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Priorités de la Présidence allemande de
l'Union européenne (janvier — juin
2007)

RAPPORT

FAIT AU NOM DU COMITÉ D'AVIS
FÉDÉRAL CHARGÉ DES QUESTIONS
EUROPÉENNES
PAR

MM. MAHOX (S) ET DE CROO (CH)

Belgische Senaat en Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers

ZITTING 2006-2007

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Prioriteiten van het Duits voorzitterschap
van de Europese Unie (januari — juni
2007)

VERSLAG

NAMENS HET FEDERAAL
ADVIESCOMITÉ VOOR DE
EUROPESE AANGELEGENHEDEN
UITGEBRACHT DOOR
DE HEREN MAHOX (S) EN DE CROO (K)

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Présidents / Voorzitters : Herman De Croo (Ch/K) et Philippe Mahoux (S).

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I. INTRODUCTION

Le Conseil d'avis fédéral chargé des questions européennes s'est réuni le 24 janvier 2007 pour un échange de vues sur les priorités de la Présidence allemande de l'UE.

Il est de coutume que le Comité d'avis fédéral invite, au début de chaque présidence, un représentant du pays en question pour exposer les priorités de la Présidence.

Le programme de la Présidence allemande a été exposé par S.E. Christoph Jessen, ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire de la République fédérale allemande.

II. EXPOSÉ INTRODUCTIF DE S.E. CHRISTOPH JESSEN, AMBASSADEUR EXTRAORDINAIRE ET PLÉNIPOTENTIAIRE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE ALLEMANDE

À la suite de la Finlande, l'Allemagne a repris la Présidence de l'UE au premier semestre de 2007. Il s'agit de la première présidence à trois, puisque le planning pour l'année et demie qui suit a été élaboré de concert avec le Portugal et la Slovénie.

L'Allemagne assure également la présidence du G8, à savoir les 8 pays les plus industrialisés : l'Allemagne, la France, la Grande Bretagne, l'Italie, les États Unis, le Japon, le Canada et la fédération de Russie. La priorité de l'Allemagne se situe néanmoins au niveau de la présidence de l'UE.

Les temps changent et aujourd'hui même les États Unis, la seule grande puissance au monde, ne peuvent plus s'en sortir seuls pour façonner le monde. Les États Unis et l'Union européenne peuvent façonner le monde, mais ils ne peuvent pas le faire chacun de leur côté. La Russie a également déjà prouvé qu'elle reste un partenaire stratégique. La Russie et l'UE dépendent l'un de l'autre. D'ailleurs, l'énergie est un sujet très important pour l'Europe.

L'économie reprend, les chiffres de croissance doivent être revus à la hausse en Allemagne. Par contre, aux États Unis le déficit augmente et il y a donc des déséquilibres au niveau de l'économie mondiale. La mondialisation se renforce, la communication et l'information sont presque gratuites et sont omniprésentes, les marchandises et les personnes circulent librement et rapidement, le transbordement de containers à Anvers augmente. Nos concurrents et partenaires ne sont plus nos voisins directs, mais sont dispersés dans le monde. Avec l'accélération des possibilités de voyages, les problèmes de sécurité ne font que s'intensifier. Les Balkans et le Moyen Orient ne sont qu'à quelques heures de vols. Il y également

I. INLEIDING

Het federaal Adviescomité voor de Europese aangelegenheden is op 24 januari 2007 bijeengekomen voor een uiteenzetting over het voorzitterschap van de EU.

Het is gebruikelijk dat het federaal Adviescomité bij het begin van elk voorzitterschap een vertegenwoordiger uitnodigt om de prioriteiten van het voorzitterschap uiteen te zetten.

Voor het Duits voorzitterschap is Zijne Excellentie Christoph Jessen, buitengewoon en gevolmachtigd ambassadeur van de Bondsrepubliek Duitsland de prioriteiten komen uiteenzetten.

II. INLEIDENDE UITEENZETTING DOOR ZIJNE EXCELLENTIE CHRISTOPH JESSEN, BUITENGEWOON EN GEVOLMACHTIGD AMBASSADEUR VAN DE BONDSREPUBLIC DUITSLAND

Duitsland zit tijdens het eerste halfjaar van 2007 de EU voor en volgt daarbij Finland op. Het gaat om het eerste voorzitterschap met drie aangezien de planning voor het komende anderhalf jaar samen met Portugal en Slovenië werd uitgewerkt.

Duitsland is ook voorzitter van de G8, dat wil zeggen de groep van de 8 meest geïndustrialiseerde landen : Duitsland, Frankrijk, Groot-Brittannië, Italië, de Verenigde Staten, Japan, Canada en de Russische Federatie. Het Europees voorzitterschap is voor Duitsland de prioriteit.

De tijden veranderen en vandaag slagen zelfs de Verenigde Staten, de enige grootmacht in de wereld, er niet meer alleen in de wereld te fatsoeneren. De Verenigde Staten en de Europese Unie kunnen dat wél, maar elk van hen afzonderlijk kan het niet alleen. Ook Rusland heeft reeds bewezen dat het een strategische partner blijft. Rusland en de EU hangen van elkaar af. Energie is voor Europa trouwens een zeer belangrijk onderwerp.

De economie trekt aan en de groeicijfers moeten in Duitsland opwaarts worden herzien. In de Verenigde Staten neemt het tekort daarentegen toe. In de wereld-economie doen zich dus wanverhoudingen voor. De mondialisering neemt toe, communicatie en informatie zijn nagenoeg gratis en zijn alomtegenwoordig, het goederen- en personenverkeer is vrij en gaat snel, de overslag van containers in Antwerpen neemt toe. Onze concurrenten en partners zijn niet langer onze onmiddellijke burens, maar zijn over de hele wereld verspreid. Samen met het toenemende aantal reismogelijkheden nemen de veiligheidsproblemen toe. De Balkan en het Midden-Oosten liggen slechts op enkele uren vliegen hiervandaan. Er zijn ook de

les flux migratoires en provenance d'Afrique. Les problèmes de sécurité ont été globalisés. C'est un bel exemple des changements en Europe.

L'UE est-elle dans une position pour répondre à ces défis? Est-il possible d'arriver à un dialogue entre égaux avec les États Unis, d'établir un partenariat avec la Russie, de rétablir les déséquilibres mondiaux en matière d'économie, de faire ressortir la dimension sociale de l'Europe et de faire face à la mondialisation? L'Europe pourra-t-elle gérer les menaces du terrorisme et de la criminalité organisée? En tout cas, aucun état européen ne peut faire face à tout ceci seul. Chaque pays en soi est trop petit, mais ensemble ces pays forment le marché intérieur le plus important du monde avec 500 millions d'habitants. C'est donc plus grand que les États Unis, le Canada et le Japon ensemble.

Vu de l'extérieur l'Union européenne est un succès historique sans précédent. L'unification européenne a apporté paix et prospérité. Mais, à l'intérieur nous voyons le désordre. Le refus de la constitution européenne par la France et les Pays-Bas nécessite des améliorations du système décisionnel, il n'y pas de ministre des Affaires étrangères de l'Union européenne et l'élargissement futur est toujours en discussion. Mais on ne peut pas ignorer que 2/3 des états membres a déjà ratifié la constitution. Ceux qui sont en faveur de l'élargissement doivent se rendre compte que certains changements sont nécessaires. L'enthousiasme de la population par rapport à l'Union européenne diminue.

C'est le cadre dans lequel la présidence allemande doit travailler. À l'occasion des 50 ans des Traités de Rome la déclaration de Berlin sera mise en place. C'est l'opportunité de réfléchir au futur, l'Europe doit gagner le cœur des citoyens. La situation n'est pas simple et la présidence allemande a besoin du soutien de tous les états membres, en particulier des européens convaincus. Le thème de la présidence est d'ailleurs: « Nous réussissons l'Europe ensemble ».

Pendant son discours au parlement européen la chancelière, Mme Angela Merkel, a cité Jacques Delors en parlant de l'âme de l'Europe et elle a même rajouté qu'il fallait trouver l'âme de l'Europe. La diversité des langues, des mentalités et des régions en Europe crée de la tension, mais aussi de la créativité. Tout ne peut pas être harmonisé. La chancelière a développé l'idée que l'Europe vit de cette diversité, mais cette diversité ne peut pas être le principe universel qui nous aide à comprendre ce qu'est l'âme de l'Europe. C'est la liberté sous tous ses aspects qui fait que cette diversité est possible. La liberté n'est pas acquise pour toujours, c'est une chose pour laquelle il faut se battre tous les jours. Quand on parle de liberté, on parle également de la liberté des autres et de la

migratiestromen vanuit Afrika. De veiligheidsproblemen hebben zich gemondialiseerd. Dat is een mooi voorbeeld van de veranderingen in Europa.

Kan de Europese Unie die uitdagingen aan? Is het mogelijk met de Verenigde Staten tot een dialoog tussen gelijken te komen, een partnerschap tot stand te brengen met Rusland, de wereldwijde economische wanverhoudingen recht te trekken, de sociale dimensie van Europa duidelijker tot uiting te doen komen en het hoofd te bieden aan de mondialisering? Kan Europa de dreigingen van het terrorisme en van de georganiseerde misdaad de baas? In ieder geval kan geen enkele Europese Staat alléén een vuist maken. Elk land afzonderlijk is te klein, maar samen vormen die landen de grootste interne markt ter wereld, met 500 miljoen inwoners. Dat is dus een grotere markt dan de Verenigde Staten, Canada en Japan samen.

Van buitenaf gezien, is Europa een historisch succes zonder voorgaande. De Europese eenwording heeft gezorgd voor vrede en welvaart. Maar binnenin zien wij dat er wanorde heerst. De afwijzing van de Europese Grondwet door Frankrijk en Nederland vereist verbeteringen aan de besluitvormingsregels, de Europese Unie heeft geen minister van Buitenlandse Zaken en de toekomstige uitbreiding staat nog steeds ter discussie. Men mag echter niet uit het oog verliezen dat de Europese Grondwet reeds door 2/3 van de lidstaten werd goedgekeurd. De voorstanders van de uitbreiding moeten zich ervan bewust zijn dat bepaalde wijzigingen onontbeerlijk zijn. Het enthousiasme van de bevolking voor de Europese Unie begint te tanen.

Dat is de achtergrond waartegen het Duitse voorzitterschap moet werken. Naar aanleiding van de 50^e verjaardag van de Verdragen van Rome zal de verklaring van Berlijn tot stand komen. Het is de gelegenheid om na te denken over de toekomst. Europa moet de harten van de burgers veroveren. De situatie is niet eenvoudig en het Duitse voorzitterschap heeft de steun van alle lidstaten en in het bijzonder die van de overtuigde Europeanen nodig. Het thema van het voorzitterschap is trouwens: « Europa vooruit helpen ».

De Duitse bondskanselier, mevrouw Angela Merkel, heeft tijdens haar toespraak voor het Europees Parlement gewezen Commissievoorzitter Jacques Delors geciteerd toen ze het had over de ziel van Europa en ze heeft er zelfs aan toegevoegd dat de ziel van Europa moest worden teruggevonden. De verscheidenheid aan talen, mentaliteiten en regio's in Europa zorgt voor spanning en creativiteit. Niet alles kan worden geharmoniseerd. De bondskanselier heeft de idee naar voren gebracht dat Europa leeft dankzij die diversiteit, maar dat die diversiteit niet het universele principe mag zijn dat ons helpt te begrijpen wat de ziel van Europa is. De vrijheid in al haar facetten maakt die diversiteit mogelijk. De vrijheid is niet eens en voor altijd verworven, men moet er elke dag voor vechten.

tolérance. L'âme de l'Europe est représentée par cette tolérance. La notion de tolérance est citée pour la première fois dans le Traité constitutionnel. La tolérance est la caractéristique par laquelle l'Europe souhaite se distinguer et qui doit former la base sur laquelle la nouvelle Europe pourra développer des règles intelligentes et à la mesure de la nouvelle grandeur européenne. Ces règles devront permettre d'agir car pour l'instant les règles européennes ne permettent ni l'élargissement ni la prise des décisions qui s'imposent.

La chancelière se déclare en faveur d'une Europe où tout le monde est traité sur un pied d'égalité et qui se concentre sur ce qui peut être réglé le mieux par l'Europe. Il faut une définition claire des compétences de l'Union européenne et des états nationaux. La base contractuelle doit être adaptée aux nouvelles conditions, si l'Union européenne veut continuer à fonctionner dans le futur. C'est pourquoi la présidence allemande va proposer une feuille de route pour le processus du Traité constitutionnel de sorte à ce qu'une décision puisse être prise en juin au terme de cette présidence. L'Europe doit prendre une nouvelle décision autant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur.

À l'extérieur, l'Union européenne est devant plusieurs défis en matière de politique étrangère et de sécurité. Au Kosovo, l'Union va devoir accompagner la problématique du statut du Kosovo. La stabilité dans cette partie des Balkans est absolument nécessaire et sans perspective européenne cette stabilité n'est pas possible.

Au Moyen Orient, l'Union européenne doit promouvoir le processus de paix en coopération avec les États Unis, l'ONU et la Russie. Un Quartette est nécessaire pour cette région et c'est un bon signe qu'il puisse à nouveau passer à l'action. L'Europe doit avoir une attitude ferme pour ce processus de paix, mais aussi en ce qui concerne le programme nucléaire de l'Iran. L'Europe est aussi impliquée en Afghanistan et compte sur un développement positif. Seule une combinaison de présence militaire et d'actions civiles peut mener au succès.

