

Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee

Date: Thursday 19 January 2006
Time: 9.30am to 12.30pm
Venue: Committee Rooms 3 & 4, National Assembly Building

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2006:
SUGGESTED POLICY PRIORITIES FOR EPC**

Purpose

1. This paper invites Members to agree which European Union policy and legislative issues this Committee should prioritise and focus in its forward work programme for 2006. The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has provided a summary of the European Commission's Legislative and Work Programme 2006 (hereafter, 'Work Programme') and its implications for the WAG - attached at Annex A.

Background

2. This Committee is being invited to select priorities for the coming year from the European Commission's Forward Work Programme. Each of the Subject Committees, the Equal Opportunities Committee and European and External Affairs Committee are being invited to do the same, with the European and External Affairs Committee maintaining a strategic overview of the process.

3. The European Commission's Work Programme was published on 25 October 2005. It lists all priority items which the Commission will propose in 2006, under the Commission's four key aims: prosperity, solidarity, security and Europe as a world partner. A further non-priority list of items is also published by the Commission – some of which may be of interest to Committees. These documents can be accessed on the Commission's website:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm

4. A summary of the programme is provided in the WAG statement on the Work Programme at Annex A. This includes their analysis of the implications of the work programme for the WAG, according to subject area.

5. The protocol for dealing with EU issues, as agreed by the Panel of Chairs, is attached as Annex B.

Suggested EPC priorities for 2005

6. Members' Research and Committee Services have sifted the work programme for items which are relevant to the EPC portfolio. It includes new legislative, and legislative proposals from preceding years which are still under discussion. Annex C lists these items edited to this end.

7. The following therefore are suggestions for EPC priorities for 2006, taking into account the Welsh Assembly Government's statement (Annex A) - and also, in some cases, where the Committee has shown a previous policy interest.

- ◆ **Green Paper on adaptation to climate change:** this consultation will help identify areas where action is needed in response to the increasing adverse effects of climate change.
- ◆ **Green Paper on a Future EU Maritime Policy:** this consultation will set out options for a more holistic and integrated approach to all sea-related policies.
- ◆ **Review of the health rules on animal by-products:** aims to remove disproportionate provisions and to clarify scope of existing legislation.

On-going items carried forward from priorities identified by the Committee in 2005:

- ◆ **Thematic Strategy on Waste and Recycling**
- ◆ **Thematic Strategy on Urban Environment**
- ◆ **Thematic Strategy on Marine Environment**
- ◆ **Biodiversity Communication**
- ◆ **Rural Development regulation**
- ◆ **REACH**

8. In addition, Annex D lists Commission actions (legislative and non-legislative) expected to be adopted in 2006 (outside the Work Programme - non-priority). Possible areas of interest to the Committee include GMO co-existence, cross compliance and modulation and environmental crime.

Recommendations

9. The Committee is invited to:
- identify which suggested priorities it wishes to prioritise for scrutiny in 2006
 - indicate whether it wishes to continue with its proposed scrutiny of previously identified dossiers
 - identify any other proposals within the Commission's 2006 work programme that it wishes to prioritise for scrutiny in 2006 (Annex C)

- identify any other proposals outside the Commission's 2006 work programme that it wishes to prioritise for scrutiny in 2006 (Annex D)

Glyn DAVIES AM
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Annex A: Welsh Assembly Government paper for the European and External Affairs Committee (18 January 2006)

Title: European Commission Legislative and Work Programme 2006: the implications for the Welsh Assembly Government

Introduction

The Commission work programme for 2006 feels lighter, in terms of potential impact on Wales, than its programme for 2005. Some of the most important issues for the Assembly Government during 2006 will be “carry-overs” from the 05 programme. Specifically these will include the Working Time Directive, the chemical registration REACH Directive and the Directive for a single market in Services.

Structural Funds will be at the forefront of the Assembly’s work. With the budgetary arrangements in place, the Assembly Government will be heavily occupied negotiating programmes with partners in Wales and with the Commission in Brussels.

