



European Economic and Social Committee
The Secretary-General

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To the members
of the European Economic and Social Committee

On 31 March 2010, the European Commission adopted its 2010 work programme, which it has entitled "Time to act". It is based on the policy guidelines presented by the Commission President last autumn, and sets out the strategic framework for the coming years.

The Commission's work programme sets out 34 strategic initiatives for the current year, presents a number of other initiatives that will be examined over the coming years and several simplification initiatives, and provides for the withdrawal of a list of 59 proposals that have become obsolete. The list of 34 strategic initiatives that the Commission has agreed to implement in 2010 includes indicative dates when these proposals should be adopted. The programme will be reassessed annually.

The programme put forward by the Commission is based around four main strands:

- **taking measures to tackle the crisis and sustain Europe's social market economy** (enhancing fiscal surveillance, restoring the sustainability of public finances, ensuring stable, responsible financial markets, advancing the five flagship initiatives set out in "Europe 2020", tackling Europe's bottlenecks and missing links);
- **building a citizens' agenda which puts people at the heart of European action** (Stockholm Action Plan, procedural rights for citizens, revision of the working time directive, launching public debates on the long-term challenges for society, such as the future of pensions, the need to flesh out legal immigration policies, biodiversity and the EU's disaster response capacity, animal cloning, biotechnology and nanotechnology);
- **developing an ambitious and coherent external agenda with global outreach** (establishment of the European External Action service, a trade strategy for Europe 2020, implementing EU neighbourhood, enlargement and development policies);
- **modernising EU instruments and ways of working** (smart regulation to ensure the effectiveness of policies, communicating Europe in a transparent and accessible manner, adapting the EU financial framework to serve policy priorities).

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In addition to general communication, the Commission will put particular emphasis on three joint communication priorities: driving the economic recovery and mobilising new sources of growth; climate action and energy; and making the Lisbon Treaty work for citizens.

Alongside its work programme, the Commission has prepared roadmaps for all initiatives likely to have significant impact. It encourages stakeholders to make use of these roadmaps in preparing their inputs to the policy-making process. These roadmaps are available on the Commission's website (http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ia/roadmaps_2010_en.htm). They are updated on a regular basis and include useful information such as the estimated adoption date for the proposal, planned consultations, etc.

As part of modernising EU ways of working, the Commission intends to review the entire body of legislation in selected policy fields through "fitness checks". It will start in 2010 with pilot exercises in the following areas: environment, transport, employment and social policy, and industrial policy.

Link to the Commission work programme:

http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm.

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