Les pays voisins de l'Union européenne doivent témoigner d'avantage de bonne volonté politique. Beaucoup de pays souhaitent adhérer à l'Union européenne, mais il est impossible de satisfaire tout le monde.

Par rapport aux négociations de Doha il y a beaucoup d'enjeux, ainsi que pour les pays en voie de développement. La protection de brevets est importante en Europe et les États Unis sont le partenaire commercial principal de l'Union européenne.

Als men het heeft over vrijheid, dan spreekt men ook van de vrijheid van de anderen en van verdraagzaamheid. Die verdraagzaamheid is de kerngedachte van Europa. Het begrip « verdraagzaamheid » wordt voor het eerst aangehaald in het Grondwetgevend Verdrag. Verdraagzaamheid is het kenmerk waardoor Europa zich van andere werelddelen wenst te onderscheiden en ze moet de grondslag vormen waarop het nieuwe Europa intelligente regels zal kunnen uitvaardigen die op maat zijn gesneden van de nieuwe Europese grandeur. Die regels zullen de mogelijkheid moeten bieden te handelen, want op dit ogenblik maken de Europese regels noch de uitbreiding noch de noodzakelijke besluitvorming mogelijk.

De bondskanselier is voorstander van een Europa waar iedereen op voet van gelijkheid wordt behandeld en dat zich toespitst op wat het best door Europa kan worden geregeld. De bevoegdheden van de Europese Unie en van de nationale Staten moeten duidelijk worden afgebakend. Wil Europa in de toekomst nog blijven functioneren, dan moet de contractuele basis worden aangepast aan de nieuwe omstandigheden. Daarom zal het Duitse voorzitterschap voor het proces van het Grondwetgevend Verdrag een stappenplan voorstellen, zodat een beslissing kan worden genomen in juni, aan het einde van dit voorzitterschap. Europa moet zowel intern als extern een nieuwe knopen doorhakken.

Extern staat Europa voor verschillende uitdagingen inzake buitenlands en veiligheidsbeleid. De Unie zal de problematiek van het statuut van Kosovo moeten aanpakken. De stabiliteit in dat gedeelte van de Balkan is absoluut noodzakelijk en zonder Europees perspectief is ze onmogelijk.

In het Midden-Oosten moet de Europese Unie het vredesproces bevorderen in samenwerking met de Verenigde Staten, de Verenigde Naties en Rusland. Voor die regio is een Kwartet nodig en het is een goed teken dat het opnieuw tot actie kan overgaan. Europa moet zich vastberaden opstellen ten aanzien van dat vredesproces, maar ook inzake het Iraans nucleair programma. Europa is ook betrokken in Afghanistan en rekt op een positieve ontwikkeling. Alleen een combinatie van militaire aanwezigheid en een niet-militair optreden kan tot succes leiden.

De buurlanden van de Europese Unie moeten meer politieke goede wil aan de dag leggen. Tal van landen wensen toe te treden tot de Europese Unie, maar het is onmogelijk iedereen tevreden te stellen.

Met de onderhandelingen van Doha staat zeer veel op het spel, ook voor de ontwikkelingslanden. De bescherming van de octrooien is kapitaal in Europa, en de Verenigde Staten zijn de belangrijkste handelspartner van de Europese Unie.

L'Europe est le partenaire-investisseur le plus important. Il est donc essentiel d'éliminer les entraves commerciales en matière de droit des brevets et des standards industriels, ainsi que l'accès aux bourses. Un marché transatlantique commun est dans l'intérêt de l'Europe.

Le partenariat avec la Russie est également d'une signification stratégique. Il faut négocier un nouvel accord sur la base de partenariats et de coopérations. La collaboration en matière énergétique doit également être mise à l'ordre du jour et la présidence allemande tentera de faire débiter ces négociations le plus rapidement possible.

Pendant le Conseil de mars et pendant le sommet G8 les éléments de base doivent être réalisés pour un accord sur le climat à l'échelle mondiale en 2012. L'Europe est un pionnier dans ce domaine, mais il est important que les États Unis et d'autres pays soient prêts à coopérer avec l'Europe de façon plus étroite dans le domaine de l'énergie et de la politique climatique.

L'Afrique connaît également beaucoup de changements. Il est capital d'y investir tant au plan économique qu'au plan politique. C'est pourquoi la présidence allemande va préparer un sommet Union européenne — Afrique qui aura lieu sous la présidence portugaise. Après la mission couronnée de succès au Congo, l'Union européenne va suivre de très près ce développement.

Cet aperçu de la politique extérieure montre bien que l'Union européenne n'arrivera à relever ces défis qu'en agissant en commun. Cette une des raisons pour lesquelles l'Union a besoin d'une politique étrangère européenne et d'un ministre des Affaires étrangères.

Toutes aussi importantes sont les tâches relatives à la politique intérieure. L'Europe doit maintenir son modèle socio-économique malgré la mondialisation, c'est un des objectifs de cette présidence. La stratégie de Lisbonne est la base d'une vision de l'Europe à croissance forte et sociale, mais qui assume avec responsabilité son environnement. La croissance en elle-même n'est pas l'objectif, l'objectif est que la flexibilité du marché de l'emploi doit être liée à une protection sociale et à une sécurité sociale. C'est le témoin d'une Europe sociale. Le conseil informel sur l'emploi et les affaires sociales va traiter de ces sujets. L'énergie sera un sujet important au Conseil de mars. Il y aura un débat sur les propositions de la Commission. La disparition d'une bureaucratie exagérée est nécessaire. La présidence fera un suivi approfondi des propositions de la Commission en cette matière.

Les thèmes principaux qui intéressent le citoyen sont la sécurité et le droit, cela constitue la base de

Europa is hun grootste partner-investeerder. Het is dus essentieel de commerciële hinderpalen weg te werken in verband met het octrooirecht en de industriestandaarden, alsmede wat de toegang tot de beurzen betreft. Een gemeenschappelijke transatlantische markt is in het belang van Europa.

Het partnerschap met Rusland is eveneens van strategisch belang. Er moet worden onderhandeld over een nieuw akkoord op basis van partnerschappen en samenwerkingsverbanden. Voorts moet de samenwerking op het vlak van energie op de agenda worden geplaatst en het Duitse voorzitterschap zal ernaar streven de onderhandelingen zo spoedig mogelijk te laten aanvatten.

Tijdens de raad van maart en tijdens de G8-top moeten de basiselementen worden verwezenlijkt voor een wereldwijde klimaatovereenkomst in 2012. Europa speelt daarin een voortrekkersrol, maar het is belangrijk dat de Verenigde Staten en andere landen bereid zijn om op het vlak van energie en klimaatbeleid nauwer samen te werken met Europa.

Ook in Afrika vinden tal van veranderingen plaats. Het is van cruciaal belang daar te investeren, zowel op economisch als op politiek vlak. Daarom zal het Duitse voorzitterschap een top tussen de Europese Unie en Afrika voorbereiden, die zal worden voorgezeten door Portugal. Na de met succes bekroonde missie in Congo zal Europa die ontwikkeling van zeer nabij volgen.

Uit dat overzicht van het buitenlandbeleid komt duidelijk naar voren dat de Europese Unie die uitdagingen alleen aankan als wij gezamenlijk optreden. Dat is een van de redenen waarom de Unie nood heeft aan een Europees buitenlands beleid en aan een minister van Buitenlandse Zaken.

De taken met betrekking tot het binnenlands beleid zijn even essentieel. Europa moet zijn sociaal-economisch model in stand houden ondanks de mondialisering. Dat is een van de doelstellingen van het voorzitterschap. De strategie van Lissabon is de grondslag voor een visie van een Europa dat fors groeit en sociaal is, maar dat ook zijn verantwoordelijkheden opneemt wat zijn milieu betreft. Het doel is niet de groei op zich, maar de soepelheid van de arbeidsmarkt gepaard te laten gaan met sociale bescherming en sociale zekerheid. Dat is een bewijs dat Europa sociaal is. Die onderwerpen zullen aan bod komen tijdens de informele raad over werkgelegenheid en sociale zaken. Tijdens de raad van maart zal energie een belangrijk item zijn. Er zal worden gedebatteerd over de voorstellen van de Commissie. Het is noodzakelijk dat een overdreven bureaucratie verdwijnt. Het voorzitterschap zal de voorstellen van de Commissie terzake van nabij volgen.

Veiligheid en justitie, die de basis vormen van ons leven, zijn de hoofdthema's waarvoor de burger

notre vie. Avec l'élargissement, la crainte en matière de criminalité augmente, mais on oublie souvent que c'est la coopération entre les pays qui permettra de lutter efficacement contre la criminalité. La migration et l'intégration furent les thèmes des Conseils informels Justice et Affaires Intérieures (JAI) des 15 et 16 janvier 2007. Les ministres de l'intérieur ont promis de travailler plus étroitement avec les pays d'origine et de transit. Ils ont également admis que la protection des frontières extérieures de l'Union européenne doit être améliorée et cela vaut principalement pour FRONTEX.

Tous ces engagements ne peuvent pas être réalisés en six mois et c'est pourquoi cette présidence à trois est une bonne solution.

L'Allemagne est également à la présidence du G8 pendant cette période. Cette double présidence est l'occasion de créer des synergies, car beaucoup de thèmes du G8 sont comparables à ceux de l'Union européenne. Croissance et responsabilité sont les thèmes de ce G8. Jusqu'à présent les États Unis jouaient le plus grand rôle en matière de croissance. L'énergie sera également un thème important.

Le monde se retrécit et il faut s'y préparer. Les leitmotivs « Nous réussissons l'Europe ensemble » et « croissance et responsabilité » nous le rappellent.

III. QUESTIONS ET COMMENTAIRES DES MEMBRES

Philippe Mahoux, co-président du comité d'avis fédéral chargé des questions européennes, fait remarquer que le terme Troïka connaît une nouvelle définition puisque les programmes de présidences s'étendent maintenant sur une période de 18 mois.

Il salue également l'arrivée des deux nouveaux états membres de l'Union européenne : la Bulgarie et la Roumanie.

Pierre Galand, sénateur, se pose quelques questions par rapport à une déclaration du ministre des affaires étrangères allemand. Celui-ci estime qu'il incombe aux églises de jouer un rôle dans l'unification européenne. L'Europe doit être fondée sur la séparation de l'église et de l'état.

En ce qui concerne les accords de partenariats économiques (APE) avec l'Afrique, le Sénat a adopté une recommandation qui alerte les autorités européennes sur le fait que ces partenariats sont en contradiction avec les accords de Cotonou. Le premier round des négociations approche et les pays concernés sont scandalisés par rapport aux propositions qui leur sont faites. Quelle est la position de la présidence sur ce sujet ?

belangstelling heeft. Samen met de uitbreiding neemt de vrees voor criminaliteit toe, maar men vergeet vaak dat precies de samenwerking tussen de landen de mogelijkheid zal bieden de criminaliteit doeltreffend te bestrijden. Migratie en integratie waren de thema's van de informele raden Justitie en Binnenlandse Zaken (JBZ) van 15 en 16 januari. De ministers van binnenlandse zaken hebben beloofd nauwer samen te werken met de landen van oorsprong en van doorreis. Ook hebben zij erkend dat de bescherming van de buitengrenzen van de Europese Unie moet worden verbeterd. Dat geldt vooral voor FRONTEX.

Al die verbintenissen kunnen niet in zes maanden worden verwezenlijkt. Daarom is dit voorzitterschap met drie een goede oplossing.

Duitsland is gedurende die periode ook voorzitter van de G8. Dat dubbele voorzitterschap biedt de gelegenheid om synergismen tot stand te brengen, want veel thema's van de G8 zijn vergelijkbaar met die van de Europese Unie. Groei en verantwoordelijkheid zijn de thema's van de G8. Tot dusver speelden de Verenigde Staten de grootste rol inzake groei. Ook energie zal een belangrijk thema zijn.

De wereld wordt almaar meer een dorp en men moet zich daar op voorbereiden. De leidmotieven « Europa vooruit helpen » en « groei en verantwoordelijkheid » herinneren ons daaraan.

III. VRAGEN EN OPMERKINGEN VAN DE LEDEN

Philippe Mahoux, co-voorzitter van het Federaal Adviescomité voor de Europese Aangelegenheden, merkt op dat van de term Trojka een nieuwe definitie is gegeven aangezien de programma's van de voorzitterschappen voortaan een periode van 18 maanden bestrijken.

Hij begroet ook de komst van twee nieuwe lidstaten in de Europese Unie : Bulgarije en Roemenië.

Pierre Galand, senator, stelt enkele vragen in verband met een verklaring van de Duitse minister van Buitenlandse Zaken. Die meent dat de kerken een rol moeten spelen in de Europese eenmaking. Europa moet steunen op de scheiding van kerk en staat.

Wat de economische partnerschapsakkoorden (EPA) met Afrika betreft, heeft de Senaat een aanbeveling goedgekeurd die de Europese autoriteiten wijst op het feit dat die partnerschappen strijdig zijn met de akkoorden van Cotonou. De eerste onderhandelingsronde nadert en de betrokken landen zijn diep verontwaardigd over de hun gedane voorstellen. Wat is het standpunt van het voorzitterschap hierover ?

