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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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**COMMUNICATION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION**

**concerning**

**the mid-term review of the Commission Legislative and Work Programme 2006**

Communication from President BARROSO  
in agreement with Vice-President WALLSTRÖM

In October 2005, the Commission presented its Legislative and Work Programme for 2006<sup>1</sup>. Based on the strategic objectives defined by the Commission at the start of its mandate (prosperity, solidarity, security, and making Europe a world partner), the programme sets out the priorities that will guide the Commission's efforts to turn the strategic objectives into reality in 2006. This programme was adopted after an extensive dialogue with the European Parliament and the Council on the basis of the Annual Policy Strategy for 2006<sup>2</sup>. Concentrating, as it does, on some hundred priority activities, it is a reflection of the more integrated and coherent policy-planning process of recent years. Of course it does not reflect the full annual work load of the Commission; the ongoing work of implementing the existing acquis, running common policies and Community funded programmes and other tasks resulting from an evolving political agenda are not reflected here – this Programme is limited to highlighting key new initiatives which the Commission intends to propose during 2006.

To date, the Commission has adopted 37 of the initiatives set out in its work programme (see Annex I). The purpose of these initiatives – which are referred to below - is to give tangible form to the strategic objectives pursued by the Commission:

### *Prosperity*

The Commission has invested much effort in the implementation of the renewed Lisbon strategy, working in close partnership with the Member States to support their national reform programmes. Among many other areas, the Commission has proposed a series of measures to improve the competitiveness of **small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**, which are an essential source of innovation and job-creation. These measures are designed to improve access of SMEs to sources of external finance, especially risk capital, to enable them to start up and develop.

In the **transport field**, the Commission has made a **mid-term assessment** of the implementation of the measures advocated in the White Paper it adopted in 2001<sup>3</sup>, which, while based on the continuation of the measures provided for in the paper, proposes supplementary instruments to promote sustainable mobility. One of these new priorities is the **logistics** of the freight transport chain, work on which was initiated with the Commission's adoption of a communication as the first stage towards an action plan.

In the convergence report it adopted at the request of the Slovenian authorities, the Commission concluded that **Slovenia** had achieved a high degree of economic convergence with the other Member States and proposed that it join the **euro zone** on 1 January 2007. This assessment was followed by a proposal concerning the conversion rate to be applied between the Slovenian currency and the euro.

In a drive to make public services more efficient, an action plan was presented for the IT-based modernisation of the Member States' **administrative systems** by 2010. Consultations were launched with a view to reviewing the regulatory framework for **electronic communications**.

Furthermore, in a bid to encourage more European firms to submit tenders throughout the EU, the Commission presented a proposal designed to improve national **means of redress** available

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2005) 531 final, 25.10.2005.

<sup>2</sup> COM(2005) 73 final, 2.3.2005.

<sup>3</sup> COM(2001) 370 final, 12.09.2001.

to firms when they consider a public contract to have been unfairly awarded. Deliberations were begun with all the parties concerned on ways of stepping up the fight against **tax fraud**, and a new generation of **customs and tax programmes** was presented with the aim of improving cooperation between national systems and simplifying their operation.

A further initiative is the **European transparency initiative**, which entails broad deliberations on how transparency in European affairs can be increased, with particular reference to lobbying and information on the beneficiaries of European funds.

### *Solidarity*

In reply to a call made by the European Council of 23 and 24 March 2006, the Commission set out the basis for a **European energy policy** in a Green Paper containing more than 20 proposals for concrete action with the aim of guaranteeing the EU a secure, competitive and sustainable energy supply. A Community strategy for encouraging the production of **biofuels** from agricultural matter was also presented as well as a Community plan for halting the loss of **biodiversity** by 2010. The Commission also adopted a strategy for reducing the impact of **pesticides** on human health and the environment and a proposal for the replacement of the existing legislation on the placing of **plant protection products** on the market.

In the agricultural field, the Commission proposed reforming the common organisation of the **wine market** in order to improve the competitiveness of this sector.

The Commission also adopted a Green Paper **on a future maritime policy** for the Union. The aim is to launch a debate on a holistic approach to the seas and oceans while seeking to strike a fair balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions in a context of sustainable development.

