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Pridruženi člani SGRZ:

Krka d.d. Novo mesto; Obrtna zbornica Slovenije; Nova Ljubljanska banka; Luka Koper; Zavarovalno združenje Slovenije; Lek d.d.; Sava d.d.; Riko d.d., Univerza na Primorskem, Mestna občina Ljubljana, Mestna občina Maribor; Mestna občina Novo mesto; Mestna občina Nova Gorica, Mestna Celje, Holdinška družba Istrabenz d.d.; DDC Družba za svetovanje in inženiring d.o.o., Perutnina Ptuj d.d., Niko transport d.o., Mestna občina Celje.

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■ UVODNIK

Leto 2007 – Leto enakih možnosti

S prvim januarjem smo postali zibelka 27 različnih držav, kultur in preteklosti. Dve novi državi, Bolgarija in Romunija, sta postali polnopravni članici EU. Ob tem so se pojavila vprašanja, kako urediti prosti pretok delovne sile iz novopristopnic. Slovenija se je odločila, da svoje meje pusti odprte; skoraj mesec in pol kaneje Zavod za zaposlovanje javlja, da se število Bolgarov in Romunov v Sloveniji praktično ni povečalo.

Začetek leta pomenilo tudi spremembo predsedujoče države. Nova predsedujoča, Nemčija, je izziv sprejela zelo resno. Tako je skupaj s svojima naslednicama prvič v zgodovini EU predstavila program predsedovanja za obdobje 1.1.2007 – 30.6.2008 s ključnimi poudarki na energetiki, spremembi EU ustave, ekologiji oz. podnebnih spremembah, izboljšanju EU zakonodaje ter povečevanju inovativnosti.

Poudarke prve od trojice predsedujočih smo dokaj hitro in močno začutili, saj je bil že v prvi polovici januarja predstavljen več kot 1000 strani dolg akcijski načrt za področje energetike in njene prihodnosti. Načrt vključuje cel spekter ukrepov in aktivnosti, ki se dotikajo tako ekologije

(zmanjševanje emisij), konkurenčnosti evropskega gospodarstva (alternativni in obnovljivi viri energije in manjša odvisnost od 'ruske' nafte).

Ekologija je dobila svoj zalet v drugi polovici januarja, ko je poročilo Združenih narodov končno priznalo, da človeštvo v veliki meri nosi odgovornost za segrevanje ozračja. Onesnaževanje, ki smo ga toliko let privoščili naravi, moramo s strogimi ukrepi in zakoni zaježiti, omejiti in kolikor se da, nevtralizirati. Če so predlogom novih direktiv s področja ekologije botrovale tudi jasne podnebne spremembe, ki so letošnjo zimo že dodobra pretresle predvsem zahodno Evropo in Baltik, ni mogoče reči. So pa podjetja presenečena nad odločnostjo Evropske komisije in generalnih direktorotov. Tistim malopridnežem, ki skrivoma in protipravno onesnažujejo okolje, bo trda predla. Tako ali drugače.

Seveda ne moremo mimo spodbud, ki bodo evropskim raziskovalcem, podjetjem ter nosilcem znanja in univerz pomagale pri doseganju zastavljenih ciljev vladajoče trojice. Začetek leta pomeni tudi začetek novega finančnega obdobja, ki bo trajal vse do leta 2013. Na spletnih straneh Komisije in direktorotov so že objavljeni razpisi – na voljo je približno 40 razpisov iz 7. okvirnega programa. Strukturni skladi za Slovenijo bodo predvidoma na voljo v drugi polovici leta 2007.

Na razpolago je še dosti drugih programov – informacije o teh lahko pridobite pri nas, na Združenju. Kot smo vas že obvescali, organiziramo, skupaj z Evropsko hiso Ljubljana, dne 22.februarja v Cankarjevem domu seminar o 7.okvirnem programu. Predava najuglednejši strokovnjak dr.Sean McCarthy. Prvi predstavnik članic SGRZ sodeluje brezplačno.

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1. AKTUALNE NOVICE

■ Slikovna opozorila na zavojčkih s cigaretami

Konec januarja je komisar za zdravje, g. Markos Kyprianou, predstavil slikovni material, ki bo dopolnil tekstovna opozorila o škodljivosti kajenja, natisnjena na tobačnih izdelkih.

Slike povedo več kot tisoč besed. Z njimi želijo kadilcem prikazati nevarnosti kajenja.