Par rapport à la Méditerranée l'inquiétude se situe au niveau de la politique de sécurité. Cette politique de sécurité semble primer sur la politique de coopération avec les pays de la Méditerranée. L'Europe semble suivre de plus en plus les discussions au sein de l'Otan. La situation en Palestine ne s'arrange pas, une politique différente est appliquée à Israël et à la Palestine. L'aide européenne n'arrive pas auprès des palestiniens. Que va entreprendre la présidence allemande pour améliorer la situation? L'Union européenne a une responsabilité dans ce dossier et ne peut pas se contenter d'évoluer dans le Quartette.

Les objectifs du millénaire en matière de développement nécessitent une évaluation annuelle autant au niveau des parlements nationaux qu'au niveau européen. Comment la présidence voit-elle ceci? Il faut également trouver de nouveaux moyens pour le développement.

Pour le partenariat stratégique avec les États Unis il est question de la gestion civile des crises. Que signifie ceci? Les crises se gèrent dans le cadre multilatéral des Nations unies, au conseil de sécurité, dans un cadre précis d'une juridiction internationale. C'est en complétant cette juridiction que l'Europe contribuera à la gestion civile telle qu'elle est nécessaire aujourd'hui.

Olga Zihren, sénatrice, se demande ce qu'il en est de la constitution européenne. Car ce n'est pas le nombre qui fera la reconnaissance de ce document, mais bien le soutien des citoyens. Il ne faut pas commettre la même erreur et vouloir précipiter les choses. Il faut travailler sur la compréhension et la communication. L'information doit être la plus large possible.

Par rapport à la politique industrielle il ne se passe plus rien. Pourtant cela serait utile dans le cadre de la place que l'Europe doit occuper dans l'OMC. L'Europe parle d'une seule voix dans cette organisation, mais cette voix n'est pas assez forte quand il s'agit de la coopération au développement.

Un président du parlement européen allemand, un président du groupe PSE allemand, la présidence du G8 et de l'Europe forment en effet une convergence particulière.

Cette convergence peut être le démarrage d'une nouvelle dynamique dans une Europe en panne. Il ne faut pas perdre cette opportunité par rapport aux conflits au Moyen Orient, ou dans une nouvelle conception de coordination du voisinage.

L'élargissement est également un aspect dont il faut gérer l'importance.

Inzake het Middellandse Zeegebied is er ongerustheid over het veiligheidsbeleid. Dat beleid lijkt voorrang te hebben op het samenwerkingsbeleid met de landen rond de Middellandse Zee. Europa lijkt de discussies binnen de NAVO meer en meer te volgen. Er komt maar geen oplossing voor de situatie in Palestina, een verschillend beleid wordt toegepast op Israël en op Palestina. De Europese steun bereikt de Palestijnen niet. Wat zal het Duitse voorzitterschap ondernemen om de situatie te verbeteren? De Europese Unie heeft een verantwoordelijkheid in dat dossier en kan zich niet tevredenstellen met een rol binnen het Kwartet.

De millenniumdoelstellingen aangaande ontwikkeling vereisen een jaarlijkse evaluatie, zowel binnen de nationale parlementen als op Europees niveau. Hoe ziet het voorzitterschap dat? Tevens moeten nieuwe middelen voor ontwikkeling worden gevonden.

Betreffende het strategische partnerschap met de Verenigde Staten is er sprake van niet-militaire crisis-beheersing. Wat betekent dat? De crisissen worden beheerst binnen het multilateraal kader van de Verenigde Naties, op de Veiligheidsraad, binnen het nauwkeurig afgebakende kader van een internationale rechtsmacht. Door die rechtsmacht aan te vullen, zal Europa bijdragen tot niet-militaire beheersing zoals die op dit ogenblik nodig is.

Olga Zihren, senator, vraagt hoe de Europese Grondwet er voor staat. Want het zijn niet de grote aantallen die tot de erkenning van dat document zullen leiden, maar wel de steun van de burgers. Men mag niet dezelfde fout maken en op de zaken willen vooruitlopen. Er moet aan begripsvorming en communicatie worden gewerkt. De voorlichting moet zo ruim mogelijk zijn.

Omtrent het industriële beleid gebeurt niets meer. Nochtans zou dat nuttig zijn in het kader van de plaats die Europa moet bekleden binnen de WHO. Europa spreekt met één stem binnen die organisatie, maar die stem is niet krachtig genoeg wanneer het om ontwikkelingsamenwerking gaat.

Een Duitse voorzitter van het Europese Parlement, en een Duitse voorzitter van de ESP-fractie, het voorzitterschap van de G8 en van Europa vormen inderdaad een bijzondere samenloop van omstandigheden.

Die samenloop kan een nieuwe dynamiek op gang brengen in een vastgelopen Europa. Die kans mag niet onbenut worden gelaten met betrekking tot de conflicten in het Midden-Oosten, of aangaande een nieuwe opvatting over de coördinatie van het nabuurschap.

De uitbreiding is eveneens een aspect waarvan het belang goed moet worden ingeschat.

2007 est l'année de l'égalité des chances entre les hommes et les femmes. La présidence allemande a-t-elle des points précis en cette matière ? Car la politique allemande tendant à créer de bonnes conditions pour que les femmes puissent rester chez elle n'entre pas vraiment dans la politique de l'égalité des chances comme elle existe en Belgique.

La préparation d'un sommet africain est très importante. Quels sont les axes de ce sommet ?

François Roelants du Vivier, président de la commission des Affaires étrangères et de la défense du Sénat, félicite la présidence allemande de l'accent qu'elle met sur la tolérance. C'est un terme très important.

Pour la politique extérieure, le Kosovo ne semble pas être présent dans le programme de la présidence. Pourtant des décisions s'imposeront probablement bientôt dans cette matière. Comment la présidence envisage-t-elle ceci en relation avec les Balkans occidentaux ? Il faut préparer l'élargissement éventuel de l'Europe aux Balkans occidentaux. Comment la présidence envisage-t-elle ceci par étapes à partir de la question du Kosovo ?

Le programme de la présidence annonce le développement de la réduction d'émission de CO₂ par les voitures. Elle compte également faire avancer et peut être conclure les consultations relatives aux propositions de la Commission en vue d'une réduction des agents polluants, euro 5 et 6, pour les voitures. Or, pour le moment il y a un problème entre un commissaire allemand important et le commissaire chargé de l'environnement par rapport au progrès à faire dans ce domaine. La présidence compte-t-elle toujours conclure dans ce domaine le plus rapidement possible ?

Philippe Mahoux, co-président du comité d'avis fédéral chargé des questions européennes, se demande si l'Allemagne est devenue moins européenne que par le passé. La première manifestation de la présidence allemande a été la visite de la chancelière aux États-Unis. Cette démarche a suscité quelques inquiétudes auprès des compatriotes car l'Allemagne a toujours été perçue comme un des piliers de l'Europe.

En ce qui concerne la problématique du Moyen Orient le sentiment règne que l'inertie est payée par les habitants du Moyen Orient.

Le Darfour fait l'objet d'un large débat et d'une large mobilisation dans le parlement belge. Il y a une véritable urgence pour une initiative européenne, et plus particulièrement de la présidence, par rapport au drame qui s'y déroule.

2007 is het jaar van de gelijkheid van kansen voor mannen en vrouwen. Heeft het Duitse voorzitterschap precieze punten op dit vlak geagendeerd ? Want het Duitse beleid dat erop gericht is goede voorwaarden te scheppen voor de vrouwen zodat zij thuis kunnen blijven, spoort niet echt met het huidige Belgische beleid inzake gelijkheid van kansen.

De voorbereiding van een Afrikaanse top is zeer belangrijk. Wat zijn de kernpunten van die top ?

François Roelants du Vivier, voorzitter van de commissie voor de Buitenlandse Betrekkingen en de landsverdediging van de Senaat, feliciteert het Duitse voorzitterschap met de klemtoon dat het legt op verdraagzaamheid. Dat is een zeer belangrijke notie.

Wat het buitenlands beleid betreft, lijkt Kosovo geen deel uit te maken van het programma van het voorzitterschap. Nochtans zullen waarschijnlijk binnenkort op dat stuk beslissingen moeten worden genomen. Hoe ziet het voorzitterschap dat in relatie tot de Westelijke Balkan ? Een eventuele uitbreiding van Europa naar de Westelijke Balkan moet worden voorbereid. Hoe ziet het voorzitterschap dat gefaseerd verlopen, vertrekkende van de kwestie Kosovo ?

Het programma van het voorzitterschap kondigt een plan voor de vermindering van de CO₂-uitstoot door voertuigen aan. Het wil eveneens vooruitgang boeken inzake de publieke raadpleging over de voorstellen van de Commissie met het oog op de vermindering van vervuilende stoffen, euro 5 en 6, voor voertuigen, en die wellicht tot een goed einde brengen. Op dit ogenblik is er een probleem tussen een belangrijk Duits Commissielid en de commissaris voor Milieu in verband met de op dat gebied te boeken vooruitgang. Hoopt het voorzitterschap nog steeds dat knelpunt zo snel mogelijk weg te nemen ?

Philippe Mahoux, co-voorzitter van het Federaal Adviescomité voor de Europese Aangelegenheden, vraagt zich af of Duitsland minder Europees geworden is dan in het verleden. De eerste daad van het Duitse voorzitterschap was het bezoek van de kanselier aan de Verenigde Staten, een handelswijze die bezorgde reacties heeft uitgelokt bij de Europese medestanders, want Duitsland is steeds aanzien als één van de pijlers van Europa.

Betreffende het Midden-Oostenvraagstuk, heerst het gevoel dat de bevolking van het Midden-Oosten het gelag betaalt voor de inertie.

Darfoer wordt druk besproken in het Belgische parlement en er wordt sterk voor gemobiliseerd. Er moet dringend een Europees, meer bepaald een van het voorzitterschap afkomstig initiatief komen, als antwoord op het drama dat zich daar nu afspeelt.

IV. RÉPONSE DE S.E. CHRISTOPH JESSEN, AMBASSADEUR EXTRAORDINAIRE ET PLÉNIPOTENTIAIRE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FÉDÉRALE ALLEMANDE

Les inquiétudes formulées pendant cette réunion seront transmises à Berlin.

Par rapport à la question d'une Allemagne moins européenne il y a deux éléments à prendre en compte. Tout d'abord la raison d'état de l'Allemagne est l'Europe. L'Allemagne compte 80 millions d'habitants. De cette manière il est vrai que c'est un pays qui est difficilement adaptable dans l'ensemble européen, mais en même temps l'Allemagne est trop petite pour prétendre à l'hégémonie européenne ou dans le monde.

Ensuite, la France, la Belgique et tous les pays européens sont importants pour l'Allemagne. Elle l'a d'ailleurs prouvé par les négociations pour le calendrier 2007.

L'ordre des visites est souvent influencé par des raisons pratiques de transport et d'agendas.

La question de la séparation entre l'église et l'état est interprétée différemment en fonction des pays. La tradition est différente en Allemagne et il faudra gérer ce problème en Europe.

L'Afrique est très importante pour la présidence allemande. C'est un continent énorme, mais proche de nous.

Le président de la république d'Allemagne connaît très bien le sujet. Il a affirmé qu'il est nécessaire d'avoir quelques états qui peuvent donner un exemple en matière économique, de bonne gouvernance, etc. Notre aide et nos investissements sont nécessaires, mais il est également nécessaire que l'Afrique puisse s'aider elle-même. L'Afrique reste une priorité très importante, comme le processus de Barcelone également. Il y a des frustrations à ce niveau car les progrès sont très minimes. Comment se fait-il que nos voisins les plus proches sont réticents à cette réforme? Les réformes sont nécessaires. Ce processus doit être accéléré et facilité. L'adhésion à l'Union européenne est impossible, mais nous pouvons leur montrer le chemin et leur ouvrir des voies par une politique de proximité de voisinage.

Le Moyen Orient est une question compliquée. Personne, ni d'ailleurs la présidence allemande, n'a de panacée universelle pour ce problème. Il est important de pouvoir maintenir le dialogue avec les deux parties de façon durable. Il faut essayer de gagner et de conserver la confiance de ces deux parties, et c'est là que l'Europe peut jouer un rôle unique. Les travaux du Quartette sont importants, car c'est l'enceinte ou les

IV. ANTWOORD VAN ZIJNE EXCELLENTIE CHRISTOPH JESSEN, BUITENGEWOON EN GEVOLMACHTIGD AMBASSADEUR VAN DE BONDSREPUBLICK DUITSLAND

De ongerustheid die op deze vergadering naar voor is gekomen zal worden overgebracht in Berlijn.

In verband met de vraag of Duitsland minder Europees is geworden, zijn er twee elementen waarmee rekening moet worden gehouden. Ten eerste is Europa de staatsraison van Duitsland. Duitsland heeft 80 miljoen inwoners. Het is juist dat Duitsland het om die reden moeilijk heeft zich aan te passen binnen het Europese geheel, maar tegelijkertijd is Duitsland te klein om te dingen naar de heerschappij in Europa of in de wereld.

Vervolgens zijn Frankrijk, België en alle Europese landen belangrijk voor Duitsland. Het heeft dat trouwens bewezen met zijn onderhandelingen voor het tijdschema 2007.

De volgorde van de bezoeken wordt vaak ingegeven door praktische redenen in verband met vervoer en agenda.

Het vraagstuk van de scheiding tussen kerk en staat wordt naar gelang van het land verschillend geïnterpreteerd. In Duitsland is de traditie anders en men zal het probleem op Europees vlak moeten aanpakken.

Afrika is voor het Duitse voorzitterschap heel belangrijk. Het is een enorm werelddeel, dat echter niet zo ver van ons verwijderd is.

