



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 22 April 2005

8015/05

**COMPET 64
RECH 86
ENER 61
ENV 162
TELECOM 29
ECOFIN 132
CODEC 283**

NOTE

From : Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth

To : Coreper

no. Cion prop. 8081/05 COMPET 67 RECH 79 ENER 55 ENV 164 TELECOM 27 ECOFIN 124
CODEC 264 + COR 1

Subject : Preparation of the Council (Competitiveness) on 10 May 2005

= "Commission Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the
Council establishing a Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme
(CIP) (2007-2013)"

= **Exchange of views**

1. On 7 April 2005 the Commission submitted to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of the Regions the above-mentioned proposal. The proposal was then presented to ministers by the Commission at the Competitiveness Council on 18 April 2005.

2. The Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth has begun detailed discussions on the proposal and it has been agreed that delegations could raise questions on its scope and structure with the Commission services in the form of written requests for information.

However, given the importance of the proposal in the context of the Lisbon strategy and its inherent links with other initiatives and instruments, notably the 7th Framework Programme Proposal and the structural funds, it has been decided to hold an exchange of views on the proposal at the Competitiveness Council scheduled for 10 May 2005.

3. In order to facilitate the discussion at Council level, the Presidency has drawn up a short questionnaire, the text of which was agreed by the Working Party on 21 April 2005.
4. In the light of the above, it is suggested that on 10th May 2005 the Council should hold an exchange of views on CIP on the basis of the questionnaire annexed to this note.

QUESTIONNAIRE

In March 2005, the European Council called for the new Community Competitiveness and Innovation Programme "to lend great impetus to innovation throughout the European Union by establishing a new mechanism for financing innovative SMEs with a high growth potential, by streamlining and strengthening the technical support network for innovation in undertakings, and by supporting the development of regional centres and European networks for innovation".

The European Council also stressed the importance of energy efficiency and the need to promote eco-innovation and environmental technology, particularly in energy and transport, with particular attention being paid to SMEs and to create an inclusive information society based on the widespread use of ICTs in public services, SMEs and households.

It is proposed therefore that the following questions should be addressed to structure the debate at the Competitiveness Council on 10 May 2005:

- 1) Does the CIP proposal correspond to the requests contained in the European Council conclusions of March 2005?
- 2) Do Ministers support the overall structure of a framework programme with three specific programmes as a way of maximising synergies ?
- 3) Are the CIP objectives, fields for action and implementation instruments appropriate ? Is there something missing or unnecessary ?

It is understood that these questions will be addressed without prejudice to the discussions on the future financial perspectives.