Following the progress made in laying the legislative basis for the cohesion policy for the period 2007-2013, strategic guidelines for **cohesion** were presented to ensure that the priorities defined by the Community in the area of regional development are reflected in the national and regional development programmes now under negotiation.

The Commission presented a communication on future priorities for combating **illegal immigration** from third countries as well as an initiative designed to ensure greater respect for the rights of the child in the European Union and elsewhere. A Green Paper was presented on greater involvement of civil society in Community **efforts to combat drugs**. In the area of personal law, the Commission launched a debate on the legal questions raised by **matrimonial regimes** in an international context, particularly from the point of view of the conflict of laws and jurisdiction, and proposed a regulation on the law applicable to **divorce**.

Furthermore, a roadmap for **equality between women and men** 2006-2010 was presented with a view to stepping up action by the European Union in six priority fields.

### *Security*

In the field of **Justice and Home Affairs**, the Commission presented its first report on the application of The **Hague action plan** and proposed a method for the **evaluation** of policies in the field of justice and home affairs. The Commission also proposed the adoption of a Community code on **short-stay visas** and proposed the creation of rapid-reaction teams which could be temporarily despatched to a Member State to provide, at its request, technical and

operational assistance in the **surveillance of external borders** in the event of large-scale influxes of clandestine migrants.

In a strategy document on the **security of networks and information**, the Commission gave its backing for an awareness-raising drive to encourage enterprises, individuals and administrative bodies in Europe to take the measures necessary to protect their data and equipment.

The social partners were moreover consulted on the need to incorporate the **ILO Maritime Labour Standards Convention** into European law, in order to afford operators fairer terms of competition, improve maritime safety and upgrade the maritime occupations.

### *Europe as a world partner*

In its monitoring reports on the preparation of **Bulgaria and Romania** for EU accession, the Commission considered that both countries should be ready for accession on 1 January 2007 provided they stepped up their efforts at further reform. In the context of the **European Consensus for development**, the Commission proposed that the Community and the Member States should agree on principles and methods for developing a common approach to **governance** in the area of cooperation with the developing countries. As a follow-up to the EU's strategy for Africa issued by the European Council in December 2005, the Commission presented a new **EU-Africa partnership for infrastructures** designed to facilitate economic growth, trade and regional integration and reduce poverty.

In the context of the European neighbourhood policy, draft national action plans were drawn up for **Egypt** and **Lebanon** in consultation with these countries and forwarded to the Council. Lastly, a new partnership for growth, stability and development between the European Union and the **Caribbean** was presented, as was a strategy for strengthening the partnership with the islands of the **Pacific**.

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The Commission's adoption of these 37 initiatives represents a mid-term implementation rate of almost 40%. In implementing its work programme, the Commission has a duty to itself to ensure that all the principles of "better lawmaking" are scrupulously observed, whether it be a matter of external consultations, impact studies or simplification. In particular, 2006 is the first year during which the Commission fully applies the new Impact Assessment Guidelines adopted in June 2005. In some cases this has led to a more lengthy preparation process involving wide consultation and greater use of internal and external expertise. All of this additional upstream work will enrich the subsequent initiatives but also implies the need to extend the originally envisaged deadlines for the submission of the proposals. During the first part of this year, the Commission has also been heavily engaged in the inter-institutional discussions on a number of important pending legislative proposals, such as the Services Directive and the REACH proposal, with a view to ensuring progress in the legislative process. Furthermore, the Commission has been responding swiftly to a fast-moving political agenda, in which actions not envisaged at the beginning of the year have become priority.

Noteworthy advances have thus been recorded beyond the initiatives set out in the work programme, such as the adoption on 10 May last of an ambitious action programme which, drawn up for the benefit of European citizens, sets out twelve proposed measures for making the EU a **Europe of results**. This action plan takes account of the messages received in the context of Plan D and the national debates held during the period of reflection advocated by the

European Council last year. Mention should also be made of the **White Paper on communication**, proposing that communication – as a service to the citizen and an instrument of democracy – should become a fully-fledged policy of the European Union, and of the communication on **Social Services of General Interest** with a view to emphasising their specificity and clarifying existing Community provisions in this area. The Commission also proposed creating a **European globalisation adjustment fund** enabling the Community to help workers who have become unemployed as a result of major changes in the structure of world trade to reintegrate into working life. In the **telecommunications** sector, the Commission decided to present an initiative aimed at increasing transparency in the matter of roaming tariffs for mobile communications.

