

REPUBLIK ■ ÖSTERREICH

DR. ALFRED GUSENBAUER
BUNDESKANZLER

An die
Präsidentin des Nationalrats
Mag^a Barbara PRAMMER
Parlament
1017 W i e n

XXIII. GP.-NR
3534 /AB

10. April 2008

zu 3566 /J

GZ: BKA-353.110/0083-I/4/2008

Wien, am 9. April 2008

Sehr geehrte Frau Präsidentin!

Die Abgeordneten zum Nationalrat Öllinger, Kolleginnen und Kollegen haben am 13. Februar 2008 unter der **Nr. 3566/J** an mich eine schriftliche parlamentarische Anfrage betreffend Teilnahme an den Sitzungen und Arbeitsgruppen des (Minister) Rats der EU gerichtet.

Diese Anfrage beantworte ich wie folgt:

Zu Frage 1:

- *Wann und mit welcher Tagesordnung haben im Jahr 2007 Sitzungen des (Fachminister-) Rats der Europäischen Union stattgefunden, für die Ihr Ressort teilnahmeberechtigt war?*

Im Jahr 2007 haben zu folgenden Terminen Tagungen des Europäischen Rates stattgefunden:

- 8./9.3.2007,
- 21./22.6.2007,
- 13./14.12.2007 (anlässlich dieses Termins wurde auch der Vertrag von Lissabon unterzeichnet).

Im Anhang findet sich eine Aufstellung jener Dokumente, die dem Parlament in Vorbereitung der Tagungen des Europäischen Rates übermittelt wurden. Es handelt sich

dabei um annotierte Tagesordnungen und Schlussfolgerungsentwürfe. Darüber hinaus wurden dem Parlament auch jeweils die endgültigen Schlussfolgerungen des Europäischen Rates vorgelegt.

Der Vollständigkeit halber weise ich darauf hin, dass beim Rat Allgemeine Angelegenheiten und Außenbeziehungen dem Bundeskanzleramt auf Beamtenebene ein Delegationsplatz zusteht.

Zu Frage 2:

- *Wann und zu welchen Themen haben im Jahr 2007 informelle Sitzungen des Rats der Europäischen Union stattgefunden, für die Ihr Ressort teilnahmeberechtigt war?*

Am 25.3.2007 fand ein Sondertreffen der Staats- und Regierungschefs anlässlich der 50 Jahr-Feier der Römer Verträge statt.

Am 18./19.10. 2007 hat ein informelles Treffen der Staats- und Regierungschefs in Lissabon stattgefunden. Im Rahmen dieses Treffens sind die Staats- und Regierungschefs auch formell als Regierungskonferenz zusammengetreten.

Thema des informellen Treffens der Staats- und Regierungschefs war insbesondere die externe Dimension der Lissabon-Strategie. Im Anhang findet sich eine Aufstellung jener Dokumente, die dem Parlament zum informellen Treffen der Staats- und Regierungschefs und zur Regierungskonferenz an diesem Termin übermittelt wurden.

Im Bereich EU-Raumordnung, EU-Regionalpolitik fanden folgende informelle Sitzungen auf EU-Ministerebene im Jahr 2007 statt:

- Informelles Ministertreffen zu „Regionalpolitik“ am 9.5.2007 in Hof (auf Einladung der deutschen Ratspräsidentschaft),
- Informelles Ministertreffen zu „Städtepolitik“ und „Räumlicher Zusammenhalt (*Territorial Cohesion*)“ am 24./25.5.2007 in Leipzig (auf Einladung der deutschen Ratspräsidentschaft),
- Informelles Ministertreffen zu „Räumlicher Zusammenhalt (*Territorial Cohesion*)“ und „Regionalpolitik“ am 23./24.11.2007 in Ponta Delgada/Azoren (auf Einladung der portugiesischen Ratspräsidentschaft).

Am 12. und 13. März 2007 fand in Stuttgart ein informelles Sportministertreffen statt. Bei der Konferenz wurde insbesondere das Thema Sport und Ökonomie, konkret die ökonomischen Auswirkungen von Sport-Großveranstaltungen am Beispiel der Fußball WM 2006 in Deutschland und das Satellitenkonto Sport diskutiert.

Weitere Themen waren der Bericht der EU-Kommission über die Fortschritte bei der Erarbeitung des EU-Weißbuches zum Sport, Sport und Integration, konkret sozial-integrative Potenziale von Sportvereinen und die Dopingbekämpfung durch Vernetzung der nationalen Anti-Doping-Organisationen und die Diskussion über die Strafbarkeit des Besitzes von Dopingsubstanzen.

Am 25. Oktober 2007 kamen die Sportminister der Europäischen Union zu einem informellen Treffen in Lissabon zusammen.

Zentrale Themen der Gespräche waren die politische Übereinkunft über das EU-Weißbuch zum Sport sowie - vor allem in Hinblick auf die III. Globale Anti-Doping Konferenz, welche im November 2007 in Madrid stattfand - der Kampf gegen das Doping.

Die Portugiesische EU-Ratspräsidentschaft betonte den für den europäischen Reformprozess wichtigen Erfolg der erzielten Einigung über die Lissabonner Verträge und erklärte, wie wichtig es für die Zukunft sei, dass nun der Sport im Artikel 149 das erste Mal explizit im europäischen Regelwerk erwähnt werde. Damit werden hinkünftig die Sportminister zu "echten Ministerräten" zusammentreffen und deren Entscheidungen wird eine größere politische Bedeutung zukommen.

Die Europäischen Sportminister zeigten sich auch sehr erfreut über das von der EU-Kommission vorgelegte Weißbuch zum Sport und bezeichneten es als das erste umfassende Strategiepapier zum Sport in der Europäischen Union.

Zu Frage 3:

- *Wann und mit welcher Tagesordnung haben im Jahr 2007 Arbeitsgruppen des Rats der Europäischen Union stattgefunden, für die Ihr Ressort teilnahmeberechtigt war?*

Die Ratsarbeitsgruppe Rechtsinformatik tagte 1 mal während der deutschen und 1 mal während der portugiesischen Präsidentschaft.

Dazu fanden zusätzliche RAG-Sitzungen in der Zusammensetzung einer Subformation zum Thema eJustice statt (3 mal unter deutscher und 4 mal unter portugiesischer Präsidentschaft). An diesen Sitzungen nahm jedoch lediglich ein Vertreter des BMJ (Leitender Staatsanwalt Dr. Martin Schneider) teil.

Der Sicherheitsausschuss des Rates CSC (Council Security Committee) tagte jeweils 1 mal während der deutschen und der portugiesischen Präsidentschaft.

Die Ratsgruppe Statut tagte im Jahr 2007 6 mal während der deutschen Präsidentschaft (plus 1 informelle Sitzung) und 4 mal während der portugiesischen Präsidentschaft.

Die Tagungen der „Friends of the Presidency Group on the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS)¹“ fanden 2 mal unter portugiesischer Präsidentschaft statt.

Die Tagungen der „Structural Actions Working Party¹“ fanden 2 mal unter deutscher Präsidentschaft und 1 mal unter portugiesischer Präsidentschaft statt.

Die Tagungen der „Working Party on Civil Protection¹“ fanden 4 mal unter deutscher Präsidentschaft und 6 mal unter portugiesischer Präsidentschaft statt.

Die Tagungen des „Economic Policy Committee¹“ fanden 7 mal unter deutscher und 4 mal unter portugiesischer Präsidentschaft statt.

Die Tagungen des „Economic Policy Committee - Country Reviews Working Group¹“ fanden jeweils 1 mal unter deutscher und portugiesischer Präsidentschaft statt.

