

Folketingets Erhvervsudvalg

ERU-udvalgssekretæren

Christiansborg, den 22. marts 2004

Til medlemmer og stedfortrædere

Rådsmødedagsordener under det irske formandskab og andre fremadrettede oversigtsdokumenter

Erhvervsudvalget udvikler sin EU-overvågning. Som et første skridt tager ERU ikke længere automatisk ministeren i samråd forud for et rådsmøde, men vil i stedet prioritere udvalgte EU-sager/-perspektiver.

1. For at lette udvalgsmedlemmernes overblik over igangværende sager, er der i den første del af notatet en gennemgang af de ERU-relevante rådsmøder (ØKOFIN-, konkurrenceevne-, søfarts- og forbrugerråd), der er tilbage under det irske formandskab. To foreløbige dagsordener til disse møder er vedhæftet (bilag 1-2).
2. Der er endvidere en omtale af et dagsordenspunkt (Lissabon-processen 2000-2010) på Det Europæiske Råds forårstopmøde, herunder det seneste udkast til topmødekonklusioner (bilag 3), som formandskabet netop har fremlagt om denne væsentlige EU-vækstpolitik. Endvidere refereres det fælles oplæg, som statsministeren, den tyske kansler og den belgiske statsminister har sendt til formandskabet til dette punkt.
3. Med henblik på en effektivisering ændrer Rådet sin forretningsorden. Rådsmødedagsordenerne bliver bl.a. slankere, da visse præsentationssager (B-punkter) fremover klares skriftligt udenom rådsmøderne (bilag 4-5).
4. For at lette ERU's valg af EU-sager/-perspektiver fremover gennemgås kort nogle generelle oversigtsdokumenter fra Kommissionen, Rådet samt Økonomi- og erhvervsministeriet. Herunder omtales det fælles program for de 6 kommende rådsformandskaber, der bl.a. rummer et par væsentlige ERU-relaterede sager (finansiel pakke og Lissabon).
Sluttelig er der en oversigt over ministeriets vigtigste dokumenttyper om den enkelte EU-sag: grundnotater, samlenotater, redegørelser mv.

ERU justerer udvalgets EU-overvågning

På erhvervsudvalgsmødet 19. februar 2004 blev det aftalt, at Erhvervsudvalget ikke fremover automatisk tager et samråd med ministeren om hvert rådsmødes dagsorden,

men at man fremover primært ønsker at få skriftlig orientering om rådsmøderne, jf. alm. del – bilag 319. Det blev endvidere aftalt, at udvalget i højere grad skal tage enkelte væsentlige sager/sagsområder/perspektiver op til behandling, f.eks. i form af spørgsmål, samråd eller ekspertmøder. Udvalget ønsker i øvrigt at udvikle modellen for EU-sagers behandling i udvalget hen ad vejen.

Som det nævnes nederst i notatet, er der en ændring af Rådets forretningsorden undervejs, som fra slutningen af marts 2004 må forventes at medføre, at rådsdagsordenene bliver slankere.

1. Kommende rådsmøder under det irske formandskab

Økofinrådsmøder som finansministeren deltager i

Det irske formandskab har frem til sommeren planlagt to ØKOFIN-møder, den 11. maj og den 2. juni 2004. Dagsordenene for disse rådsmøder blev foreløbigt fastlagt i december 2003, og er omdelt med sekretariatsnoten fra 25. februar 2004, ERU alm. del – bilag 319.

Rådsmøder, som økonomi- og erhvervsministeren deltager i.

Konkurrenceevnerådsmøder

Der har netop været afholdt et rådsmøde 11. marts, og der forventes yderligere et konkurrenceevnerådsmøde under det irske formandskab 17-18. maj. Formandskabets foreløbige dagsorden, der er fastlagt i december 2003 er vedlagt som bilag 1.

Forbrugerrådsmøde

Næste rådsmøde i Rådet for beskæftigelse, socialpolitik, sundhed og forbrugerbeskyttelse forventes at finde sted 28. maj 2004. I den oprindelige dagsorden var der ikke planlagt forbrugerrelaterede punkter.

Søfartsrådsmøde

Næste rådsmøde om søfart (Rådet for transport, telekommunikation og energi) forventes at finde sted 4. juni 2004. Formandskabets foreløbige dagsorden, som er fastlagt i december 2003, er vedlagt som bilag 2.

2. Europæisk forårstopmøde, bl.a. om Lissabon-processen

Dagsorden

Dagsordenen for det europæiske forårstopmøde 25.-26. marts 2004 i Bruxelles er vedlagt på bilag 3. Af særlig interesse for Erhvervsudvalget er første punkt på dagsordenen: Særlige prioriteringer indenfor Lissabon-strategien. Der er yderligere planlagt et møde i Det Europæiske Råd 17.-18. juni 2004.

Lissabon-oplæg til forårstopmødet fra Fogh Rasmussen, kansleren og Verhofstadt

Statsminister Anders Fogh Rasmussen har sammen med den tyske kansler og den belgiske statsminister lavet et fælles oplæg til topmødedrøftelserne vedr. Lissabon-strategien, omdelt i ERU på alm. del – bilag 354.

