

## Webcast

### **11:55 Ministerial Declaration PL3**

**Ursula Haubner**, President of the Council of Ministers, Federal Minister for Social Security, Generations and Consumer Protection, Austria

The Minister introduced the Ministerial Declaration. There are challenging targets set. First, take more account of the needs of an ageing EU population. Second, reduce the geographical digital divide. Third, develop more user-friendly and accessible ICT networks. Fourth, Develop enhanced training and education for the Information Society. Fifth, promote cultural diversity. Sixth, continue to improve eGovernment services. In 2005 only 10% of EU citizens over 65 used ICTs, and new products and services are now needed. She noted that 2007 is the year of European Equal Opportunities, and that by 2008 the digital gap in the EU should be reduced by 50%.

The response to the Declaration was given by **Viviane Reding**, European Commissioner for Information Society and Media

The Commissioner warmly welcomed the declaration, and underlined that while there were challenging targets for 2008 and in the context of i2010, work and activity should be an immediate priority, and that the current Conference provided an important forum.