De president van de Bondsrepubliek Duitsland kent het onderwerp heel goed. Hij heeft bevestigd dat er enkele staten moeten zijn die het voorbeeld kunnen geven op economisch vlak, inzake behoorlijk bestuur enzovoort. Wij moeten Afrika helpen en daar investeren, maar Afrika moet zichzelf ook kunnen behelpen. Afrika blijft een heel belangrijke prioriteit, net zoals het proces van Barcelona. Er is op dat vlak frustratie, want de vooruitgang is minimaal. Hoe komt het dat onze naaste burens die hervorming argwanend bekijken? Hervorming is nodig. Dat proces moet worden versneld en vergemakkelijkt. Toetreding tot Europa is onmogelijk, maar we kunnen hun de weg tonen en die voorbereiden door een beleid van hecht nabuurschap.

Het Midden-Oosten vormt een ingewikkeld vraagstuk. Niemand — ook Duitsland niet — heeft daarvoor een wondermiddel. Het is belangrijk de dialoog met de beide partijen duurzaam in stand te kunnen houden. Men moet pogen het vertrouwen van die partijen te winnen en te bewaren, en daarin kan Europa een unieke rol spelen. De werkzaamheden van het Kwartet vormen een niet te onderschatten basis,

acteurs importants sont réunis, et aucun acteur ne peut jouer cavalier seul.

Il est vrai que tout le monde n'est pas représenté au G8 et que cela peut certainement déplaire à certaines personnes. Néanmoins, il faut utiliser toutes les opportunités de coordination. Pour les États Unis, par exemple, il est difficile d'établir un dialogue avec les Européens. Il vaut donc mieux dialoguer à cet endroit que ne pas dialoguer du tout. Ce que l'Allemagne fait au G8 est la même chose que ce qu'elle fait en Europe.

Concernant la gestion civile des crises, ce n'est pas tout à fait clair de quoi il s'agit, mais la question du Kosovo peut s'y rattacher, car il ne suffit pas d'en parler au niveau européen. La Russie et les États Unis sont des partenaires importants dans ces domaines.

Dans l'Union européenne il y a des vues divergentes par rapport au détachement d'une partie d'un pays. Il faut réussir à parler d'une seule voix avec la Russie, qui a formulé des craintes par rapport au Kosovo.

Par rapport à la constitution peu de choses peuvent être faites. Il y les élections présidentielles en France et les deux camps ont des vues différentes sur le sujet. La seule chose que la présidence peut faire pour l'instant est mettre au point une feuille de route réaliste. La question ne peut pas être brusquée.

En ce qui concerne la politique industrielle il est vrai que parler d'une seule voix est important, mais il faut également se poser la question de ce qui peut être accompli au niveau européen et au niveau national.

Il y effectivement un certain nombre de convergence pour l'Allemagne en ce moment. Le président du parlement européen est bien allemand, mais il n'agit pas en tant que tel. Il agit comme président du parlement européen. Il est surtout important que la chancière puisse compter sur un gouvernement stable, qu'elle puisse dialoguer avec Bush et Poutine et qu'elle bénéficie d'un large soutien au sein de l'Union européenne.

La population s'inquiète de l'élargissement. Les problèmes réels parviennent à être solutionnés plus facilement maintenant et l'élargissement offre des possibilités dans le domaine de la coopération. La coopération en matière de criminalité est facilitée, il y a des systèmes informatiques uniformes, on peut compter sur les autres états membres, etc. Il faut indiquer clairement à l'opinion publique que l'élargissement offre la possibilité de solutionner les problèmes plus facilement.

L'année 2007 est l'année de l'égalité des chances et cela ne se limite pas seulement à l'Europe.

want het is een forum dat de hoofdactoren samenbrengt en op eigen houtje te werk gaan heeft geen zin.

Het is waar dat niet iedereen op de G8 is vertegenwoordigd en sommigen zullen dat niet graag horen. Toch moeten alle kansen op coördinatie worden benut. Voor de VS is het bijvoorbeeld moeilijk met de Europeanen een dialoog aan te gaan. Het is dus beter op die ontmoetingen gesprekken te voeren dan helemaal niet. Wat Duitsland op de G8 doet, is hetzelfde als wat het in Europa doet.

Wat de niet-militaire crisisbeheersing betreft, is het niet helemaal duidelijk waar het over gaat, maar de kwestie Kosovo kan daaraan worden gekoppeld, want het volstaat niet er binnen Europa over te praten. Rusland en de VS zijn in die aangelegenheden belangrijke partners.

Er zijn in de Europese Unie uiteenlopende visies op de afscheiding van een deel van een land. Men moet ertoe komen één stem te laten klinken in de gesprekken met Rusland, dat ten aanzien van Kosovo zijn vrees heeft geuit.

In verband met de Grondwet valt er weinig te doen. In Frankrijk zijn er presidentsverkiezingen en beide kampen hebben een verschillende visie. Het enige wat het Duitse voorzitterschap kan doen is een realistisch stappenplan opstellen. De zaak mag niet worden geforceerd.

Omtrent het industrieel beleid is het waar dat men uit één mond moet spreken, maar men moet zich ook de vraag stellen wat op Europees én op nationaal niveau kan worden gedaan.

Wat Duitsland betreft, is er thans inderdaad een zekere samenloop. De voorzitter van het Europees Parlement is een Duitser, maar dat speelt op zich niet. Hij handelt als voorzitter van een Europese instelling. Het is vooral belangrijk dat de kanselier op een stabiele regering kan rekenen, dat zij met Bush en Poetin gesprekken kan voeren en dat zij brede steun in de Europese Unie geniet.

De bevolking maakt zich zorgen over de uitbreiding. Het is nu makkelijker om de echte problemen op te lossen en de uitbreiding biedt mogelijkheden op het vlak van de samenwerking. De gezamenlijke aanpak van de criminaliteit gaat erop vooruit: er zijn uniforme informaticasystemen, men kan op andere lidstaten rekenen enzovoort. Men moet de publieke opinie duidelijk maken dat er dank zij de uitbreiding minder hinderpalen zijn bij het zoeken naar oplossingen.

2007 is het jaar van de gelijke kansen en dat blijft niet louter tot Europa beperkt.

Une étude sera réalisée sur la situation en France où plus de femmes travaillent, mais où il y a également plus d'enfants.

La réduction de CO₂ par les voitures est un beau thème pour la présidence allemande. Il y a un débat important à ce sujet. Le ministre allemand de l'environnement est très enthousiaste, mais son collègue à l'économie l'est beaucoup moins. L'industrie automobile n'est pas la même dans tous les pays européens. L'Allemagne produit surtout des voitures dans les segments supérieurs, avec des moteurs plus importants et qui émettent donc plus de CO₂. Il faudra discuter de ce problème au sein des pays, mais également au niveau européen.

Le Darfour est une vaste étendue et il est pour l'instant au cœur de l'attention internationale. Il est difficile d'accorder une aide et les Africains ont un grand rôle à jouer dans ce conflit. Le rôle principal de l'Union européenne sera de les soutenir dans leurs actions.

V. CONCLUSIONS DE PHILLIPE MAHOX, CO-PRÉSIDENT DU COMITÉ D'AVIS FÉDÉRAL CHARGÉ DES QUESTIONS EUROPÉENNES

La présidence allemande est perçue comme un moment de relance de l'Europe, car il y a une stagnation pour l'instant. Une impulsion importante est nécessaire et beaucoup de gens comptent sur l'Allemagne pour cela. En ce qui concerne la construction de l'Europe, l'Allemagne pourra compter sur le soutien de la Belgique.

Les présidents-rapporteurs,

Herman DE CROO (Ch).
Philippe MAHOX (S).

Er zal een studie worden gemaakt over de situatie in Frankrijk, waar er meer vrouwen werken, maar waar er ook meer kinderen zijn.

De vermindering van de CO₂-uitstoot door auto's is een mooi thema voor het Duitse voorzitterschap. Er is daaromtrent een belangrijk debat aan de gang. De Duitse minister van leefmilieu is heel enthousiast, maar zijn collega van economie is dat heel wat minder. De auto-industrie is niet in elk Europees land dezelfde. Duitsland produceert vooral wagens van hogere categorieën, met krachtiger motoren, die dus meer CO₂ produceren. Men zal daarover in elk land afzonderlijk, maar ook op Europees vlak moeten praten.

Darfoer is een uitgestrekt gebied en het staat momenteel in het middelpunt van de internationale belangstelling. Hulpverlening is moeilijk en de Afrikanen hebben in dat conflict een grote rol te spelen. De voornaamste rol van de Europese Unie zal zijn die acties te ondersteunen

V. BESLUITEN VAN DE HEER PHILLIPE MAHOX, CO-VOORZITTER VAN HET FEDERAAL ADVIESCOMITÉ VOOR DE EUROPESE AANGELEGENHEDEN

Het Duitse voorzitterschap wordt aangevoeld als een moment voor een Europese relance, want momenteel trappelen wij ter plaatse. Er is een sterke impuls nodig en velen rekenen daarvoor op Duitsland. Wat de opbouw van Europa betreft: Duitsland kan op de steun van België rekenen.

De voorzitters-rapporteurs,

Herman DE CROO (K).
Philippe MAHOX (S).

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Europe — succeeding together»

Presidency Programme

1 January to 30 June 2007

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— Strengthening civil rights

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— Strengthening the justice system and practical cooperation 20 — Active consumer protection policy

IV. Shaping common foreign and security policy, external economic policy and 20 development policy

- Enlarging the EU and expanding the European area of security and 21 stability
- Multilateral engagement, active crisis management and non-proliferation
- Strengthening the CFSP and the ESDP
- Strategic partnerships and an active external economic policy
- Strengthening trade and Europe's international competitiveness
- Promoting sustainable development

Appendix : Conference calendar

The programme for the German EU Presidency is based on the 18-month programme drawn up by the three Presidencies Germany, Portugal and Slovenia. It builds on the work of the Finnish Presidency and takes account of the Commission's strategic work programme for 2007.

Introduction

Germany will assume the EU Presidency as Europe is preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the EEC. A review of the past 50 years reveals an unprecedented success story. With the accession of Bulgaria and Romania on 1 January 2007, the European Economic Community, established on 25 March 1957, will become a Union of 27 Member States, which, following the painful experiences of two World Wars and the ensuing division, now unites the European continent in peace and guarantees a level of prosperity and stability previously unknown in the history of this continent. With the Internal Market, a common currency and a common area of freedom, security and justice, the Member States have created a unique integration area. In its external relations the Union has emerged as a global trading power and an influential factor in international politics. European integration is the foundation of our common future, and its dynamic development must continue.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, the EU Heads of State and Government, as well as the Presidents of the European Commission and the European Parliament, will gather for a ceremony in Berlin. They will issue a joint declaration calling to mind Europe's values and ambitions, and confirm their shared commitment to resolving the tasks ahead.

The advance of globalization, while offering a wealth of opportunities, nonetheless raises questions concerning the viability and competitiveness of the European economic and social model. In numerous fields, including global trade, environmental protection and internal and external security, the individual Member States will be unable to defend their own interests adequately in tomorrow's world.

Europe therefore has to prove that it is capable of shaping both its internal and its external policy in accordance with its values in a globalized world. The European Union intends to incorporate its vision of a sustainable, efficient and just economic and social order into the process of shaping globalization and thus preserve the European way of life. Today more than ever before, Europe can only be strong enough to hold its own on the international stage if it presents a united front. Only together can Europe succeed.

During its Presidency Germany intends to do its part to ensure that the European Union can successfully rise to the internal and external challenges it faces. Its priorities will include continuation of the constitutional process, the viability of the European economic and social model, the area of freedom, security and justice and expansion of the European area of security and stability. The European Council meetings (summits) will focus on shaping Europe's economic and social future (8 and 9 March) and on the future of the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe (21 and 22 June).

The European Constitutional Treaty provides for the internal reforms needed to ensure the viability of the enlarged European Union. The German Presidency will hold in-depth consultations with all EU partners and institutions and make a concerted effort to drive forward the EU reform process in line with the decisions taken at European level.

Europe will only be able to make the most of its influence if it is economically strong and dynamic. Germany advocates an economic order which is competitive while also upholding social and environmental responsibility. The German Presidency will appeal for the adoption of a balanced package of measures to promote competitiveness, growth and employment as well as social cohesion and a clean environment.

The Presidency will work to establish a viable Internal Market whose integrating power will have a positive impact on development throughout Europe. It will give further momentum to the process of achieving better regulation with the aim of boosting the competitiveness of European enterprises. It will also highlight the social dimension of European policy and strengthen the role of research, innovation and knowledge as catalysts for growth and employment.

Climate protection must be intensified worldwide to prevent economic, social and environmental upheavals. The EU must play a pioneering role at global level in combating climate change. The German Presidency will therefore press for a common EU position on international climate protection after 2012. The development of a negotiation package with proposals for emission reduction goals and ways to involve further major greenhouse gas emitters is particularly important in this context. This will enable the Union to convince other states of the necessity of cutting climate-damaging greenhouse gas emissions.

A secure, economically viable and environmentally friendly energy supply is a crucial factor for Europe's future development. Completing the Internal Market for electricity and gas, boosting energy efficiency, expanding renewable energies, encouraging closer cooperation with producer, transit and consumer countries and formulating a development-oriented energy policy will be key priorities of the German Presidency. The Presidency hopes that an ambitious Energy Action Plan can be adopted at the European Council meeting in March 2007.