Blandt andet i lyset af den stadig mere globaliserede økonomi lægger de tre regeringschefer i dette oplæg vægt på styrkelse af konkurrenceevnen på langt sigt, herunder at:

- 1) styrke forskning og fremadrettede teknologier, der kan styrke produktiviteten.
- 2) konsolidere og udbygge det Indre Marked, også tjenesteydelsesområdet
- 3) fjerne administrative hindringer
- 4) indrette europæiske programmer på fremtidens teknologier
- 5) højne europæisk grundforskning
- 6) skabe europæiske teknologiplatforme
- 7) udnytte markedspotentialet indenfor miljøteknologi
- 8) integrere forskning i erhvervslivet, herunder indstifte en eur. best practices-pris
- 9) øge anvendelsen af informations- og kommunikationsteknologier i EU-landene

Udkast til midtvejs-topmødekonklusioner om Lissabon strategien (2000-2010)

Stats- og regeringscheferne forventes at færdiggøre nogle midtvejskonklusioner om Lissabon-strategien. Der er netop kommet et nyt udkast til disse forårs-topmødekonklusioner om Lissabon-udfordringerne (Meeting the Lisbon Challenge) jf. **bilag 3**, hvoraf det fremgår, at man særligt på dette topmøde vil fokusere på bæredygtig vækst og beskæftigelse, herunder:

- 1) Lissabon udfordringen og dens implementering (pkt. 1-6)
- 2) sund makro-økonomisk politik (pkt. 7-11)
- 3) bæredygtig vækst, der er miljømæssig forsvarlig (pkt. 12-15)
- 4) social sammenhørighed (pkt. 16)
- 5) konkurrenceevne og innovation samt udvikling af entrepreneurship (pkt. 17-18); herunder (pkt. 19-26):
 - a) styrkelse af konkurrenceevnen og arbejdet i Konkurrenceevnerådet (pkt. 19)
 - b) færdiggørelse af det Indre Marked (pkt. 20-22)
 - c) bedre regulering på nationalt og EU-niveau vil styrke konkurrenceevne og produktivitet; nye programmer planlægges (pkt. 23)
 - d) udvikling af et europæisk kundskabsområde og styrkelse af virksomhedernes opfyldelse af målene for investeringer i R & D = forskning/analyse og udvikling; aktioner og programmer skal forenkles og styrkes (pkt. 24-26)
- 6) flere og bedre jobs (pkt. 27-31)
- 7) fremme fri bevægelighed for arbejdskraften (pkt. 34-35)
- 8) opbygge trekants-partnerskaber: sociale partnere+civile samfund+offentlige (pkt. 36-38)
- 9) midtvejsvurdering af instrumenter/politikker, der skal bringe økonomi og vækst i Europa fremad i de næste fem år (Lissabon-strategien: 2000-2010) (pkt. 39-41)

3. Rådsmødedagsordenernes B-punkter udtynnes fremover

Med henblik på at forøge effektiviteten i Rådets arbejde vil Rådet på udenrigsminister-mødet 22.-23. marts vedtage justeringer af rådsmødeforretningsordenen, som evt. kan

få betydning for folketingsudvalgenes muligheder for at følge EU-sager via rådsmødedagsordener, bilag 4 og 5.

Fremover fjerner man f.eks. alle præsentationssager, som ikke vedrører egentlige forslag og grønbøger mv., med mindre præsentationen er knyttet til et større initiativ, som kan sættes på dagsordenen (se også EU-note E 12).

Da Erhvervsudvalget har valgt fremover i mindre grad at bygge EU-overvågningen på samråd om rådsmødedagsordenerne, og i højere grad på undersøgelsen af enkelte sager/sagsområder/perspektiver, vil Rådets nyordning formentlig blive et mindre problem for udvalget.

4. EU's og ministeriernes væsentligste oversigtsdokumenter

EU-institutionernes lovprogrammer og politikataloger

Kommissionen publicerer hvert år et politikatalog og et lovforslagskatalog over det kommende års lovforslag (direktiver og forordninger), grønbøger, hvidbøger og andre væsentlige meddelelser.

De 45 ERU-relaterede nye EU-kommissionsforslag for 2004 ud af Kommissionens i alt 273 lovgivningsforslag mv. for 2004 er samlet af ERU-sekretariatet i et bilag til Erhvervsudvalgets underudvalg, ERU-U bilag 10. Bilaget kan rekvireres fra udvalgssekretariatet.

Rådet og dets kommende formandskab(er) fremlægger halvårligt forud for hvert nyt formandskab et politikatalog over prioriterede initiativer på rådsmøderne. Endvidere fremlægges to oversigter over alle planlagte rådsmøder med rådsmødedagsordenerne opdelt i en COREPER 1-oversigt (bl.a. konkurrenceevne, søfart og forbrug) henholdsvis en COREPER 2-oversigt (bl.a. Økofin).

6 formandskaber i rækkefølge laver fælles program

I nogle tilfælde ser man yderligere et politikatalog repræsenterende 2 eller flere formandskaber, som sammen ønsker at prioritere en række politikområder over en periode. Således fremlagde Irland, Holland, Luxembourg, Storbritannien, Østrig og Finland i november 2003 et 3-års politikprogram med hovedlinierne for de kommende 6 formandskabers arbejde, Multiannual Strategic Programme 2004-2006 (ERU, alm. del – bilag 168).

To centrale elementer af *særlig interesse for Erhvervsudvalget* i dette 3-årsprogram er:

- 1) Forberedelserne til en politisk aftale om en ny finansiel pakke (juni 2005), og endelig vedtagelse af pakken ultimo 2005 – en pakke, som Erhvervsudvalget derfor formentlig vil støde på mange gange det kommende halvandet år.
- 2) Lissabon-processen, der skal sikre et effektivt Indre Marked præget af vækst, produktivitet og konkurrenceevne.

