



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 14 September 2012

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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations
Subject: Draft Work programme of the High Level Group on Competitiveness and Growth

1. The mandate of the High Level Group as set out by Coreper¹, indicates it should
 - provide support for and offer advice on horizontal issues with a view to developing a co-ordinated approach related to competitiveness and growth for enterprises and industry in the European Union, including priorities for structural/microeconomic actions also in relation to the Council's (Competitiveness) input to the Spring European Council within the relevant instruments
 - assist in achieving synergies from the different areas for which the Council (Competitiveness) is responsible,
 - benchmark national initiatives concerning competitiveness and growth.

2. In the meeting of the High Level Group of 4 June 2012, some Member States raised the question of preparing a draft work programme for the High Level Group in order to better define the work of the High Level Group and its contribution to the Council discussions.

¹ Doc. 14818/02

3. The Presidency considers that such a draft programme would improve the commitment of the Presidencies and the Member States as well of the High Level Group through better preparation and planning of its work. It would also help the High Level Group better respond to its mandate.

For the above purpose the draft work programme in annex to this document has been prepared and the Presidency is now proposing for the High Level Group's endorsement in view of its meeting of 17 October 2012.

Draft Work programme for the High Level Group (HLG) on Competitiveness and Growth**Purpose:**

- Ensure a coherent, stable and longer-term work programme with clearly defined, recurring tasks, rather than ad-hoc discussions.
- Ensure that the HLG on Competitiveness and Growth sets out direction and provides strategic opinions on growth, competitiveness and industrial policy in all phases of the European Semester cycle.
- Link to the timetable of the European Semester, providing continuous microeconomic input to the European Semester cycle.

Meetings in the HLG on Competitiveness and Growth:

- Based on the European Semester cycle, three meetings are foreseen pr. year:
 - **February:** Provide input on microeconomic competitiveness issues and to the work of the Competitiveness Council on the basis of the Annual Growth Survey in view of the Spring European Council and the preparations of the May package.
 - **June:** Provide feedback on the microeconomic Country Specific Recommendations and horizontal aspects of the May package in view of the Summer European Council.
 - **October:** Discuss good practices in the implementation of the microeconomic Country Specific Recommendations; provide microeconomic input to the preparations for the Annual Growth Survey and to the work of the Competitiveness Council.

Planning of the individual Presidencies:

Whilst following the agreed working plan and time table, each Presidency is free to choose the practical set-up for the meeting including the format and the structure of the discussions as well as having more HLG meetings on other topics.