Moreover, the Commission has taken action in the first half of 2006 in response to international developments, for example in Lebanon and the Palestinian territories, as well as following requests from the other institutions:

- Intensive work was carried out on the negotiation of the **budgetary framework for 2007-2013**, resulting in a new interinstitutional agreement at the beginning of May. Following this agreement, on 24 May the Commission presented a package of more than 30 revised proposals designed to ensure that the new generation of financing programmes would be ready to start on 1 January 2007. In addition, a new Human Rights instrument was brought forward at the request of the European Parliament.
- Major progress was achieved on forging an integrated **European energy policy** in response to the call made by the Heads of State or Government at their informal meeting at Hampton Court last October. Based on the Green Paper presented by the Commission in March, the spring European Council issued the list of measures to be taken, relating to both the internal and external aspects of the energy policy. Following the European Council, the Commission, acting jointly with the Secretary-General of the Council/Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, presented a document entitled “An external policy to serve Europe’s energy interests”. Work is in progress with a view to presenting a strategic review of the European energy policy at the start of 2007.
- The project for the establishment of a **European Institute of Technology (EIT)**, as a new pole of excellence in the fields of higher education, research and innovation, was the subject of a Commission communication in February. In response to a call from the March European Council, the Commission launched a vast process of consultations with the Member States and the organisations concerned. Further details concerning this project, which cannot be dissociated from the Lisbon strategy for growth and employment, were provided in a communication in June. The Commission will present a formal proposal by the end of 2006.
- In response to the request made at the informal European Council at Hampton Court in October 2005, the Commission set out its views on the most appropriate way of **modernising European universities**. The Commission’s ideas were presented in a communication covering the whole gamut of the European universities’ activities: teaching, research and their potential role as a motor for innovation.

At their informal meeting at Hampton Court, the Heads of State or Government agreed that the EU had to **raise the external profile of the European Union’s policies**. As a follow-up to this discussion, on 7 June the Commission approved an analysis document entitled “Europe in the World: Some practical proposals for greater coherence, effectiveness and visibility”. A

communication on EU-Iraq relations was also adopted, and the Commission proposed the conclusion of a stabilisation and association agreement with **Montenegro**, which recently opted for independence.

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The rules giving effect to the Commission's rules of procedure stipulate that the Commission may **update its work programme** in the course of the year in order to take account of any recent political developments. This updating, which may be made necessary by important political events, is confirmed in the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission (point 30).

The mid-term review of the work programme is an opportunity to assess the state of play and update the programme in the light of the current situation. Annex II to this communication contains a list of items on the work programme which are no longer to be presented in 2006, mainly for the following reasons:

- initiatives for which the interinstitutional context has altered and for which a proposal is no longer appropriate this year;
- initiatives for which the impact assessment has shown that the presentation of a proposal is inappropriate or for which more time is needed to complete the impact assessment;
- association with other initiatives which are structured differently or implemented according to a different timetable.

Annex II also provides a list of initiatives now scheduled for adoption in 2006 and meriting inclusion among the priority initiatives of the work programme as they comply with the criteria of political importance set by the Annual Policy Strategy. These new priority initiatives are a response to recent political developments and each is accompanied by a **justification** concerning its inclusion in the work programme. As promised by the Commission for all the initiatives of its work programme, these new political initiatives will be accompanied by an assessment of their economic, social and environmental impact, including their effects on competitiveness.