De nyeste oversigtsdokumenter fra Rådet er optrykt i et bilag, som ERU-sekretæren udarbejdede til Erhvervsudvalgets underudvalg. ERU-U bilag 11. Bilaget kan rekvireres fra udvalgssekretariatet.

Økonomi- og Erhvervsministeriet forsyner halvårligt udvalget med en status over en bred vifte af igangværende EU-sager, herunder med en liste over sager, som ministeriet for tiden prioriterer. Nyhedsrapporten tager som regel ikke det indeværende års forslag med i oversigten.

Seneste oversigt, "EU-Nyhedsrapport, 1. halvår 2004" er omdelt til udvalget, alm. del – bilag 321.

Ministeriernes væsentligste dokumenter vedr. de enkelte EU-sager

Ifølge aftalerne med regeringen i Beretning 2001/nr. 3 (beretning udarbejdet af Europaudvalget) er det ønskeligt, om ministerierne oversender grundnotat om de enkelte Kommissionslovforslag og Kommissionsmeddelelse mv. inden 4 uger efter Kommissionens vedtagelse af en fremsættelse, evt. eftersendelse af høringssvar dog senest 8 uger efter *).

Der er ikke aftalt regler for oversendelse af en foreløbig dagsorden, hvor blot punkterne er angivet. Forud for hvert formandskab oversendes der tentative dagsordener for alle Rådets planlagte rådsmøder. Det er ønskeligt, at rådsmødernes opdaterede dagsordenspunkter kunne oversendes ca. 14 dage forud for rådsmødet med henblik på klargøring af, hvilke sager der aktuelt forventes behandlet på det kommende rådsmøde.

Ifølge aftalen med regeringen skal et aktuelt samlenotat, hvori der er en gennemgang af rådsmødedagsordenens punkter, oversendes 8 dage før rådsmødet*).

Er der dagsordenspunkter af særlig interesse for udvalget på en rådsmødedagsorden, kan udvalget naturligvis bede om en skriftlig uddybning eller om et samråd med ministeren.

Der er endvidere tradition for at ministerierne efter rådsmødet fremsender referat af det enkelte rådsmøde (redegørelse).

Der er ikke konkrete aftaler mellem Erhvervsudvalget og Økonomi- og Erhvervsministeriet om udformningen af notater om EU-sager, men man har primært arbejdet indenfor det brede regelsæt som EU-beretningerne udstikker. Det har dog i forbindelse med drøftelserne om EU-sagers behandling været nævnt flere gange i udvalget og i ERU-underudvalget, at det var ønskeligt, om man kunne nå frem til en udformning af EU-notater til udvalget, der tydeligere (også i lay-outet) viste, hvilken type sag det drejede sig om, hvor i EU-processen det pågældende notat relaterede sig, og som måske også tydeligere henviste til tidligere dokumenter om samme sag.

Med venlig hilsen

Finn Skriver Frandsen
udvalgssekretær

*) Formuleringen i beretning 2001/mr. 3 er (fortsættes næste side):

"Det er aftalt med regeringen, at denne vil forstærke sine bestræbelser på at overholde den 8-dages-tidsfrist for fremsendelse af samlenotater, som blev aftalt i forbindelse med 1999-beretningen.
Det er aftalt med regeringen, at den vil bestræbe sig på en så tidlig fremsendelse som muligt af grundnotater og så vidt muligt inden 4 uger efter kommissionsforslagets fremsættelse, idet resumeet af hørings svar i en række tilfælde eftersendes på et senere tidspunkt, dog senest 8 uger efter kommissionsforslagets fremsættelse.
Det er aftalt med regeringen, at den vil bestræbe sig på at forbedre proceduren for paralleloversendelse med henblik på, at fagudvalget og Europaudvalget kan modtage bilaget samtidig."

Biag 1

**COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY AND
RESEARCH) COUNCIL**

17-18 MAY 2004

1. **Competitiveness and Innovation**
 - **Follow up to Informal Ministerial in Ireland**
 - **Communication on Industrial Policy**
 - **2nd Progress Report on the implementation of the Life Science and Biotechnology Strategy**
 - = *Exchange of views*
 - = *Council conclusions*

2. **Proposal on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)**
 - *Policy debate*

3. **Competitiveness and the Environment**
 - **(poss.) Communication on sustainable production**
 - = *Exchange of views*
 - = *(poss.) Council conclusions*

4. **Framework Directive on Services**
 - *(poss.) Political agreement*

5. **Community Patent**
 - a) **Proposal for a Council Decision transferring competence to the Court of Justice in respect of Community intellectual property rights**
 - *(poss.) Political agreement/(poss.) Adoption*
 - b) **Proposal for a Council Decision setting up a special judicial panel, to be called the Community Patent Court**
 - *(poss.) Political agreement/(poss.) Adoption*
 - c) **Proposal for a Council Decision amending the Statute of the Court of Justice and the Rules of Procedure of the Court, consequential on creation of competence and establishment of the Community Patent Court**
 - *(poss.) Political agreement/(poss.) Adoption*

6. **Proposal for a Directive amending the Eighth Company Law Directive on the statutory audits of accounting documents.**
 - *Exchange of views/Policy debate*