Med evropskimi državami je Belgija prva, ki na tobačnih izdelkih uporablja kombinirana slikovna in tekstovna opozorila.

Slike in teksti so dostopni na spletni strani: http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/Tobacco/pictorial_warnings_en.htm

■ Radio Europa 05 v Sloveniji

20. januarja 2007 je v Ljubljani pričela z delovanjem nova radijska postaja z imenom 'Radio Europa 05', ki bo slovensko javnost dnevno seznanjala o delovanju Evropske unije, aktualnih dogodkih ter vsebinah.

Radio deluje na frekvenci 87,6 MHz in ima tudi lastno spletno stran: <http://www.radioeuropa05.si/>

■ Leto 2007 je leto enakih možnosti

Konec januarja je EU komisar za zaposlovanje, g. Vladimir Špidla, predstavil uradno spletno stran EU leta enakih možnosti. V EU so namreč, po mnenju državljanov, diskriminacija, nestrpnost in neenakost še vedno zelo razširjene.

Tako so cilji 'Leta' usmerjeni v:

- osveščanje državljanov glede pravic enakosti in življenja brez diskriminacije, ne glede na spol, raso, etnični izvor, religijo in verovanja, nezmožnost, starost ali spolno usmerjenost;
- promocijo enakih možnosti za vse;
- sprožiti vseevropsko razpravo o prednostih v različnosti.

V aktivnosti so vabljeni in vključeni sindikati, delodajalci, nevladne organizacije, skupine

mladih, predstavniki skupin, ki so deležne diskriminatornega ravnanja, predstavniki lokalnih in regionalnih vlad.

Najboljši predlogi za odpravo neenakosti bodo financirani iz programa za zaposlovanje in solidarnost 'PROGRESS'.

Uradna spletna stran Leta enakih možnosti <http://equality2007.europa.eu>

Izvršilni organ za Slovenijo: Ministrstvo za delo, družino in socialne zadeve; <http://www.mddsz.gov.si>, Kontakt: g. Cveto Uršič (e-pošta: cveto.ursic@gov.si)

■ 2. KRATKE NOVICE IN VABILA K SODELOVANJU

• Eurostat objavil Statistični letopis EU za leto 2006

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFF_PUB/KS-AF-06-001/EN/KS-AF-06-001-EN-TOC.PDF

• Vzpostavljen je Forum za analizo vprihodnost usmerjenih tehnologij

(FTA – Future oriented Technology Analysis); <http://forera.jrc.es/fta/forum.html>

• Komisija je kaznovala kartel proizvajalcev preklopnikov s 750 mio € (med njimi so podjetja SImmens, Mitsubishi, Toshiba, Alston, Areva in drugi)

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/80&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

• RAPEX, hitri sistem obveščanja EU o nevarnih proizvodih, ki krožijo na evropskem trgu. Posodobitve so tedenske:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/dyna/news/enews.cfm?al_id=405
in http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/dyna/news/enews.cfm?al_id=401

- **Posodobljen register krmnih dodatkov Skupnosti**

http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/animalnutrition/feed/additives/comm_register_feed_additives_1831-03.pdf

- **3. NOVA ZAKONODAJA**

Večina zakonodaje je trenutno v pripravi oz. še ni pripravljena za sprejetje, vam v pričujoči številki posredujemo aktualne predloge direktiv.

- **Predlog direktive o kaznivih dejanjih s področja ekologije**

Komisija pripravlja osnutek predloga direktive, s katerimi želi v EU poenotiti definicijo ekološkega zločina, postopke pravne odgovornosti ter kazni za subjekte, ki protipravno onesnažujejo okolje.

Kazenska zakonodaja s področja ekologije naj bi postala tretji steber mednarodnega sodelovanja med državami članicami; vzpostavila naj bi minimalne pogoje za ugotavljanje hudih ekoloških kaznivih dejanj, storjenih namerno ali zaradi zanemarjanja ter vzpostaviti enoten in strog kazenski sistem za kršilce zakonodaje.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/criminal/environmental/fsj_criminal_environmental_en.htm in

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/environment/environmental-crime-proposal-draws-controversy/article-161561>

- **Evropa o tobaku in posledicah pasivnega kajenja**

Konec januarja je komisija predstavila še eno zeleno knjigo, »K Evropi brez tobačnega dima: politične možnosti na ravni EU«. Knjiga se dotika zdravstvenih in ekonomskih bremen oz. posledic, povezanih s pasivnim kajenjem ter javne podpore prepovedi kajenja.