Zu den Fragen 4 bis 7:

- *An welchen Sitzungen zu 1), 2) haben Sie als Ressortverantwortliche(r) persönlich teilgenommen?*

¹ Die Tagesordnungen können auf <http://ue.eu.int> (⇒ website des Rates der Europäischen Union in englischer Sprachfassung ⇒ documents ⇒ search in the register ⇒ advanced search) nach Eingabe der im Anhang genannten **Dokumentenummer** eingesehen werden. Direkter link: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/servlet/driver?page=Advanced&typ=&lang=EN&fc=REGAISEN&sr m=25&md=100&cmsid=639>

- *Bei welchen Sitzungen zu 1) und 2) haben Sie sich vertreten lassen?*
- *Durch wen haben Sie sich jeweils vertreten lassen (Regierungsmitglied, Ständiger Vertreter bei der EU)?*
- *Welche wichtigen Gründe waren für Ihre Absenz ausschlaggebend?*

Ich habe an den unter 1. und 2. angeführten Sitzungen des Europäischen Rates bzw. dem informellen Treffen der Staats- und Regierungschefs in Lissabon teilgenommen.

An den informellen Sitzungen im Bereich der Themen Regionalpolitik und räumlicher Zusammenhalt nahm Frau Staatssekretärin Heidrun Silhavy teil.

An den unter der Beantwortung der Frage 2 angeführten informellen Sitzungen im sportpolitischen Bereich nahm Herr Staatssekretär Dr. Reinhold Lopatka teil.

Die Vertretung durch Staatssekretärin Silhavy, bzw. Staatssekretär Lopatka erfolgte auf Grund der Themen, die in der Sitzung behandelt wurden. Diese Themen entsprechen den Aufgabenbereichen, mit welchen ich sie betraut habe.

Zu Frage 8:

- *Wie groß waren die Delegationen Ihres Ressorts bei den Sitzungen des Rates nach 1) und 2)?*

Die Delegation für die Europäischen Räte umfaßte folgende Anzahl an Personen aus dem Bundeskanzleramt:

- 8./9.3.2007: HBK + 5,
- 25.3.2007: HBK + 5
- 21./22.6.2007: HBK + 7,
- 13./14.12.2007: HBK + 7,
- Informelles Treffen der Staats- und Regierungschefs:
18./19.10. 2007: HBK + 4.

Die Delegation für die informellen Sitzungen auf EU-Ministerebene betreffend Regionalpolitik und räumlicher Zusammenhalt umfasste folgende Anzahl an Personen aus dem Bundeskanzleramt:

- 9.5.2007: StS + 2,
- 24./25.5.2007: StS + 2,
- 23./24.11.2007: StS + 2.

Die Delegation für die informellen Sitzungen auf EU-Ministerebene betreffend Sportpolitik umfasste jeweils die folgende Anzahl an Personen aus dem Bundeskanzleramt:

- StS + 2.

Zu den Fragen 9 und 10:

- *Aus welchen Institutionen wurden die TeilnehmerInnen an Delegationen für 1) und 2) entsandt?*
- *Haben bei Sitzungen zu 1), 2) und 3) auch ressortfremde Personen über Ihre Einladung teilgenommen?*
Wenn ja, welche Personen?

Die Delegationen für die Europäischen Räte setzten sich aus VertreterInnen des Bundeskanzleramtes, des Bundesministeriums für europäische und internationale Angelegenheiten und hinsichtlich der Frühjahrstagung des Europäischen Rates auch aus VertreterInnen des Bundesministeriums für Finanzen zusammen. Aufgrund einer Vereinbarung zwischen Bund und Ländern gehört jeweils ein Ländervertreter der Delegation zum Europäischen Rat an.

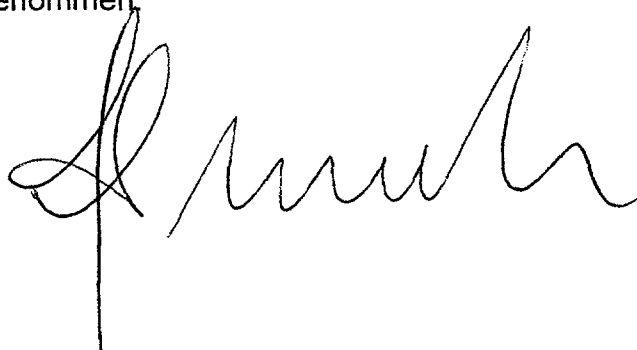
An den Arbeitssitzungen der Europäischen Räte nehmen der Bundeskanzler, die Bundesministerin für europäische und auswärtige Angelegenheiten und beim Frühjahrsgipfel auch der Bundesminister für Finanzen teil.

Die Delegationen für die informellen Sitzungen betreffend Regionalpolitik und räumlicher Zusammenhalt setzten sich aus VertreterInnen des Bundeskanzleramtes und der Länder zusammen.

An den informellen Sitzungen auf EU-Ministerebene betreffend Regionalpolitik und räumlicher Zusammenhalt nahmen im Wege der Verbindungsstelle der Bundesländer nominierte Vertreter der Länder über Einladung des Bundeskanzleramtes teil

Im sportpolitischen Bereich hat ein Vertreter aus dem Bereich Anti-Doping als Vertreter des Bundeskanzleramtes teilgenommen.

Anlage

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to a government official, positioned below the text of the document.

ANLAGE**1. Dokumentenübermittlung an das Parlament betreffend die Europäischen Räte**

ER 08./09.03.07

GZ 405.004/0002-IV/5/2007

Dok. 5950/07 POLGEN 18 European Council (8 and 9 March 2007)
Annotated draft agenda

Übermittelt am 05.02.07

GZ 405.004/0005-IV/5/2007

Dok. 5991/07 POLGEN 22: European Council (8 and 9 March 2007)
Annotated draft agenda

Übermittelt am 14.02.07

GZ 405.004/0006-IV/5/2007

Dok. 6479/07 POLGEN 28: European Council (8 and 9 March 2007)
Annotated draft agenda.

Übermittelt am 20.02.07

GZ 405.004/0007-IV/5/2007

Dok. 6479/07 ADD 1 POLGEN 28: European Council (8 and 9 March 2007)
Annotated draft agenda (Energie und Klima).

Übermittelt am 21.02.07

GZ 405.004/0008-IV/5/2007

Dok. 6711/07 POLGEN 33: European Council (8 and 9 March 2007)
Annotated draft agenda.

Übermittelt am 27.02.07

GZ 405.004/0009-IV/5/2007

Dok. 6926/07 POLGEN 38: European Council (8 and 9 March 2007)
Draft conclusions

Übermittelt am 02.03.07

GZ 405.004/0010-IV/5/2007

Dok. 7224/07 CONCL 1: Brussels European Council (8 and 9 March 2007)
Presidency Conclusions

Übermittelt am 09.03.07

GZ 405.004/0013-IV/5/2007

Dok. 7224/07 CONCL 1: Europäischer Rat (Brüssel) 8./9. März 2007
Schlussfolgerungen des Vorsitzes

Übermittelt am 12.03.07

21./22.06.07

GZ 405.004/0021-IV/5/2007

Dok. 9249/07 POLGEN 49: European Council (21 and 22 June 2007)
Annotated draft agenda

Übermittelt am 07.05.07

GZ 405.004/0022-IV/5/2007

Dok. 9448/07 POLGEN 53: European Council (21 and 22 June 2007)
Annotated draft agenda

Übermittelt am 14.05.07

GZ 405.004/0023-IV/5/2007

Dok. 10028/07 POLGEN 59: European Council (21 and 22 June 2007)
Annotated draft agenda

Übermittelt am 29.05.07

GZ 405.004/0025-IV/5/2007

Dok. 10317/07 POLGEN 61: European Council (21 and 22 June 2007)
Annotated draft agenda

Übermittelt am 05.06.07

GZ 405.004/0026-IV/5/2007

Dok. 10494/07 POLGEN 65: European Council (21 and 22 June 2007)
Draft conclusions

Übermittelt am 12.06.07

GZ 405.004/0027-IV/5/2007

Dok. 10659/07 POLGEN 67: European Council (21 and 22 June 2007)
Pursuing the treaty reform process