7. **Proposal for a Directive on cross-border mergers of companies with share capital**
 - *Progress Report*

8. **Proposal for a Directive on computer-implemented inventions**
 - *Political agreement*
9. **Proposal for a Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications**
 - *Political agreement*
10. **Proposal for a Regulation on Drug Precursors (Intra-Community Controls)**
 - *(poss.) Political agreement/(poss.) adoption*
11. **(poss.) Commission Communication on Nano Technologies**
 - *Exchange of views*
 - *Council conclusions (poss.)*
12. **ITER**
 - **Decision for Conclusion of International agreement**
 - **Decision for the creation of a European legal entity**
 - = *Policy debate*
13. **Proposal for a Council Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third country researchers**
 - *Exchange of views*
14. **Amended proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning sales promotion in the Internal Market**
 - *(poss.) Political agreement*
15. **Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the Internal Market and amending Directives 84/450/EEC, 97/7/EC and 98/27/EC (the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive)**
 - *General approach/Political agreement*
16. **Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on co-operation between national authorities responsible for the enforcement of consumer protection laws ("the regulation on consumer protection co-operation")**
 - *General approach/Political agreement*
17. **Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the harmonisation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning credit for consumers**
 - *Progress Report*
18. **(poss.) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on materials in contact with food**
 - *Policy debate*

Bilag 2

TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY COUNCIL

10-11 JUNE 2004

TRANSPORT

AVIATION

1. (poss.) Proposed negotiating mandates for air transport agreements with further third countries
 - *Political agreement*
2. Community negotiation on an EU/US air transport agreement
 - *Progress report*

LAND TRANSPORT

3. Third rail package
 - *Policy debate*
4. (poss.) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on action by Member States concerning public service requirements and the award of public service contracts in passenger transport by rail, road and inland waterways
 - *Political agreement*
5. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 88/599/EEC of 23 November 1988 on standard checking procedures for the implementation of Regulation (EEC) No 3820/85 on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport and Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 on recording equipment in road transport
 - *Political agreement*

MARITIME TRANSPORT

6. "Erika III" package on maritime safety
 - (poss.) *Presentation of proposals/Exchange of views*
7. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on enhancing port security
 - *Policy debate*
 - (poss.) *General approach*
8. Proposal for a Directive on mutual recognition of seafarers certificates
 - *General approach*

UDENRIGSMINISTERIET

EUROPAUDVALGET

Alm. del - bilag 626 (offentligt)

Bilag 3

Medlemmerne af Folketingets Europaudvalg
og deres stedfortrædere

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Bilag

1

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EUK

16. marts 2004

Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges Formandskabet
reviderede kommenterede dagsorden vedrørende Det Europæiske Råds
møde i Bruxelles den 25.-26. marts 2004, 7370/04.

P. H. Olsen



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 16 March 2004

7370/04

POLGEN 15

NOTE

From : The Presidency

To : Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject : *European Council (25/26 March 2004)*
- Annotated draft agenda

According to the Seville European Council Conclusions the General Affairs and External Relations Council, acting on a Presidency proposal, shall draw up an annotated draft agenda at least four weeks before the meeting of the European Council. The Presidency accordingly submits the following annotated draft agenda.

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The Presidency intends to limit the agenda to the following items:

- I. The Lisbon Strategy: Priorities
- II. IGC: Report from the Presidency
- III. Terrorism
- IV. International Situation (*as necessary*)
- V. Other Business

The meeting will be preceded by an exposé by the President of the European Parliament, Mr. Pat Cox, followed by an exchange of views.

I. THE LISBON STRATEGY: PRIORITIES

(see draft conclusions attached)

II. INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

The Presidency is expected to report to the European Council on the prospects for progress on the basis of consultations conducted according to the mandate by the December 2003 European Council.

III. TERRORISM

The Presidency in consultation with partners will bring forward a package of measures.

IV. INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

(as necessary)

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Financial Perspectives

"The European Council welcomes the publication of the Commission's Communication on the Financial Perspectives 2007-2013. It invites Council to continue the study being conducted by Coreper on the detail of the Communication, with a view to preparation of an analytical report in advance of the European Council in June 2004. The European Council reaffirms the timetable envisaged in the Multiannual Programme, which aims at reaching political agreement on the new Financial Perspectives at the European Council in June 2005."

Residence Palace

"The European Council agrees to the proposal by the Belgian Government that it use block A of the Residence Palace building for its meetings, after it has been refurbished, on the basis of the general framework approved by Council concerning the financial, logistical and legal aspects of the project. The European Council invites the Belgian Government and the General Secretariat of the Council to translate this general framework into an operational project in line with its provisions.

The European Council asks Council to monitor closely the development of the project and its execution, and, where necessary, to take appropriate decisions to ensure that the implementation of the project adheres to the framework agreed."

Draft Presidency Conclusions

European Council 25/26 March 2004

MEETING THE LISBON CHALLENGE

1. Meeting the expectations of Europe's population for improved living standards and a better quality of life requires strong economic growth and employment generation together with a high degree of social cohesion and environmental protection.
2. The Union set itself ambitious goals in March 2000. Four years later, the picture is a mixed one. Considerable progress has been made and the European Council reaffirms that the process and goals remain valid. However, the pace of reform needs to be significantly stepped up if the 2010 targets are to be achieved. The European Council is committed to demonstrating the political will to make this happen.
3. The message from this European Council is one of determination and confidence. The challenges ahead are formidable but Europe has the will and capacity to achieve its economic potential. Enlargement will stimulate the European economy, creating new opportunities for all and promoting the convergence of the acceding States. The Lisbon process will benefit from the experience and contribution of our new Members.

