



Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2007/2654(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy for 2009		
Subject 8 State and evolution of the Union		

Key players		
European Parliament		
European Commission	Commission DG Secretariat-General	Commissioner BARROSO José Manuel

Key events			
13/02/2008	Additional information		Summary
11/03/2008	Debate in Parliament		Summary
24/04/2008	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/04/2008	Decision by Parliament	T6-0174/2008	Summary
24/04/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2007/2654(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 132-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B6-0144/2008	24/04/2008	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0174/2008	24/04/2008	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B6-0175/2008	24/04/2008	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects		T6-0174/2008	24/04/2008	EP	Summary
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B6-0144/2008	24/04/2008		

Resolution on the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy for 2009

PURPOSE: presentation of the Annual Policy Strategy for 2009 by the Commission [[COM\(2008\)0072](#)].

CONTENT: the current Annual Policy Strategy sets out fixed priorities for the last year of the mandate of the current Commission. The strategic objectives defined by the Commission at the beginning of its mandate - to promote prosperity, solidarity, freedom and security, and to strengthen the global role of Europe? remain at the heart of the guidelines established by the Commission to carry out its work.

5 priority areas: in 2009, the following 5 policy objectives will be emphasised:

1. growth and jobs;
2. climate change and sustainable Europe;
3. development of a common immigration policy;
4. putting the citizen first;
5. Europe as a world partner.

According to this document, 2009 should be considered as a pivotal year in as far as it should promote the achievement of results for citizens and businesses. To accomplish this, actions will be taken in the following areas:

- Growth and jobs will remain a major policy priority for the Union;
- Further efforts will be made to tackle climate change and to meet the energy needs of the Union;
- The Commission will follow up on the Single Market review and on the revised Social Agenda;
- The Commission will also look forward, laying the foundations for the years ahead, through a revision of the budget, based on current consultations, and the preparation of the next financial perspectives;
- It will take action to develop a common immigration policy (in order to harness the opportunities provided by migration in an era of globalisation);
- Initiatives will be put forward to simplify the life of citizens and ensure their security;
- Negotiations with candidate countries will be pursued on the basis of the renewed consensus on enlargement and efforts should be made to strengthen the political and economic ties with partners around the world (particularly in the context of new partnerships to be implemented with African countries).

?Better Regulation?: the Commission will also continue to deliver on its **?Better Regulation?** agenda, to focus on the proper enforcement of EU legislation and to ensure the sound management of financial programmes. Numerous proposals have been put forward to reduce the administrative burden. These proposals will not affect the strategic objectives or the degree of ambition of existing texts. On the contrary, due to efforts made to improve the regulatory environment and to develop high standards in areas such as health, security and environmental protection, the EU should lead the way to contributing to the improvement of the global regulatory framework. However, the full potential of the **?Better Regulation?** agenda can only be reached through productive cooperation with other institutions and Member States.

Communication on Europe and the Treaty of Lisbon: 2009 will also be an important year for the European Union, marked by the possible entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, the election of a new European Parliament and a new European Commission. In this context, important measures will be taken to encourage communication to citizens, particularly in the areas of economic and social development leading to a better quality of life, protection of the environment (often linked to energy policy), security, migration, education and the fight against terrorism.

Human Resources 2009: in addition to the Commission's policy priorities, the Annual Policy Strategy proposes an allocation of human and financial resources to reinforce the Commission's ability to deliver in priority areas. The Commission expects to obtain 250 new posts linked to the enlargement in 2009. It will free up 600 additional positions through redeployment, which will give a total of 850 posts to meet priority needs. The new demands stemming from the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty will also be taken into account.