The German Presidency wants to make substantial progress in fighting international terrorism and cross-border crime, while preserving civil liberties.

In the field of external relations the primary goal is to extend the European area of security and stability. As well as stabilizing the Western Balkans and drawing the region closer to the EU, the Presidency will focus on strengthening and developing the European Neighbourhood Policy and extending relations with Russia and Central Asia. It will also intensify cooperation with the countries in the Middle East.

I. A functioning Community — further developing the EU

The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe envisages significant progress towards a value-oriented and socially just Europe, more civil rights, increased cooperation in the areas of justice and home affairs, clearer division of responsibilities between the Union and the Member States, greater national parliamentary participation and a stronger foreign and security policy. It makes the European Union more democratic, efficient and transparent and gives it more scope to act.

In view of the fact that the ratification process for the Constitutional Treaty has faltered, at the European Council meeting on 15 and 16 June 2006 the German Presidency was given the task of holding in-depth consultations with the EU Member States in the first half of 2007 and then to submit a report to the Council. The report should explore possible future developments and serve as a basis for decisions on how to continue the EU reform process.

II. Shaping Europe's economic, social and environmental future

To preserve growth and employment in Europe in the long term, and in view of advancing globalization, Europe must regain its economic momentum. To safeguard our economic future and the foundation of our social systems we must mobilize existing resources, systematically boost growth and employment and promote a pro-innovation «Europe of knowledge» by stepping up investment in education and research.

The European Union Member States are rising to this challenge with the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs. Here it is important to find the right balance between measures to boost competitiveness, growth and employment, and measures to promote social cohesion and a clean environment. The onus is on the Member States to show determination in implementing the national reform programmes elaborated on the basis of the Lisbon Strategy. The EU must take the steps needed to create a genuine European added value.

1. Shaping Europe's economic future

— Completing the Internal Market and strengthening the competitiveness of European enterprises

Europe is the largest internal market in the world in terms of economic strength. The potential of this market must be exploited to boost growth and create new jobs. To this end the German Presidency will pursue the following agenda:

The first priority will be to take steps to strengthen Europe on the global stage within the framework of the new Internal Market Strategy, in consultation with the Commission. This requires us to foster innovative potential and push forward market opening in growth industries. Specifically, the Presidency aims to move closer to fully liberalizing the European market for postal services and revising the legal framework for telecommunications, as well as to establish an efficient and competitive information society (i2010). Germany will push for the adoption of the Roaming Regulation to reduce the cost of mobile phone use abroad for calls throughout Europe. The Presidency will also work to achieve a strong and efficient legal protection system for the awarding of public contracts to advance the development of norms and standards for products and services as well as to facilitate the free movement of goods through the principle of mutual recognition. It intends to drive forward the harmonization of company law and the

implementation of the Action Plan on Financial Services by increasing convergence in supervisory practices, among other things. Work on a modernized Customs Code and on the E-Customs initiative to create a standardized electronic environment for EU customs administrations and trade is to continue. At the same time, the Presidency will strive to improve the European patent system, particularly by making progress with the uniform patent dispute resolution system called for by the European business community.

Second, framework conditions are to be improved to strengthen the competitiveness of the industrial sector, the service industry and especially small and medium-sized enterprises. On the basis of the Commission's work programme on industrial policy the German Presidency will drive forward the implementation of horizontal and sectoral initiatives in the Council bodies and other fora. One focal area is the automobile industry, on which the Commission has issued a Communication taking account of the High-Level Group's sector-specific recommendations (CARS 21).

In addition, the German Presidency will work with the Commission to formulate precise recommendations for action and initiatives to improve the competitiveness of other sectors such as the textile and clothing, engineering, ceramics and biotechnology industries. The interaction between competitiveness, energy and environmental policy is also to be examined in this connection. To this end the Commission has launched a High-Level Group on Competitiveness, Energy and the Environment.

Implementation of the 7th Framework Programme for Research and the new Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) will ensure from the outset that small and medium-sized enterprises reap tangible benefit from the support measures. The German Presidency intends to promote innovation within small and medium-sized enterprises by further developing the new financing tools and stimulating public demand for innovative products and services. It will devote particular attention to the challenges facing craft-based trades. Germany will hold a ministerial conference to underline the significance of tourism as a growth industry.

Third, the Presidency will continue the discussion on the external dimension of the Union's competitiveness on the basis of the Commission Communication and drive forward the implementation of individual measures in key areas. Most of these are initiatives in the field of multilateral and bilateral trade relations, as well as measures to strengthen trade protection instruments, safeguard Europe's raw material supply sources and improve coordination of internal and external EU policies (*cf.* also Chapter IV).

Last but not least Germany believes that a single tax base for company taxation would go a long way towards improving the competitive conditions for European enterprises. This project is to gain further ground during the German Presidency so that the Commission can submit its legislative proposal in 2008, as envisaged.

— Growth and stability-oriented financial and economic policy

The enlarged EU needs streamlined and targeted coordination processes for financial and economic policy. They must be transparent and comprehensible to the public and help raise awareness of the need for ongoing economic policy reform. The German Presidency intends to work to achieve effective coordination of financial and economic policy in line with the planned revision of economic policy principles. Country-specific recommendations must be designed with the aim of ensuring dynamic and stable economic development and sustainable public finances in all Member States as well as a high level of coherency in the economic and monetary union.

Slovenia will be the next Member State to introduce the euro, at the beginning of 2007. The German Presidency will support other Member States in their preparations for the introduction of the euro, which requires a high degree of sustainable convergence. It will ensure that thorough, rapid convergence examinations are conducted on the basis of the criteria set down in the EC Treaty.

The quality of public finances is becoming increasingly significant in view of the challenges of demographic development and globalization. The German Presidency will intensify the exchange of information and experiences to improve the structure and viability of public budgets. Discussions will focus on the importance of institutional framework conditions for the quality of public finances and the improvement of effectiveness and efficiency in the utilization of public funds.

Success in tackling tax fraud is a key factor in ensuring the sustainability of public budgets. Securing a fair levying of VAT and guaranteeing a steady source of tax revenue will therefore be important issues for the German Presidency.

— Better regulation

Better regulation is a key element in improving the framework conditions for European enterprises and reducing unnecessary administrative burdens. The German Presidency will therefore actively support the Commission's work in this area.

In cooperation with the Portuguese and Slovenian Presidencies, Germany will continue the Better Regulation in Europe initiative run by the previous Presidencies since 2004. A central issue will be reducing the administrative burden imposed by existing legislation. Germany wants to see the introduction of concrete reduction targets such as are already in place in the Netherlands, Denmark and the United Kingdom. To this end a standardized procedure to measure administrative burdens is to be applied at EU level. The Presidency will drive forward the process of simplifying current legislation as a *priority* task of all EU institutions, paying particular attention to reducing existing administrative costs. Finally, comprehensive impact assessments for all new projects will be a key element of the German action plan. These should prevent unnecessary burdens on companies and take account of social impact and environmental protection in the regulation process.

— Guaranteeing a secure, environmentally sound and competitive energy supply

A secure, environmentally friendly and competitive energy supply is crucial if Europe is to experience positive economic development. Yet guaranteeing such a supply is becoming increasingly difficult due to the finite nature of fossil fuels, combined with growing international demand, persistently high oil and gas prices, mounting instability in certain regions of the world and the effects of climate change. In view of these challenges, adoption of the European action plan on energy policy will be a priority of the European Council in spring 2007.

Completion of the Internal Market for gas and electricity by 1 July 2007 is an important goal of European energy policy. The German Presidency will work to obtain the complete opening of the markets for electricity and natural gas on the basis of blanket application of European legal provisions in all EU Member States. Given the high electricity and gas prices, it is vital that competition in Europe increases. In early 2007 the European Commission's report on implementation of the Second Internal Market Package and its final report on the sector inquiry will reveal where problems still exist, where the Member States need to do their homework, and where additional guidelines might be necessary.

In achieving our trio of goals, namely security of supply, efficiency and environmental compatibility, we must reduce the need for energy imports by boosting energy efficiency, saving energy and making greater use of renewable energies (also in the field of heating/cooling), for example, by increasingly tapping the potential offered by biomass and biofuels. All EU Member States are called to meet the goals set by 2010. Germany will promote the development of clear medium and long-term goals for renewable energies.

Efforts to improve energy efficiency will focus on the building sector as a major energy consumer, as well as on the product sector. The German Presidency will also be involved in the groundwork for a long-term and coherent EU fuel strategy and push ahead with proposals on innovative drives. A priority in this context is to safeguard Europe's technological leadership in this field. The 7 Research Framework Programme is designed to promote research and innovation in the energy sector.

Outside its borders the EU must put the energy policy partnership with key producer, transit and consumer countries on a solid and reliable footing by conducting intensive dialogue as part of a cooperative approach and involving the Member States more closely. Extending the energy dialogue with Russia and the United States in particular will play a key role. Energy issues will also receive greater priority within the European Neighbourhood Policy. In addition, the German Presidency will put special emphasis on formulating a development-oriented EU energy policy and devote particular attention to the issues of renewable energies and energy efficiency in cooperation with newly industrialized and developing countries. The EU will also push these issues at the 15th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development in May 2007.

— Promoting environmental technologies

The development of resource-saving and energy-efficient technologies bolsters competitiveness. Environmental technologies are an important catalyst for innovation and employment. The German Presidency plans to launch an initiative in this area, the subject of which will form the main focus of an environment ministers » meeting.

— Promoting research and development

Considerable investment in education, research and development is vital for prosperity and economic growth. In view of this, the EU has decided that by 2010, a minimum of 3 % of GNP should be channelled into research and development.

The German Presidency intends to follow in the footsteps of the Finnish Presidency and likewise prioritize the promotion of innovations in the private and public sectors, taking into account the entire spectrum of the value-added chain, from promoting basic research to developing new products and services. The launch of the 7th Research Framework Programme and the European Research Council (ERC) in early 2007 will ensure that this starts on the right note.

In addition to the EU Research Framework Programme, other EU financing instruments must be used to boost investment in research and development. For example, Structural Fund resources are also to be used to integrate the new Member States more firmly into the

European Research Area to exploit this tool's potential to complement the EU Research Framework Programme, which is dedicated to the principle of excellence. The German Presidency will support the Commission in drafting guidelines to give the new Member States practical assistance with issues related to financing research infrastructures by combining Structural Fund resources with funds from the 7th Research Framework Programme. The aim is to establish greater transparency and make application of the complicated regulations simpler and more effective.

Technological and applied research must be strengthened if Europe is to become more innovative. This requires us to combine the existing potential in universities, other research institutions and enterprises more effectively.

Improvement in the use of research findings and prevention of an unchecked drain on knowhow are both becoming increasingly crucial issues in the face of global competition. The German Presidency plans to launch an initiative for a charter on the handling of intellectual property at public research institutions and universities and thus help improve cooperation between these institutions and the business sector.

At the joint EU-ESA Space Council meeting scheduled during the German Presidency, the keystone for a European Space Programme is to be laid, taking account of the shift in the space industry towards a more user-oriented approach and setting goals and priorities based on EU and ESA space activities.

— Strengthening European cooperation in education

In the sphere of education Europe can be proud of its centuries-old tradition of top-level achievement. Nonetheless, in view of outstanding performance levels in other regions of the world such as North America and Asia, Europeans must focus more strongly on networking and pooling their skills. Education is crucial to social cohesion in Europe and a central catalyst for European integration. The creation of a Europe of knowledge remains our common goal.

The German Presidency will strive for the systematic implementation of the Education and Training 2010 Work Programme established by the education ministers. Germany intends to introduce a European Qualifications Framework to facilitate comparison of vocational skills and thus increase mobility within Europe. Work on adult education and on a system of indicators for the education sector and education research is also to be driven forward. Germany will join forces with the Commission to organize the Launch Conference for the Programme for Lifelong Learning.

In the context of the Bologna process a ministerial conference will perform a critical appraisal of the recognition of final qualifications, course structures and quality assurance and decide what the next steps should be. Germany will transform the decisions on vocational training taken during the Finnish Presidency in the course of the Bruges-Copenhagen process into concrete measures.

— Modern European transport policy

An efficient, sustainable and secure transport system is needed to improve competitiveness and boost growth. The field of logistics, a central component in intelligent control of modern transport processes, has particular strategic significance for Europe's ability to compete in the international arena. Building on the work of the Finnish Presidency, the German Presidency will aim for swift adoption of the European freight logistics action plan.

In the area of air transport, Germany's goal is to bolster the international competitiveness of the European aviation industry. Germany is committed to achieving substantial results from the ongoing air transport negotiations with the United States. The Presidency is striving to obtain a decision on establishing the joint undertaking SESAR, which is to be used to build a competitive European flight management system. The first phase of expansion of the remit of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) is also to be finalized in order to further improve the safety of aviation operations.

In order to tap the potential of the railway as a competitive alternative within an efficient transport system, the current barriers and obstacles to access in Europe's rail system must be eliminated. The Presidency therefore intends to advance the legislative process to complete the Single European Railway Area and, specifically, to conclude the consultations on the Third Railway Package. Germany plans to bring the discussions on the regulation on public passenger services to a close.

Germany also intends to continue to improve safety on Europe's roads. It will focus particularly on moving forward with the e-Safety initiative, which brings together safety-related innovations in intelligent vehicles.

The Presidency is also called upon to take forward work on the maritime transport safety proposals submitted by the Commission. In this area it plans to concentrate on a few selected topics.