Delivery

4. The Lisbon Agenda is based on a consistent approach: between the actions of the Union and those of the Member States, and also between the different areas of policy – economic, social and environmental. Individual measures must be mutually reinforcing and reforms must be pursued across all areas. The European Council took full account in its discussions of the Synthesis Report from the European Commission and of the key messages from all the relevant Council formations. It will keep under close review the detailed actions being taken to progress implementation across the range of sectors.
5. The European Council agrees that the critical issue now is the need for better implementation of commitments already made. The credibility of the process requires stepping up the pace of reform at Member State level. Enhanced monitoring of national performance is needed, including information exchange on best practice. There must be speedier translation of agreements and policy making at EU level into concrete measures. The European Council underlines the need to address the unacceptably high deficits in transposing agreed measures into national law, and to complete the legislative programme arising from the Lisbon Agenda.
6. The most important policy issues that deliver higher growth and employment must be prioritised. Accordingly, this year's Spring European Council focuses on two issues: sustainable growth and more and better jobs.

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

(i) Sound Macro-economic policies

7. The main economic challenge facing the European Union is to realise its growth potential. The economic recovery that started in the second half of 2003 is gathering pace. The Union must build on this momentum in its internal and external policies. It must seize the opportunity to accelerate its internal reform process. Increasing external openness and improving the dynamic economic relationships between trading partners will enhance growth prospects.
8. Reaching or maintaining sound budgetary positions in line with the Stability and Growth Pact, and price stability are the two key bases on which to build. Member States must ensure that they meet the commitments for budgetary consolidation which they have undertaken.
9. It is essential that long-term sustainability of public finances is secured. The European Council strongly encourages the Member States to tackle the financial implications of population ageing by reducing public debt and strengthening employment, health and pension reforms.
10. Structural reforms are necessary and beneficial – necessary in an increasing globalised economy and beneficial because they contribute significantly to increasing growth and employment through a positive impact on confidence and through promoting a better allocation of resources.
11. The European Action for Growth, adopted at the European Council in December 2003, sets out a roadmap for increased investment in physical and human capital to complement structural reform. The 'Quick Start Programme' is an open and dynamic programme comprising projects which meet defined criteria across a range of sectors : Transport, Energy, Broadband, Research, Innovation and Development. Serious engagement by Member States and the EU institutions, as well as project promoters, is required in order to ensure that projects are undertaken in a sustained and timely way. The European Council underlines the need for continued support and monitoring of the Action for Growth and Quick Start Programme and will review progress at its Spring 2005 session.

(ii) Environmentally Sustainable Growth

12. Growth, to be sustainable, must be environmentally sound. Through better policy integration and more sustainable consumption and production patterns, growth must be decoupled from negative environmental impacts.

13. Improvement in energy efficiency is essential for environmental and competitiveness reasons; an EU wide indicative target as supported by the Council is important in focussing efforts. Further cost effective ways of implementing EU decisions in the field of climate change, including the cost of inaction, should be considered. The European Council reaffirms the Union's commitment to delivering on the Kyoto Protocol target and underlines the importance the Union attaches to the ratification process of the Protocol and its early entry into force. As a contribution to global efforts, the European Council looks forward to considering medium and longer term emission reduction strategies, including targets, at the 2005 Spring Council. In preparation for this discussion, it invites the Commission to prepare a cost benefit analysis which takes account both of environmental and competitiveness considerations.
14. Clean technologies are vital in order to fully exploit synergies between enterprise and the environment. The European Council welcomes the Environmental Technologies Action Plan and calls for its rapid implementation. It invites the Commission and the EIB to explore the broadening of the range of financial instruments to promote such technologies. It will consider a report from the Commission at next year's Spring Council on overall progress of the Action Plan, and on other opportunities for the Union to promote win-win opportunities where environmental improvement can help to achieve the economic and social goals of the Lisbon Strategy.
15. The European Council considers that fusion technology holds great promise for delivering a new and sustainable energy source and calls on the Commission to progress negotiations on the ITER project with a view to its rapid commencement at the European candidate site.

(iii) Social Cohesion must be central

16. A high level of social cohesion is central to the Lisbon Agenda. The most vulnerable members of society must be protected; strategies which make a decisive impact on social exclusion and on the eradication of poverty are therefore essential. Modernising social protection systems, in particular pension and healthcare systems, and mainstreaming the social inclusion agenda through implementing national action plans play a key role. Gender equality policies are instruments of social cohesion as well as of growth.

(iv) Competitiveness and Innovation

17. The European Council emphasises that competitiveness, innovation, and the promotion of an entrepreneurial culture are defining conditions for growth. With the strides being made by other global players, the Union must act more decisively if it is to maintain the capacity to support the European social model in the years ahead.
18. The European Council focuses on four specific priorities to enhance European competitiveness: effective institutional arrangements, completing the internal market, better regulation and higher rates of R&D.

Institutional Arrangements

19. The Competitiveness Council was established as part of the package of reforms agreed at the Seville European Council. It must now move forward rapidly to champion and drive a clear and integrated response to the competitiveness challenges facing the Union. In the formation of the next Commission, the incoming President will wish to consider how to ensure the competitiveness agenda is effectively supported.