Übermittelt am 14.06.07

GZ 405.004/0028-IV/5/2007

Dok. 10839/07 POLGEN 70: European Council (21 and 22 June 2007)
Draft conclusions

Übermittelt am 18.06.07

GZ 405.004/0029-IV/5/2007

Dok. 11007/07 POLGEN 71: European Council (21 and 22 June 2007)
Draft conclusions

Übermittelt am 19.06.07

GZ 405.004/0031-IV/5/2007

Dok. 11177/07 CONCL 2: Europäischer Rat (21./22. Juni 2007)
Schlussfolgerungen des Vorsitzes
Anlage 1: Mandat für die Regierungskonferenz

Deutsche und englische Sprachfassung

Übermittelt am 25.06.07

GZ 405.004/O034-IV/5/2007

Dok. 11197/07 JUR 260: European Council (21./22. Juni 2007)

Opinion of the Legal Service: Primacy of EC law

Dok. 11198/07 JUR 261: European Council (21 and 22 June 2007)

Opinion of the Legal Service: Scope of Article 308 of the EC Treaty

Übermittelt am 26.06.07

GZ 405.004/0036-IV/5/2007

Dok. 11177/07 COR 1 REV 1 : European Council 21/22 June 2007

CONCL 2

Presidency Conclusions

Übermittelt am 28.06.07

GZ 405.004/0037-IV/5/2007

Dok. 11177/07 COR 1 REV 1 : Europäischer Rat (Brüssel) 21./22. Juni 2007

CONCL 2

Korrigendum

Übermittelt am 29.06.07

13./14.12.07

GZ 405.004/0042-IV/5/2007

Dok. 14761/07, POLGEN 106: European Council (13 and 14 December 2007) –

Annotated draft agenda

Übermittelt am 13.11.07

GZ 405.004/0044-IV/5/2007

Dok. 15278/07, POLGEN 118: European Council (14 December 2007) –

Annotated draft agenda.

Übermittelt am 19.11.07

GZ 405.004/0046-IV/5/2007

Dok. 15681/07 POLGEN 124: European Council (14 December 2007)

Draft conclusions.

Übermittelt am 27.11.07

GZ 405.004/0047-IV/5/2007

Dok. 16000/07 POLGEN 126: European Council (14 December 2007)

Draft conclusions.

Übermittelt am 04.12.07

GZ 405.004/0048-IV/5/2007

Dok. 16000/1/07 REV 1 POLGEN 126: European Council (14 December 2007)

Draft conclusions.

Übermittelt am 07.12.07

GZ 405.004/0049-IV/5/2007

Dok. 16234/07 POLGEN 130: European Council (14 December 2007)

Draft conclusions.

Übermittelt am 10.12.07

GZ 405.004/0052-IV/5/2007**Dok. 16616/07 CONCL 3:** Europäischer Rat (14. Dezember 2007)

Schlussfolgerungen des Vorsitzes.

In deutscher und englischer Sprachfassung

Übermittelt am 17.12.07

18./19.10.07**GZ 405.004/0040-IV/5/2007****Dok.: COM(2007) 581 final;**

Informelles Treffen der Staats- und Regierungschefs am 18./19.10.2007;

The European Interest: Succeeding in the age of globalisation.

Übermittelt am 08.10.07

GZ 405.004/0041-IV/5/2007**Dok.: KOM(2007) 581 endgültig;**

Informelles Treffen der Staats- und Regierungschefs am 18./19.10.2007;

Das europäische Interesse: Erfolg im Zeitalter der Globalisierung.

Übermittelt am 31.10.07

GZ 405.885/0038-IV/5/2007**CIG 1/1/07 REV1:** Entwurf eines Vertrags zur Änderung des Vertrags über die

Europäische Union und des Vertrags zur Gründung der Europäischen Gemeinschaft

CIG 2/1/07 REV1: Entwurf eines Vertrags zur Änderung des Vertrags über die

Europäische Union und des Vertrags zur Gründung der Europäischen Gemeinschaft

– Protokolle

CIG 3/1/07 REV1: Entwurf von Erklärungen**CIG 4/1/07 REV1:** Entwurf eines Vertrags zur Änderung des Vertrags über die

Europäische Union und des Vertrags zur Gründung der Europäischen Gemeinschaft

- Entwurf der Präambel

Weiters sind die Dokumente in englischer und französischer Sprachfassung
angeschlossen.

Übermittelt am 08.10.07

GZ 405.885/0044-IV/5/2007**Dok: SN 4428/07 de,** Erklärung zu Artikel 9 a Absatz 2 des Vertrags über die
Europäische Union**Dok. SN 4430/07 de,** Erklärung zu Artikel 24 des Vertrags über die Europäische
Union

Übermittelt am 16.10.07

GZ 405.885/0045-IV/5/2007**DS 865/07 de,** Erklärung zu Artikel 9 e des Vertrags über die Europäische Union**DS 866/07 de,** Erklärung zu Artikel 222 des Vertrags über die Arbeitsweise der
Europäischen Union zur Zahl der Generalanwälte des Gerichtshofs**DS 869/07 de,** Zusammensetzung des Europäischen Parlaments**DS 870/07 de,** 28. Erklärung zur Abgrenzung der Zuständigkeiten**DS 871/07 de,** 4. Erklärung zu Artikel 9 c Absatz 4 des Vertrags über die

Europäische Union und zu Artikel 205 Absatz 2 des Vertrags über die Arbeitsweise der Europäischen Union

DS 878/07 de, PROTOKOLL (Nr. 9a)

Über den Beschluss des Rates

über die Anwendung des Artikels 9C Absatz 4 des Vertrags über die Europäische Union und des Artikels 205 Absatz 2 des Vertrags über die Arbeitsweise der Europäischen Union zwischen dem 1. November 2014 und dem 31. März 2017 einerseits und ab dem 1. April 2017 andererseits

Übermittelt am 22.10.07

2. Tagesordnungen - Friends of the Presidency Group on the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS)

- 6.11.2007: CM **3487/07** vom 23.10.2007
- 19.11.2007: CM **3784/07** vom 14.11.2007

3. Tagesordnungen - Structural Actions Working Party

- 04.06.2007: CM **1915/07** vom 29.05.2007
- 20.06.2007: CM **2119/07** vom 13.06.2007
- 13.07.2007: CM **2405/07** vom 05.07.2007

4. Tagesordnungen - Working Party on Civil Protection

- 19.03.2007: CM **892/07** vom 09.03.2007
- 23.04.2007: CM **1308/07** vom 13.04.2007
- 22./23.05.2007: CM **1712/07** vom 11.05.2007
- 26./27.06.2007: CM **2163/07** vom 15.06.2007
- 25./26.07.2007: CM **2499/07** vom 12.07.2007
- 13./14.09.2007: CM **2677/07** vom 03.08.2007
- 8./9.10.2007: CM **3083/07** vom 28.09.2007
- 30.10.2007: CM **3433/07** vom 18.10.2007
- 19./20.11.2007: CM **3697/07** vom 09.11.2007
- 10.12.2007: CM **4052/07** vom 29.11.2007

5. Tagesordnungen - Economic Policy Committee

- 15.01.2007: ECFIN/EPC(2006)REP/58039 vom 19.12.2006
- 13.02.2007: ECFIN/EPC(2006)REP/50443 vom 01.02.2007
- 13.03.2007: ECFIN/EPC(2006)REP/51205 rev. 1 vom 05.03.2007
- 29.03.2007: ECFIN/EPC(2006)REP/51671 vom 20.03.2007
- 24.04.2007: ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/51994 vom 11.04.2007
- 22.05.2007: ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/51994 rev. vom 04.05.2007
- 25.06.2007: ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/52813 vom 05.06.2007
- 30.08.2007: ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/53288 vom 20.07.2007
- 21.09.2007: ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/54061 vom 12.09.2007
- 29.10.2007: ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/54419 vom 03.10.2007
- 19.11.2007: ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/55060 vom 06.11.2007