The new initiatives which the Commission intends to present concern fields such as **the accession of Bulgaria and Romania**, the reports monitoring whose progress towards reform will be brought forward to September, or **innovation in Europe** for which the Commission will propose a broad-based approach. A report will be produced covering progress made in the area of **better regulation** and the next stages of European Union activity in this field as well as a review of the programme for the simplification of Community legislation. As for security matters, activity in this field will be stepped up with the presentation of an initiative on the protection of **critical infrastructures** as a follow-up to the Green Paper of November 2005<sup>4</sup>. Lastly, the Commission will propose negotiating mandates for the conclusion of association agreements with the countries of **Central America** and the **Andean Community** and will publish a Green Paper on possible options for modernising the Community's **trade defence instruments**.

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<sup>4</sup> COM(2005) 576 final of 17.11.2005.

Furthermore, as the spring European Council is scheduled for an early date in 2007, the Commission intends to adopt its annual progress report on the **renewed Lisbon Strategy** before the end of the year, in order to give the Council and the European Parliament enough time to examine this contribution from the Commission before the European Council takes place.

## ANNEX I

### 2006 Work Programme initiatives adopted by the Commission

Reference	Title	Adoption date	COM/SEC References
2006/AGRI+/019	Communication from the Commission - An EU Strategy for Biofuels	08/02/2006	COM(2006)34; SEC(2006)142
2006/EMPL/001	Communication from the Commission – A Roadmap for equality between women and men	01/03/2006	COM(2006)92; SEC(2006)275
2006/DEV/004	Communication from the Commission – An EU-Caribbean Partnership for growth, stability and development	02/03/2006	COM(2006)86; SEC(2006)268
2006/TREN/054	Green Paper - A European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy	08/03/2006	COM(2006)105; SEC(2006)317
2006/INFSO/003	Communication from the Commission – i2010 eGovernment Action Plan: Accelerating eGovernment in Europe for the Benefit of All	25/04/2006	COM(2006)173; SEC(2006)511
2006/SG/008	Green Paper – European Transparency Initiative	03/05/2006	COM(2006)194
2006/MARKT/002	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directives 89/665/EEC and 92/13/EEC with regard to improving the effectiveness of review procedures concerning the award of public contracts	04/05/2006	COM(2006)195; SEC(2006)557 2006/0066(COD)
2006/ECFIN/020	Proposal for a Council Decision in accordance with Article 122(2) of the Treaty on the adoption by Slovenia of the single currency on 1 January 2007	16/05/2006	COM(2006)225 2006/0077 (CNS)
2006/ELARG/001	Communication from the Commission – Monitoring report on the state of preparedness for EU membership of Bulgaria and Romania	16/05/2006	COM(2006)214; SEC(2006)595; SEC(2006)596; SEC(2006)598
2006/TAXUD/001	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an action programme for customs in the Community (Customs 2013)	17/05/2006	COM(2006)201; SEC(2006)570 2006/0075(COD)
2006/TAXUD/002	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community programme to improve the operation of taxation systems in the internal market (Fiscalis 2013)	17/05/2006	COM(2006)202; SEC(2006)566 2006/0076 (COD)
2005/ENV/011	Communication from the Commission – Halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond : Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being	22/05/2006	COM/2006/216; SEC(2006)621; SEC(2006)607