Completing the Internal Market

20. The potential of the internal market is not yet fully realised. Efforts must continue to achieve a smoother functioning of products, services, capital and labour markets. The Union must develop timely responses to new challenges : in the vital area of electronic communications, for example, new EU strategies must keep the Union at the cutting edge. In the services sector, which remains highly fragmented; more competition is required to improve efficiency, increase output and employment, and benefit consumers. The draft Directive on Services must be processed as a matter of high priority in line with the timeframe envisaged.
21. An effective single market for Financial Services will provide more and cheaper capital, including much needed venture capital. The European Council calls for the remaining elements of the Financial Services Action Plan – the proposed Directives on Investment Services and on Transparency – to be finalised before the end of the current Parliament.
22. The recent agreement on the Directive on strengthening the enforcement of intellectual property rights is welcome. However, agreement on the Community Patent is now long overdue and the European Council calls for further efforts to complete work on this proposal.

Better Regulation

23. Better regulation at both European and national levels will enhance competitiveness and productivity. The European Council welcomes the recent four Presidency initiative on better regulation and calls on the Council to pursue a programme of actions to drive this forward over the coming year. It welcomes the Commission's commitment to further refine the integrated impact assessment process, with a particular emphasis on enhancing the competitiveness dimension, and to develop a method to measure administrative burdens on business. The European Council calls on the Commission to take account of the Council's views in relation to priority areas and timescales for simplification. It also invites Member States to commit to accelerated implementation of national regulatory reform initiatives. It will return to the issue of better regulation at the November 2004 European Council meeting.

Reaching the R&D target

24. Progress must be accelerated towards creating a European area of knowledge. A particular priority is to ensure strengthened business investment in R&D. By comparison with performance elsewhere, the relative weakness of private sector investment in R&D within the Union is striking. Part of the answer lies in ensuring that public sector investment in this area secures greater leverage of private funds. The European Council calls on Member States to improve the general conditions for R&D investment and to consider targeted support and incentives to encourage greater investment by business.
25. The overall aim for Europe must be a strong science and research capacity and accelerated public and private sector investment in R&D. A range of mutually reinforcing actions is required. The R&D projects envisaged as part of the "Quick Start Programme" – including industrial R&D projects focussed on key growth technologies – will play a key role. More effort is needed to strengthen the interactions between public research bodies and industry. Human resources are critical and priority must be given to training, retention and mobility of researchers. Competition in research should be strengthened in order to promote the development of centres of scientific excellence.
26. The main European instrument in the research area is the European Framework Programme for Research and Development. This programme must be simplified to make it more user-friendly, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups. The priorities should be to promote cooperation between business and research, to boost future technologies, and to support basic and applied research. The European Council sees merit in enhanced support for basic research of the highest quality and a funding mechanism will be considered in the context of discussions on the Financial Perspectives.

MORE AND BETTER JOBS

27. Delivering more and better jobs is the most urgent issue to be addressed over the coming year. Higher employment rates are critical to achieving economic growth and, given the strong correlation between unemployment and poverty, to furthering social inclusion. It is imperative that the EU reduce its current unacceptably high overall unemployment rate.
28. Member States must renew their commitment to reaching the Lisbon employment goals; in this context, follow-up action is essential on implementing the recommendations of the Employment Task Force chaired by Mr. Wim Kok. The incorporation of the Task Force messages in the Joint Employment Report is a welcome step. The European Council emphasises the need for decisive action by Member States along the lines suggested by the Task Force, within the framework of the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines and the European Employment Strategy.

29. Within an overall employment strategy, Member States should give urgent attention to three particular structural challenges: adaptability, attracting more people into the labour market, and investing in human capital.
30. Adaptability requires reduction wherever appropriate of non wage labour costs; ensuring that wages better reflect productivity; promoting flexible forms of work while addressing security for workers.
31. Attracting more people into the labour market means ensuring that the interaction between taxes and benefits is such that working brings a clear financial reward. It also means developing specific strategies to increase the employment rates of women and older workers. Encouraging more women into employment requires addressing gender disparities in pay and creating more family friendly workplaces. Retaining older workers requires the right legal and financial incentives.
32. Investing more, and more effectively, in human capital is critical to growth and productivity as well as to promoting social integration and inclusion. If the EU is to become the leading knowledge based economy in the world, education and training will play a vital part. The European Council underlines the need for reform and investment in the key areas for the knowledge society. It also recognises that life long learning has positive effects on productivity and labour supply; it supports the adoption of an integrated EU programme during 2005 and the putting in place of national strategies in all Member States by 2006.
33. The challenge now is follow up: real progress towards more and better jobs must be made over the coming year. At its Spring 2005 session, the European Council will review progress in the course of the year; it intends to give particular attention to the extent to which national actions have boosted progress towards the Lisbon employment goals. The European Council invites the Council and the Commission jointly to prepare a concise report – complementary to the Joint Employment Report - especially for that discussion. The report should focus in particular on progress made in strengthening country specific recommendations within the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines.

