

## Commission proposals endorsed by the European Council

### General

The European Council welcomes the Commission communication "A Citizen's Agenda for Europe". The European Council explicitly endorses the twin track approach put forward by the Commission.

The European Council has already now endorsed ten of the twelve Commission's proposals on the Future of Europe. Regarding the two proposals not yet confirmed, the Commission will bring forward more detailed proposals for an entitlement card and present a paper on the issue of external competitiveness during the autumn.

These deliverables are only part of the European Council conclusions. Further deliverables include proposals in the area of justice, liberty and security, crisis management, universities, the European Institute of Technology and enlargement which are also based on the Commission approach and proposals.

### Proposals on the Future of Europe

The European Council backs the Commission approach of a Europe of results creating the necessary climate and building the confidence to solve the institutional questions. Member States have committed to do this by the end of 2008. Both the Europe of results and the future institutional settlement will contribute to the big project that is an enlarged, open, competitive, Europe based on solidarity and punching its weight in the World.

- 1) After last year's period of reflection work should now focus on delivery of results and implementation of projects. The **European Council agrees a two-track approach** (paragraph 44).
- 2) The European Council calls for the adoption, on 25 March 2007 in Berlin, of a **political declaration by EU leaders**, setting out Europe's values and ambitions and confirming their shared commitment to deliver them, commemorating 50 years of the Treaties of Rome (paragraph 47).
- 3) The European Council welcomes the Commission's intention to launch a **"general review" of the Single Market**, to be followed by concrete proposals and calls for an interim report to be presented before the March 2007 European Council (paragraph 21).
- 4) The European Council stresses the importance of the social dimension of the Union's action and welcomes the intention of the European Commission to **take stock of social realities in the EU** and invites the Commission to issue an interim report before the Spring European Council in 2007 (paragraph 21).

- 5) The European Council calls on the Finnish Presidency to explore, in close collaboration with the Commission, the possibilities to **improve decision-making and action in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice** on the basis of the existing treaties (paragraph 10).
- 6) The Commission is invited to report on all relevant aspects pertaining to the **Union's absorption capacity criterion**, at the same time as it tables its annual progress reports on the enlargement and pre-accession processes. This specific analysis should also cover the issue of present and future perception of enlargement by citizens and should take into account the need to explain the enlargement process adequately to the public within the Union (paragraph 51).
- 7) The European Council welcomes the paper "**Europe in the World**" provided to the Council by the Commission. The European Council invites the Presidency, the Council, the High Representative and the Commission to take work forward and agrees that a first stocktaking in relation to the implementation of these measures will be made at the end of the Finnish Presidency (paragraph 31).
- 8) Progress has been made since its last meeting in all fields of **Better Regulation** and all institutions and Member States to implement their respective commitments and calls on Member States to take initiatives at national level. It invites the Commission to report on the progress made at national and Community levels by early 2007 (paragraph 38).
- 9) The European Council agrees to further open up the work of the Council and adopts an **overall policy on transparency** in Annex 1 of the Conclusions. In particular, all Council deliberations under the co-decision procedure shall now be public (paragraph 33).
- 10) The European Council notes the inter-dependence of the European and national legislative processes. **It therefore welcomes the Commission's commitment to make all new proposals and consultation papers directly available to national parliaments**, inviting them to react to as to improve the process of policy formation (paragraph 35).