Reference	Title	Adoption date	COM/SEC References
2006/DEV/002	Communication from the Commission – EU relations with the Pacific islands : a strategy for a strengthened partnership	29/05/2006	COM(2006)248; SEC(2006)642
2006/INFSO/002	Communication from the Commission – A strategy for a Secure Information Society – “Dialogue, partnership and empowerment”	31/05/2006	COM(2006)251; SEC(2006)656
2006/TAXUD/003	Communication from the Commission concerning the need to develop a co-ordinated strategy to improve the fight against fiscal fraud	31/05/2006	COM(2006)254; SEC(2006)659
2006/FISH/001	Communication from the Commission – Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European Vision for the Oceans and Seas	07/06/2006	COM(2006)275
2006/TREN/007	Communication from the Commission under Article 138(2) of the EC Treaty on the strengthening of maritime labour standards	15/06/2006	COM(2006) 287
2006/AGRI/003	Communication from the Commission – Towards a sustainable European wine sector	22/06/2006	COM(2006)319; SEC(2006)770; SEC(2006)780
2005/TREN/011	Communication from the Commission – Keep Europe moving : Sustainable mobility for our continent (Mid-term review of the European Commission’s 2001 Transport White Paper)	22/06/2006	COM(2006)314; SEC(2006)785
2006/ECFIN/021	Conversion rates between the euro and the currencies of the Member States adopting the euro	28/06/2006	COM(2006)320
2006/JLS/007	Green Paper on the role of Civil Society in Drugs Policy in the European Union	26/06/2006	COM(2006)316
2006/TREN/010	Communication from the Commission - Freight Transport Logistics in Europe – the key to sustainable mobility	28/06/2006	COM(2006)336; SEC(2006)818; SEC(2006)820
2006/INFSO/001	Communication from the Commission on the Review of the EU Regulatory Framework for electronic communications networks and services	29/06/2006	COM(2006)334; SEC(2006)816 and 817
2006/ENTR/007	Communication from the Commission - Implementing the Community Lisbon Programme: Financing SME Growth – Adding European Value	29/06/2006	COM(2006)349; SEC(2006)841, 842 and 856
2006/JLS/017	Communication from the Commission - Evaluation of EU Policies on Freedom, Security and Justice	28/06/2006	COM(2006)332; SEC(2006)815
2006/JLS/016	Communication from the Commission - Report on the implementation of the Hague programme for 2005	28/06/2006	COM(2006)333; SEC(2006)813 and 814

Reference	Title	Adoption date	COM/SEC References
2006/JLS/009	Communication from the Commission - Towards an EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child	04/07/2006	COM(2006)367; SEC(2006)888 and 889
2005/REGIO+/013	Proposal for a Council Decision on Community strategic guidelines on cohesion	12/07/2006	COM(2006)386; SEC(2006)929
2003/SANCO/61	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market	12/07/2006	COM(2006)388; SEC(2006)930 and 931
2004/ENV/003	Communication from the Commission – A Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides	12/07/2006	COM(2006)372 and 373; SEC(2006)894 and 895; SEC(2006)914
2006/DEV/006	Communication from the Commission – Interconnecting Africa: the EU-Africa Partnership on Infrastructure	12/07/2006	COM(2006)376; SEC(2006)896; SEC(2006)983
2005/JLS/187	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2201/2003 as regards jurisdiction and introducing rules concerning applicable law in matrimonial matters	17/07/2006	COM(2006) 399; SEC(2006) 949 and 950
2005/JLS/188	Green paper on conflict of laws in matters concerning matrimonial property regimes, including the questions of jurisdiction and mutual recognition	17/07/2006	COM(2006) 400; SEC (2006) 952
2006/JLS/002	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community Code on Visas	19/07/2006	COM(2006) 403; SEC(2006) 957 and 958
2006/JLS/003	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a mechanism for the creation of Rapid Border Intervention Teams and amending Council Regulation (EC) No. 2007/2004 as regards that mechanism	19/07/2006	COM(2006) 401; SEC(2006) 954 and 955; SEC(2006) 953
2006/JLS/005	Communication from the Commission on Policy priorities in the fight against illegal immigration of third-country nationals	19/07/2006	COM(2006) 402; SEC(2006) 964 and 965; SEC(2006) 1010
2006/DEV/005	Communication on a European consensus for governance & development	30/08/2006	COM(2006) 421; SEC(2006) 1020; SEC(2006) 1021 and 1022

