organised crime.

Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: The **Euro-Mediterranean Partnership** was established in 1995 in Barcelona (hence "**Barcelona Process**") and aims at bringing the countries of the Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea closer to the EU. The three main-pillars of cooperation are: a political and security partnership, an economic and financial partnership and a partnership in social, cultural and human affairs.

European Innovation Scoreboard gives an annual assessment of innovation performance in EU Member States. To measure innovation performance a set of 17 qualitative indicators are used.

European Institute for Gender Equality The institute should be up and running in 2007. The institute will be an independent centre and will play a vital role in providing the expertise needed to develop equality policies across the EU. It will gather, analyse and disseminate reliable and comparable research data and information required by EU policy-makers and member states, and organise events to raise awareness of gender equality policies. Its documentation centre and library will be open to the public.

Europol, the European Police Office, was set up in 1992 to handle Europe-wide criminal intelligence. Based in The Hague, Netherlands. Europol's aim is to help member states to co-operate more closely and effectively in preventing and combating organised international crime.

FATF = Financial Action Task Force: an inter-governmental body with the purpose of developing and promoting national and international policies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. Recent scandals such as Parmalat and Enron have confirmed the need for EU initiatives on

statutory audit and accounting. Statutory audit is defined as the audit of annual or consolidated accounts of entities covered by Community law Directives through independent auditors.

FLEGT Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Launched in 2003. The Action Plan sets out a new and innovative approach to tackling illegal logging which is responsible for vast environmental damage in developing countries and impoverishes rural communities which depend on forest products for a living.

Forces and Progress Catalogues: The **Forces and Progress Catalogues** are designed to measure the achieved progress and still existing gaps regarding the EU's military capabilities. Whereas the "forces catalogue" lists contributions of member states, the "progress catalogue" identifies shortfalls and the action being taken to remedy them.

Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development: The EU's **Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development** are the main instrument for funding European research. The proposal for the **7th Framework Programme (2007-2013)** is centered on innovation and knowledge for growth and represents a key contribution to the relaunched Lisbon strategy.

FSAP: The EU's **Financial Services Action Plan** was designed to open up a single market for financial services in the EU. Launched in 1999, it comprises 42 measures designed to harmonise member states' rules on securities, banking, insurance, mortgages, pensions and all other forms of financial transactions.

GMES = Global Monitoring for Environment and Security': joint initiative between EC and ESA; aims at bringing environmental data (for example up-to-date weather and pollution reports) and information providers together with users.

GMOs = Genetically Modified Organisms: refers to organisms, with the exception of human beings, in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination.

Green Diplomacy Network: a network of environmental experts within EU ministries of Foreign Affairs which was set up in June 2003 to enhance the EU's voice and influence on international environmental negotiations and sustainable development processes.

Green Papers: Commission **Green Papers** are documents intended to stimulate debate and launch a process of consultation at European level on a particular topic. These consultations may then lead to the publication of a White Paper, translating the conclusions of the debate into practical proposals for Community action.

Hague Action Plan: The **Hague Action Plan** translates the Hague Programme into specific measures and strengthens the cooperation of EU MS in the areas of asylum, fight against illegal immigration, border management, visa policy, sharing of information among law enforcement and judicial authorities, prevention of and fight against organised crime and terrorism, police and customs cooperation, crisis management and judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, see also **Hague Programme**.

Hague Programme The **Hague Programme** is a five-year programme for closer co-operation in justice and home affairs at EU level from 2005 to 2010. It aims to improve the European area of freedom, security and justice. Adopted in November 2004., see also **Hague Action Plan**.

Health and Consumer protection Strategy: The Commission's **Health and Consumer protection Strategy** and the proposed Community **Programme for Health and Consumer protection 2007-2013** include plans to enhance Europe's defences against epidemics, funds to support cooperation between Member States' health systems and support for strengthening consumer protection across the EU.

Helsinki Process on Globalisation and Democracy: a forum for dialogue on the problems brought on by globalisation launched in 2002 at the initiative of the Finnish Government

IAEA was set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization in 1957 within the United Nations

family. Headquarters in Vienna; The Agency works with its 138 Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies.

ICANN = Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers: an internationally organized, non-profit corporation administrating names and addresses on the internet.

ICTY = International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia Located in The Hague, ICTY was established in 1993 by the UNSC. The Tribunal prosecutes war crimes committed by individuals on the territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991.

Impact assessment system: The Commission's impact assessment system aims at improving the quality of the Commission's policy proposals in terms of their efficiency, effectiveness and coherency by identifying alternative policy options and their likely impact.

