

# Commission issues work programme for 2007

## In Short:

**Prosperity, solidarity, security, and a stronger voice in the world to be the basis for action in 2007.**

## Brief News:

Alongside a list of 21 concrete strategic initiatives, the main policy actions to be adopted over the next 12-18 months are identified in the programme. The Commission asserts that the document will take the better regulation initiative to a new phase, by identifying simplification initiatives and withdrawals of pending legislation. In addition, a list of priorities for communicating with citizens is included for the first time.

The top priorities for 2007 are as follows:

- Energy - the first Strategic Energy review of Europe will be issued;
- a Green Paper on climate change and perspectives for co-operation post-2012;
- modernisation of the European economy;
- better management of migration flows;
- a White Paper on health strategy;
- a strategy proposal on social services;
- the annual enlargement strategy paper;
- a renewed market access strategy;
- a reinforcement of the Neighbourhood Policy;
- progress in negotiations with major strategic partners such as Russia, China and Ukraine.

Euractiv plans to follow-up with more in-depth coverage of the Commission's work programme. Any input or positions are welcome and can be sent to the [editor-in-chief](#).

## Links

## EU official documents

- Commission: [Work Programme for 2007 \[FR\] \[DE\]](#) | [Press Release \[FR\] \[DE\]](#) (24 Oct. 2006)

## €7 billion for lifelong learning

**The Parliament has adopted a Lifelong Learning Programme, bringing together the current Comenius, Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci and Grundtvig schemes.**

- [MEPs urge implementation of lifelong-learning plans](#)
- [Lifelong learning](#)

### Brief News:

The Parliament [adopted](#), on 25 October 2006, an integrated action programme on lifelong learning for the period 2007-2013. The new programme will replace the existing four sectoral programmes on school education ([Comenius](#)), higher education ([Erasmus](#)), vocational training ([Leonardo da Vinci](#)) and adult education ([Grundtvig](#)) when they expire at the end of 2006.

This new integrated programme is completed by a 'transversal programme' focusing on policy co-operation, languages and information and communication technology (eLearning). Last but not least, the [Jean Monnet](#) programme on European integration will also be put under the new programme, the budget of which will be €6.97 billion for the period 2007-2013.

The €7 billion will be used to support projects and activities that, at all ages, "foster interchange, co-operation and mobility between education and training systems within the EU so that they become a world quality reference".

Individual targets of the four sub-programmes are: to involve at least three million pupils in joint educational activities; to achieve three million individual participants in student mobility under the present and past programmes by 2012; to increase placements in enterprises to 80,000 per year, and; to support the mobility of 7,000 individuals involved in adult education per year.

The Decision is expected to be finalised in November and enter into force in December 2006.

## Links

- PreLex: [Proposal for a decision establishing an integrated action programme in the field of lifelong learning \[FR\] \[DE\]](#)
- Commission: [The Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-2013](#)
- Commission press release: [‘Lifelong learning’: a new education and training programme to build the Knowledge Society \(25 October 2006\) \[FR\] \[DE\]](#)
- Commission staff working paper: [Extended impact assessment integrating ex ante evaluation requirements \(2004\)](#)

# 'New Social Europe' to reconcile growth and labour reforms

**Poul Nyrup Rasmussen**, PES president and former Prime Minister of Denmark, presented the hypothesis behind a project complementing the Lisbon agenda.

## RELATED

- [Labour market reforms](#)
- [Relaunch of the Lisbon strategy](#)

## Brief News:

**Poul Nyrup Rasmussen**, who promotes the concept of 'flexicurity' on the labour market, is working together with former Commission president **Jacques Delors**, and experts like **Anna Maria Rodriguez**, a Portuguese professor known by some as "the mother of Lisbon". Together, they will present proposals in December, which aim at reconciling labour market reforms, social inclusion and economic growth.

**Delors** and **Rasmussen** both have a background in the labour movement, and are keen promoters of social dialogue. **Mr. Rasmussen**, for his part, does not mind major "investments" in social measures and economic growth, and criticised the ECB's **President Trichet** for his excessive focus on budgetary discipline.

On trade with China, **Mr. Rasmussen** pointed out that reforms in Europe are necessary if one is to avoid a scared public opinion and a protectionist Europe.

Answering a question from EurActiv on why the '**New Social Model**' could have more impact with national politicians than the stalled Lisbon Agenda, **Mr. Rasmussen** stated: "The New Social Europe is in fact a revival of Lisbon. Its

balanced approach, with social investments and economic growth, will be more acceptable to national governments. Therefore I am 'a bit optimistic'".

## Links

## Political Groups

- PES: [Conference on A New Social Europe](#) | [Speech by Poul Nyrup Rasmussen](#) | [Slides](#) (11 Oct. 2006)
- PES: [Social Europe - Second contributions to the debate \[FR\]](#) (Sept. 2006)
- PES: [Social Europe - First contributions to the debate \[FR\] \[DE\]](#) (Oct. 2005)
- PES: [Prime Ministers call for A New Social Europe](#) (Dec. 2005)

## European Union

- Lisbon Council: [website](#)