



Regional
Council
South-East



European Commission
Jack Engwegen
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B-1049 Brussel - Belgium

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|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Your Ref./Dated: | Our Ref.: | Name/Direct Line: | Brno, |
| REGIO F.2/JE/jv D(2009) 790308 | RRJV 11915/2009 | Jaroš/540 | 13. 1. 2010 |

Dear Sir,

In reference to your letter dated 27 November 2009 (REGIO F.2/JE/jv D(2009) 790308) concerning the new "EU 2020" strategy (<http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/>), I would like to make the following suggestions:

Priority 1: Creating value by basing growth on knowledge

In addition to the basic skills mentioned (reading, mathematics and science), we suggest also including the teaching of national languages of the EU member states to immigrants and former immigrants. The inability to speak the national language is one of the barriers that prevent these people from entering the labour market. All of the above skills are critically achieved during primary and secondary education. This phase of the education process is completely provided at the municipal or regional levels. Therefore, we recommend the regional aspects (economic and demographic) of both primary and secondary education be emphasized so that the required education standards can be achieved.

The importance of universities as true engines for knowledge and growth is crucial. We suggest that universities specialize so that they better respond to labour market demands while respecting the needs of basic research.

As far as the digital economy, or Internet access, is concerned, we would like to emphasize the necessity of establishing a functional intellectual property protection system and protection against inappropriate content.

Priority 2: Empowering people in inclusive societies

This priority does not mention either the issue of social and economic exclusion of minorities, or its solution.

Priority 3: Creating a competitive, connected and greener economy

This priority does not indicate the necessity to decrease the energy dependency (security) of EU countries on eastern economies. We understand that this issue is to be resolved at different levels; however, the umbrella document that is under preparation should probably also mention it.

Making it happen

The Working Document states that the Commission will indicate measures both at the national and Community levels; in other words, the national and EU levels are generally emphasized. We recommend that the priorities/policies be detailed down to the regional level. We believe the regional level should become the key factor of the policy implementation process.

Yours sincerely,

Marta Sargánková