In November 2005 the Council adopted the revised **Development Policy Statement**. Community development policy is based on the principle of sustainable, equitable and participatory human and social development promoting human rights, democracy, the rule of law and good governance with the aim of reducing poverty.

Integrated Action Programme in the field of Lifelong Learning: adopted in July 2004; comprises sectoral programmes on school education (Comenius), higher education (Erasmus), vocational training (Leonardo da Vinci) and adult education (Grundtvig).

Intermodal security policy aims to protect the supply chain against serious interruptions from possible terrorist attacks.

ITER = International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor: international project under the auspices of IAEA; the first plasma operation is expected in 2016. ITER is expected to produce 500 MW of fusion power.

JRC= Joint Research Centre: a research based policy support organisation. It provides customer-oriented scientific and technical advice for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of EU policies.

Kyoto Protocol: The **Kyoto Protocol** entered into force in February 2005. It is the main international treaty on global warming committing industrialized countries which are Parties to it to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, or engaging in emission trading. Will expire in 2012. In 2006 the second COP/MOP of the Kyoto Protocol will take place.

Life+ Regulation: a funding instrument to contribute to the development and implementation of Community environment policy and of environmental legislation.

Lisbon Strategy: The EU's "**Lisbon Strategy**" which was originally agreed upon by the European Council in Lisbon in 2000 comprises reforms in economic, social and environmental policies. In March 2005 it was reviewed and re-focussed on measures which enhance economic growth and employment.

Marco Polo II: The **Marco Polo II** programme aims at reducing road congestion, improving the environmental performance of the freight transport system within the Community and at enhancing intermodality. Therefore the Programme supports actions in freight transport, logistics and other relevant markets.

MERCOSUR = Mercado Común del Sur Created in 1991, Mercosur is a dynamic process of regional integration between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Middle East Quartet The EU, US, the Russian Federation and the UN are partners in the International Quartet involved in the Middle East Peace Process. The Quartet committed itself to assist and facilitate the implementation of a three phase plan (the so-called road map) aiming at a final and comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Military Headline Goals ("2010 Headline Goals"): list the main parameters for the development of EU military capabilities, which have to be implemented by 2010. Core elements are the establishment

of the European Defence Agency (EDA) the creation of the concept of EU rapid reaction Battle Groups and the creation of a civil-military cell within the EU Military Staff

Millennium Development Goals: Eight **MDGs** to be met by the target date of 2015 were adopted by the UN Millennium Summit in 2000. The goals are: 1) Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, 2) Achieving universal primary education, 3) promoting gender equality 4) reducing child mortality, 5) improving maternal health, 6) combatting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, 7) ensuring environmental sustainability and 8) developing a global partnership for development. see also:

Monterrey Commitments The agreement reached at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey in March 2002 reaffirmed the international community's commitment to increasing development aid and making progress toward the **Millennium Development Goals** (target: 0.7% of gross national product).

MOP = Meeting of the Parties

MoU = Memorandum of Understanding: a declaration of two or more legal entities on the international level which is legally not binding.

Northern Dimension: The **Northern Dimension** aims at addressing the special regional development challenges of Northern Europe by strengthening dialogue and cooperation between the EU and its member states, the Northern countries associated with the EU under the EEA (Norway and Iceland) and the Russian Federation.

Nuclear Safeguards: The **New Approach for Nuclear Safeguards** is an initiative by the European Commission to make the inspection regime of nuclear facilities more cost-efficient. It has been decided that this approach has to be discussed broadly with Member States and the IAEA before it is implemented.

OPCW = Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Independent international organisation located in The Hague. It was established in 1997 by the signatories of the Chemical Weapons Convention in order to make sure that the Convention works effectively and achieves its purpose.

PCA = Partnership and Co-operation Agreement bilateral treaties between the EU and currently nine Eastern European and Central Asian countries.

REACH = Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals: A proposal of the European Commission for a regulation, which is meant to comprehensively regulate the requirements for the marketing of chemical substances with regard to the protection of human health and the environment.

Research and Innovation Action Plan: an integral part of the Lisbon strategy. It addresses the major issues at stake for innovation in enterprises.

SAARC = South Asian Association for Regional Co-Operation Established in 1985, an association of seven South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka).

SALW = Small Arms and Light Weapons

Schengen Borders Code: agreed between the Council and the European Parliament; rules on the abolition of internal border checks between EU-MS and the imposition of standardised external border controls to non-EU-Member States

SME = small and medium-sized enterprises: refers to enterprises having fewer than 50 employees (small) resp. 250 employees (medium-sized).