Enhancing Free Movement of Workers

34. A single labour market, enhancing the free movement of workers, is central to the development of the Union. The European Council therefore encourages further progress in a number of areas which will promote mobility. The European Health Insurance Card will become operational in June 2004. Two measures which will facilitate the recognition of qualifications across the Union – the Directive on Mutual Recognition of professional qualifications and Europass – should be the subject of political agreement by June 2004.
35. The reform of regulation 1408/71, which simplifies and modernise the provisions protecting the social security rights of workers moving within the Union, is a significant step which is expected to be finalised within the lifetime of the current European Parliament.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR REFORM

36. Support and advocacy for change must reach beyond governments. In order to generate this support, the European Council calls on Member States to build Reform Partnerships involving the social partners, civil society and the public authorities, in accordance with national arrangements and traditions.
37. Such national Reform Partnerships should promote complementary strategies for change, addressing the broad range of policies - economic, social and environmental - encompassed by the Lisbon Agenda. These strategies should be reflected in clear national policies and objectives. The Partnerships should be consulted by Governments in the course of preparing national contributions to the mid term review of the Lisbon agenda.
38. The social partners at EU level are already closely and constructively involved in progressing the Lisbon objectives, through the Tripartite Social Summit. Further action is now required to boost their role in advancing the strategy. The European Council welcomes the commitment of the social partners to deepening their involvement through a renewed European Partnership for Change in order to promote growth and accelerate employment and productivity. It also invites the European Economic and Social Committee to develop proposals for more effective implementation of the Lisbon Strategy.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2005

39. The continuing validity and relevance of the Lisbon process is not in doubt. Next year, the midpoint of the decade, is an appropriate point for an in-depth review of delivery. The European Council notes that the Commission intends to set up a road map to reinforce the Lisbon strategy and improve its implementation.
40. The mid-term review should consider how the Lisbon targets can best be met, particularly in light of enlargement. Account should be taken in its preparation of the forthcoming review of the EU sustainable development strategy. The mid term review should include an assessment of:
 - the progress made towards agreed sectoral targets, as well as the range of structural indicators and benchmarks used to measure the level and dynamism of Member State performance;
 - the measurement of European performance in the global context;
 - measures necessary in the new economic and geopolitical climate to increase the level of growth and to achieve the goal set in March 2000;

- **governance and other measures and instruments available both to Member States and the EU to attain the Lisbon goal;**
 - **mechanisms for communicating the objectives of the Lisbon strategy and best practices among Member States to consumers, citizens and key stakeholders.**
41. **The European Council invites the Commission to establish a high-level group headed by [...] to carry out an independent review to contribute to this exercise. Its report should identify measures which together form a consistent strategy for our economies to achieve the Lisbon objectives and targets. The group should be composed of a limited number of highly qualified individuals able to reflect the views of all stakeholders. It should report to the Commission by 1 November 2004. Its report will be made public.**
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UDENRIGSMINISTERIET

EUROPAUDVALGET
Alm. del - bilag 636 (offentligt)

Bilag 4

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og deres stedfortrædere**

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Med henblik på mødet i Folketingets Europaudvalg 19. marts 2004 – dagsordenspunkt rådsmøde (almindelig anliggender og eksterne forbindelser) den 22.-23. marts 2004 – vedlægges Udenrigsministeriets supplerende notat vedrørende dagsordenspunkt 14.

P. H. Orskov

SUPPLERENDE AKTUELT NOTAT

Til: Folketingets Europaudvalg J.nr.: EUP, 400.B.2-0
CC: Bilag:
Fra: Udenrigsministeriet, Europapolitisk Dato: 17. marts 2004
kontor
Emne: Supplerende bidrag til det samlede
aktuelle notat for rådsmøde
(almindelige anliggender og eksterne
forbindelser) den 22.-23. marts 2004:
Dagsordenspunkt 14: (Evt.)
Ændring af Rådets forretnings-
orden

Nyt notat.

Efter forhandlinger i efteråret 2003 er der enighed om at ændre Rådets forretningsorden, således at arbejdet effektiviseres, og de procedureregler for Rådets forberedelse af møder i Det Europæiske Råd (DER) møder, der blev godkendt på DER Sevilla i juni 2002, indarbejdes i forretningsordenen. Denne ændring af Rådets forretningsorden skal ses i sammenhæng med EU's udvidelse og det deraf følgende behov for at sikre, at arbejdet i Rådet også fremover kan fungere effektivt og at der foregår forhandlinger på selve møderne i Rådet, selvom der er 25 medlemslandes repræsentanter tilstede. Samtidig benyttes anledningen til at rette forretningsordenens artikel 23, stk. 1, ind i overensstemmelse med TEF artikel 207, stk. 2, som ændret med Nice-traktaten, hvorefter udnævnelse af Rådets generalsekretær og vicegeneralsekretær sker med kvalificeret flertal i Rådet.

Blandt de tiltag til effektivisering og fokusering af Rådets arbejde er, at der ikke optages punkter på Rådets dagsorden til orientering eller med henblik på præsentation ved Kommissionen eller et medlem af Rådet, undtagen når der er planlagt en debat om nye vigtige initiativer. I så fald en sag ikke optages på dagsordenen fremsendes præsentationen skriftligt til Rådet.

Overvejelser om nærheds- og proportionalitetsprincippet er ikke relevante i forbindelse med dette dagsordenspunkt.

Folketingets Europaudvalg har ikke tidligere modtaget aktuelt notat om sagen.

