



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Sectoral Committee
Weekly Update
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COM (2010) 46 - REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98

Article 7 of Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of the labour force sample survey in the Community (referred to as 'LFS legislation') obliges the Commission to issue three yearly reports to the Parliament and Council.

The present report documents the progress made by Member States, candidate and EFTA countries (referred to as participating countries) in 2006 and 2007 with respect to the provisions of the LFS legislation.

The assessments presented in this report are based upon quality reports, data and other information received from the countries concerned, in addition to analyses of the national questionnaires.

The Commission's conclusion on this report is that overall, in the period under consideration, participating countries made good progress towards fuller compliance with the LFS legislation. National surveys have been adapted both to take into account modifications in European Union legislation and to comply with the requirements already in place at the time of the previous Report and from which there were national deviations. The quality of both the national and community labour force surveys as a whole has thus been improved, especially in terms of relevance, accuracy, geographical comparability and timeliness.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0046:FIN:EN:PDF>



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COM (2010) 207 - COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - Taking stock of the European Neighbourhood Policy

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) has transformed relations between the EU and its neighbours. Since its launch in 2004, political contacts have increased in profile and intensity. Trade has increased at double digit rates, aided by a steady process of liberalisation and regulatory convergence. EU assistance has been tailored to partners' reform needs and its volume in the current Financial Framework has increased by 32 %.

However, much remains to be done if the ENP's goals of shared stability, security and prosperity are to be achieved. The Lisbon Treaty recognises this by committing the EU to the development of a special relationship with neighbouring countries aiming at establishing an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness. The policy will also benefit from greater consistency, coherence and coordination of the Union's external policy brought about by the appointment of the High Representative/Vice-President and establishment of the European External Action Service, as well as from the appointment of a Commissioner with a specific regional mandate allowing him to devote extra attention to the ENP and the countries it covers.

Against this background, the Commission considered it useful to take stock of the progress achieved since the launch of the policy. The analysis presented in this communication will serve to guide the further development of the ENP, to make best use of the new possibilities opened by the Lisbon Treaty and to optimize the ENP's contribution to the EU's longer-term objectives, including the 2020 agenda.

The working document goes into detail on:

- Improving governance and addressing protracted conflicts
- Promoting mobility
- Advancing economic integration
- A shared responsibility for the environment
- Working together to address climate change
- Sustainable energy for citizens and industry
- Financial instruments responding to policy objectives

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0207:FIN:EN:PDF>



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COM (2010) 217 - Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EC) No 2488/2000 maintaining a freeze of funds in relation to Mr Milosevic and those persons associated with him

Council Regulation (EC) No 2488/2000, as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1791/2006, confirmed certain restrictive measures in relation to former President Milosevic and persons associated with him. This proposal is being done to align Regulation (EC) No 2488/2000 with recent developments in sanctions practice regarding the identification of competent authorities, liability for certain infringements, protection of personal data and drafting of the article on Union jurisdiction.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0217:FIN:EN:PDF>

COM (2010) 279 - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be adopted by the European Union within the ACP-EC Council of Ministers concerning the transitional measures applicable from the date of signing to the date of entry into force of the Agreement amending for the second time the Partnership Agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 as first revised in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005

With a decision taken on the 23rd February 2009, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States ('the ACP States') with a view to undertaking the second revision of the Partnership Agreement between the ACP States and the European Union ('the Cotonou Agreement'). In line with Article 95(3) of the Cotonou Agreement, the negotiations were successfully concluded by an extraordinary Joint Ministerial meeting on 19 March 2010 with the EU negotiator initialling the endorsed texts which will amend the Agreement.



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The Commission has transmitted a proposal for a Council decision concerning the signature of the Agreement amending the Cotonou Agreement. Considering that all the provisions of the Amending Agreement can be provisionally applied without technical difficulties, the Commission proposes to the Council to adopt a decision supporting the provisional application of the Amending Agreement.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0279:FIN:EN:PDF>

Less paperwork and more focus on results: Commission reviews rules for access to EU funds

The Commission has adopted changes to simplify access to EU funds by cutting red tape and saving costs for EU beneficiaries, on 28 May 2010. New rules will also provide more scope for combining public and private funding for a bigger investment impact. The changes will help deliver the new generation of EU programmes post 2013.

Apart from waiving the obligation to pay interest on upfront payments ('pre-financing'), the changes set out by the European Commission include a proposal to raise to €50,000 the current €25,000 ceiling under which grants require simpler administrative procedures. It will also be easier for beneficiaries to use their grant to pay other project partners. Simplification measures are also proposed for businesses that bid for Commission contracts. The Commission could, for example, rely on documents previously submitted instead of requesting them for each subsequent application. The proposal strives to keep the balance between simplifying measures and ensuring effective control of taxpayers' money.

The Financial Regulation and its implementing rules set the principles of the EU budget and govern the way the budget appropriations are spent. It was last revised in 2007.

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/222&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>