Financial Resources 2009: to meet the different objectives, the Commission aims to reinforce budgetary resources in the following areas:

- Competitiveness for growth and employment (rubric 1a): an increase of EUR 619 million (5.8% compared to 2008);
- Cohesion for growth and employment (rubric 1b): an increase of EUR 1.538 billion, a 3.3% rise compared to 2008;
- Conservation and management of natural resources (rubric 2): the gradual introduction of direct aid for agriculture will be pursued in the Member States that joined the EU in 2004. For these countries the percentage will increase from 50% to 60% of the final amount of aid. For the Member States which joined in 2007, aid will increase from 30% to 35% of the final amount;
- Freedom, security and justice (rubric 3a): an overall increase in expenditure in the order of EUR 100 million (16%) to ensure the management of external borders to implement the policy in terms of visas and the free movement of people (+18%), as well as the common policy on immigration and asylum (+18%);
- Citizenship (rubric 3b): some EUR 630 million will be allocated to rubric 3b, the equivalent of a 5.3% rise compared to 2008, which will allow the investment of more funds in key areas regarding European citizens (public health, consumer protection, civil protection, cultural and communication programmes);
- The EU as a world partner (rubric 4): the peace process in the Middle East and the implementation of an agreement defining the future status of Kosovo will remain the key political priorities of the EU in 2009; the current level of funds for Palestine and Kosovo must be increased: EUR 1.537 billion has been allocated to Palestine for the period 2007-2013, and EUR 535 million to Kosovo for the period 2007-2011. Other initiatives in the area of external relations of the EU will require additional measures, in particular: the new EU strategy for Central Asia (the Commission proposes granting EUR 15 million in 2009, and EUR 25 million in 2010) and the thematic programme for environment and sustainable management of natural resources including energy (ENRTP) (an additional EUR 10 million in 2009).

Conclusions: on the basis of the Annual Strategy Policy, the Commission will initiate an exchange of views with the European Parliament and Council on where the policy priorities should lie in 2009, and how this should be reflected in the Commission's legislative and work programme to be adopted in October and in the budget for 2009.

Resolution on the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy for 2009

The House held a debate, following on the Commission statement, on the annual policy strategy for 2009. Motions for a resolution to wind up the debate will be put to the vote on 24 April 2008.

Resolution on the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy for 2009

Following the debate which took place during the sitting of 11 March 2008, the European Parliament adopted by 304 votes to 240 with 23 abstentions, a resolution tabled on behalf of the EPP-ED, UEN, ALE groups on the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy for 2009.

Growth and jobs: Parliament underlines, once again, on the importance of the rigorous implementation of the Lisbon Strategy, emphasising the interdependence of economic, social and environmental progress in creating a dynamic and innovative sustainable economy. It welcomes the overdue support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), building on the forthcoming European Small Business Act and also welcomes a more systematic and integrated monitoring of key goods and services markets with a view to identify existing problems, noting it might include competition sector enquiries. However, this should not be to the detriment of either SMEs or the variety of products and services in the internal market. The Commission is urged, once again, to put forward a legislative proposal on the European Private Company Statute. Members point to the overriding importance of safeguarding the stability of financial markets and reassuring consumers in the light of the current financial crisis. The current crisis shows the need for the EU to develop oversight measures in order to increase investor transparency, establish better valuation standards, improve prudential supervision, and re-evaluate the role of rating agencies.

With regard to employment, Parliament encourages the Commission to develop a common approach to flexicurity, which should promote, on the one hand, greater flexibility on the labour market and, on the other, security for workers, accompanied by a balanced implementation of the four pillars of flexicurity. Members regret the low priority given by the Commission to culture and education in its Annual Policy Strategy for 2009, and ask the Commission to consolidate the European Educational Area for all, notably by improving the quality, effectiveness and accessibility of EU education and training systems. They welcome the Commission's announcement of a future communication on university-business dialogue. Parliament also supports the Commission's initiative of a Green Paper on cultural and creative industries and stresses the need further to develop EU action in that sector, which significantly contributes to job creation and growth.

Climate change and sustainable Europe: Parliament strongly supports the Commission in further developing an energy policy for Europe, with the aim of achieving energy independence and strengthening the solidarity among Member States. It notes that the EU needs to continue to demonstrate that economic growth and development can be reconciled in a low-carbon economy. Members are aware that the success of this strategy also depends on the capacity of the EU to convince its world partners, and underlines, therefore, that the EU should speak with one voice and display solidarity in this field.