**6. Tagesordnungen – Economic Policy Committee –
Country Reviews Working Group**

- 08.-11.01.2007: ECFIN/EFCEPC(2006)REP/56780 vom 09.11.2006
- 07./08.11.2007: ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/54217 vom 17.09.2007

**ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 19 December 2006
ECFIN/EPC(2006)REP/58039

**DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 391st MEETING OF THE
ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Brussels, 15 January 2007

- 1. Adoption of the draft agenda**
- 2. Approval of the draft minutes of the 390th meeting held on 13 December in Brussels**
(doc. ECFIN/EPC(2006)REP/58032 of xx December 2006)
- 3. Preparation of the Ecofin Council of 30 January**
 - a) Drafting of the BEPGs update** (doc. country recommendations based on work by the Country Reviews Working Group) (10.00-12.00)
The Committee will be invited to prepare the text to be presented by the Ecofin Council to the European Council on the 2007 up-date of the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and the Community and on the implementation of Member States' employment policies, on the basis of preparations by the country reviews working group on 8-10 January. (EFC: 15-16 February)
 - b) Commission Annual Progress Report¹** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2006)REP/58040 of xx January) (12.00-12.45)
On the basis of preparations by the country reviews working group and the work of the Committee in November 2006², Members will be invited to discuss the Commission assessment of horizontal progress towards the Strategy for Jobs and Growth including on the Community Lisbon Programme.
 - c) Orientation debate on the Key issues Paper for the Spring European Council** (doc. Presidency draft Key Issues Paper of xx January 2007) (12.45-13.45)
The Committee will be invited to prepare the orientation debate on the Key Issues Paper by Ecofin on 30 January, on the basis of a discussion note prepared by the Presidency, focusing on the central messages to be conveyed to the Spring European Council (no drafting session; the KIP will be drafted in February). (EFC: 17-18 January).
- 4. Discussion of the results of the Stern review on the economics of climate change³**
(15.00-16.45)
The Committee will be invited to discuss with Professor Nicholas Stern the results of his recent review on the economics of climate change, the costs of acting to tackle climate change, and framework conditions necessary to manage the transition to a low carbon economy. In this context, Members will be invited to discuss possible future work in this area.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/pdf/1206_annual_report_en.pdf

² See http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/epc/documents/2006/country_reviews_en.pdf and related Council conclusions under:
http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ecofin/91899.pdf

³ See: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/sternreview_index.cfm

5. Framework for taking into account new major pension reforms in the assessment of the stability and convergence programmes (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2006)REP/58042 of xx January) (16.45-17.15)

On the basis of preparations by the Ageing Working Group on 18 December, the EPC will be invited to endorse the framework for taking into account the impact of major pension reforms in the assessment of the stability and convergence programmes.

6. Miscellaneous

a) Ecofin 30 January: Commission reports on reducing administrative burdens (17.15-17.30)

The Presidency will inform Members about the organisation of the orientation debate on better regulation by Ecofin on 30 January.



ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 1 February 2007
ECFIN/EPC(2006)REP/50443

**DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 392nd MEETING OF THE
ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Brussels, 13 February 2007

- 4. Adoption of the draft agenda**
- 5. Approval of the draft minutes of the 391st meeting held on 15 January in Brussels** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/50439 of xx January 2007)
- 6. Preparation of the Ecofin Council of 27 February**
 - a) Integrated Guidelines update (9.30-10.30)**
The Committee will be invited to finalise the draft of the Integrated Guidelines Update. A draft final document will be circulated to Members after the EMCO meeting of 1-2 February, and the EFC-Alternates meeting of 7-9 February. (EFC: 15 February)
 - b) Preparation of the Key Issues Paper for the Spring European Council (drafting session) (10.30-12.30)**
Taking into account the Ecofin orientation debate of 30 January, the Committee will be invited to draft the elements of the KIP for the Spring European Council falling within its competence. (EFC: 15 February)
 - c) Better Regulation Package: draft Council conclusions** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx February 2007) (14.15-15.30)
The Committee will be invited to prepare, on the basis of a proposal by the Secretariat, draft Council conclusions for the Ecofin Council on the Commission's Better Regulation package of November 2006 and the action programme issued on 24 January 2007. In this context, the ECB will present the possibilities to reduce the total administrative burden by more data sharing among different administrative purposes, including statistical ones. (EFC on 15 February)
- 4. Strategic energy review: economic rationale⁴ (15.30-16.30)**
The Committee will, in follow-up of the Ecofin lunch discussion of 30 January, be invited to discuss the Strategic Energy Review presented by the Commission on 10 January 2007, and to agree on further work.
- 5. Preparations for the 2009 long-run budgetary projection exercise for the Ageing Working Group (16.30-17.30)**
The Committee will be invited to discuss and agree the work plan for the 2009 common projection exercise on age-related expenditures.

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_policy/doc/01_energy_policy_for_europe_en.pdf



ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 5 March 2007
ECFIN/EPC(2006)REP/51205 rev. 1

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 393rd MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Brussels, 13 March 2007

7. Adoption of the draft agenda

8. Approval of the draft minutes of the 392nd meeting held on 13 February in Brussels (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/51082 of 14 February 2007)

3. Follow-up to the Spring European Council: Internal Market Strategy (vision paper and priorities for network industries) (doc. COM(2007)60 final; COM(2007)xxx of xx March; ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/51195 of xx March) (9.30-11.30)
The Committee will be invited to comment upon the interim report on the Single Market Review for the Spring European Council. Members in this context will be specifically invited to discuss progress on the performance of network industries on the basis of a Commission staff working paper and an issues for discussion note.

4. OECD: Going for Growth 2007⁵ (11.30-13.00)

The Committee will be invited to discuss with the OECD the 2007 update of the OECD Going for Growth Project, focusing on major changes since the first edition of the project in 2005, and the key priorities for further reform in Europe, with a view of providing an initial policy orientation for the work at the Informal EPC in Athens on broad priorities for the update of the horizontal BEPGs in Spring 2008.

5. The impact of migration on economic growth (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/51206 of xx March 2007) (14.15-15.15)

On the basis of an issues note by the Secretariat which inter alia draws on contributions received from Members, the Committee will be invited to discuss the impact of migration on growth and potential growth through the different channels (labour force; productivity etc.) with a view of informing the EFC for its next discussion of the economic situation.

6. Follow-up to the Informal Ecofin in Helsinki on energy: auctioning emission allowances (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/51207 of xx March 2007) (15.15-16.30)

In line with the mandate by the Informal Ecofin in Helsinki, the Committee on the basis of a draft by the Secretariat and a contribution on the link-up with other emission schemes around the world will be invited to prepare a note to inform Ecofin on the pros and cons of auctioning emission allowances in the context of the EU emissions trading scheme.

5

http://www.oecd.org/document/8/0,2340,en_2649_201185_37882632_1_1_1_1,00.html

7. Assessment of public finance sustainability in the 2006 updates of the Stability and Convergence Programmes (doc. ECFIN/REP/51268 of 2 March 2007) (16.30-17.00)

Members will be invited to discuss analytical aspects behind the main results of the SCPs assessments regarding long-term sustainability of public finances on the basis of an overview note by the Commission services, and of an introduction by the President of the Ageing Working Group (EFC-Alternates: 7-8 March; EFC: 15 March).

8. Miscellaneous (17.00-17.30)

a) Preparation of the Informal Ecofin in Berlin: efficiency and effectiveness of public spending

Members will be debriefed on progress in the quality of public finances working group on the work on effectiveness and efficiency of public spending in preparation for the Informal Ecofin on 20/21 April in Berlin. Members may wish to comment.

b) Forthcoming macro-economic dialogue

The Committee will be invited to discuss the content of the forthcoming macro-economic dialogue.



ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 20 March 2007
ECFIN/EPC(2006)REP/51671

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 394th MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Brussels, 29 March 2007

9. Adoption of the draft agenda

10. Approval of the draft minutes of the 393rd meeting held on 13 March in Brussels (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/51584 of 14 March 2007)

3. Preparation of the Informal Ecofin in Berlin: quality of public finances (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/51556 of xx March 2007; ECFIN(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx March 2007) (9.00-11.00)

The Committee will be invited to discuss, on the basis of preparations by the Quality of Public Finances working group meeting on 21 March: (i) an issues note on the effectiveness and efficiency of public spending; (ii) a note by the Commission services on revenue developments; (iii) the Presidency will also inform the Committee about the planned discussion on social bridges for the Ecofin lunch, and (iv) the Presidency will report back on the results of the conference on fiscal policy challenges held in Berlin on 22-23 March. (EFC: 3 April)

4. Potential growth developments: sectoral productivity growth (doc. ECFIN(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx March 2007) (11.00-12.30)

The Committee will be invited to discuss the results of the EU KLEMS project on productivity trends at industry level on the basis of a note by the Commission services and a presentation from Mary O'Mahony – one of the Directors of the EUKLEMS project.

5. Contribution for the Ecofin Council on energy: economic instruments (doc. ECFIN(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx March 2007) (14.00-15.00)

The Committee will be invited to complement its work on auctioning emission allowances of 13 March by wider work on economic instruments to reach specific objectives in energy policy. The results of this work will be submitted to the Ecofin Council together with the outcome of the Committee's discussion on auctioning emission allowances and the interoperability of emissions trading schemes (following a written procedure).

6. Output gaps (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/51559 of xx March 2007) (15.00-15.45)

The EPC's working group on output gaps will report back to the Committee on the results of its 26 March meeting. Members will also have a chance to give a steer to the working group on next steps.

7. Further work on the future of the Internal Market Strategy: identifying and monitoring priority sectors (doc. ECFIN(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx March 2007) (15.45-16.45)

The Committee will be invited to discuss a specific topic on the future Internal Market strategy, as agreed in December 2006 on the basis of a Commission note: ways better to identify and monitor priority sectors.

8. Miscellaneous (16.45-17.30)**a) Mandate for further work on the macroeconomic dimension of climate change** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx March)

The Committee, on the basis of an issues note by the Commission, will be invited to give guidance on a mandate for future work on the macro-economic dimension of climate change (possibility of a dedicated working group).

b) Preparation of the Macro-Economic Dialogue (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx March)

The Macro-Economic Dialogue at political level is scheduled to take place on 7 May. The Committee will be invited to on the basis of a Secretariat note prepare the Dialogue at technical level which will take place on 25 April. Its topic will be the economic situation/the macro-economic policy-mix and the projected impact of the policy orientations of the Spring European Council on investment. Following the discussion, there will be a written procedure on the draft EPC contribution.



ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 11 April 2007
ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/51994

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 395th MEETING OF THE
ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Brussels, 24 April 2007

1. **Adoption of the draft agenda**
2. **Approval of the draft minutes of the 394th meeting held on 29 March in Brussels** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/51957 of 30 March 2007)
3. **Preparation of Ecofin: finalisation of note on energy and mandate for further work** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/ 51207 rev. 2 of xx April; ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/51999 of xx April) (9.30-11.00)
In preparation of the upcoming Ecofin lunch discussion on auctioning emission allowances, Members will be invited to finalise the drafting of the EPC contribution on the use of auctioning in the allocation scheme for the post-2012 EU emissions trading system. In this context, the Committee will also be invited to approve the mandate for further work on the economic dimension of climate change.
4. **The impact of regulation on innovation** (doc. ENTR(2007)REP/xxx of xx April) (11.00-12.00)
In the context of the Committee's ongoing monitoring of the four horizontal priorities set by the European Council, and on the basis of a paper by DG Enterprise, Members will be invited to discuss the link between regulation and innovation performance, underlying drivers, and which areas of regulation matter most for innovation policy. The outcome of the discussion will feed into the work by the Committee on regulatory reform, and, if appropriate, the next round of country reviews.
5. **Further work on the future of the Internal Market Strategy: identifying and monitoring priority sectors** (doc. ECFIN(2007)REP/51732 of 23 March 2007; ECFIN(2007)REP/xxxxx of 23 March 2007) (12.00-13.00)
The Committee will be invited to discuss a specific topic on the future Internal Market strategy, as agreed in December 2006 on the basis of a Commission note: ways better to identify and monitor priority sectors. The next step for the Commission will then be to do the actual market screening on the basis of those criteria and to define the main problems in the priority sectors.
6. **Exchange of views with IMF on structural reform priorities** (14.30-15.45)
The Committee will be invited to exchange views with the IMF (Jörg Decressin, the division chief of the IMF's EU Policies division) about their analysis concerning structural reform in the EU: the impact of past reforms in the EU and priorities going forward.
7. **Follow-up to Informal Ecofin in Berlin: measuring public sector output and efficiency** (15.45-16.45)
The Informal Ecofin meeting in Berlin discussed public sector output and efficiency. Improved measures for these are an essential prerequisite to making progress with

this key agenda. The Chairman, doubling as executive director for the UK Centre for the measurement of Government Activity, will give a brief presentation on developments in various countries and supranational organisations followed by a discussion.

8. Work programme for the next round of long-term budgetary projections
(doc. ECFIN/EPC/2007/REP/50763 rev. 2 of 18 April 2007) (16.45-17.30)

In follow-up to the discussion in the EPC of 13 February, and the Ageing Working Group of 18 April, the Committee will be invited to endorse the work programme for the next round of common long-term budgetary projections.



ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 4 May 2007
ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/51994 rev.

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 396th MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Brussels, 22 May 2007

11. Adoption of the draft agenda

12. Approval of the draft minutes of the 395th meeting held on 24 April in Brussels (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/52328 of 25 April 2007)

13. Requirements for structural statistics (docs. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/52438 of xx May 2007; ECFIN(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx May) (9.30-10.30)

The Committee will be invited to discuss with Hervé Carré progress on EU requirements for structural statistics in line with the mandate of the 7 November 2006 Ecofin Council. (link with EFC Statistics Working Group)

4. Lisbon reporting grid (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/52439 of xx May 2007) (10.30-11.30)

The Committee will be invited to agree on a proposal from the Commission, developed with the Lisbon Methodology Task Force on 4 May, for a modified reporting system for the National Reform Programme reports to be employed in the 2007 round of reporting.

5. Commission Spring forecast (11.30-12.30)

Klaus Regling will be invited to present the Commission's Spring 2007 forecast, which will issue on 7 May⁶. Members will be invited to focus their discussion on recent productivity developments; and the development of the wage bill in the public sector of Member States with a contribution by the ECB.

6. Preparation of the Ecofin Council of 5 June 2006: Quality of Public Finances (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/52440 of xx May 2007; doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/52441 of xx May 2007) (14.00-15.30)

On the basis of preparations of the Quality of Public Finances Working Group on 11 May and taking into account the discussion at the Berlin Informal Ecofin, the Committee will be invited to agree on a report on the quality of public finances for the June Ecofin Council, and draft Council conclusions. (EFC: 24 May)

7. Thematic country reviews 1: The effectiveness of tax and benefit policies in enhancing potential growth (doc. ECFIN(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx May 2007) (15.30-17.30)

In the context of monitoring horizontal BEPGs Guideline No. 5, the Committee will be invited to discuss the latest findings and analyses on the effectiveness of tax and benefit policies in enhancing potential growth on the basis of a note by the Commission, with a focus on the Committee's work on the upcoming review of the

⁶ From 7 May under:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/forecasts_en.htm

Lisbon agenda (guest speaker: Kari E. O. Alho from the Research Institute of the Finnish Economy⁷).