2006 will be the year of preparation for the start of the new programme on 01/01/07. Beyond the Structural Funds, a new generation of programmes in areas like **rural development, innovation, research and education** will open up. Wales has benefited from all of these in the past and demand should remain high. 2006 is also a critical year for the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs which reaches a key implementation stage.

In the context of **Wales’ Presidency of the Regions with Legislative Powers** (REGLEG) during 2006, the Commission’s ambitions for “Delivery and Better Regulation” will be particularly important. A reduced legislative burden, in itself, indicates part of the Commission’s response to improving regulation. The Commission has committed itself to the “rigorous application” of better regulation discipline through simplification, modernisation, consultation, and a careful evaluation of the impact of policies. Our role, with partners, is to assist the Commission in this work and to help hold them to account against commitments.

The Commission Preamble

The present Commission set out some key strategic aims at the start of its mandate - **prosperity, solidarity, security and Europe as a world partner** – and its programme for 2006 is designed to reflect these themes. In the absence of a ratified Constitution the Commission has launched a communication programme – “Plan D for democracy, dialogue and debate” – to help stimulate debate on Europe’s future. The precise format of this effort and the extent of Member States’ involvement will vary.

Prosperity: the Commission will report to the spring European Council on progress towards Lisbon through the 25 national reform programmes adopted by Member States. A European Institute of Technology is proposed and work

will continue to launch the new framework programme for research from 2007. 2006 is designated the European Year of Mobility for Workers. Emphasis is placed on finalising the **internal market for energy** and work will continue to explore new technological solutions such as **clean coal and renewable energies**. The single market will be simplified in general but strengthened specifically on **postal services, public procurement** and banking. The potential for enlargement of the eurozone will be examined in the light of macroeconomic conditions.

Solidarity: the Commission will set out ideas on coping with the problem of demographic **ageing**; alongside this will be thoughts on the effective management of **migration flows**. There will be further discussions on **climate change** and proposed measures such as bringing the aviation sector into the emissions trading scheme. The sustainable management of natural resources will extend to **reform of the wine, fruit and vegetables and the bananas sectors** – this will bring the current process of agricultural reform into its final phase following the agreement on sugar reform. Soaring oil prices have under-lined the importance of competitive and secure energy supplies for Europe. **Energy efficiency and renewable sources** will be promoted and the **potential of biofuels** further explored. A new **maritime strategy** will pioneer an integrated approach to developing the maritime economy supported by excellence in marine science and technology.

Security: the cross-border nature of terrorism calls for better co-ordination between law enforcement authorities; the same applies for organised crime. A number of initiatives are planned in relation to confronting health risks, specifically in the fields of food safety and transport.

Europe as a world partner: enlargement preparations will continue for Bulgaria and Romania as well as accession talks with Turkey and Croatia. Further accession requests may be dealt with and neighbourhood action plans progressed, particularly in developing integrated energy markets. Major development commitments were made in 2005; the Union must deliver on these in 2006. The consequences of **the Doha round** of negotiations in Hong Kong will be followed up. The Union will contribute to an efficient multilateral approach to **sustainable development** worldwide.

Delivery and Better Regulation: Impact assessments are now standard for legislative and policy defining proposals. As a result of following Better Regulation principles, the Commission withdrew 68 proposals in 2005 and is committed to testing all proposals against subsidiarity and proportionality (in plain English, acting only when necessary and “in the lightest form consistent with achieving its objectives”). The Commission’s approach to value for money is thus defined: **“The EU Budget should only be used when it can offer better value for money than spending at national level.”** The Commission is committed to simplifying legislation and will focus on the automotive, construction and waste sectors during the first phase.

Below is a more detailed summary of the Commission’s plans divided into work sectors that reflect Assembly organisation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Commission will concentrate its economic development brief on taking forward the **Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs**. Indeed 2006 will be a crucial year for the implementation of Lisbon measures. This will entail the adoption of a new generation of EU programmes for the structural funds and rural development as well as frameworks for research, innovation and education. The commission will report to the **Spring European Council** on implementation at the national level in respect of the 25 national reform programmes (NRPs).