Z njo je odprla javno posvetovanje, trajajoče tri mesece (do 1. maja 2007), o najboljšem načinu spodbujanja Evropske unije brez tobačnega dima.

Med petimi političnimi možnostmi, navedenih v knjigi, se komisar Markos

Kiprianu zavzema za zavezujočo zakonodajo, ki bi pomenila primerljivo, pregledno in izvedljivo raven zaščite proti tobačnemu dimu po vsej Evropski uniji.

Protikadilska zelena knjiga je dostopna na strani:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/Tobacco/keydo_tobacco_en.htm

- **EU zakonodaja o varstvu potrošnikov na prepihu**

V začetku februarja je Komisija predstavila »Zeleno knjigo o pregledu pravnega reda Skupnosti o varstvu potrošnikov«, s čimer je sprožila obširno revizijo EU zakonodaje o varstvu potrošnikov in spodbudila priložnost za posodobitev obstoječih direktiv s tega področja.

Glavni namen zelene knjige je poenostaviti in izboljšati zakonodajno okolje za poslovne subjekte, fizične osebe ter izboljšati varstvo potrošnikov; posodobitev potrošniškega notranjega trga, npr. v zakonodajo vključiti nove tehnologije (spletne dražbe, spletna prodaja programske opreme ...).

Evropska Komisija poziva vse zainteresirane, da izrazijo svoja stališča glede vprašanj, ki so se pojavila med pregledom pravnega reda Skupnosti o varstvu potrošnikov, najkasneje do 15/05/2007.

Zelena knjiga v slovenskem jeziku je dostopna na:

http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/cons_int/safe_shop/acquis/green-paper_cons_acquis_sl.pdf in

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/158&format=HTML&aged=0&language=SL&quiLanguage=en>

- **4. GOSPODARSKE NOVICE**

- **Prosti pretok delavcev v EU po 1.1.2007**

Od maja 2006 dalje Slovenija ne uveljavlja več načela vzajemnosti na področju prostega gibanja delavcev. To pomeni, da državljeni držav članic EU in EGP za

zaposlitev in delo v Sloveniji ne potrebujejo delovnega dovoljenja.

Prost pretok velja za Slovence v naslednjih državah:

Velika Britanija, Irska, Švedska, Ciper, Češka, Estonija, Finska, Islandija, Latvija, Litva, Madžarska, Malta, Poljska, Slovaška, Bolgarija in Romunija.

Delno sproščen trg nudita (deloma še vedno zahtevata delovno dovoljenje): Francija in Nizozemska.

Delovno dovoljenje še vedno potrebujemo v državah:

Avstrija, Luksemburg, Nemčija, Liechtenstein ter Norveška, v Belgiji in Danski pa lahko pridobimo delovno dovoljenje po krajšem postopku.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/free_movement/index_en.htm

■ **Akcijski načrt za zmanjšanje administrativnih bremen za gospodarstvo**

EK je proti koncu januarja predstavila akcijski načrta za zmanjšanje administrativnih bremen za gospodarske subjekte. Cilj aktivnosti je 25 % manj administrativnih postopkov do leta 2012, s čimer bi podjetjem omogočiti več časa in finančnih resursov usmeriti v proizvodnjo in inovativne tehnologije.

Prioritetna področja, o katerih bo marca letos odločal Evropski svet, so: manj birokracije za pridobitev raznovrstnih podpor, poenostaviti poročanje statističnih podatkov, manj dokumentacije za prevoznike znotraj EU, e-izmenjava podatkov na področju transporta ter drugi.

Omenjeni ukrepi bi zmanjšali administrativne stroške podjetij za 1.3 milijarde € na letni ravni.

Če bo EU dosegla cilj in administrativna bremena do leta 2012 zmanjšala za četrtno, bi se BDP EU lahko povečal za 150 milijard evrov.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/regulation/better_regulation/index_en.htm

■ **Investicije EBRD in EIB**

Kratek pregled držav, v katere investirata EBRD in EIB:

Evropska banka za razvoj

(www.ebrd.com)

Kosovo: posojilo (EBRD-Italy-Western Balkans Local Enterprise Facility) zasebnemu podjetju

Belorusija: investicije na področju mikrofinanc in posojil MSP

Mongolija: investicije v mikrofinanc, posojila za MSP, pomoč pri privatizaciji podjetij

Rusija: investicija (20% lastniški kapital) v Skyexpress, prvi nizkocenovni letalski prevoznik v državi.

