



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

The Secretary General

Brussels, 15.07.2010
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Mr. Philippe Etienne,
Permanent Representative of France to the
European Union,
Place de Louvain, 14
B-1000 Brussels

Subject: Next Steps in the Europe 2020 Strategy

Dear Ambassador,

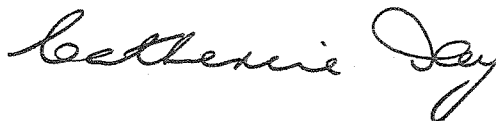
At its meeting on 17 June the European Council took important and far reaching decisions on the Europe 2020 Strategy, designed to put our economies back on the path of sustainable and job-creating growth through stronger economic governance of the EU in the future. Since the new European Semester is scheduled to start in 2011, we need to organise work between the EU and national levels to be able to deliver the key elements of this new governance structure.

Many people will be involved in working on aspects of this new system – success will require the co-operation not only of different levels of government in the EU and nationally but also of stakeholders. The attached annex sets out a description of what has to be done at EU and national level to enable the EU to take coherent, integrated policy decisions for the future. As you will see, the annex describes how the Stability and Convergence Programmes of the Stability and Growth Pact will be brought together in time with the National Reform Programmes under the Europe 2020 Strategy. It also explains how and when the Commission will make reports, propose recommendations and/or warnings and how these should be used both by Member States and as input to the work of sectoral Councils.

The June European Council called for "close dialogue with the Commission" in the finalisation of national targets and for the preparation of the National Reform Programmes. I am writing to ask your authorities to start this work and to be available for bilateral contacts with the Commission's services from September. In view of the integrated nature of the Europe 2020 Strategy, we would also like to continue the practice established under the Spanish Presidency of discussion in Coreper from time to time.

If you have any questions regarding the next steps in the Europe 2020 Strategy, please do not hesitate to contact me. My colleagues in the Secretariat General will be in touch through your Coreper Ambassadors to arrange for bilateral contacts with your authorities after the summer break.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Catherine Day". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

Catherine Day

Annex: Governance, Tools and Policy Cycle of Europe 2020