The following dossiers will be of primary interest to the WAG:

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|---|---------------------------|---|
| • Proposal for full accomplishment of internal market for postal services | Legislative/
Directive | To take forward plans to establish internal market for postal services in 2009. |
| • Communication on Financing Growth | Non-legislative | To consider concrete actions to create growth for innovative SMEs. |
| • Communication on a dedicated EU rail freight network | Non-legislative | To promote development of rail freight transport network. |
| • Communication to facilitate inter-modal transport | Non-legislative | To promote development of integrated freight transport network. |

The following dossiers will be of secondary interest to the WAG:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------|---|
| • Communication on automotive regulatory framework | Non-legislative | To enhance competitiveness of automotive sector. |
| • Communication on EU mortgage credit market | Non-legislative | To promote creation of EU mortgage credit market. |
| • Galileo future applications | Non-legislative | To assess feasibility of regulatory measures related to Galileo applications development. |

HEALTH & SOCIAL AFFAIRS POLICY

The main aims include the streamlining of the open methods of co-ordination in the social area, and the launch of co-operation on health and long-term care, to reinforce the support the EU provides to Member States in their efforts to modernise social protection systems and tackle social exclusion.

The Commission will set out ideas about how the EU can contribute to tackling the problem of Europe's demographic ageing; consideration of current labour law, including policies on gender equality and health and safety at work.

With regard to civil justice the programme covers areas such as divorce and matrimonial property regimes and enforcing compensation, the rights of the child in areas like family reunification, parental responsibilities and human trafficking. Enhancing health and confronting risks also important elements in the programme.

Dossiers of interest:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|
| • Communication on Gender Equality | Non-legislative | To set out a road map on gender equality |
| • Communication on Health and Safety at Work strategy 2007-12 | Non-legislative | Develop current strategy to increase quality of work and productivity |
| • Green Paper on the evolution of labour law | Non-legislative | Encourage debate on labour law to help identify major issues |
| • Communication on the demographic future of Europe | Non-legislative | Bring together the results of the Green Paper on Ageing and pilots to set out further action |
| • Proposal on the applicable law and jurisdiction in divorce matters | Legislative / Regulation | To establish Community rules in this field |
| • Green Paper on the property rights of married/unmarried couples | Non-legislative | Consultation on legal and practical issues |
| • Communication on implementing children's rights | Non-legislative | Framework / Action Plan to implement children's rights, in line with UN Convention of the Rights of the Child |
| • Green Paper on drugs and civil society | Non-legislative | Working with civil society to take forward the EU Drugs Action Plan 2005-2008 |
| • Communication on tackling alcohol-related problems | Non-legislative | To reduce the health and social harm due to alcohol consumption |
| • Communication on organ donation and transplantation | Non-legislative | Measures to ensure high standards/quality/safety. |

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Consolidation and implementation are the themes of this work programme. The introduction of a new **Rural Development programme** is picked out but the details of funding and associated modulation have yet to be resolved. The **Doha Development Round** at the Hong Kong conference will shape Commission thinking during 2006. Following on from success in reforming the sugar regime, the Commission will be introducing legislative proposals to **reform the wine, fruit and vegetables, and bananas sectors.**

A training programme on **food safety** will be introduced and proposals are expected on **avian flu**. A review of the rules governing **animal by-products** will be proposed.

Finally, a Green Paper on a new environmentally sustainable **maritime strategy** will be presented.

The following dossiers will be of substantive interest to the WAG:

- A review of the Common Market Organisation for bananas aiming to maintain an acceptable balance at the level of marketing of the three sources of supply to the Community (EU, ACP and dollar banana imports).
- Reform of the CMO for **fruit and vegetables** aiming to improve competitiveness
- Reform of the CMO **for wine** aiming to improve competitiveness.
- A Green Paper on a future **EU Maritime Policy**.
- A White Paper on “Better training **for safer food**”.
- A review of **the health rules on animal by-products**.

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Although the Lisbon agenda and Better Regulation underpin the policies of the current Commission, the 2006 work programme also focuses on how solidarity and social justice are critical for the development of the EU. In this context a number of environmental objectives have been outlined, in particular **climate change, resource use and sustainable development**.

The following is a summary of the environment dossiers of substantive interest to the WAG for 2006 (note that there are also important legislative issues in progress).