Romunija: posojilo podjetju Donasid v vrednosti 10 mio dolarjev, za rekonstrukcijo in tehnološke izboljšave.

Evropska investicijska banka

(www.eib.eu.int)

Libanon: podpora vladi v višini 960 milijonov € za izvajanje reform in obnove.

Bosna in Hercegovina: posojilo za rehabilitacijo energetskega sistema.

Izrael: 275 milijonov € posojil za okoljske projekte ter investicije v MSP.

Egipt: 310 milijonov € posojil za projekte s področja električne energije in izgradnjo plinovoda.

Albanija: 18 milijonov € posojil za širitev in modernizacijo pristanišča Durrës.

Finska in Švedska: posojilo v vrednosti 140 mio € za raziskave s področja gozdarskih proizvodov (celuloza in papir).

■ **5. FINANČNE STORITVE**

■ **Ovire konkurenčnosti v bančnem sektorju**

Evropska komisija je predstavila poročilo o preiskavi konkurence v sektorju bančnega poslovanja na drobno. Na osnovi poročila je ugotovila, da pri plačilu s plačilnimi karticami prihaja do velikih razlik med provizijami na prodajnem mestu ter medfranšiznimi provizijami; omenjena praksa je v EU precej

razširjena in predstavlja oviro za konkurenčnost evropskih podjetij ter nepotrebne stroške za potrošnike.

Po objavi poročila ter sestanku z Evropsko komisijo si Evropska bančna industrija prizadeva za vzpostavitev enotnega plačilnega območja (SEPA) ter tako izboljšati učinkovitost in znižati stroške plačilnega prometa majhnih vrednosti.

Poročilo, ki je sprožilo polemike nekaterih vpletenih (npr. Visa Europe, MasterCard Europe, EuroCommerce...), je dostopno na spletni strani:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/competition/antitrust/others/sector_inquiries/financial_services/

■ Komisija ocenila prvi program stabilnosti za Slovenijo

Slovenija je v decembru 2006 predložila Program stabilnosti, preko katerega želi do leta 2009 na podlagi makroekonomskega scenarija doseči srednjeročni proračunski cilj – postopno znižanje primanjkljaja na 1 % BDP ter ohranjanje ravni zadolženosti v BDP na trenutni ravni okoli 28% BDP.

Komisija po preučitvi programa stabilnosti Slovenije meni, da mora biti ritem prilagajanja okrepljen in koncentriran na začetek obdobja. Slovenijo poziva da: izkoristi ugodne gospodarske pogoje ter pohiti z doseganjem srednjeročnega cilja z osredotočenjem na začetek obdobja; ter ob napovedih povečanja odhodkov v povezavi s staranjem prebivalstva izboljša dolgoročno vzdržnost javnih financ s pospeševanjem pokojninske reforme. To je npr. z ukrepi, ki so posebej usmerjeni v povečanje stopnje zaposlenosti starejših delavcev in spodbujanje razvoja zasebnih pokojninskih varčevalnih shem.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/fn3#fn3>

■ Imenovani so člani Svetovalne skupine za presojo mnenj o računovodskih standardih

Komisija je 8. februarja imenovala sedem članov Svetovalne skupine za presojo mnenj o računovodskih standardih.

Njihova naloga v triletnem mandatu bo svetovanje Komisiji, presoja mednarodnih standardov računovodskega poročanja (MSRP) in presoja pojasnil Odbora za pojasnjevanje mednarodnih standardov računovodskega poročanja (OPMSRP) z vidika uravnovešenosti in objektivnosti.

Ekspertno skupino sestavljajo: Josef Jílek, Elisabeth Knorr, Carlos Soria Sendra, Hervé Stolowy, Enrico Laghi, Jan Klaasen, Geoffrey Mitchell.

Več o tem:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32006D0505:SL:HTML> in <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/163&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

■ 6. REGIONALNA POLITIKA

■ Razvoj evropskega podeželja

Evropsko podeželje, ki zajema več kot 90% teritorija EU in nekaj več kot 50% prebivalstva, bo v novi finančni perspektivi 2007-2013 lahko izkoristilo možnosti za razvoj in ustvarjanje novih delovnih mest predvsem v sektorjih kmetijstva in turizma.

Do leta 2013 bo na voljo skoraj 80 milijard €, ki jih bodo države lahko počrpale iz naslova kohezijske politike – pogoj za to pa so sprejeti operativni programi s prioritarnimi področji, ki jih določi država članica.