## ANNEX II

### Modifications to the list of priority initiatives of the 2006 Work Programme

DG	To be added	To be removed	Justification
ECFIN	2006/ECFIN/096, 2006/ECFIN/097 Convergence Reports <b>Slovenia/Lithuania</b>		The date for the adoption of the Convergence Report was delayed from the second quarter until October. Consequently, Slovenia and Lithuania requested specific Convergence Reports, which were approved by the Commission in May 2006.
ELARG	2006/ELARG/027 Monitoring Report on <b>Bulgaria and Romania</b>		In May 2006 the Commission decided to consider whether the date of accession for Bulgaria and Romania could be maintained on the basis of further review of their progress. As a consequence these reports need to be decoupled from the rest of the autumn Enlargement package and adopted at an earlier date.
ELARG	2006/ELARG/028 Negotiation mandate for stabilisation and association agreement with <b>Montenegro</b>		Following the recent independence referendum, need to negotiate stabilisation/association agreement with the new state of Montenegro and revise the negotiation mandate for a stabilisation/association agreement with Serbia. These proposals were adopted on 6 July 2006.
ENTR		2006/ENTR+/008 Communication on <b>Defence Industries and Markets</b>	The inter-institutional context has changed and the proposal will no longer be brought forward this year, but in 2007. This is meant to ensure appropriate synchronisation of Commission “first pillar” initiatives (on public procurement of defence products and intra-EU transfer of defence products) scheduled for 2007, with the European Defence Agency “second pillar” work strands, and to have a comprehensive package of initiatives, of which this communication would constitute the programmatic framework.
ENTR		2006/ENTR/004 Revision of Directive 88/378/EC on the <b>safety of toys</b>	This proposal can be adopted by the Commission only after the revision of the New Approach (2006/ENTR/001), as it is a sectoral adaptation flowing from that revision. The timing of the revision of the New Approach has been delayed due to unexpected difficulties in assessing the impacts in a very broad range of sectors.
ENTR		2006/ENTR/006 Proposal for a Directive <b>amending Directive 98/34/EC</b> laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations and of rules on <b>information society services</b>	The inter-institutional context has led to delays in the adoption process of the proposal for a directive on services. The proposal to extend Directive 98/34/EC to services can only be adopted by the Commission once the proposal for a directive on services will be adopted, given the links between the two proposals.

DG	To be added	To be removed	Justification
ENV		2006/ENV/016 Revision of a Directive 2001/81/EC of the EP/Council on <b>National Emission Ceilings (NEC)</b> for certain atmospheric pollutants	The national emission ceilings are calculated on the basis of "baseline" scenarios based on energy and air pollution projections made by the Member States in a consultation process that was planned to end in December 2005. Many Member States have had difficulties in preparing these projections on time and/or to ensure that they are consistent with their climate change obligations under the Kyoto Protocol. As the negotiations in Council will need to be based on a common understanding of these projections, the Commission decided to grant extra time for Member States to finalise their projections, and to make them consistent with their submissions to the a Framework Convention on Climate Change. As a consequence, the NEC baseline for all Member States will only be ready in September 2006. Only then can the analysis of the ceilings start.
INFSO	2006/INFSO/029 Proposal for a Regulation on international <b>roaming</b> tariffs		Unjustifiably high consumer prices for roaming within the Community have been a matter of concern to the Commission, the European Parliament, national regulatory authorities and consumer organisations for some considerable time. The European Council has identified the importance of reducing roaming prices for competitiveness. Given the particular cross-border nature of the service, and the fact that the regulatory framework does not give regulators the tools to take action, EU regulation in this field is necessary in the interests of the Single Market. This proposal was adopted on 12 July 2006.
JLS		2005/JLS/077 Proposal for Council Decision creating a European <b>Law Enforcement Network (LEN)</b> in the fight against terrorism	The inter-institutional and political context has changed and a proposal will no longer be brought forward this year. On recent occasions, a majority of the Member States have expressed reservations on the need for the LEN network. As a consequence, the Commission is going to launch a study on existing EU cross-border alert networks for police authorities and review its approach once this study is completed