- **Thematic Strategy on pesticides**

As part of Sixth Community Environment Action Programme (2002) the Commission released a Communication detailing measures constituting a thematic strategy for pesticides. The Parliament responded in 2003. The thematic strategy will aim at **controlling pesticides** rather than banning or creating a pesticide tax. The Commission will suggest defining ‘**pesticide free**’ zones, especially in sensitive or nature areas (Natura 2000 zones).

Communication – Halting the decline of biodiversity

The EU wants to halt the decline of biodiversity through the effects of poor policy development. The Communication will map priority actions to meet EU and global objectives to halt (EU) and significantly reduce (global) decline in biodiversity by 2010.

- **Green paper on adaptation to climate change**

The green paper will identify actions needed to adapt to adverse effects of climate change; many issues already raised by previous Commission Communication 'winning the battle on global climate change'.

- **Communication – Results of the review of the community strategy to reduce CO2 emissions from cars**

The Communication will review current voluntary agreements with industry on how fuel efficiency measures are developing; proposals will follow review.

- **Revision of Directive 2001/81/EC – on national emission ceilings (NEC) for certain atmospheric pollutants**

The revision of the NEC Directive will contribute to the development of the EU thematic strategy on air Quality (October 2005). Limits will be introduced on acidifying and eutrophying pollutants. 2010 and 2020 will be benchmarks for establishing the national ceilings and for measuring reviews.

- **Directive 2003/87/EC (Modification) in order to include aviation in the EU emissions scheme**

The Commission will aim to incorporate aviation emissions in the emissions trading scheme (ETS) as part of effort to reduce CO2s.

ENERGY POLICY

The initiatives proposed in the field of energy are explained below. All measures are non-legislative:

- **Commission Communication on Clean Coal Technologies.** Aim to stimulate technological development and demonstration of new technologies at commercial level, in particular to improve efficiency of power plants using coal and open the way to carbon capture and storage.
- **Commission on the future prospects for biofuels.** The Communication, following up the existing biofuels directive, will present ideas on measures to promote the production of biofuels, including in less developed third countries.
- **Action Plan on energy efficiency.** This will follow up a public consultation in 2005 and propose ways to rein in energy consumption, saving 20% by 2020, in response to dependency on imports and soaring oil prices.

- **Green Paper on a secure, competitive and sustainable energy policy for Europe.** The Commission will consult widely to develop a basis for a Communication later in 2006.
- **Communication concerning the Establishment of the Global Renewable Energy Fund of Funds.** This will outline key features of an innovative public-private financing mechanism for Europe and Developing Countries to (1) create affordable "patient" risk capital for renewable energy entrepreneurs and project developers, (2) increase engagement of private sector experts and investors, and (3) increase the leverage of public sector funds.
- **Communication on the development of energy markets with neighbouring countries.** This will relate to measures that will bring about a market for energy between the EU and neighbouring countries and takes into account Europe dependence on imports.

RESEARCH, ICT AND INNOVATION POLICY

In addition to the initiatives below, the Commission will work with other stakeholders to finalise technical proposal for the Seventh EU Research Framework Programme so that it can be launched in 2007.

Legislative Dossiers

- **Proposal for a Council Regulation establishing the European Institute of Technology (EIT).** This proposal will be presented to the 2006 Spring European Council and set out the main functions and characteristics, structures and budget for this potential facility. It represents a key action in promoting European technological excellence.
- **Revision of the Directive laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations and rules on information society services.** This represents pre-emptive action on standardisation to ensure the smooth functioning of the Internal Market for services by 2010. It will eliminate potential obstacles to the Internal Market for services before they appear and thus support the competitiveness of EU enterprises.

Non- legislative Dossiers

- **Communication Financing Growth - the European Way.** The Communication will suggest ways of spreading best practices in relation to facilitating access to finance for European innovative firms, especially SMEs and mid-sized firms. It will also propose ways to remove obstacles to cross-border investment.