V Sloveniji operativni programi še niso potrjeni, vsota 4,2 milijarde €, ki jo Slovenija prejme iz skupne kohezijske 'mavhe', pa bodo usmerjeni v naslednja področja:

OP ESRR (krepitev regionalnih razvojnih potencialov) in OP ESS (razvoj človeških virov):

Izboljšanje blaginje prebivalcev Republike Slovenije s spodbujanjem gospodarske rasti, ustvarjanja delovnih mest in krepitev človeškega kapitala ter zagotavljanju uravnovešenega in skladnega razvoja, še posebej med regijami.

OP za krepitev razvoja okoljske in prometne infrastrukture

Podpreti in razviti različne možnosti mobilnosti prebivalstva in oskrbe gospodarstva s poudarkom na trajnostni mobilnosti, s povečanjem zanesljivosti prometnega sistema, ekonomske učinkovitosti in prometne varnosti, nadaljnjim razvojem novih načinov transporta ter osveščanjem in vzgojo uporabnikov prevoznih sredstev.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/fiche_index_en.htm in <http://www.svlr.gov.si/>

■ Komisija odobrila strategije regionalnih pomoči za Bolgarijo, Romunijo in Ciper

Trem državam članicam je Komisija odobrila karte regionalnih pomoči, s tem so postale upravičene do regionalne investicijske pomoči za velika podjetja v skladu s pravili o državni pomoči iz Pogodbe ES.

Najvišje možne ravni teh pomoči v upravičenih regijah:

Bolgarija

Celotna Bolgarija je upravičena za prejemanje regionalne pomoči in sicer največ 50% za celotno obdobje 2007-2013.

Ciper

Del Cipra, kjer prebiva 50% celotne populacije, ostaja upravičen do prejemanja regionalne pomoči, v največji vrednosti 15% za celotno obdobje 2007-2013.

Področje, kjer prebiva nadaljnjih 15,88% populacije, bo lahko prejelo regionalno pomoč v maksimalni višini 10% za naslednji dve leti (do 2009).

Romunija

Celotna Romunija je upravičena do prejemanja regionalne pomoči za celotno obdobje 2007-2013. Najvišja vrednost pomoči dosega 50% za celotno državo z izjemo Bukarešte, kjer je maksimalna vrednost določena pri 40%.

Za informacijo, Sloveniji je bila regionalna pomoč odobrena že septembra 2006 in sicer za celotno obdobje 2007-2013.

Več o tem:

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/comp-2006/n434-06.pdf

Več o regionalnih kartah pomoči:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/state_aid/regional_aid/regional_aid.html

■ 7. TRANSPORT IN ENERGETIKA

■ Komisija predstavila predlog direktive za letališča

Januarja je komisija sprejela paket uredb, zadevajoč evropska letališča. Ključne iniciative paketa so tri; prva je predlog sprejema direktive o letaliških pristojbinah, druga razprava o kapacitetah letališč, njihovi učinkovitosti in varnosti, tretja pa poročilo o implementaciji direktive o oskrbovanju zračnih plovil na letališčih.

Celoten paket se osredotoča na vlogo letališč pri bodočem razvoju in konkurenčnosti notranjega trga zračnega prometa, načrtal pa bo tudi prihodnost evropske letališke politike.

Konkretni predlogi EK so: nižje pristojbine za prevoznike, ki nudijo manj storitev (predvsem nizkocenovne prevoznike), optimizirati uporabo že obstoječih kapacitet, izboljšati ekološko 'kapaciteto' letališč, zagotoviti skladen in enoten pristop k letališki varnosti ter zagotoviti trajnostni pristop pri planiranju letališke infrastrukture.

Predlog direktive je objavljen na spletni strani

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air_portal/airports/index_en.htm

■ Trajnostna, konkurenčna in varna energija

Področje energetike je izjemno velikega pomena za EU. Je eno izmed temeljnih prioritet trojice predsedujočih do junija 2008, torej Nemčije, Portugalske in Slovenije. Tako je bil v januarju predstavljen več kot 1000 strani dolg akcijski načrt za razvoj evropskega energetskega sektorja.

Bistveni poudarki, na katerih bodo morali usklajeno delovati evropski politiki, gospodarstveniki, razvojniki ter seveda tudi vsi uporabniki in porabniki energije, so:

zmanjševanje emisij CO₂, povečevanje proizvodnje in uporabe alternativnih in obnovljivih virov energije, izboljševanje učinkovitosti energije, nenazadnje tudi zmanjševanje odvisnosti Evrope od fosilnih goriv idr.