Germany will push for the concrete promotion of innovations and future technologies in the transport sector, particularly in connection with the further development of the satellite navigation system Galileo as the most significant European technology project of the present. Here the emphasis will be on carrying forward the concession negotiations with the concessionaire and identifying additional areas of application.

In the case of GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security), another significant technological project which makes use of satellite, air and ground-based technologies, the Presidency will strive for swift clarification of management structures and financing issues.

— Integrated maritime policy

The EU's future maritime policy must be geared towards promoting growth and employment in the maritime sector in the spirit of the Lisbon Strategy, while protecting the marine environment. This requires an integrated maritime policy which covers all sea-based economic activities (e.g. port industries, shipbuilding and marine technology, use of marine resources, fisheries, ocean mining, marine research, sea transport, tourism). The Presidency will organize a high-level conference to accompany the Commission's one-year consultation process.

— Modern cultural and media policy

Cultural and media policy promote Europe's cultural identity and highlight the continent's diversity. Almost seven million people currently work in Europe's cultural and media landscape, and the trend is increasing. The German Presidency will call for the elaboration of joint recommendations on how to tap the growth and employment potential of the cultural sector more effectively. Priority projects in the cultural sphere are to be collected in a multi-annual work plan.

The Presidency will continue work on the revision of the Television Without Frontiers Directive to adapt the legal framework for television services to technological developments, particularly those involving the Internet.

— Efficient, citizen-oriented administration

A good public administration must be capable of providing high-quality services. Germany intends to encourage more intensive use of the opportunities provided by e-government and set transnational standards. The Presidency aims to expand the European Public administration Network (EPAN) into a central forum for European social dialogue between civil service employers and employees. Priorities of the work are to include examination of the impact of demographic change on the civil service, the sharing of experiences on performance and mobility as well as the elaboration of guidelines to gauge customer satisfaction.

2. *Safeguarding employment and shaping Europe's social future*

Europe represents more than economic efficiency and a market economy. European integration also has a social dimension, which for many people is embodied by the EU's role in creating jobs and fighting unemployment. In addition, the EU must do its part in safeguarding and developing the European way of life and identity and the values of a social order in the age of globalization and rapid demographic change. Intensifying their cooperation is the primary way in which the Member States and the EU must demonstrate their commitment to a social Europe. This is crucial if Europe's citizens are to accept the idea of integration.

— Further developing the European Social Model

The European Social Agenda underlines the fact that social, employment and economic policy do not have to compete with each other but are mutually complementary. The Agenda is designed to generate confidence in the face of change. Its goal is to combine the flexibility required for the labour market with social protection and social security (« flexicurity »). One focus of the exchange of experiences between the Member States should be on equal opportunities in the labour market.

The debate on the European Social Model has to be fleshed out with concrete proposals. A ministerial conference on the future of the Model will provide a platform to illustrate the positive effects of interaction

between the three policy areas of economy, employment and social affairs through concrete examples of successful dovetailing.

In future, plans for European legislation should receive a greater public profile and be examined with regard to their social impact. The Presidency will devote particular attention to this issue.

To strengthen employee mobility Germany will focus on continuing work on the pensions portability directive while taking care to protect the long tradition and evolution of national occupational pension systems.

We will introduce and continue the systematic evaluation of European directives on safety at work in cooperation with our European partners. It must be clarified whether the goals of individual regulations have been wisely chosen, whether the tools employed in the regulations are suitable for attaining the positive impact desired in occupational practice and what steps, if any, must be taken to improve them. The Presidency will continue work on the Community strategy on health and safety at work.

— Opportunities and challenges of demographic change

Over the coming decades demographic change will pose complex challenges to the societies of the EU Member States. On the one hand, growing life expectancy among the population harbours potential for the state, society and families. On the other hand, the proportion of working people in the population as a whole will fall. Fewer children and young people could reduce prosperity, decrease momentum, detract from innovation and lower the quality of life.

Against this backdrop, the management of demographic change is a key issue for our societies. At EU level ideas on how to make more effective use of the potential and experience of the older generation to benefit the economy and society and how to increase the involvement of older workers in the workforce in the long term should be shared more actively. Germany intends to continue the discussion on the economic potential of older people at European level.

In view of the high levels of unemployment among young people in many parts of Europe, their integration into the labour market is a top priority. Together with its European partners, the German Presidency will implement the European Pact for Youth and the European Youth in Action Programme, which offer a comprehensive framework for the promotion of young people outside school. The Presidency aims to reach concrete decisions on better social integration particularly for disadvantaged young people.

A successful and sustainable family policy is vital if the growing decline in the birthrate prevalent in many EU Member States is to be reversed. The Presidency therefore plans to encourage the exchange of experiences on sustainable family policy at European level and aims to adopt a European Alliance for Families.

— Strengthening cities, regions and rural areas

Many regions in Europe face similar issues connected with spatial and urban development. Integrated urban development and greater coordination of spatial and urban development policy help shape demographic change in the long term as well as fostering a growth-oriented regional policy. The Presidency will facilitate exchange by means of an informal ministerial meeting, one of the goals of which will be to identify ways to improve the situation in disadvantaged urban districts and strengthen the local economy in these areas.

One of the objectives of this meeting is the adoption of a Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities featuring guidelines for integrated sustainable urban development as well as a Territorial Agenda of the EU containing guidelines for spatial development with the aim of strengthening Europe's competitiveness and making better use of the diversity of the regions. The Presidency is thus building on the European Council decisions in the field of sustainable development and applying them specifically to the development of urban districts, cities and regions.

Demographic change also affects rural areas to a considerable degree. The shift in the focus of agricultural policy takes account of the greater level of responsibility for regional development. The Presidency intends to provide impetus for EU-level discussions extending beyond the field of agriculture at the informal meeting of agriculture ministers and other conferences in order to drive forward the development of concepts and tools for rural areas.

— Promoting equal opportunities and participation in the labour market

During the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (2007), particular attention will be given to steps to guarantee equal opportunities to all population groups. The German Presidency will continue to support the project to create a European equality institute. The Roadmap for equality between women and

men 2006-2010 is to be implemented at European and national level, and a long-term approach is to be adopted to improve the compatibility of family and career. Discussion of measures to promote equal opportunities for men and women in employment and raising families as well as the integration and training for women from immigrant families is scheduled in the context of an informal ministerial meeting. In implementing the European Employment Strategy the Presidency will focus particularly on equal employment opportunities for disadvantaged population groups.

— Innovative and preventive health policy

The issue of health continues to gain significance in view of demographic change. From an international perspective, the health sector has considerable growth potential. For this reason favourable framework conditions for innovation continue to enjoy a high priority in the field of health. The Presidency will drive forward and possibly conclude work on the draft regulation on advanced therapies and the revision of the medical devices directive.

Prevention and promotion of a healthy lifestyle are the key to improving people's health and reducing illness-related costs in the health sector. In view of the current worrying increase in the number of new HIV infections, the Presidency will focus especially on prevention. A ministerial conference will examine ways to involve and mobilize civil society more

effectively in HIV/AIDS prevention measures. In addition, it will conduct a more in-depth analysis of preventive health using exercise and diet-related examples.

The Community framework for reliable, high-quality healthcare services which the Commission has announced for 2007 will play a key role in the future development of Europe's healthcare systems. The goal of the Presidency is to establish greater legal certainty in the interpretation and application of internal market regulations in the area of health policy.

3. Safeguarding Europe's natural environment

— Promoting environmental and climate protection

The EU will play a leading role in international efforts to combat environmental pollution and climate change. The Presidency will drive forward international climate protection under the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol and on the basis of the agreed two-degree goal after 2012 to tackle climate change effectively as well as to create long-term planning security for investment in innovative, energy-saving technologies. The development of a negotiation package containing proposals on emission reduction targets and options for incorporating more major greenhouse gas emitters as well as the implementation and advancement of emissions trading are particularly important in this context. The Presidency will drive forward Council discussions on the experiences made with emissions trading to date and introduce the Commission proposal envisaged for the end of 2006 on integrating air transport into the Council's work on this topic.

Germany will give priority to the issue of sustainable and environmentally safe mobility. In this connection it plans to take forward or conclude the consultations on the Commission proposals to reduce exhaust emissions (EURO 5 and 6 for cars, EURO VI for heavy-duty vehicles). A further important priority is the development of measures to reduce CO₂ emissions from cars and measures involving environmentally safer fuels.

The Presidency will intensify the consultations on soil protection and waste management and intends to finalize the proposal for a Waste Framework Directive. The German Presidency plans to bring to an end the deliberations on the Directive on priority hazardous substances in surface waters and will strive to achieve safer, more efficient chemicals management both at EU level and globally.

One particular concern is the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity, which is now declining at an alarming rate. In order to at least slow down this trend by 2010, more concerted efforts are necessary in areas such as protection of the rainforests, sustainable forestry, changes in certain fishing practices, creation of a global nature reserve network, the identification of deep sea conservation areas and the financing of nature conservation worldwide. The EU's leading role in this area is to be reinforced through substantial contributions to the preparations for the 9th Conference of States Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Germany in 2008.

— Modern, competitive and sustainable agricultural and fisheries policy

For people involved in agriculture and those who live in the rural areas of the European Union, it is vital that the Common Agricultural Policy be reliable, practice-oriented and citizen-friendly. With this in mind, EU law and the control regulations in this area are to be simplified and transparency increased. Germany also intends to merge the existing 21 Common Market Organizations into one standardized organization and drive forward reform of the CMOs for wine and for fruit and vegetables.

Sustainable development of rural areas requires additional attention if they are to experience a surge of progress following the concentration and realignment of support measures. Further diversification is to help secure and create jobs in rural areas. This includes tapping the potential of innovations, particularly in the use of non-food crops as raw materials and fuel.

Food safety and healthy nutrition are two of the Presidency's priorities. Consumers in Europe rightly expect a high level of protection, for example with regard to protection against BSE, implementation of the Action Plan on Animal Welfare and the roadmap for an animal health strategy 2007-2013. In the field of plant protection and plant health, too, the Presidency supports further harmonization while maintaining the same high level of protection.

With the goal of making management of fisheries resources more sustainable, multi-annual management plans are to be adopted and fisheries management modernized.

III. An area of freedom, security and justice

Creating an area of freedom, security and justice remains a central task for European policymakers. Europe's citizens expect the EU to take decisive action to preserve their freedom and security, particularly in the fight against terrorism and organized crime. Only through intensive police and judicial cooperation between the Member States can public safety in a space without internal borders still be guaranteed in the future. The goal is to improve security notwithstanding open internal borders, as well as to strengthen civil rights and generate more legal certainty.

Another central challenge is illegal migration. The EU must pay equal attention to the south, the southeast and the east, and develop innovative concepts which combine preventive cooperation with countries of origin and transit with increased Community development assistance. At the same time, protection of the Union's external borders must be improved. A key tool in fighting illegal migration and international terrorism will be the European Visa Information System (VIS).

Integration of immigrants is one of the great political and social challenges in Europe. Successful integration of immigrants benefits our societies and fosters cohesion. Intercultural and/or interfaith dialogue is not only a crucial aspect of a successful integration policy, but also serves to prevent and quell anti-Semitism, extremism and xenophobia.

If a common European area of justice cannot be achieved in the field of civil and criminal law, the European Internal Market will remain incomplete. The increase in the movement of persons and the growth in cross-border economic activity require simple and non-discriminatory access to justice. Mutual recognition of court orders protects citizens from

cross-border legal problems. However, it also presupposes confidence in other Member States' legal systems, which in turn depends on the safeguarding of civil rights.

1. Strengthening security, controlling migration and promoting integration

— Close police cooperation and a united front in the fight against terrorism

International terrorism, organized crime and drug and human trafficking must be tackled with intensive cross-border police cooperation in an area of freedom, security and justice. One priority of the Presidency is to strengthen Europol. This involves improving practical cooperation and, building on this, elaborating possibilities for developing the legal framework and extending the scope of the organization's responsibility.

Furthermore, the Presidency attaches great importance to cooperation between the national police forces. This includes specifically the transfer of executive powers to police officers from other Member States and the right of hot pursuit within the Schengen area. Germany will work to incorporate into the EU framework the Treaty of Prüm, which was signed on 27 May 2005 by seven Member States and focuses on intensifying cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism, international crime and illegal migration (primarily access to DNA, fingerprint and vehicle databases).

It is vital that Member States' police and security authorities have access to comprehensive and up-to-the-minute information. The European information network is to be expanded with this in mind. All police and security authorities involved in fighting terrorism and serious international crime should have access to EU information systems (SIS, VIS, EURODAC, CIS) to the extent that their tasks require it. National databases should be made available to all Member States as well as Europol and Eurojust as necessary.

To fight terrorist threats the Presidency will press for a form of cooperation between all security authorities involved in Internet surveillance in the Member States, in consultation with Europol. In addition, Germany will support the European Commission in its efforts to clamp down harder on the distribution of bomb-building instructions via the Internet.

— Coherent asylum and migration policy

The German Presidency intends to assist the European Commission in developing the Visa Information System (VIS) and turning it into an important cooperative tool in combating illegal migration and visa abuse. The VIS should also be an asset in fighting international terrorism. Furthermore, Germany will drive forward harmonization in the use of biometric data for visas as well as for residence permits, passports and ID cards.

The Presidency intends to push for expansion of the common readmission policy and particularly for the conclusion of relevant agreements. It also plans to extend practical cooperation on the repatriation of third-country nationals.