- **Communication on the functioning of the regulatory framework for electronic communications and services.** This will report on the functioning of the regulatory framework for electronic communications and services and launch a public consultation on a possible review.
- **Communication on eGovernment.** This will constitute an Action Plan for 2006-2010 as part of the i2010 Communication relating to the further development of the European information society.
- **Communication on a strategy for a secure information society "Strengthening Trust in ICT".** This will propose a general framework for future activities in the field of internet, network and information security.
- **Communication on a European Cyber-security and Cybercrime policy.** This will give an update on the Commission's cybercrime policy, including issues related to protection of the critical information infrastructure, terrorist use of the internet, identity theft, pan-European admissibility of electronic evidence, combating on-line child pornography, and other issues.

EDUCATION POLICY

The principal dossier on the education side will be:

- **The Recommendation for a European Qualification Framework.**

This legislative proposal aims to improve the transparency and recognition of qualifications across the EU (The Welsh Assembly has responded to the ongoing Commission consultation on EQF and has drafted a position on behalf of the European regional lifelong learning network (EARLALL)).

The Commission will publish a **revision of the Television without Frontiers Directive**. This legislative proposal, which has the dual aim of promoting competitiveness and cultural diversity, covers new media for the first time (internet and mobile phones) and proposes modified rules to govern advertising in broadcasting.

2006 will also see the publication of the **Joint Council-Commission Interim report on education and training** which tracks progress vis-à-vis meeting the Lisbon goals in the area of education and training.

There are no specific proposals for youth and culture in the work programme but the Commission and Council will focus on implementing the **European Youth Pact** and on the **contribution of culture to the Lisbon agenda**.

Produced by:

**Welsh Assembly Government European Union Office
Brussels**

Annex C. List of legislative and non-legislative priority items related to EPC portfolio for adoption in 2006

	Title	Brief Description
1	<p><u>Maritime Policy</u></p> <p>Green Paper on a future European Union Maritime Policy</p> <p>Non-legislative: Fisheries</p>	<p>The Green Paper on an all embracing EU Maritime Policy will present the state of the art of integrated sea related policies. It shall set out options for a more holistic approach of the EU and its Member States for policies relating to the sea.</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: June-06</p>
2	<p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p>Green Paper on adaptation to Climate Change</p> <p>Non-legislative: Environment</p>	<p>The Green Paper will help identify areas where action is needed at Community level to support the EU's adaptation to the increasing adverse effects of climate change. The need to consider EU-level action on adaptation was flagged in the Commission Communication "Winning the Battle against Global Climate Change".</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: Sept-06</p>
3	<p><u>Biodiversity</u></p> <p>Communication - Halting the decline of biodiversity by 2010</p> <p>Non-legislative: Environment</p>	<p>The Communication will lay down a road map on priority objectives and actions to meet the EU and global objectives, set by heads of state and government, relating to halting (EU) and significantly reducing (global) the decline of biodiversity by 2010. The European Council 2003 and 2004 has called for accelerated action in this regard. ENV Council (28 June 2004) called for a report to Council and Parliament as early as possible in 2004, taking account of the ongoing biodiversity policy review process and in particular the 'Message from Malahide' (which comprises stakeholder consensus on objectives and targets towards achieving the overall 2010 objective).</p> <p>Postponed from Commission Work Programme 2005 Estimated date of adoption: Jun-06</p>
4	<p><u>Sustainable Development</u></p> <p>Communication concerning the Establishment of The Global Renewable Energy Fund of Funds -An Innovative Public -Private</p>	<p>The Communication will provide an outline of the key features of the proposed innovative public-private financing mechanism which aims to (1) create affordable "patient" risk capital so as to increase access to risk capital for renewable energy entrepreneurs and project developers, (2) increase engagement of private sector experts and investors,</p>