Spam = Unsolicited or undesired bulk of electronic messages.

SIMAP and Jaeger Judgements: see **Working Time Directive**

Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP): EU strategy towards the countries of the Western

Balkans. Initiated in 2000. The SAP is explicitly linked to the prospect of EU accession and is adjusted to the level of development of each of the countries concerned. In return for the offer of the prospect of accession – and assistance to achieve it – the countries of the region have undertaken to meet the political and economic requirements set for all aspirants.

Stability and Growth Pact The Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) is the EU answer on the continuation of budgetary discipline in the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). Adopted in 1997, the principal concern of the SGP is enforcing fiscal discipline. More specifically, budgetary positions close to balance or in surplus are required.

Sugar market reform: The Commission proposal for a **sugar market reform** is the first in around 40 years and aims at enhancing the competitiveness and market-organisation of the EU sugar sector. The proposals include a 39% price cut for white sugar; compensation to farmers for 60 percent of the price cut which will be linked to the respect of environmental standards; incentives to encourage less competitive producers to leave the sector; and the abolition of intervention. The new system will continue to offer preferential access to Europe's sugar market for developing countries.

TAC = Total Allowable Catch: The quantity of fish that can be taken from each stock per year. EU Member States are allocated national quotas in order to diminish the risk of exhausting fish stocks.

TEN = Trans-European networks: Cross-border Infrastructure. **Energy TENs (TEN-E)** concern the electricity and natural gas sectors. Their objectives are to establish a single energy market and achieve security of supply.

Working Time Directive: The **1993 Working Time Directive** ensures the protection of employees against adverse effects on their health and safety caused by working excessively long hours. It provides for a maximum 48-hour working week, breaks and a minimum of four weeks paid leave per year. The Commission proposal for new legislation intends to define "on-call time" following European Court of Justice (ECJ) rulings (**SIMAP and Jaeger**) on time spent on call by health professionals, and measures to promote the work/life balance. In order to respond to concerns about misuse of the "opt-out" provision, under which individual workers can waive the right to work no more than 48 hours per week, the current Commission proposal for new legislation makes opt-out subject to stricter conditions.

Thessaloniki Agenda At the Thessaloniki Summit in 2003 the EU reaffirmed its commitment to the integration of the countries of the Western Balkans and introduced a range of new instruments to support the reform process in these countries.

Third Railway-Package: The so-called **third railway package** adopted by the Commission in 2004 contains measures to revitalise the European railways, including legislative proposals on international passengers' rights and obligations, certification of train crews, rules of compensation in cases of non-compliance with contractual quality requirements for rail and freight services and opening up rail transport.

Type-approval (Recast) Directive: lays down new technical provisions for the automobile sector with a view to enhancing road safety.

UN Millennium Declaration Review: The **UN Millennium Declaration** was agreed on in September 2000 at the United Nations where heads of state resolved to meet a number of "**Millennium Development Goals**" (see MDGs) by the year 2015. The **Millennium Declaration Review** was held in September 2005 as a high-level review of worldwide progress towards attaining the MDGs.

UNEP Governing Council: the policy-making body of **UNEP** (United Nations Environment Programme). Every 2nd year it meets in special sessions as the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) at ministerial level. The 24th special session of the Governing Council will take place during the Austrian Presidency and will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates.

UNGA Special Session on HIV/AIDS: The next **UNGA Special Session on HIV/AIDS** aimed at intensifying international efforts to fight HIV/AIDS is planned to take place in June 2006. It was first held in 2001.

VIS = Visa Information System, established by Council decision in June 2004, aims at improving the administration of the common visa policy and preventing visa fraud. VIS shall be functional until December 2006 at the latest and will consist of a Central Visa Information System (CS-VIS) with an interface in each MS (National Interface - NI-VIS) which will provide the connection to the relevant central national authority of the respective MS.

WIPO = World Intellectual Property Organization: headquarters in Geneva; The **Geneva Act of 1999** is part of the Hague System for the International Registration of Designs and aims at making the system more responsive to the needs of users and facilitating its extension to new members.

World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation established by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002. It was created to respond to the needs of people as they cope with the unprecedented changes of globalisation. The Commission officially ended its work with the release of the final report on 24 Feb 2004.

World Summit on Information Society (WSIS): initiated by the UN, is to be held in two phases. The first phase has already taken place in Geneva in 2003 and the second phase will take place in Tunis in November 2005. The objective of the summit is to enable a global discussion on the challenges the digital revolution poses on societies.