Udenrigsministeriet, Europapolitisk kontor



**RÅDET FOR
DEN EUROPÆISKE UNION**

**Bruxelles, den 21. januar 2004
(OR. fr)**

5163/04

**JUR 12
CAB 3**

RETSAKTER OG ANDRE INSTRUMENTER

Vedr.: Rådets afgørelse om vedtagelse af Rådets forretningsorden

- UDDRAG -

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ARBEJDSMETODER MED HENBLIK PÅ ET UDVIDET RÅD

Mødeforberedelse

1. Formandskabet sikrer, at en gruppe eller et udvalg først forelægger en sag for Coreper, hvis det med rimelighed kan forventes, at der kan gøres fremskridt, eller at holdningerne kan afklares i Coreper. Omvendt sendes sager kun tilbage til en gruppe eller et udvalg, hvis det er nødvendigt, og i så fald kun med mandat til at behandle præcise, veldefinerede problemer.
2. Formandskabet tager de nødvendige skridt til at fremme arbejdet mellem møderne. Det kan f.eks. med gruppens eller udvalgets samtykke på den mest effektive måde iværksætte nødvendige konsultationer om specifikke problemer med henblik på at rapportere tilbage til den pågældende gruppe eller udvalg om mulige løsninger. Det kan også føre skriftlige konsultationer ved at anmode delegationerne om at svare skriftligt på et forslag inden næste møde i gruppen eller udvalget.
3. Delegationerne kan, når det er hensigtsmæssigt, skriftligt på forhånd redegøre for de holdninger, de forventer at indtage på et kommende møde. Hvis de ønsker at foreslå tekstændringer, skal de foreslå en præcis affattelse. Skriftlige indlæg forelægges i fællesskab af delegationer, der indtager samme holdning, hvor dette er muligt.

4. Coreper skal undgå at behandle emner, som allerede er dækket inden for rammerne af forberedelsen af Corepers drøftelser. Dette gælder navnlig I-punkter, oplysninger om tilrettelæggelsen og rækkefølgen af dens arbejde og oplysninger om dagsordenen og tilrettelæggelsen af kommende rådsmøder. Så vidt muligt, bringer delegationerne spørgsmål under eventuelt op i forbindelse med forberedelserne af Corepers drøftelser snarere end på et møde i Coreper.

5. Formandskabet skal så hurtigt som muligt inden for rammerne af forberedelserne af Corepers drøftelser forelægge delegationerne alle nødvendige oplysninger for at give mulighed for en grundig forberedelse af Corepers møder, herunder oplysninger om, hvad formandskabet forventer at opnå ved drøftelsen af hvert enkelt punkt på dagsordenen. Omvendt tilskynder formandskabet, når det er relevant, delegationerne til inden for rammerne af forberedelsen af drøftelserne i Coreper at underrette de øvrige delegationer om de holdninger, de vil indtage i Coreper. I den forbindelse foretager formandskabet den endelige udformning af Corepers dagsorden. Formandskabet kan indkalde grupper, der forbereder Corepers drøftelser, hyppigere, når omstændighederne kræver det.

Afholdelsen af møder

6. Der optages ikke punkter på dagsordenen, blot for at Kommissionen eller rådsmedlemmer kan præsentere dem, medmindre der er planlagt en debat om nye større initiativer.

7. Formandskabet afholder sig fra at optage punkter på Corepers dagsorden, der kun er til orientering. De pågældende oplysninger, f.eks. om resultater af møder i et andet forum, med et tredjeland eller en anden institution, procedurespørgsmål og organisatoriske spørgsmål, meddeles i stedet delegationerne inden for rammerne af forberedelsen af drøftelserne i Coreper, om muligt skriftligt, og gentages ikke i Coreper.

8. Ved et mødes start giver formandskabet eventuelle nødvendige yderligere oplysninger vedrørende håndteringen af mødet og det oplyser navnlig, hvor lang tid det forventer afsat til hvert punkt. Det afholder sig fra lange indledninger samt gentagelse af oplysninger, som allerede er delegationerne bekendt.

9. Ved indledningen af drøftelserne om et substantielt punkt meddeler formandskabet, afhængig af hvilken type drøftelser der er behov for, delegationerne, hvor lang tid de maksimalt har til deres indlæg vedrørende det pågældende punkt. I de fleste tilfælde bør indlæg ikke vare mere end to minutter.

10. Det bør principielt undgås at give samtlige delegationer ordet efter tur, medmindre der foreligger særlige omstændigheder, eller det drejer sig om specifikke spørgsmål, og da kun med begrænset taletid efter formandskabets anvisninger.

11. Formandskabet styrer drøftelserne mest muligt, navnlig ved at anmode delegationerne om at reagere på kompromistekster eller specifikke forslag.

12. Under mødet og ved dets afslutning afholder formandskabet sig fra at foretage lange sammenfatninger af drøftelserne og begrænser sig til kort at drage konklusioner om de opnåede resultater for så vidt angår substansen og/eller proceduren.

13. Delegationerne undgår at gentage aspekter, som tidligere talere har kommenteret. Deres indlæg skal være korte og koncise og vedrøre substansen i et spørgsmål.

14. Delegationer, der har samme opfattelse i en sag, opfordres til at aftale at lade en fælles talsmand forelægge deres holdning til et specifikt punkt.

15. Når delegationerne drøfter tekster, skal de komme med konkrete forslag til affattelse, der fremsættes skriftligt, i stedet for blot at udtrykke deres uenighed med hensyn til et givet forslag.

16. Medmindre formandskabet har oplyst andet, afholder delegationerne sig fra at tage ordet, når de er enige i et givet forslag, idet det ikke at tage ordet er udtryk for principiel enighed.