	<p>Financing Mechanism in Support of the Global SD Agenda</p> <p>Non-legislative: Environment</p>	<p>and (3) increase the leverage of public sector funds. In addition to the strong focus on Developing Countries, Europe and its neighbouring countries will also be considered.</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: Mar-06</p>
5	<p><u>CO₂ emissions</u></p> <p>Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: Results of the review of the Community Strategy to reduce CO₂ emissions from cars.</p> <p>Non-legislative: Environment</p>	<p>The Community's strategy to reduce CO₂ emissions from cars will be reviewed and new options to complement existing measures, including the current voluntary agreements with car manufacturers will be examined. The aim is to reach an improved fuel efficiency. The results of this review will be presented and proposals on the way forward will be made.</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: Sep-06</p>
6	<p><u>Air Pollution</u></p> <p>Revision of Directive 2001/81/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2001 on national emission ceilings (NEC) for certain atmospheric pollutants</p> <p>Legislative: Codecision Environment</p>	<p>The revision of the NEC Directive is the key legislative initiative that will make concrete the environmental and health objectives set out in the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution up to 2020. Limit emissions of acidifying and eutrophying pollutants and ozone precursors to improve the protection in the Community of the environment and human health against risks of adverse effects from acidification, soil eutrophication and ground-level ozone and to move towards the long-term objectives of not exceeding critical levels and loads and of effective protection of all people against recognised health risks from air pollution by establishing national emission ceilings, taking the years 2010 and 2020 as benchmarks, and by means of successive reviews.</p> <p>Simplification of the acquis Estimated date of adoption: Dec-06</p>
7	<p><u>Aviation emissions</u></p> <p>Modification of Directive 2003/87/EC in order to include aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme</p> <p>Legislative: Codecision Environment</p>	<p>Amend the existing legislative framework to incorporate aviation emissions into the EU Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS).</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: Dec-06</p>

8	<p><u>Pesticides</u></p> <p>Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides</p> <p>Legislative: Codecision Environment</p>	<p>The Strategy will propose a number of measures and initiatives with the objective of a reduction of the impacts of pesticides on human health and the environment in order to achieve a more sustainable use of pesticides as well as a significant overall reduction in risks and of the use of pesticides consistent with the necessary crop protection.</p> <p>Postponed from Commission Work Programme 2005. Awaiting revision of SANCO directive 91/414 which is now foreseen for 2nd qtr 06.</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: June-06</p>
9	<p><u>Biofuels</u></p> <p>Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the future prospects for biofuels</p> <p>Non-legislative: Agriculture and Rural Development, Enterprise, Environment, Fisheries, Development, Transport</p>	<p>The Communication will present the result of reflections on the question of measures to promote the production of biofuels, including such production in less developed third countries.</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: Mar-06</p>
10	<p><u>Plant protection products</u></p> <p>Proposal for a Directive amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market</p> <p>Legislative: Codecision Health and consumer protection</p>	<p>Adaptation to technical progress and re-organisation of regulatory provisions concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market. Commitment of the Commission in its progress report to Council and European Parliament (COM (444(2001)final).</p> <p>Postponed from Commission Work Programme 2005</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: June-06</p>
11	<p><u>Animal by-products</u></p> <p>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council Amending Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 on animal by-</p>	<p>The key objective is to review the health rules on ABPs taking into account the experience gained in applying Regulation 1774/2002. Removing disproportionate provisions and clarifying the scope of the Regulation would lead to a clear text, making the measures more effective and efficient. The review will reduce unnecessary burden and negative impacts, increasing benefits by simplifying and avoiding</p>

	<p>products</p> <p>Legislative: Codecision Health and consumer protection</p>	<p>duplication of administrative procedures for national authorities and operators.</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: Dec-06</p>
12	<p><u>Fruit</u></p> <p>Council Regulation amending Regulations Nos 2200/96, 2201/96 and 2002/96 on the common market organisation of fresh and processed fruit</p> <p>Legislative: Consultation Agriculture and Rural Development</p>	<p>The reform of these sectors is part of the overall CAP reform process. The main objectives of the reform are to improve the competitiveness of processed fruits and vegetables industry through a more market orientated policy, while taking into account the important role of the sectors concerned in employment in rural areas; to update and upgrade the current instruments of the Common Market Organisation (CMO) for fresh products; to decrease trade distorting agricultural support; to remove useless rules, to simplify and clarify the remaining regulations.</p> <p>Simplification of the acquis Estimated date of adoption: Nov-06</p>
13	<p><u>Wine</u></p> <p>Commission Communication on reform of the common market organisation for wine</p> <p>Non-legislative: Agriculture and Rural Development</p>	<p>The common market organisation for wine is one of the last agricultural sectors to undergo a significant reform in order to address a number of problems. The Commission Communication will set out orientations for the legislation aiming mainly to improve the competitiveness of the EU-produced wine, to reach a balance between supply and demand, to develop better instruments for a better knowledge and monitoring of the market, to simplify and clarify legislation, to ensure that wine production in Europe is sustainable, and to preserve the authenticity and character of the product. The Communication will be accompanied by an impact assessment and will later be followed by a proposal for a Council Regulation.</p> <p>Simplification of the acquis Estimated date of adoption: Jun-06</p>
14	<p><u>Bananas</u></p> <p>Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 404/93 on the common market organisation for bananas</p>	<p>A review of the common market organisation (CMO) for bananas is envisaged based on the findings of an ongoing evaluation, in particular as concerns the aid scheme to the EU banana producers, also taking account of the new import system to be in place as of 2006.</p> <p>The main objectives of the review are to maintain an acceptable balance at the level of marketing of the three sources of supply of the Community market (EU production, ACP and dollar banana imports), to</p>