The Presidency will focus intensively on the global approach to migration issues. This requires a coherent policy which includes analysis of causes of flight, development and humanitarian cooperation, poverty eradication measures and the readmission obligations of countries of origin and transit. Illegal migration and its related problems, such as crimes involving clandestine immigration networks and moonlighting, must be tackled. The EU is to continue dialogue with the countries of origin and transit and intensify talks particularly with its eastern and southeastern neighbours. At the same time, Germany will seek to improve practical cooperation between the Member States » asylum authorities to help standardize the application of European refugee law.

The Presidency will continue the discussion on Community-wide regulations in the field of legal migration prompted by the Commission Communication on a strategy for this area. The planned directive for highly qualified personnel will play a key role in this connection. In general, deliberations on establishing European regulations in this area should take account of the different labour market situations in the individual Member States and allow a high level of flexibility for national regulations.

— Integration and intercultural dialogue

Migrant integration is a prerequisite for the peaceful co-existence of people with different national, linguistic and religious backgrounds. Improving integration of the growing number of new migrants and foreigners already living in the EU should help prevent radicalization processes and extremism. Intercultural dialogue is a key tool in strengthening our pluralistic and democratic society.

The findings from ongoing bilateral integration policy initiatives are to be used to develop a European dialogue in this area. Germany will take advantage of a meeting of the ministers responsible for integration issues to move forward work to develop a coherent approach to integration policy and intensify the exchange of experiences in this area. One focal topic will be dialogue with Islam. The Presidency also intends to strive to counteract intolerance, racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia in all their manifestations. Intercultural dialogue can also play a key role in this area.

— More effective protection of external borders

The dispensation with border controls within the European Union is providing citizens and enterprises with direct experience of the benefits and opportunities of European unification. To be able to do away with checks on persons at the borders to the new Member States, and in the interests of security, an adequate level of protection must be guaranteed on the EU's external borders. This is an effective way of tackling illegal immigration and human trafficking, for which launching SIS II is a vital prerequisite. Germany will therefore do everything in its power to bring the launch of the system as close as possible.

Germany will also work to strengthen the European External Borders Agency FRONTEX. The Member States must provide the agency with enough personnel to allow the long-term deployment of joint teams of experts at illegal migration hotspots and all major border crossings. To this end a pool of border police experts is to be formed at FRONTEX, and officers from other Member States are to be granted executive powers for joint border controls.

2. Strengthening freedom and justice — Strengthening civil rights

Safeguarding civil rights is as vital to creating an area of freedom, security and justice as ensuring protection for its citizens. The German Presidency will therefore strive for predictability and transparency in state activity, for example by agreeing on minimum standards in criminal proceedings. It will only be possible to enforce the principle of mutual recognition throughout Europe if people have sufficient confidence in the legal systems of other Member States. For this reason Germany supports efforts to formulate a framework decision to define minimum requirements for the rights of defendants and the accused. Its goal is to conclude these negotiations.

Germany will call for a minimum definition of listed offences, as was agreed in connection with the adoption of the Framework Decision on the European Evidence Warrant. The definition of the actions which do not require verification of dual criminality under the principle of mutual recognition of court decisions is also relevant to other legislative projects relating to cooperation on criminal matters.

The Presidency plans to resume the stalled negotiations on drafting a framework decision on combating racism and xenophobia and to drive the project forward. The goal must be to achieve a minimum level of harmonization in the penal provisions of the EU Member States, particularly with regard to criminal liability for disseminating racist and xenophobic ideas.

— More legal certainty for citizens and business

Europe's citizens must be able to move within a secure and predictable legal framework when they travel to or settle in other Member States. This requires measures ranging from improved cross-border enforcement of maintenance orders, through clear regulations on which law applies in the case of divorce, better protection of intellectual property, up to improving consumer protection. Germany, together with the subsequent Presidencies Portugal and Slovenia, will therefore take up the proposals on the applicable law in maintenance, divorce and inheritance matters and seek to bring them to a conclusion. The German Presidency plans to drive forward as far as possible the work on a regulation on applicable law in matters of contractual obligation, and finalize the parallel regulation on applicable law in matters of noncontractual obligations, e.g. in road traffic accidents.

Germany will support the work on the planned European Private Company statute, designed to give small and medium-sized enterprises better and less complicated access to the Internal Market, and push forward the negotiations on the directive on cross-border transfers of company seats.

Germany supports the goal of the European Commission to examine the provisions of Community private law, particularly consumer contract law, for consistency and coherence. The objective is to establish a European frame of reference containing instructions for consolidating existing legislation and for future legislation. The Presidency will organize a conference on European contract law, providing a discussion platform for legal policymakers, academics and legal practitioners.

— Strengthening the justice system and practical cooperation

Fast and effective information transfer between judicial authorities is a central component of judicial cooperation. The top priority is to eliminate practical obstacles which hamper application of the instruments for mutual recognition of judicial decisions (European arrest warrant, enforcement of fines, recognition of freezing and confiscation orders). Notifications of convictions should be as rapid and complete as possible.

The Presidency intends to push forward with the networking of criminal records on the basis of the pilot project launched by France, Spain, Belgium and Germany. The goal is for all Member States to participate in this exchange of information on criminal convictions. Germany will drive forward the E-Justice Project in order to improve application of this information technology in cross-border judicial proceedings in Europe and to structure the work on European standards. The Presidency will also press for mutual recognition and supervision of probation imposed in another Member State.

— Active consumer protection policy

As consumers, Europe's citizens are entitled to a maximum degree of safety, transparency and freedom of choice. Consequently the Presidency will push for the implementation of the EU Consumer Policy Strategy and the related Community Programme for Health and Consumer Protection 2007-2013. In this context it will focus particularly on the security of new technologies in communication, purchasing goods and handling bank and insurance transactions.

IV. Shaping common foreign and security policy, external economic policy and development policy

In the area of external relations particularly, the Member States are called upon to cooperate more closely to guarantee prosperity and security. In recent years the European Union has created a comprehensive range of conflict management and peacebuilding tools, spanning a broad spectrum from prevention to post-conflict care. We must build on this.

The European Security Strategy was adopted in 2003 against the backdrop of international crises, terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, regional conflicts, failing states and organized crime. The German Presidency will work to establish a more efficient and coherent foreign policy and more

intensive cooperation with partners, in line with the Strategy's provisions. In addition, the Presidency aims to take further steps towards military cooperation with the long-term goal of a common European defence.

Europe's prosperity and political weight in the world rest largely on the successes of European enterprises on the global markets. With a 20 % share of global trade, the EU is the world's largest trading partner and as such enjoys a measure of influence which far exceeds the opportunities of individual Member States. International trade boosts our competitiveness and economic growth. The ongoing development of fair multilateral rules to further strengthen European competitiveness is a crucial factor for this.

— Enlarging the EU and expanding the European area of security and stability

The German Presidency will continue the enlargement process, taking into consideration the EU's capacity to absorb new members, in accordance with the conclusions of the December 2006 European Council. Germany will support the ongoing accession negotiations with Turkey and Croatia in line with the candidates » progress in fulfilling their obligations.

Within the European neighbourhood the main focus of the Presidency's commitment will be on stabilizing the Western Balkans in accordance with the European Security Strategy adopted by the European Council on 12 December 2003, particularly by supporting the Kosovo status negotiations or implementing the outcome if an agreement has been reached by then. To achieve this the EU will conduct its largest civilian ESDP mission to date, concentrating on justice and the police.

The stabilization of the Balkans depends heavily on upholding and concretizing the prospect of EU accession through the stabilization and association process, while adhering strictly to the criteria of the Commission's four-stage plan and taking account of the EU's capacity to absorb new members. This applies particularly to Serbia in view of the expected political change in Kosovo and Montenegro's attainment of independence. The negotiations on the EU's Stabilization and Association Agreement with Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina could be concluded during Germany's Presidency.

The European Neighbourhood Policy plays an important role in promoting stability and democracy. The European Union should make the most of its scope to act and present its neighbouring partners with an attractive and broad-based cooperation proposal. The German Presidency plans to take the initiative and submit concrete proposals on developing the Neighbourhood Policy further.

At the same time the partnership with Russia is to be intensified in the context of the four Common Spaces, and negotiations on the successor to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement will commence. Economic relations with Russia are to be deepened, particularly in the energy sector. Cooperation in international crisis management is to be extended.

The Presidency will pay particular attention to the strategically significant region of Central Asia. The EU plans to adopt a strategy on Central Asia defining its interests and objectives. Political dialogue with the region is to be expanded.

— Multilateral engagement, active crisis management and non-proliferation

The United Nations remains the central institution for effective multilateralism. The German Presidency will devote particular attention to intensifying cooperation between the EU and the UN in the area of crisis management as well as working to ensure that the EU members of the UN Security Council keep the other Member States fully informed pursuant to Article 19 of the Treaty on European Union.

The Presidency will work towards further stabilization of the situation in Lebanon and, together with its partners in the EU and the Middle East Quartet, actively seek ways to arrive at a comprehensive peace solution for the Middle East conflict. Another of the most urgent challenges will be to continue efforts to find a peaceful solution to the dispute concerning the Iranian nuclear programme. The Presidency will elaborate proposals on intensifying its

partnership with the Gulf Cooperation Council. It will continue to support the political, social and economic reconstruction process in Iraq. With regard to Afghanistan, Germany will call for an increase in EU commitment within the Afghanistan Compact programme.

Germany will work to strengthen the role of the African Union, particularly in conflict prevention and resolution. The situations in Sudan, in Somalia and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the wake of the elections will be at the top of the EU's African agenda.

In the area of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, the strategic goal is to further strengthen multilateral regulations. The Presidency will devote particular attention to preparing the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as well as to other concrete steps to improve international transfer controls for small arms.

— Strengthening the CFSP and the ESDP

Measures to improve coherence between CFSP and European Community instruments are to be adopted in all areas of EU external relations on the basis of the work of the Finnish Presidency, for example, for cooperation between the High Representative and the Commission.

One way in which the EU's capacity to deploy civilian and military crisis prevention and management tools is to be strengthened is through the Headline Goal processes (Headline Goal 2010 for the armed forces, Civilian Headline Goal 2008). Particular attention will be given to the European rapid response battlegroups, which will be available for operations in crisis areas from 1 January 2007. Civil-military cooperation in the planning and implementation of ESDP operations is to be bolstered to improve the ESDP's scope for independent action. The operations centre, which will be ready from early 2007, will be activated when needed. Finally, the strategic partnership between the EU and NATO is to be expanded by intensifying political dialogue and cooperation in the fields of deployment and the development of capabilities.

— Strategic partnerships and an active external economic policy

The German Presidency will press for the strengthening of transatlantic relations on the political and economic stage. One summit with the United States and one with Canada will be held. The intensified dialogue and cooperation with the United States will centre around selected topics such as the Middle East, Eastern Europe, the fight against terrorism and energy security. Germany will aim to reach an agreement on cooperation between the EU and the United States in the area of civilian crisis management. The implementation of the Transatlantic Economic Initiative will focus on regulatory cooperation, innovation and technology, trade and security, capital markets, energy and the protection of intellectual property.

The Presidency will continue to develop the political and economic dimension of relations with Asia. The negotiations on a framework agreement between the EU and China are to be brought forward in this context. In extending economic relations, the Presidency will

concentrate on the voluntary transfer of technology, improving legal certainty for the protection of intellectual property, opening the Chinese markets more widely for services and removing distortions of competition in the field of raw materials. Focal topics of the EU-Japan Summit will be regional cooperation and integration in Northeast Asia as well as discussion of the situation in North Korea and continuation of the dialogue on future issues. The strategic partnership with India is to be deepened through systematic implementation of the EU-India Joint Action Plan. Relations between the EU and ASEAN will be extended and the ASEM process reinforced by means of a stronger focus on trade policy and an action plan identifying foreign and security policy priorities.

The Presidency will drive forward the EU-Africa strategy, in consultation with its African partners, acknowledging Europe's own interest in peace and stable development on that continent.

Relations with Latin America and the Caribbean are to be further intensified. Negotiations on an association agreement with Mercosur are to be concluded. Negotiations on an agreement with the Central American countries and the Andean Community will be opened.

— Strengthening trade and Europe's international competitiveness

Growth, employment and quality of life in Europe depend to a large extent on the ability of European enterprises to hold their own on the global market. The German Presidency supports initiatives to boost the competitiveness of European business outside the EU.

Germany will maintain its efforts to further open the international markets for European goods, services and investments and continues to attach great importance to a successful conclusion to the Doha Development Round. However, bilateral or biregional trade agreements with selected partners could also feasibly complement multilateral regulations. Ongoing negotiations are therefore to be intensified or completed, and further consideration will be given to bilateral and biregional options. The Presidency aims to adopt a revised EU market access strategy on the basis of a Commission Communication expected in early 2007.

The same conditions for competing enterprises and adherence to recognized rules must also be guaranteed on third markets. The individual Member States do not by themselves have sufficient clout to ensure fair competition — that can only be achieved by the EU as a whole. The German Presidency will take a decisive stand against anticompetitive behaviour and unfair trading practices such as dumping, illegal subsidies, the violation of intellectual property rights and forced technology transfer. The second phase of the EU initiative on the enforcement of intellectual property rights and the open revision of certain trade policy mechanisms (e.g. trade protection instruments and public procurement) must be driven forward.

