

Excerpts relevant for energy and R&D from the Conclusions of the Spring Council 2005, DOC/05/1, publication no. 7619/05
(selection made by EGEC, 28 March 2005)

II. RELAUNCHING THE LISBON STRATEGY: A PARTNERSHIP FOR GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT

B. VITAL STRANDS OF THE RELAUNCH

Knowledge and innovation – engines of sustainable growth

11. In the field of R&D, the overall objective of 3% investment is maintained, with an adequate split between private and public investment. Specific intermediate levels need to be set out at national level. This objective will be obtained *inter alia* by tax incentives for private investment, a better leverage effect of public investment and by a modernised management of research institutions and universities.
12. The 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development will lend fresh impetus to a European research area for the benefit of all Member States by enhancing European cooperation, stimulating private investment in areas crucial to competitiveness and helping to fill the technology gap. The programme should act as a lever on national research budgets. The attraction which Europe holds for researchers should be enhanced by an effective improvement in the conditions under which they move and practise their profession. The creation of a European Research Council to support cutting-edge research and basic research would be significant in this context. Work on the European space programme will make it possible to exploit the capacity for innovation and the considerable potential in this sector.
19. The European Council reiterates the important contribution of environment policy to growth and employment, and also to the quality of life, in particular through the development of eco-innovation and eco-technology as well as the sustainable management of natural resources, which lead to the creation of new outlets and new jobs. It emphasises the importance of energy efficiency as a factor in competitiveness and sustainable development and welcomes the Commission's intention of producing a European initiative on energy efficiency and a Green Paper in 2005. Eco-innovation and environmental technology should be strongly encouraged, particularly in energy and transport, with particular attention paid to SMEs and to promoting eco-technology in public procurement. In addition to its growth in the internal market, this sector has considerable export potential. The European Council invites the Commission and the Member States to implement the action plan for eco-technology as a matter of urgency, including by specific actions on a time scale agreed with economic operators. The European Council reaffirms the importance of the objective of halting the loss of biological diversity between now and 2010, in particular by incorporating this requirement into other policies, given the importance of biodiversity for certain economic sectors.

III. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

42. On the occasion of the relaunch of the Lisbon Strategy, the European Council reaffirms that the Lisbon Strategy itself is to be seen in the wider context of the sustainable development requirement that present needs be met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The European Council agrees to adopt a declaration on guiding principles for sustainable development at its next meeting, in June 2005; that declaration will serve as a basis for renewing the sustainable development strategy adopted at the European Council meeting in Göteborg in 2001. The new, more comprehensive and more ambitious strategy, comprising targets, indicators and an effective monitoring procedure, should be based on a positive long-term vision and should fully integrate the internal and the external dimensions. The new strategy will be adopted by the end of 2005 and the Commission will be submitting the appropriate proposals in due course.

IV. CLIMATE CHANGE

43. The European Council acknowledges that climate change is likely to have major negative global environmental, economic and social implications. It confirms that, with a view to achieving the ultimate objective of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the global annual mean surface temperature increase should not exceed 2°C above pre-industrial levels.
44. The European Council notes with great satisfaction the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. In this respect, it wishes in particular to congratulate the Russian Federation on having ratified the Protocol.
45. The European Council welcomes the Commission communication entitled "Winning the battle against global climate change" and calls on the Commission to continue its cost-benefit analysis of CO₂ reduction strategies.
46. The European Council emphasises the EU's determination to reinvigorate the international negotiations by:
- exploring options for a post-2012 arrangement in the context of the UN climate change process, ensuring the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response;
 - developing a medium and long-term EU strategy to combat climate change, consistent with meeting the 2°C objective. In view of the global emission reductions required, global joint efforts are needed in the coming decades, in line with the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, including significantly enhanced aggregate reduction efforts by all economically more advanced countries. Without prejudging new approaches for differentiation between parties in a future fair and flexible framework, the EU looks forward to exploring with other parties strategies for achieving necessary emission reductions and believes that, in this context, reduction pathways for the group of developed countries in the order of 15-30% by 2020, compared to the baseline envisaged in the Kyoto Protocol, and beyond, in the spirit of the conclusions of the

Environment Council, should be considered.

These reduction ranges will have to be viewed in the light of future work on how the objective can be achieved, including the cost-benefit aspect. Consideration should also be given to ways of effectively involving major energy-consuming countries, including those among the emerging and developing countries;

- promoting cost-efficient measures to cut emissions.

The European Council will keep this issue under regular review.

Remark (by EGEC): There are no Annexes related to the above portion of the Presidency Conclusions