⁷ <http://www.taxben.org/files/TAXBEN%20Deliverable%204%20rev%202%20ETLA.pdf>

**ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 5 June 2007
ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/52813

**DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 396th MEETING OF THE
ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

Athens, 25 June 2007

- 14. Adoption of the draft agenda**
- 15. Approval of the draft minutes of the 396th meeting held on 22 May 2007**
(doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/52773 of 23 May 2007)
- 16. Seminar: The future of the Lisbon Agenda and of the Internal Market Strategy**
 - a) Stocktake on the upcoming renewal of the Integrated Guidelines** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/52775 of xx June 2007) (9.00-10.30)
Members will be invited to discuss the renewal of the Integrated Guidelines in Spring 2008, on the basis of a discussion note by the Secretariat taking stock of first experiences from the new Lisbon Strategy and the 2005-6 rounds of Lisbon National Reform Programmes.
 - b) Lisbon assessment method: draft progress report** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/52776 of xx June 2007; ECFIN/E1/REP/50633 of 25 January 2007; ECFIN/E1/REP/52360 of 27 April 2007) (10.30-11.30)
The Committee will be invited to discuss and endorse a progress report on the Lisbon assessment method prepared by the Lisbon methodology Working Group (the HLG and EMCO have been invited to send representatives).
 - c) Priorities for the review of the Internal Market Strategy** (doc. ECFIN(2007)REP/52778 of xx June 2007 (11.30-13.00)
The Committee will be invited to discuss broad priorities for the upcoming Review of the Internal Market Strategy, on the basis of an issues note by the Secretariat regarding EPC priorities going forward. Simon Tilford, head of the business unit of the Centre for European Reform, will be invited as a guest speaker.
- 4. Ageing Populations** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/52779 of xx June 2007; C-2/D(2007)ECFINREP/52864 of 29 May 2007; ECFIN(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx June) (14.30-15.15)
Members will be invited to discuss progress in the ageing working group meeting on 12-13 June on (i) whether to incorporate the revenue side into the long-term budgetary projections on the basis of a feasibility report, and (ii) the issue of implicit government liabilities. (link with EFC-Alternates)
- 5. Other business (15.15-17.00)**
 - a) Election of President and Vice-Presidents**
Members will be invited to elect a President and new Vice-Presidents.
 - b) Work programme for the second half of 2007** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)52780 of xx June 2007)

The upcoming Portuguese Presidency will be invited to present their Ecofin work programme and the Slovenian Presidency to provide early indications of expected priorities for their Presidency. Against this background and the Committee's business plan, Members will be invited to agree on a EPC work programme for II/2007.

c) Organisation of the next round of country reviews/multilateral surveillance (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007) REP /52777 of xx June 2007)

The Committee will be invited to agree on the format of the next round of country reviews/multilateral surveillance on the basis of a proposal by the chairman of the country reviews working group in agreement with the EPC President.

d) Information point: Annual Review on Labour Market Developments (doc. ECFIN(2007)xxxxx of xx June 2007)

The Commission will inform the Committee on the annual review on labour market developments (no discussion foreseen).



ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 20 July 2007
ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/53288

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 398th MEETING OF THE
ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Brussels, 30 August 2007

17. Adoption of the draft agenda

18. Approval of the draft minutes of the 397th meeting held on 25 June in Athens (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/53434 of xx June 2007)

19. Preparation of the Informal Ecofin: The impact of public administration modernisation on economic competitiveness (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx August 2007) (9.30-10.45)

In preparation of the Informal Ecofin in Porto on 14-15 September, the Committee will be invited to agree on an issues note prepared by the Working Group on the Quality of Public Finances and the Commission on 27 August. (EFC: 4-5 September)

20. The future of the Internal Market Strategy: first results of the market screening exercise and focus on services (doc. ECFIN(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx July 2007) (10.45-12.15)

The Committee will be invited to discuss the results of the market screening exercise of the Commission. As background to the preparation of the November Ecofin discussion of the Internal Market Review, the OECD will be invited to present their views on barriers to innovation and productivity in services markets in the EU (t.b.c.).

21. Priorities for the update of the Lisbon strategy (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/53435 of xx August 2007) (12.15-13.15)

In follow-up to the Informal EPC in Athens, the Committee will be invited to agree on a draft letter to the Commission summarising preliminary views on the update of the Lisbon strategy.

22. Macro-economic aspects of the common energy and climate change policy: exchange of views with Bruegel (15.00-16.00)

Members will be invited to exchange views with Juan Delgado from Bruegel on macro-economic aspects of the common energy and climate change policy, and in particular costs and trade-offs regarding the agreed headline targets⁸, in the context of forthcoming policy proposals by the Commission.

23. Commission communication on principles/pathways for flexicurity: first orientation debate (doc. COM(2007)359 final of 27 June 2007⁹) (16.00-17.00)

⁸ See:

http://www.bruegel.org/Public/fileDownload.php?target=/Files/media/PDF/Publications/Blueprint/BP_energy.pdf; and:
http://www.bruegel.org/Public/fileDownload.php?target=/Files/media/PDF/Publications/Opeds/20070524_Handelsblatt_EN.pdf

⁹ http://www.europa-kommissionen.dk/upload/application/c5f68029/flexicurity_en.pdf

On the basis of the Commission communication issued on 27 June, Members will be invited to provide orientations for the discussion on flexicurity by the Labour Market Working Group on 13 September. (co-operation with EMCO)

24. Miscellaneous



ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 12 September 2007
ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/54061

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 399th MEETING OF THE
ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Brussels, 21 September 2007

1. **Adoption of the draft agenda**
2. **Approval of the draft minutes of the 398th meeting on 30 August in Brussels**
(doc. ECFIN/CEFCPE/2007/REP/xxxxx of xx September 2007)
3. **Preparation of Ecofin: draft conclusions on the quality of public finances**
(doc. ECFIN/EPC/2007/REP/xxxxx of xx September 2007) (9.30-10.00)
In follow-up to the Informal Ecofin meeting in Porto on 14 September, the Committee will be invited to prepare draft Council conclusions on "Initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending: modernising public administration".
4. **Better Regulation (10.00-11.30)**
 - a) **Thematic country reviews No 2: better regulation and competition** (doc. ENTR of xx September 2007)
In the context of monitoring horizontal BEPGs Guideline No. 14, the Committee based on a note by DG Enterprise and Industry will be invited to discuss the relationship between better regulation and competition in preparation of the country reviews of 7-8 November 2007.
 - b) **Preparation of the 9 October Ecofin: Better Regulation** (doc. ENTR of xx September 2007; ECFIN/EPC/2007/REP/xxxxx of xx September 2007)
The Committee, against the background of a note by DG Enterprise and Industry on the reduction of administrative burdens and on the basis of a draft by the Secretariat will be invited to agree on draft Ecofin conclusions. (EFC 25-26 September)
5. **Labour markets**
 - a) **Preparation of Ecofin discussion of 9 October: Flexicurity as a response to globalisation** (doc. ECFIN/EPC/2007/REP/xxxxx of xx September 2007; ECFIN/EPC/2007/REP/xxxxx of xx September 2007) (11.30-13.00)
On the basis of preparations by the Labour Market Working Group (LMWG) on 13 September, the Committee will be invited to prepare and draft Ecofin Conclusions on flexicurity. (EFC 25-26 September). The German, British and Swedish delegations will also be invited to inform the Committee of their joint working on Social Bridges. Members will be invited to have an informal exchange of views with the Lisbon Council regarding their work on human capital and skills (the European human capital index¹⁰).

¹⁰ http://www.lisboncouncil.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=33&Itemid=28&lang=fr

b) Labour Market Developments (doc. ECFIN/2007/REP/xxxxx of xx September 2007; ECFIN/2007/REP/xxxxx of xx September 2007; ECFIN/EPC/2007/REP/xxxxx of xx September 2007) (14.30-15.30)

The Committee, on the basis of preparations by the LMWG on 13 September, will be invited to discuss (i) labour market developments, with a focus on recent employment trends and monitoring of wage developments; and (ii) the preliminary results of the survey on wage formation processes.