— Promoting sustainable development

The German Presidency falls in a strategically significant period for the future development cooperation of the EU, the most important international donor. The EU is called upon to do its part in fostering sustainable development, eliminating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Key elements of the Presidency's work include

implementing the European Development Consensus, increasing the level, impact and efficiency of cooperation, improving the coherence of Community policy in the interests of development and strengthening the role of women in the development process, in close dialogue with civil society. The refinement of the EU's new financing mechanisms (Development Cooperation Instrument, 10th European Development Fund) will define operational cooperation with the partner countries over the coming years.

The agreements from the Paris Declaration concerning more effective division of labour between the Commission and the Member States must be put into practice and operational guidelines elaborated. The annual Monterrey follow-up report will examine the status of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the plan to gradually increase official development assistance and the qualitative commitments. Regarding the implementation of the EU-Africa strategy, the Presidency will focus particularly on initiatives in the areas of energy and governance and the issue of HIV/AIDS.

To facilitate the integration of partner countries into the global economy, the Economic Partnership Agreements between the EU and ACP states (EU partners in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific) must be concluded in good time so that they can enter into force as planned at the beginning of 2008. Germany will ensure that the agreements, which are intended to guarantee the ACP states access to the EU Internal Market after 2007, are oriented towards development policy. In addition, the Presidency will oversee the implementation of the EU's voluntary commitment to Aid for Trade.

Appendix: Conference calendar

Current position as of 29 November 2006. The Calendar will be updated regularly and can be found on the German EU Presidency website (www.eu2007.de).

Start date	Finish date	Complete official title of the event	Ministry	Location
15.01.2007	16.01.2007	National launch event : the 7th EU Research Framework Programme — Europe on its way to the top	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Bonn
15.01.2007	16.01.2007	Conference : Future Prospects for Health Services in Europe	Federal Ministry of Health	Potsdam
18.01.2007	28.01.2007	International Green Week Berlin (kick-off event with Commission President Barroso)	Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	Berlin
29.01.2007	30.01.2007	Conference : ESDP : From Cologne to Berlin and beyond. Operations, institutions, capabilities	Federal Foreign Office	Berlin
29.01.2007	31.01.2007	European Renewable Energy Policy Conference	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Brussels
30.01.2007	31.01.2007	Kick-off event for the Year of Equal Opportunities for All	Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Berlin
01.02.2007		High-level meeting within the framework of the IST Information Day	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Cologne
01.02.2007	02.02.2007	Conference : Job — Chance -Internet. Women Shape the Future	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Bremen
01.02.2007	02.02.2007	Workshop : Promoting Environment and Resource Conservation in the European Security Strategy	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Berlin
05.02.2007		Conference : Food Quality Schemes	Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	Brussels
08.02.2007	09.02.2007	Ministerial Conference on the European Social Model : Joining Forces for a Social Europe	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Nuremberg
12.02.2007	14.02.2007	Symposium : Time to Adapt : Climate Change and the European Water Dimension. Vulnerability — Impacts — Adaptation	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Berlin
20.02.2007	22.02.2007	Seminar : Minimum Standards in Criminal Proceedings	Federal Ministry of Justice	Berlin
21.02.2007	23.02.2007	European Conference on Digitalization (and NRG Meeting) : Europe's Cultural and Scientific Heritage in a Digital World	Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media	Berlin
22.02.2007	23.02.2007	EU Policy Workshop on Offshore Wind Power Deployment	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Berlin
25.02.2007	27.02.2007	Conference : Prevention through Healthy Diets and Physical Activity	Federal Ministry of Health/Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	Badenweiler
26.02.2007	28.02.2007	Kick-off event : European Research Council (ERC)	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Berlin
01.03.2007		Expert conference : E-Government	Federal Ministry of the Interior	Berlin
01.03.2007	02.03.2007	Conference on European Contract Law	Federal Ministry of Justice	Stuttgart
05.03.2007	06.03.2007	Meeting of the Bologna Follow-Up Group	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Berlin

05.03.2007	06.03.2007	Conference : Renewable Resources — New Opportunities for Rural Areas	Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	Munich
05.03.2007	06.03.2007	Conference on the implementation of Article 7 of EU Framework Directive 89/391/EEC, specifically in SMEs	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Dortmund
07.03.2007		EU research event : Today is the Future	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Brussels
12.03.2007	13.03.2007	Ministerial Conference : Partnership and Responsibility — Together Against HIV/AIDS	Federal Ministry of Health	Bremen
14.03.2007	14.03.2007	Metropolitan Regions Conference	Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs	Berlin
14.03.2007	15.03.2007	Conference : Developing Intercultural Competences to Combat Racism and Xenophobia	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Lübeck
14.03.2007	15.03.2007	Conference : Opportunities and Risks of the Digital World, the Role of Consumer Policy	Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	Berlin
16.03.2007		Social Partners Conference for the Euromed Region	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in conjunction with the Federal Foreign Office	Berlin
22.03.2007		« Safe Start ! » — concluding event of the European Week for Safety and Health at Work 2006	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Bilbao
22.03.2007	23.03.2007	Workshop : Fiscal Policy challenges in Europe	Federal Ministry of Finance	Berlin
26.03.2007	27.03.2007	European Conference on Security Research — SRC 07	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Berlin
26.03.2007	27.03.2007	Conference : European Competition Day	Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology	Munich
27.03.2007		Conference : Innovation and Market Viability through Standardization	Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology	Berlin
28.03.2007	31.03.2007	Conference : Knowledge for Action. Research Strategies for an Evidence-Based Education Policy	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Frankfurt am Main
28.03.2007		Seminar : Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals	Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection	Brussels
29.03.2007	30.03.2007	Conference on Patent Law	Federal Ministry of Justice	Berlin
End of March/ Beginning of April 2007		Conference on Regional Approaches to Transfer Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons	Federal Foreign Office	Berlin
02.04.2007	07.04.2007	Conference of Computer Applications and Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA)	Federal Foreign Office	Berlin
13.04.2007	16.04.2007	Youth Event : Equal Opportunities and Social Participation For All Young People	Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Cologne
15.04.2007	16.04.2007	Expert Conference : Collection Mobility : Long-Term Loans and Fees	Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media	Munich
15.04.2007	17.04.2007	Symposium : The Development of European Border-Police Cooperation	Federal Ministry of the Interior	still open
16.04.2007	16.04.2007	Information Day : Joint Research Centres	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Berlin

17.04.2007	18.04.2007	International Conference : Demographic Change : Recognizing Opportunities — Tapping Potential — Fostering Growth	Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Berlin
17.04.2007	18.04.2007	Meeting of the Bologna Follow-Up Group	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Berlin
18.04.2007	19.04.2007	Conference : Gender in Research — Innovation Through Equal Opportunities	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Berlin
20.04.2007	21.04.2007	European Library Conference on Long-term Archiving	Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media	Frankfurt am Main
23.04.2007	24.04.2007	Conference : Environment and Agriculture	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Bonn
24.04.2007	26.04.2007	European Conference on Archiving : International Structural Standards in Archiving	Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media	Berlin
25.04.2007	27.04.2007	Symposium marking the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons	Federal Foreign Office	Berlin
26.04.2007	27.04.2007	European Forum for Architectural Policy	Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs	Hamburg
26.04.2007	28.04.2007	European Conference on Cultural Diversity	Federal Foreign Office	Essen
26.04.2007	27.04.2007	5th Congress of the Social Sector : Managing Europe's Social Affairs; Values — Competition — Finance	Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Magdeburg
27.04.2007		Annual Congress of the European Board of National Archivists	Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media	Berlin
April 2007		Combined EU/ G8 Conference : Energy Efficiency	Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology/ Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs	Berlin
April: 2007		Expert Conference : Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES)	Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology/Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs	Munich
02.05.2007	03.05.2007	Conference : Work Quality — the Key to More and Better Jobs	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Berlin
03.05.2007	04.05.2007	Conference : Research and technology Organizations in the European Research Area : Innovation and Competitiveness in an Enlarged Europe	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Munich
03.05.2007	04.05.2007	Expert Conference : Green Paper on Maritime Policy	Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs	Bremen
03.05.2007	04.05.2007	Cultural and Creative Economy in Europe — Coherent Policies in a Global World	Federal Foreign Office	Berlin
04.05.2007	06.05.2007	Workshop : Dual career : Balancing Top-level Sport, Education and Occupational Career	Federal Ministry of the Interior	Stuttgart
04.05.2007	05.05.2007	Conference : 6 European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Brussels
06.05.2007	07.05.2007	European Launch Conference for the Programme for Lifelong Learning	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Berlin
07.05.2007	08.05.2007	High Level Committee on Public Health	Federal Ministry of Health	Berlin
07.05.2007	08.05.2007	Conference : Limits for Chemical Substances in the Workplace — Healthy Working Conditions in the Global Economy	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Dortmund

07.05.2007	11.05.2007	15th European Biomass Conference	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	Berlin
08.05.2007	10.05.2007	Conference : Neighbourhood for Sustainability — with Research from Lisbon to Leipzig	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Leipzig
09.05.2007	11.05.2007	Expert Conference : More Confidence in Content — the Potential of Co-Regulation and Self-Regulation in the Digital Media	Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media	Leipzig
09.05.2007		Kick-off event : Structural Fund Support 2007-2013	Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology	Hof
10.05.2007	11.05.2007	Integration Conference	Federal Ministry of the Interior	Potsdam
11.05.2007	12.05.2007	Conference on Equal Opportunities — a Challenge for Education Legislation and Education Policy	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Potsdam
14.05.2007	15.05.2007	Conference : European Researchers of Tomorrow — Crossing the border of Academia and Industry	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Stuttgart
15.05.2007	16.05.2007	Conference : Forest Based Sector Technology platform (FTP) — 4th Conference 2007	Federal Ministry of Education and Research/ Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection/ Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology	Hanover
15.05.2007	16.05.2007	International Taxation Conference	Federal Ministry of Finance	Berlin
15.05.2007		Tourism Conference	Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology	Berlin
21.05.2006	22.05.2006	Conference : European Construction Network	Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs	Berlin
23.05.2006	23.05.2006	9th Conference of National Ethics Committees (COMETH)	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Berlin
23.05.2006	25.05.2006	9th Forum of National Ethics Councils (NEC-Forum)	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Berlin
24.05.2006	25.05.2006	Conference : Education for Sustainable Development in Europe	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Berlin
26.05.2007	03.06.2007	Euro-Mediterranean Youth Parliament	Federal Foreign Office	Berlin
29.05.2007	31.05.2007	E-Justice Conference	Federal Ministry of Justice	Bremen
30.05.2007	31.05.2007	Biotechnology Conference : En Route to the Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy	Federal Ministry of Education and Research Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology	Cologne
31.05.2007	01.06.2007	Conference : Culture — Economy — Tourism : The Significance of Culture for a Society's Prosperity	Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media	Hamburg
	May 2007	European Shipbuilding Conference	Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology	German shipyard location
03.06.2007	06.06.2007	Conference of the European Judicial Network in Criminal Matters	Federal Ministry of Justice	Trier
03.06.2007	05.06.2007	Conference : European Sustainability Berlin 2007 — ESB07	Federal Chancellery	Berlin
04.06.2007	05.06.2007	European Vocational Training Conference : Realizing the European Learning Area	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Munich
04.06.2007	06.06.2007	Policy Forum on Entrepreneurship	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Hanover

04.06.2007	05.06.2007	Expert Symposium : Gender Budgeting — Distribution is the Key — Equality and Social Justice through Gender-Sensitive Budgets	Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Frankfurt am Main
04.06.2007	05.06.2007	IT Security Conference	Federal Ministry of the Interior	Berlin
04.06.2007	05.06.2007	Conference on the European Charter for Small Enterprises	Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology	Berlin
05.06.2007	06.06.2007	4 European Conference on Research Infrastructures	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Hamburg
05.06.2007	06.06.2007	Expert Conference on Transport : E-Safety	Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs	Berlin
06.06.2007	10.06.2007	Conference : The Spirit of Europe — Europe's Diversity, Identities, Interconnections	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Leipzig
07.06.2007	08.06.2007	Federal Congress on Cultural Policy : culture.makes.europe — europe.makes.culture	Federal Foreign Office/Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media	Berlin
10.06.2007	11.06.2007	Expert Conference : Collection Mobility — Building Up Trust and Networking	Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media	Bremen
11.06.2007	12.06.2007	Pharmaceutical Innovation — Individualized Medicine	Federal Ministry of Health	Bonn
11.06.2007	12.06.2007	European Conference on the Integration of People with Disabilities	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Berlin
11.06.2007	13.06.2007	General Meeting of the European Judicial Training Network — EJTN	Federal Ministry of Justice	Trier
12.06.2007	13.06.2007	European Digital Switchover Conference	Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology	Berlin
13.06.2007	14.06.2007	Conference : Increasing Success through Efficient Regulation	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Bonn
13.06.2007	14.06.2007	Cultural Tourism : Conference of Europe's UNESCO World Heritage Sites	Federal Foreign Office	Lübeck
18.06.2007	20.06.2007	15th European Social Services Conference : Opportunity for All : the challenge for social and health services in a diverse Europe	Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Berlin
19.06.2007	21.06.2007	EuroNanoForum 2007	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Dusseldorf
23.06.2007	27.06.2007	ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	Wiesbaden
24.06.2007	25.06.2007	Conference : Responsible Science in Europe/ Science and its Publics	Federal Ministry of Education and Research	Munich
25.06.2007	26.06.2007	Expert Conference : Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) : Towards the Internet of Things	Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology	Berlin
26.06.2007	28.06.2007	Expert Congress : Children and Young People in Social Hotspots — New Cohesion Strategies	Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth	Leipzig
28.06.2007	29.06.2007	Conference : 50 Years of the European Social Fund — Investment in People — Review and Prospects	Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Potsdam