

EUROPEAN COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS



The General Secretariat of the EU Council of Ministers published the conclusions of the European Council meeting which took place on 25-26 March 2010. The European Council discussed the EU 2020 strategy for jobs and growth agreeing on its main elements, including the key targets which will guide its implementation and arrangements for its improved monitoring. Heads of State or government also held an exchange of views on competitiveness, a critical aspect of Europe's growth prospects, and discussed the state of preparation for the next G20 Summit. On climate change, the European Council agreed on the need to bring a new dynamic to the negotiation and pointed out the next steps. The EU Council asked the European Commission to rapidly present proposals for more focused integrated guidelines, including the employment guidelines and the broad

economic policy guidelines. The guidelines will be discussed by the Council so that, after the consultation of the European Parliament and other institutions on the employment guidelines, they can be endorsed by the June 2010 European Council. The main bottlenecks constraining growth at EU level are being identified by the European Commission and will be discussed by the Council; the same will be done by the Member States at their level, in close cooperation with the European Commission. The June 2010 European Council foresees taking stock of this work so that it can be taken into account in the drawing up of the National Reform Programmes. In this first year of the new strategy, the Member States will present their National Reform Programmes in the autumn 2010, setting out in detail the actions they will undertake to implement the strategy. These should be fully supported by mobilising all relevant EU instruments, including innovative financing instruments in cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB) Group, as incentives for reform. The European Commission is expected to present by October 2010 the actions required at EU level to implement the new strategy, notably through the flagship initiatives.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2010 PUBLISHED

On 31 March 2010 the European Commission presented its work programme for 2010. The "Time to Act" communication is late as a result of the delay in the appointment of the new European Commission. The text is based on the political guidelines presented last September by European Commission's President José Manuel Barroso at the time of his election and focuses on four areas of action. The first concerns tackling the crisis and sustaining Europe's social market economy - the first political act of the Barroso II Commission was to present on 3 March 2010 its new Europe 2020 Strategy to succeed the Lisbon Strategy which is expected to be adopted by the EU Council of Ministers in June 2010. The second area of action is building a citizens' agenda that puts people

at the heart of European action through different Lisbon Treaty provisions which must be implemented during 2010. The European Commission is expected to launch an action plan for its implementation (2010-2014). It has also agreed to present a proposal for revision of the Working Time Directive and proposals to clarify implementation of the Posted Workers' Directive. It is also planned that a green paper on the future of pensions in Europe will be presented. The third area of action is the external policy agenda. The aim here is to establish the European External Action Service (EAS) introduced by the Lisbon Treaty, but also to further develop Europe's trade agenda. The fourth area touches upon the issue of modernising EU instruments and ways of working. The executive promises to carry out impact assessments for all initiatives with significant impacts, including proposals for delegated and implementing acts. On revision of the EU budget, it announces consultations with stakeholders on the common agricultural policy, cohesion and research policy.



OTHER OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE (IEE)

On 23 March 2010 the European Commission published a call for proposals under the IEE programme. The programme is structured around three strands: **SAVE** - promotes energy efficiency and the rational use of energy resources, particularly in the building and industry sectors, **ALTENER** - focuses on renewable heating and cooling, domestic and small-scale power generation and integrating new and renewable energy sources into local energy systems, **STEER** – supports initiatives relating to the diversification of fuels, promoting renewable fuels and energy efficiency in transport. The call has a budget of €56m (SAVE - €20m, STEER - €10m, ALTENER - €20m and Integrated initiatives - €6-7m) providing support of up to 75 per cent of the eligible project costs. The IEE programme aims to contribute to European energy policy, including the EU action plan for energy-efficiency, the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (RES Directive) and the combined heat and power (CHP) directive. Activities under the 2010 call for proposals can only take the form of projects (approx. 50 projects funded in 2010) therefore the establishment of new local and regional energy management agencies is excluded from activities this year. Deadline: 24 June 2010.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – DAPHNE III

European Commission's DG Justice, Freedom and Security has published a new call under the DAPHNE III, the EU-funding programme that supports projects which prevent and combat violence against children, young people and women and protect victims and groups at risk. The call concerns action grants to fund projects falling within the specific priorities of DAPHNE. As the call is based on the DAPHNE work programmes for both 2009 and 2010, both priorities and funding are combined with a total budget of approximately €28,995,560. Projects require a minimum of 2 organisations from different Member States and the deadline for submission is 30 April 2010.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME

On 31 March 2010 the Official Journal of the EU published two new calls for proposals under the Lifelong Learning Programme - Leonardo da Vinci Programme, as follows: 1. award of grants to support national projects to test and develop the credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET), 2. award of grants to support national projects for the development of a national approach to improve the quality assurance of vocational education and training (VET) systems by promoting and developing the use of the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework in vocational education and training. The deadline for sending applications under the both calls is 16 July 2010.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – EUROPEAN INTEGRATION FUND

The UK Border Agency has announced that the call for proposals for the European Integration Fund is now open. The Fund is aimed at newly arrived, legal, third-country national migrants – that is, migrants who have arrived within the last five years, who are not asylum seekers, refugees, European Union or European Economic Area nationals, and who have not come to the UK in a short-term visa category such as students. Around £6.4m is available on a match-funding basis to support new projects commencing on or shortly after 1 July 2010. Eligible applicants include NGOs, charities, academic institutions, central and local government, intergovernmental organisations, limited companies and any partnership made up of these organisations. Deadline: 4 June 2010.

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