	<p>Legislative: Consultation Agriculture and Rural Development</p>	<p>improve the efficiency of EU production, to provide fair prices to EU consumers, to support the sustainable development of the producing areas and to promote environmentally-friendly methods of cultivation and processing.</p> <p>Simplification of the acquis Postponed from Commission Work Programme 2005: Estimated date of adoption Jun-06</p>
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Annex D. Selected items from the Indicative list of Commission actions expected to be adopted in 2006 (outside the Work Programme)

	Title	Brief Description
1	<p><u>Cross Compliance and Modulation</u></p> <p>Rapport de synthèse sur les mesures mises en oeuvre par les Etats membres telles que définies par le Règlement (CE) n° 1259/1999 établissant des règles communes pour les régimes de soutien direct dans le cadre de la politique agricole commune.</p> <p>Agriculture and rural development</p>	<p>Synthesizing reports of Member States on implementation of Cross Compliance and Modulation including a qualitative indication of the effects on environment and sustainable development based on Member States' reporting.</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: Mar-06</p>
2	<p><u>GMO Co-existence</u></p> <p>Rapport sur la mise en oeuvre des mesures nationales pour la coexistence des organismes génétiquement modifiés avec l'agriculture classique et organique</p> <p>Agriculture and rural development</p>	<p>Report to the Council and the EP on the experience gained in the Member States concerning the implementation of measures to address co-existence, including, if appropriate, an evaluation and assessment of all possible and necessary steps to take.</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: 1st quarter 2006</p>
3	<p><u>Agri-environmental indicators</u></p> <p>Commission report on agri-environmental indicators</p> <p>Agriculture and rural development</p>	<p>During each of its meetings in Cardiff, Vienna and Helsinki, the European Council required the Commission to report on integration of environmental concerns into sectoral policies. DGs AGRI, ENV, ESTAT and JRC have agreed to pool skills and resources with the European Environment Agency to assess integration of environment into the CAP and in particular to develop indicators to monitor integration, i.e. agri-environmental indicators (AEI), through the project known as IRENA (Indicator Reporting on the Integration of Environmental Concerns into Agriculture Policy).</p>