Parliament welcomes the Commission's wish to reduce emissions related to the transport of goods and calls on the Commission to submit a legislative proposal on the inclusion of maritime and inland waterway transport in the emissions trading scheme. The Commission is asked to add to the key actions envisaged for 2009 under "sustainable Europe" a new chapter on the reform of the COM in fishery and aquaculture products. Parliament notes that 2009 will see the implementation of the legislative changes agreed upon in the context of the CAP Health Check and expects Parliament's position to be fully respected.

Common immigration policy: Parliament welcomes the Commission's commitment to the development of this policy, and emphasises that a European pact on migration policy should cover issues linked both to tackling illegal immigration and managing legal immigration and a more ambitious policy on integration of areas falling within the EU's competence, as well as launching a European asylum policy. Parliament also considers it a priority that Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 (Dublin II Regulation) be revisited, and underlines the need to speed up the full implementation of the Schengen Information System (SIS II) and the Visa Information System (VIS), as well as strengthen Frontex, which is dependent on a commitment by Member States to provide personnel and equipment.

Putting the citizen first: Parliament reiterates its request for a review of the eight sector-specific directives that were to be analysed within the framework of the review of consumer protection rules. It calls for more initiatives in the field of civil justice in order to deliver the balancing legal framework that would give certainty and access to justice. Believing that it does not make sense to outlaw discrimination in one area whilst allowing it in another, Members await the Commission's proposal for a comprehensive directive to combat discrimination under Article 13 of the EC Treaty, as provided in its 2008 work programme, whilst underlining that the Member States' competences in this area must be respected. They also await the Commission's proposal on cross-border health, and the pact on mental health. Parliament deplores the fact that the policy strategy remains vague in the area of public health and encourages the Commission to step up its efforts to tackle health inequalities linked to social, economic and environmental factors.

Parliament goes on to call for more work to be undertaken as regards tackling organised crime, addressing cyber-crime in particular, and the scourge of trafficking in human beings. It also calls for counter-terrorism policies to be defined comprehensively, and urges the Commission to submit a proposal that safeguards and promotes the interests of the victims of terrorism, and to develop proposals to ensure a greater degree of bio-preparedness.

Europe as a world partner: Parliament underlines the importance of adequate preparations for the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, in particular as regards the establishment of a European External Action Service in cooperation with Parliament. Members stress the importance of concluding the accession negotiations with Croatia, as a signal to the wider Western Balkans region that its future lies within the EU, provided that it can meet the necessary requirements. The Commission is asked to monitor the full implementation of the conditions laid down in the Kosovo comprehensive settlement plan and to insist on the foundations for a multiethnic Kosovo. The resolution deplores the absence of specific proposals by the Commission on new avenues for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals with a view to achieving the commitments by 2015. It urges the Commission to ensure that humanitarian aid provided by the EU, in particular its food aid in developing countries, is maintained and, if possible, extended in 2009. Members believe that a successful Doha Development Agenda remains the EU's trade priority, but regret that the policy strategy has not yet started a reflection on the WTO's post-Doha Development Agenda. An ambitious sustainable development chapter should form an essential part of any free trade agreement, including the ratification and implementation of core ILO conventions, as well as essential environmental norms.

Better regulation: Members affirm that independent impact assessment and the correct implementation, monitoring and reporting of Community law should be a priority. They stress that the European Parliament should get more closely involved in the monitoring of the

application of Community legislation, and underline the need for closer inter-institutional co-operation with regard to comitology procedures. Parliament recalls its support for reaching the goal of a 25 % reduction in administrative burdens by 2012, and urges tangible results sooner rather than later. It emphasises that political priorities should be supported by new budgetary priorities in order for the EU to play a concrete role.

Lastly, the Commission is urged to focus its efforts further on the development of an effective communication policy in order to provide citizens with the means to understand the EU better, especially in the year of the European elections.