DG	To be added	To be removed	Justification
JLS		2004/JLS/116 Proposal for a Council Framework Decision on a <b>computerised system of exchange of information on criminal convictions</b>	In order to ensure the feasibility of such an index and its efficient functioning, a sufficient level of certainty needs to be ensured concerning the identity of the convicted person. An ongoing study, which will be finalised this autumn, shows that Member States have different approaches in this regard, which are sometimes incompatible. The Commission adopted in July 2006 a Working Paper <sup>5</sup> which includes a questionnaire to Member States and outlines several options which need to be discussed in more depth with Member States. The answers to the questionnaire should enable the debate to take place on the basis of a better understanding of the situation.
JLS		2006/JLS/013 Modification of <b>Framework Decision on combating terrorism</b> to make transmission of expertise in explosives/bomb making for terrorist purposes a crime	Preparatory work has demonstrated the need for a more substantial modification than originally intended. The revised remit of the proposal will be much broader, and thus requires more extensive impact analysis and consultations.
JLS		2006/JLS+/015 Communication on a European <b>Cyber-security and Cyber-crime</b> policy	The ongoing impact assessment study revealed the need for additional consultations with stakeholders, which will require a prolonged preparatory period. As regards internal policy coordination, the Communication should build on the orientations provided by the upcoming initiative on European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection and the planned Communication on Malware and Spyware, foreseen for the 4th quarter 2006. Therefore, delivery during the first quarter of 2007 is advisable to ensure coherent policy development.
JLS	2006/JLS/045 Proposal for a European Programme for <b>Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP)</b>		Follow-up to the Green Paper of November 2005 <sup>6</sup> demonstrated the need for a legislative instrument setting the framework for the EPCIP programme. In particular, the 2005 December Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council called upon the Commission to present a proposal for a European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection. The objective of this proposal is to provide a common framework for the protection of critical infrastructures in the EU and to establish the foundations for the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP), with a view to ensuring adequate levels of protection and rapid recovery arrangements throughout the EU.

<sup>5</sup> COM(2006) 359 final of 4.7.2006.

<sup>6</sup> COM(2005) 576 final of 17.11.2005

DG	To be added	To be removed	Justification
MARKT		2006/MARKT/003 White Paper on the Integration of the EU <b>Mortgage Credit</b> Market	The release of the White Paper has been postponed to ensure further consultation of all stakeholders. A high-level dialogue between lenders and borrowers has been launched on consumer protection issues. An expert group is exploring the funding issues. Results of these initiatives are indispensable before the White Paper is released.
MARKT		2006/MARKT/005 Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on <b>Clearing and Settlement</b> in the securities field	Following the evolution in the markets, the work undertaken by DG COMP and the analysis of DG MARKT, it has become clear that at this stage the most effective route towards improved price transparency and increased competition is by getting industry to commit itself to an ambitious code of practice. Legislation might have to be considered at a later stage if the results agreed in the code are not delivered and if markets don't evolve in a way which reduces barriers and associated costs. Clearing and Settlement remains a key action in 2006, but the chosen tool for that action is, by now, a Code of Practice and not a directive as originally envisaged in the Commission Communication of 28.4.2004 <sup>7</sup> .
RELEX	2006/RELEX/022 Proposal to the Council for negotiating directives for an Association Agreement with <b>Central America</b>		At the 11-13 May EU-Latin America Summit in Vienna, Heads of State and Government have taken the decision to launch in 2006 negotiations for an EU-Central America Association Agreement. The EP has expressed its support for the start of such negotiations.
RELEX	2006/RELEX/023 Proposal to the Council for negotiating directives for an Association Agreement with <b>Andean Community</b>		At the 11-13 May EU-Latin America Summit in Vienna, Heads of State and Government have taken the decision to initiate in 2006 a process leading to negotiations for an EU-Andean Community Association Agreement. Both the EP and the EESC have expressed their support for the start of such negotiations.
RELEX		2006/RELEX/012 Communication on a EU <b>External Relations Strategy to Counter Terrorism</b>	The Instrument for Stability provides a new legal basis for assistance addressing long-term security threats such as counter-terrorism, non-proliferation of WMD, fight against organized crime and illegal trafficking, as well as conventional disarmament and human security. In view of this new legal context, the Commission will prepare in 2007 a Communication to take stock of EU assistance efforts aimed at alleviating and preventing security threats and to make proposals to improve the effectiveness and coherence of EU external assistance in areas related to security policy.
RELEX		2006/RELEX/013 Communication : “ <b>Conventional Disarmament</b> as a contribution to Human Security”	
RELEX		2006/RELEX/ 014 Communication on a Strategy for non-proliferation and disarmament of <b>Weapons of Mass Destruction</b>	

<sup>7</sup> COM(2004) 312 final of 28.4.2004.

