

# Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

## SJR-05-05 (P5) Annex C

<b>Date:</b>	16 March 2005
<b>Time:</b>	9:30am
<b>Venue:</b>	National Assembly for Wales
<b>Title:</b>	European Commission Work Programme 2005 – suggested policy priorities for SJRC

### European Commission Work Programme 2005:

### Suggested priorities for Assembly Subject Committees

No priority issues were identified from the work programme for CWLS, ELL and LGPS.

#### EDT

- Communication on the future of state aid policy
- Action plan on innovation
- Framework programme for competitiveness and innovation
- European strategic guidelines for cohesion policy
- Seventh framework programme for research
- A new social agenda (2006-2010)
- Green Paper on a European Energy Efficiency Initiative
- Communication on renewable energies

#### EPC

- EU Strategic Guidelines for rural development 2007-2013 programmes
- Thematic Strategy on air pollution: Clean Air for Europe (CAFE)
- Thematic strategy on waste prevention and recycling
- Thematic strategy on the sustainable use of natural resources

- Thematic strategy to protect and conserve the marine environment
- Thematic strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides
- Thematic strategy on soil protection
- Thematic strategy on the urban environment
- Halting the decline of biodiversity to 2010
- Action on climate change post 2012
- Managing the impact of air transport on climate change
- Revision of rules on conditions for aquaculture animals and control of certain fish and mollusc diseases: eg farming mussels, clams and abalones.

## **HSS**

- Directive updating measures for the control of avian influenza
- Green Paper on a European programme on nutrition and health
- Regulation updating food additives legislation

## **SJR**

- Communication on Youth policy
- Communication on an Action Plan on the fight against drugs (2005-2008)

## **EOC**

- Communication on a policy approach to non-discrimination
- Communication on eAccessibility
- Communication on Youth policy

## **Annex C: The European Commission's Strategic Objectives 2005-2009**

Unlike all its recent predecessors, this new Commission has no major EU milestones during its mandate, such as the unprecedented Enlargement of 2004, the adoption of the single currency or the creation of a single market.

This Commission 2005-2009 strategy therefore gives particular attention to implementation, improving regulation and delivery of the EU's objectives. Improving understanding and awareness of the EU is also a major priority. It paints a picture of a Europe at the cross-roads: it emphasises the achievements of the EU to date, while recognising that economic growth is lagging behind the targets set. It also acknowledges a growing tide of Euroscepticism across the EU and the challenge which this poses.

The Commission has set itself the key objective of releasing Europe's untapped potential through a Partnership for European Renewal. For the first time, it is proposing a joint programme of strategic objectives in partnership with the European Parliament and Council, as foreseen in the provisions of the

draft Constitution. Its three aims are:

- **Prosperity: competitiveness, productivity and growth.** "The most urgent issue facing Europe today" is the lack of progress on the Lisbon strategy. The priority will be growth and job creation by nurturing a more business friendly environment; raising the level of investment in higher education and research and development; investment in the trans-european transport, telecom and energy networks; fostering entrepreneurship and attracting more people into the labour market.
- **Solidarity:** Key elements of this programme include using **cohesion policies** (structural funds) to promote competitiveness and growth, while reducing economic disparities; continued EU leadership on **environmental protection** including climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; the **social agenda**, including new initiatives on anti-discrimination and the establishment of a European Agency of Fundamental Rights.
- **Security:** Implementation of the Hague Programme on **Justice and Home Affairs** which was agreed in 2004 will be the key priority to ensuring a coordinated response to the security risks, in particular in the fight against terrorism. It will also focus on management of the EU's external borders, common rules on legal migration and a common asylum policy for the 25 EU member states. **Environmental and health risks** (such as natural disasters, outbreaks of diseases, major accidents, energy supply crises or terrorists attacks), must be tackled by securing the Union's ability to offer early warning and immediate response to particular crises situations and by long-term prevention.

A **new Communications strategy** will help implement this Partnership approach, mainly by extending the scope of public debate on EU policies. Consultation and participation is stressed, including the need to have full involvement of national Parliaments and public authorities at all levels. It lays down a commitment to a high level of openness and transparency.