6. Miscellaneous (15.30-16.00)

a) Set-up for the November country reviews and state of preparations of Lisbon reform programmes (doc. ECFIN/EPC/REP/54217 of xx September 2007)

Members will be invited to endorse preparations for the meeting of the country reviews working group in November, and update the Committee on the state of preparations regarding the submission of their national Lisbon National Reform Programme.

b) Forthcoming Macro-economic Dialogue

The Committee will be invited to discuss the topic of the forthcoming macro-economic dialogue which will take place on 30 October (at political level: 12 November).

c) Work programmes of Working Groups (doc. ECFIN/EPC/REP/53349 final of xx xx 2007)

The Committee will be invited to endorse the work programme for the energy and climate change working group.



ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 3 October 2007
ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/54419

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 399th MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Brussels, 29 October 2007

3. Adoption of the draft agenda

4. Approval of the draft minutes of the 399th meeting on 21 September in Brussels (doc. ECFIN/EPC/2007/REP/54300 of 21 September 2007);

3. Lisbon strategy:

a) Preparation of the Ecofin discussion of 13 November: the new cycle of the Integrated Guidelines (doc. COM(2007)581 final of 3 October 2007¹¹; doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/54485 of xx October) (9.30-11.00)

Against the background of the vision paper by the Commission of 3 October prepared for the 18 October Informal European Council meeting and ahead of the December Strategic Report, the Committee will on the basis of a draft paper by the Secretariat be invited to prepare the Ecofin discussion of 13 November 2007 on the new three-year cycle of the Integrated Guidelines. (EFC: 30-31 October)

b) Orientations for the revision of the Community Lisbon Programme (doc. ENTR of xx October 2007; note by the Netherlands of xx October 2007) (11.00-12.30)

The Committee will be invited to exchange views on the revision of the Community Lisbon Programme (CLP), based on a contribution by DG Enterprise and Industry, including a forward-looking analysis in view of the next cycle, and a review of progress on the existing CLP. The Netherlands will present a contribution on assessing subsidiarity.

4. Real Convergence within the EU: trade and catching-up (doc. ECFIN(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx October 2007; presentation by the Czech delegation of xx October) (12.30-13.30)

The Committee will be invited to discuss progress made in the new Member States on real convergence, on the basis of a report by the Commission on trade and catching-up and a contribution on the topic by the Czech delegation.

5. Preparation of Ecofin discussion of 13 November: Report by the Commission on migration (doc. ECFIN(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx October 2007) (14.30-15.30)

The Committee will be invited to prepare the exchange of views by the Ecofin of 13 November on "Globalisation: capital and labour flows: report by the Commission on migration" in follow-up to the report of November 2006 on global factor flows and the subsequent Ecofin conclusions¹². (EFC 30-31 October)

¹¹ See: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/pdf/COM2007_581_en.pdf

¹² See: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ecofin/91899.pdf, pp. 9ff.

6. Ageing: progress on methodology to incorporate implicit liabilities (docs. ECFIN/C2/REP/54404/07 of xx October 2007; ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/54488 of xx October 2007) (15.30-16.15)

The Committee will be invited to discuss progress on the methodology to incorporate implicit government liabilities in the medium-term budgetary objectives, on the basis of a note by the Commission and preparations by the Ageing Working Group (AWG) of 4 October. The President of the AWG will also report back on the peer review of the pension reform of Portugal.

7. Miscellaneous (16.15-16.30)

a) Preparation of Ministerial Meeting with EFTA countries of 13 November (doc. ECFIN(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx October 2007)

b) Work programmes of Working Groups (doc. ECFIN/EPC/REP/53685 rev. 2 of xx October 2007)

The Committee will be invited to endorse the work programme for the working group on the quality of public finances until the first semester of 2008.



ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 6 November 2007
ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/55060

DRAFT AGENDA FOR THE 400th MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Estoril, 19 November 2007

5. Adoption of the draft agenda

6. Approval of the draft minutes of the 399ard meeting on 29 October in Brussels (doc. ECFIN/EPC/2007/REP/55059 of xx November 2007);

3. Lisbon strategy:

(i) **Preparation of the Ecofin discussion of 4 December: Lisbon multilateral surveillance** (doc. ECFIN(2007)REP/55061 of xx November 2007; doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/55062 of xx November 2007) (9.30-11.30)

The Committee, on the basis of preparations by the Working Group on Country Reviews, will be invited to agree on the Report to the Ecofin Council on this autumn's surveillance round. Members will also be invited to prepare draft Council conclusions on the basis of a Secretariat draft. (EFC: 22-23 Nov)

(ii) **Report on the Lisbon assessment methodology** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/55063 of xx November 2007; ECFIN/E1/REP/xxxxx of xx November 2007; letter by the Commission of xx November 2007) (11.30-12.30)

The Committee will be invited to discuss and endorse the report on the Lisbon assessment method prepared by the Lisbon Methodology Working Group at their meeting on 9 November, including an update information for Ministers on this workstream. Members will also be invited to review the mandate of the Group. Finally, the Commission will present a paper on the main parameters the Commission will use in this year's assessment of the NRP implementation reports.

(iii) **Contribution of the Ecofin Council on the economic dimension of migration** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/55088 of xx November) (12.30-13.30)

Depending on the outcome of the Ecofin discussion on the economic dimension of migration on 13 November, the Committee will be invited to prepare a contribution by the Ecofin Council on the basis of a Secretariat draft. (EFC: 22-23 November)

4. Fiscal issues (15.00-15.45)

(i) **Progress in the output gaps working group** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/55064 of xx November 2007)

The Chairman of the Working Group on Output Gaps will briefly inform the Committee on the outcome of the Working meeting on 12 November on budgetary elasticities and other issues.

(ii) **Ageing: results of peer reviews of major pension reforms** (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/55065 of xx November 2007)

The Committee will, on the basis of a note by the Working Group on Ageing, be invited to endorse the results of the peer reviews of major pension reforms of Hungary.

5. Meeting of Finance Ministers at UN Climate Change Conference in Bali in December 2007¹³ (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/54760 of xx November 2007) (15.45-16.30)

The Committee will be invited to prepare terms of reference for those EU delegations who are attending the Finance Ministers Meeting in Bali. (EFC: 22-23 Nov)

6. Work programme for the first half of 2008 (doc. ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/54760 of xx November 2007; ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/xxxxx of xx November 2007) (16.30-17.00)

The Slovenian Presidency will be invited to present their Ecofin work programme. Against this background, Members will be invited to agree on a EPC work programme for I/2008. It may need to be updated later in view of the priorities of the French Council Presidency. The Committee will also be informed about the roadmap for handling in January 2008 of the country reviews, the Integrated Guidelines and the country-specific recommendations update.

¹³ See the terms of reference under:

http://www.climate.web.id/i/art/TOR_MOF_DIALOGUE.pdf?PHPSESSID=cc_eac1a583705595d79628fd7e363e



ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

SECRETARIAT

Brussels, 9 November 2006
ECFIN/EFCEPC(2006)REP/56780

The January 2007 round of multilateral surveillance and BEPGs country-specific recommendations

1. Background

- The Commission will present its Annual Progress Report (APR) on 13 December 2006, assessing the implementation of NRPs and proposing country specific recommendations.
- The APR is expected to have two parts: (i) a horizontal part assessing overall progress towards the Lisbon strategy; and (ii) a country-specific part (country specific assessments and integrated recommendations on macro- and micro- as well as employment policies). Each Member State would have 4-5 pages with analysis summarising progress with reforms in response to key challenges, a concluding section and, in most/all cases, recommendations. The APR will also include an assessment of the Community Lisbon Programme.
- The update will only consist of the country-specific recommendations in line with the Integrated Guidelines under Articles 99 (the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines) and 128 (the Employment Guidelines) of the Treaty. It is expected that the Commission will not propose a recommendation to change the horizontal guidelines.
- The second round of multilateral surveillance by the EPC's Country Reviews working group (CRWG) is proposed to take place from 8 January afternoon until 11 January midday, with a clear focus on the drafting of the recommendation for an update of the country-specific BEPGs recommendations on the basis of the Commission's APR. This round will also provide the opportunity to assess the overall progress made towards the Lisbon agenda across the full range of policy areas.
- The ECOFIN orientation debate on the Key Issues Paper will take place on 30 January, and the finalisation of the Ecofin recommendation on updating the Guidelines to the March European Council on 27 February. Ecofin on 27 February will also adopt Ecofin's KIP for the Spring European Council.

