

RP
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European Commission
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BELGIUM

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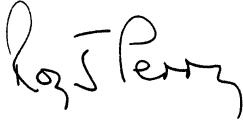
By email only to: EU2020-publicauthority@ec.europa.eu

EU 2020 consultation

1. Hampshire County Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation about the future of the Lisbon Strategy post 2010.
2. Challenges:
 - 2.1 Hampshire County Council believes that the working document successfully refers to the most important challenges that Europe currently faces and is based on a thorough understanding of all aspects of sustainability, including climate change and energy, demographic change and a successful exit from the economic crisis.
3. Priorities:
 - 3.1 Hampshire County Council supports the three priorities for the future strategy, outlined in the paper as being:
 - a. Creating value by basing growth on knowledge.
 - b. Empowering people in inclusive societies.
 - c. Creating a competitive, connected and greener economy.
 - 3.2 We believe that these are useful drivers for the strategy and that they lend themselves to targets for measuring the success of the strategy. These priorities match those promoted by both UK government and Hampshire County Council.
 - 3.3 Under the 2nd priority 'Empowering people in inclusive societies' we would like to see mention of the 'untraded' economy and its potentially important contribution to community cohesion and supporting disadvantaged groups.
 - 3.4 Within the section on 'new patterns' within priority 2, we would like to see mention of voluntary activity as part of the new sequence of working life.
 - 3.5 There should also be mention of the needs of rural areas and suggestions for overcoming the barriers to equal access within these areas. This should include the importance of good rural broadband provision.
 - 3.6 Within Priority 3, although there is support for universal access to broadband there is no mention of qualifying minimum speed. The UK has set this at 2 Mbps, but it seems unlikely that this standard will be adequate to secure the community and economic benefits that will be achievable through faster broadband speeds. We also feel that there should be some comment on the sufficiency of basic transport networks across the EU and the degree to which electronic communications can substitute for the physical movement of people and services.

- 3.7 The strategy should take account of the “hospitality/tourist” sector as an area where regions can and should do a lot. As other parts of the world attract tourists, we want to make sure Europe does not neglect this sector. We would therefore like to see direct reference to this industry and how it can impact and contribute to the priorities.
4. Governance & delivery:
- 4.1 We are disappointed to see a continued lack of recognition of the importance of the sub-national level in the implementation of a future strategy. Both the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies have been criticised for their lack of involvement of the sub-national level and we do not want to see the same mistake being made again here.
- 4.2 A number of the key priorities are predominantly the responsibility of the regions (for example economic development activities, awareness raising amongst citizens) and therefore including all levels of governance is vital to the success of the strategy. We would like to see specific reference to the local/ regional level being involved in both the design and implementation process of the strategy with a bottom-up approach to the development and delivery of the strategy. We would also like to stress the need for the democratically representative voice of sub-national regions to be consulted throughout the process.
- 4.3 There is also concern about the lack of detail about the funding of the strategy and the impact that it may have on local authority budgets. We would like to see details of where the funding for implementing the necessary EU legislative proposals will come from and how the strategy will affect current funding streams.
5. Cohesion:
- 5.1 Hampshire County Council believes that cohesion should be a common thread across all EU policies and would like to see greater recognition of the importance of cohesion within this working document. Similarly, the strategy needs to link more closely to the Structural funds and give details of how the available funding will support the priorities and initiatives outlined within it.

Yours sincerely,



Roy Perry

Deputy Leader
Executive Member for International Affairs