		Estimated date of adoption: 1st quarter 2006
4	<p><u>Sheep and goats</u></p> <p>Rapport de la Commission au Conseil et au Parlement sur les impacts environnementaux de l'élevage ovin et caprin, ainsi que l'impact du système des primes ovines et caprines.</p> <p>Agriculture and rural development</p>	<p>The objective of the report addressed to the Council and the Parliament is to determine the impact of the sheep and of the premium system on the environment. The report shall also look at the implications of the improvement of registration of sheep and goats.</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: Jun-06</p>
5	<p><u>Forest</u></p> <p>Communication de la Commission au Conseil et au Parlement européen relative au Plan d'action de l'Union européenne pour les forêts.</p> <p>Agriculture and rural development</p>	<p>The Action Plan should provide a coherent framework for the implementation of forest-related actions at Community and Member States level and serve as an instrument of co-ordination between different Community Actions as well as between Community Actions and forest policies of the Member States.</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: 2nd quarter 2006</p>
6	<p><u>Energy crops</u></p> <p>Rapport au Conseil sur la mise en oeuvre de l'aide aux cultures énergétiques.</p> <p>Agriculture and rural development</p>	<p>Art.92 of Regulation (EC) N° 1782/2003 requires the Commission to submit a report to the Council on the implementation of the aid for energy crops, accompanied, where appropriate, by proposals taking into account the implementation of the EU biofuels initiative. The report will present and analyse data on the area that have been under the aid for energy crops during the period 2004-2006 and will consider the opportunity of amending the elements of the regime regarding in particular the eligible products, the conditions for eligibility, the amount of the aid and the maximum guaranteed area.</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: 4th quarter 2006</p>
7	<p><u>Biotechnology</u></p> <p>Communication sur la biotechnologie en 2006</p>	<p>The Communication on biotechnology in 2006 will give an update of the current state of implementation of the biotechnology strategy and action plan, provide new information from the JRC</p>

	Enterprise, Industry and Research	study (see point 5) and from a dialogue with the stakeholders. This will be the starting point for the mid-term review of the strategy in 2006-2007, which will identify potential problems and needs, complement or update the strategy if necessary, and put the focus on current priority issues (for example enhancing competitiveness). Estimated date of adoption: Sep-06
8	<u>6th Environment Action Programme</u> Communication de la commission au conseil et au PE: rapport à mi-parcours du sixième programme d'action communautaire pour l'environnement Environment	In accordance with Article 11 of the DECISION No 1600/2002/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 22 July 2002 laying down the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme the Commission shall evaluate the progress made in its implementation together with associated environmental trends and prospects. Estimated date of adoption: Jun-06
9	<u>Nitrate Pollution</u> Troisième rapport de la commission sur la mise en oeuvre de la directive 91/676/CEE du Conseil concernant la protection des eaux contre la pollution par les nitrates à partir de sources agricoles Environment	Report covering the period 2000-2004 of the Directive in application of Article 11 of the Directive and dealing with progress in this period based on reports to the Commission by Member States. Estimated date of adoption: 3rd quarter 2006
10	<u>Environmental crime</u> Communication sur le crime environnemental	This Communication aims at providing diverse elements to better understand the phenomena of environmental crime. It will therefore tackle what the environmental crime concept covers; report facts and figures of environmental crime in Europe; indicate criminal sanctions adopted in Member States for environmental crime (by means of some examples) and finally deal with some elements of a strategy for the future. The need and timetable of the envisaged Communication will depend on the follow-up that the Council has to give to the decision of the Court of 13 September 2005 relating to environmental sanctions . In addition, the political strategy adopted at the level of the College will

		also have an impact. postponed to 2006 - to await judgement European Court of Justice Estimated date of adoption: 3rd quarter 2006
11	<p><u>Environmental compliance & SMEs</u></p> <p>Communication de la commission au conseil, au PE, au comité économique et social européen et au comité des régions : Programme d'assistance au PME pour la mise en oeuvre de la législation environnementale</p> <p>Environment</p>	<p>The Compliance assistance program aims at improving environmental compliance rate for SMEs and reducing their negative impact on the environment. This can be achieved i. a. by raising their awareness and knowledge of environmental problems and risks, raising their awareness of potential benefits of environmental management, improving their access to information, promoting specific tools and ad hoc training, provide access to specific financial instruments and technical expertise.</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: 3rd quarter 2006</p>
12	<p><u>GMO</u></p> <p>2e Rapport de la Commission au Conseil et au PE concernant l'expérience recueillie par les États membres en matière de mise sur le marché d'OGM conformément à la directive 2001/18/CE et intégrant un rapport spécifique sur la mise en œuvre des parties B et C de la directive.</p> <p>Environment</p>	<p>Article 31.6 and 31.7 of Directive 2001/18/EC requires that, every three years from 2003, the Commission sends to the Council and EP a report on the experience of member states with GMOs placed on the market under Directive 2001/18/EC and incorporating a specific report on the operation of parts B and C of the Directive).</p> <p>Estimated date of adoption: 4th quarter 2006</p>