



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 18 January 2007

5430/07

EDUC 10

NOTE

from : Presidency
to : Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) / Council
Subject : Looking beyond 2010 – developing the 'Education and Training 2010' work
 programme
 – Exchange of views

Delegations will find attached a question paper on the above topic drawn up by the Presidency as a basis for discussion in Council on 16 February 2007.

Looking beyond 2010 – developing the 'Education and Training 2010' work programme

Questions for the Council meeting on 16 February 2007

The 'Education and Training 2010' work programme

To ensure their contribution to the Lisbon strategy, Ministers for Education adopted a report in 2001 on the future objective of education and training systems, agreeing for the first time on shared objectives to be achieved by 2010.

One year later, the Education Council and the Commission endorsed a 10-year work programme. Approved by the European Council, this programme now constitutes the European Union's strategic framework for cooperation in the fields of education and training.

Ministers for Education agreed on three major goals to be achieved by 2010 for the benefit of citizens and the EU as a whole:

- to improve the quality and effectiveness of EU education and training systems;
- to ensure that these are accessible to all;
- to open up education and training to the wider world.

To achieve these ambitious goals, Ministers agreed on thirteen specific objectives covering the various types and levels of education and training (formal, non-formal and informal) aimed at making lifelong learning a reality.

The first stage of implementation involved the setting up of working groups whose task was to focus on the shared concrete objectives. The groups identified priority areas for action, created inventories of existing good practice, drew up a preliminary list of indicators and secured a consensus between all interested parties.

We are now in the second stage of the programme, in which 8 clusters of countries have been brought together to work on areas of common interest. Through a series of peer learning activities, Member States draw on experiences from across Europe, in order to understand what has made reforms successful elsewhere.

Progress on implementation of the work programme is reported in biennial joint progress reports of the Council and the Commission.

The mid-term review of the Lisbon strategy

Since the 2005 mid-term review of the Lisbon strategy, the prominence of education and training has been further enhanced. The European Council, at its meeting in March 2005, continued to underline the importance of developing human capital as Europe's main asset and called for the implementation of lifelong learning as a *sine qua non* for achieving the Lisbon objectives.

To ensure delivery, a streamlined 3-year coordination cycle has been set in motion, based on the Integrated Guidelines package for jobs and growth, national and EU Lisbon action programmes, and a progress report to the European Council. The integrated guidelines for jobs and growth include guidelines for education and training (numbers 23 and 24).

Member States have delivered their first reports on the implementation of National Reform Programmes. The Commission has made an assessment of these reports and published a Communication from the Commission to the Spring European Council on the implementation of the renewed Lisbon strategy. The Communication is accompanied by country-specific recommendations many of them containing recommendations in the area of education and training.

The Commission invites the Council to adopt these recommendations and asks Member States to report on their implementation by 15 October 2007.

Starting the reflection process on the development of the 2010 work programme

The next Joint Interim Report of the Council and the Commission will be prepared in 2007 for adoption in 2008. This report should indicate policy orientations for the development of the work programme in education and training beyond 2010.

In order to begin a reflection process, Ministers are invited to express their initial ideas and thoughts on the development of the 2010 work programme, taking account of the following questions:

- 1. How do Ministers perceive the role of the 'Education and Training 2010' work programme with regard to the Lisbon process?*
 - 2. How can the impact of the 2010 work programme be further strengthened at the level of the Community and the Member States, in order to contribute towards improving the quality of education and training systems?*
 - 3. What are the major new challenges and topics which the process should address beyond 2010?*
-