2. Proposed organisation of the January EPC country reviews (tentative)

- The success of of the country reviews group on 8 January will depend on co-ordinated national positions on the different areas. This needs to be ensured by members before coming to the reviews.
- Member States will be invited to send their reactions to the country-specific recommendations to the Secretariat by 3 January to facilitate the conduct of the country reviews by the working group chairman.

- Close co-operation between the different Committees (EPC/HLG/EMCO) will once again be crucial, and representatives of the High-Level Group and EMCO will be invited to attend the EPC's Country Reviews Working Group.

8 January	9 January	10 January	11 January
	Assessment of countries (country assessments of APR/drafting of country-specific recommendations)	Assessment of countries (country assessments of APR/drafting of country-specific recommendations)	Drafting of cover note on overall assessment of progress towards the Lisbon agenda (horizontal part of the APR) <u>End: midday</u> (say, 13.00)
<u>Start: afternoon</u> (say, 14.00) Assessment of countries (country assessments of APR /drafting of country-specific recommendations)		<u>Afternoon:</u> Assessment of the Community Lisbon Programme. Possible: Start of discussion of overall assessment of progress towards the Lisbon agenda	



ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE
COUNTRY REVIEWS WORKING GROUP

THE CHAIRMAN

17 September 2007
 ECFIN/EPC(2007)REP/54217

Arrangements for the November 2007 country reviews

- autumn round of multilateral surveillance -

This note confirms the main points for arranging the thematic country review exercise on 7-8 November 2007:

1. Topics
2. Documentation
3. Timetable for the meetings
4. Envisaged roadmap for work to the meetings.

1. Topics

The Committee, in agreement with the Portuguese and Slovenian Presidencies on 25 June decided to focus the autumn 2007 thematic country reviews on three topics:

1. **Better regulation and competition**, with two areas:
 - (a) the link between regulation and competition and
 - (b) network industries (energy and gas; telecommunication and postal services);
2. **Labour markets with a focus on reform of tax-benefit systems**
3. **Innovation and SMEs**: policies to foster innovation by SMEs, including public expenditures as a mechanism to leverage private R&D.

2. Documentation

Inputs:

- 1) Member States' implementation reports on their National Reform Programmes and the reporting grids (deadline for submission: 15 October)
- 2) As agreed during the June EPC, to facilitate the conduct of the reviews Members will be asked to prepare a fiche with information detailing recent policies for each of the three topics including both focal areas of topic 1 (two pages total; deadline for submission: 15 October)

On better regulation and competition:

3) Note on the Effects of Regulation and Competition on Innovation by DG Enterprise and Industry presented to the EPC on 21 September (doc. ENTR xxx of 10 September 2007).

4) Report on the evaluation the performance of network industries 2006, discussed by the EPC in March 2007, final version available under: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/european_economy/2007/ee0107_en.pdf

On the labour market and tax-benefit systems:

5) Paper by the Commission on "Recent reforms of the tax and benefit systems with a view to making work pay", doc. ECFIN/E3/GC D(2007) REP 52581 of 10 May 2007

6) Contribution by the Labour Market Working Group on progress with labour market reforms in 2007 in the area of tax and benefit systems, based on 3-4 page fiches the countries have been invited to send in. This note should become available by mid October.

On innovation and SMEs:

7) A note by DG Enterprise and Industry based on a survey amongst SMEs. This note should become available by around mid October.

Output:

The output of the thematic country reviews will, similar to the report of autumn 2006, be a horizontal report/account of progress with illustrations of country experiences (5-10 pages). It will not be a country-by-country review. There will be one page of key messages.

As far as relevant, the Group will make use of the structural indicators suggested for use in the surveillance of Lisbon National Reform Programmes by the Structural Indicators Task Force.

3. Timetable for the country review meeting

Member States are invited to send up to three experts of their choice (reimbursement for a maximum of two). Representation at EPC Member level would be much welcomed. Please note that due to the availability of rooms most likely only one representative per Member State will be able to be seated at the head table. As agreed by the June EPC, in line with the agreement to hold a two-day exercise focusing on selected topics, the number of lead-speakers will be limited. Lead-speakers will be designated by the CRWG Chairman before mid-October drawing on Commission analysis and other relevant material. All Member States are invited to present their national experiences during the plenary discussion. External speakers (OECD, HLG, EMCO, LMWG) will be invited to contribute to the exercise.

Conduct of the discussions

- **Commission, followed by external speakers.** Each subsession will be introduced by the Commission, which will present their paper and provide a general overview on developments in the Member States as well as progress at community level. This will be followed by remarks by external speakers. (total: 20-25 min).
- **Countries.** For each focal area, a number of country-leadspeakers will make short opening presentations focusing on their national experiences (10 min per country). Subsequently, one Member State will be invited to respond and present a general overview and assessment of progress on this topic within the EU (both at Member State and Community level) (10 min).
- **Discussion/wrap-up.** After the country speakers, there will be a plenary discussion, during which all Member States are invited to respond to the speakers and present examples of their national experiences in a spirit of peer exchange (45 min).
- **Wrap-up by the chair.** (5 min)

Wednesday 7 November		
09:00	Welcome	
Link between competition and regulation		
09:30	Chair	Opening
09:35	Commission	Introduction
09:50	External speaker	
10:00	Member State I	National experience
10:10	Member State II	National experience
10:20	Member State III	Overview and assessment
10:30	CRWG	Discussion
11:15	Chair	Wrap up
Competition and regulation: network industries		
11:30	Chair	Opening
11:35	Commission	Introduction
11:50	External speaker	
12:00	Member State I	National experience
12:10	Member State II	National experience
12:20	Member State III	Overview and assessment
12:30	CRWG	Discussion
13:15	Chair	Wrap up
Lunch		
Innovation and SMEs		
15:00	Chair	Opening
15:05	Commission	Introduction
15:20	External speaker	
15:30	Member State I	National experience
15:40	Member State II	National experience
15:50	Member State III	Overview and assessment
16:00	CRWG	Discussion.
16:45	Chair	Wrap up

Thursday 8 November		
09:30	Welcome	
Labour markets and tax benefit systems		
10:00	Chair	Opening
10:05	Commission	Introduction
10:25	External speaker	
10:40	Member State I	National experience
10:50	Member State II	National experience
11:00	Member State III	Overview and assessment
11:10	CRWG	Discussion
12:00	Chair	Wrap up
Lunch (13:30 draft report available)		
Drafting session		
14:00	CRWG	Drafting
16:30	Chair	Wrap up

4. Operational timetable to the work

Deadline	Action needed
Oct 15 th	Receive NRP, grid and two-page fiches
At the latest: Oct 22 nd	Inputs from the Commission
Nov 7-8	Country reviews working group
Nov 20	EPC
Nov 22-23	EFC
Dec 4	ECOFIN

The Committee on 21 Sept may wish to focus on two issues:

- **Members will be invited to take note of the arrangements for 7-8 November country reviews. They will also be invited to confirm that they will contribute a two-page fiche on the three topics.**
- **Members are invited to inform the Committee about the state of play of submitting their Lisbon national reform programmes.**