DG	To be added	To be removed	Justification
SANCO		2005/SANCO/006 Communication on <b>organ donation and transplantation</b> in the EU	The impact assessment carried out in 2006 on this very complex and sensitive issue shows that more time is needed for public consultation.
SANCO		2005/SANCO/058 Proposal for a regulation on <b>animal by-products</b>	The work thus far carried out on the Impact Assessment in 2006 shows that more time is needed to complete the proper analysis and assessment before coming forward with this initiative.
SG/ENTR	2006/SG+/030 Communication on <b>innovation: breaking free</b>		The Spring European Council of March 2006 has invited the Commission to present an initiative on a broad-based innovation strategy for Europe. Innovation issues will be discussed during the Competitiveness Council of 25 September 2006.
SG/ENTR	2006/SG+/029 Horizontal Communication “ <b>Better Regulation global review</b> - progress report and next steps”		Commitment made by the Commission at the 2006 Spring European Council to prepare an analysis of the progress to date for the December 2006 European Council and to show where further work is needed to continue to make progress in all areas of better regulation.
SG/ENTR	2006/SG+/016 Update of the <b>Simplification Rolling Programme</b>		This initiative will update the Commission’s 2005 Simplification Rolling Programme <sup>8</sup> , for the period 2005-2008, to implement the new simplification strategy in line with the political priorities set out for Better Regulation policy in March 2005. The objective is to review progress, identify problems and corrective action including new simplification initiatives, as well as review progress of decision-making on simplification proposals at inter-institutional level.
TRADE	2006/TRADE/021 Green paper on the Review of the Community’s <b>Trade Defence Instruments</b>		The launch of a reflection process on the use of Trade Defence Instruments has been announced following the anti-dumping investigations on imports of leather shoes from Asian countries, which have highlighted the complexity of global markets. This initiative flows from the Communication on the External Aspects of Competitiveness scheduled for the autumn.
TRADE		2006/TRADE/002 Communication on the renewed <b>Market Access Strategy</b>	The decision to postpone to the first quarter of 2007 is due to the general shift of time-lines concerning the overarching Communication on External Aspects of Competitiveness, which will be adopted in autumn.
TREN		2006/TREN/033 Proposal for a regulation extending the tasks of the <b>European Aviation Safety Agency</b> to air traffic management, air navigation services and airports	The Agency needs first to prepare for the extension of its tasks to air operations and licensing, currently under discussion by the co-legislator. Discussion on this first extension has been delayed and a common position can be achieved at the best end of 2006.

<sup>8</sup> COM(2005) 535 final of 25.10.2005.

DG	To be added	To be removed	Justification
TREN		2006/TREN/003 Communication on the implementation of a dedicated European <b>rail freight network</b>	A consultation paper including problem analysis, objectives and possible options has been circulated to representative organisations, with deadline for replies set at 30 June. Whereas there has been broad agreement on the need for action, the consultation demonstrated the need for a more thorough assessment of which services are requested by the user, the various options including consideration of a broader range of instruments and the reinforcement of quality of services in general. An external study is being set up to carry out next phases' assessment. As a result the impact assessment will only be finished by the end of the year, with the Communication being ready early next year.
TREN		2006/TREN/009 Package of proposals aiming to reinforce the position and the normative framework of <b>inland waterway transport</b>	Discussions in Council on the Communication on promotion of inland waterway transport (NAIADES Action Programme) have raised important questions on the institutional aspects of this programme. Postponement to next year will allow more time for consultation and analysis of the institutional question.
TREN		2006/TREN/+15 Communication on the development of <b>energy markets with neighbouring countries</b>	The European Council of March 2006 called for the development of a Strategic Review of the Energy Policy for Europe. This review will be adopted by the Commission early 2007 in time for the next Spring's European Council. It will deal, amongst other subjects, with external EU Energy policy issues and therefore a separate Communication on this subject is no longer needed.
TREN		2006/TREN/026 Communication on <b>Clean Coal Technologies</b>	In response to the request of the European Council of March 2006, the Commission plans to adopt early 2007 a Strategic Review of the Energy Policy for Europe together with a "package" of initiatives in the energy field. The Communication on Clean coal, previously foreseen for adoption in 2006, is now included in this "energy package" and therefore to be postponed to 2007.