
2007: “Boosting trust through action”

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Brussels, 22 March 2006

2007: “Boosting trust through action”

The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso will present today to the members of the European Parliament the Annual Policy Strategy (APS) for 2007. The APS sets out the goals for what will be another key year for the European Union. The goal is to prepare the ground for future decisions and actions, to look forward and build consensus on priority actions for 2007.

Ahead of his presentation to the European Parliament, President Barroso said: “Citizens’ confidence in Europe rests on what we do and how we act. 2007 will be a critical year for delivery”.

Delivering on the strategic objectives of prosperity, solidarity and security last week the Commission adopted two documents: The ‘Policy Achievements in 2005’ and the ‘Annual Policy Strategy for 2007’. These documents should be

seen as covering two instalments of work to implement the Barroso Commission's strategic objectives of prosperity, solidarity and security inside and outside the Union. These are still fully valid and offer a coherent political frame for guiding EU action.

2005 was a challenging year for Europe. But the Commission and its EU partners have set in train major new directions for European policy, and kept up the efforts to drive ahead with key long-term dossiers. 2006 already provides an opportunity to move from political consensus to concrete decisions. This is the underlying theme of the Commission's Work Programme for 2006 'Unlocking the potential of Europe', which outlines 96 priority proposals designed to address issues of immediate concern for citizens.

2007 marks the halfway point of the Barroso Commission. With the 50 anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, it also offers a chance to take stock of the next steps for integration. If the conditions are met, there will be 27 places set at the table as Bulgaria and Romania join the EU. Agreement on the 2007-2013 Financial Perspectives will mean the launch of new funding programmes. The Commission will be carrying intensive work on the comprehensive review of the Union's budget leading to a White Paper in 2008-2009.

Key objectives for 2007

The main target must continue to be growth, to provide more and better jobs in Europe, as the number one concern for citizens. With a more positive macro-economic outlook, every opportunity must be seized to accelerate reforms and put them into practice. Amongst the key objectives set out for 2007 are:

- Driving forward implementation of the renewed Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs, including key steps to give reality to a new European Energy Policy;
- Demonstrating that cohesion, solidarity and environmental protection go hand in hand with the objective of growth and jobs, and promoting equal opportunities.
- The lifting of internal border controls with and between new Member States and the extension of the Schengen area; and greater prevention to ensure the safety and protection of citizens.
- Critical to the realisation of these objectives will be the concrete expression of enhanced policy coherence and reinforced aid effectiveness in the Union's external stand.

The APS does not reflect everything the Commission will do in 2007. It

concentrates on the Commission's responsibility for policy initiative, but the Commission will also continue to work to implement Community policies and promote the full application of Community law. In all these areas, the Commission will continue to strengthen the application of better regulation, to maximise the quality of the Commission's work.

The APS forms the basis for dialogue with the Council and the European Parliament in view of preparing the Commission Work Programme for 2007. To tackle the tough challenges Europe is facing, the Commission has put effective policy delivery at the heart of its objectives. To make this possible, a true partnership is needed between European Institutions.