Akcijski načrti po posameznih skupinah so objavljeni na spletni strani http://ec.europa.eu/energy/index_en.html sočasno s povzetki pomislekov in dilem o prihodnosti evropske energetike. Tema še namreč ni zaključena. Naslednji sestanek bo potekal v sredini februarja; skupni načrt naj bi bil usklajen v naslednjih mesecih.

■ Svetla prihodnost za obnovljive vire energije

Evropski svet za obnovljivo energijo je v zadnjem tednu januarja, 'Tednu trajnostne energije' predstavil poročilo o potencialih, ki jih nudijo obnovljivi viri energije. Poročilo predvideva, da bomo lahko do leta 2050 zadostili 50% svetovnih zahtev po energiji. Trenutna uporaba obnovljivih virov energije v Evropi znaša pičlih 8%.

Poročilo predvideva, da bo za doseg cilja 50% potrebno poenotiti svetovna politična merila glede energije in trajnostnega razvoja; tako navaja predloge, kot so npr. ukinitve nadomestil za fosilna goriva in jedrsko energijo, določitev svetovno zavezujočih ciljev uporabe obnovljivih virov energije, skrb za hitra povračila investicij v obnovljive vire energije, zagotovitev prioritarnega dostopa do omrežij z obnovljivimi viri energije ter vzpostavitev strogih svetovnih standardov za energetske potratne električne stroje, zgradbe in vozila.

Dokument je dosegljiv na spletni strani: <http://www.erec-renewables.org/>

■ 8. EKOLOGIJA IN TRAJNOSTNI RAZVOJ

■ Omejitev emisij CO₂ v cestnem prometu

Evropska komisija je v začetku februarja predstavila doslej najstrožjo strategijo za zmanjševanje emisij toplogrednih plinov v cestnem prometu. Do leta 2012 bo lahko povprečni osebni avtomobil proizvedel do 120g ogljikovega dioksida na kilometer.

Strategija zadeva svetovno avtomobilsko industrijo – vsa vozila, prodana v Evropi, bodo morala izpolnjevati stroge zahteve. To je tudi razlog za burno razpravo, v kateri so udeleženi evropski proizvajalci 'čistejših vozil', kot so Fiat, Renault in Peugeot ter proizvajalci dražjih avtomobilov (npr. BMW, Chrysler), ki proizvajajo večje količine emisij CO₂.

Strategija v konkretnih številkah: do leta 2012 bodo morali proizvajalci izboljšati izkoristek goriv na 4.5l/100 km za dieselska ter 5l/100 km za bencinska goriva. Zmanjševanja dela emisij bo doseženo preko uporabe biogoriv ter drugih ukrepov, npr. preko izboljšane delovanja klimatskih naprav.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/155&format=HTML&agued=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

■ Trgovanje z emisijami – Slovenija

Evropska komisija je v začetku februarja odobrila državni načrt Slovenije za dodelitev pravic do emisije ogljikovega dioksida za obdobje 2008-2012.

Slovenija je predlagala emisijske kupone v vrednosti 8,3 milijonov ton ogljikovega dioksida, kar je v skladu z obveznostmi države iz Kjotskega protokola ter njenimi zmoglostmi za zmanjšanje emisij.

Več o tem:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/emissions.htm>

■ Ekonalepka pod revizijo

Ekonalepka je priznanje EU, dodeljeno tistim proizvodom in storitvam, ki dosegajo zelo visoke okoljske standarde EU. Podeljuje se

že od leta 1992 dalje; potrošnikom zagotavlja zaupanje v (okoljsko) kvaliteto proizvoda/storitve, prepoznano v mednarodnem prostoru.

Podjetja, ki želijo dokazati, da njihovi proizvodi/storitve izpolnjujejo zahtevne okoljske kriterije, lahko za uporabo logotipa Ekonalepke zaprosijo kompetentno nacionalno institucijo (v Sloveniji je pristojno Ministrstvo za okolje in prostor, dr. Samo Kopač. E-pošta; samo.kopac@gov.si).

Ekonalepka se trenutno dodeljuje 24 skupinam proizvodov, med njimi tudi turističnim nastanitvam, električnim aparatom, čistilnim proizvodom, proizvodom iz papirja, oblačilom....

Seznam skupin je dostopen na:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/product/index_en.htm

Kljub tradiciji in namenu je pojem 'Ekonalepka' oz. 'Ecolabel' premalo poznan, poleg tega bo potrebna širitev skupin proizvodov. To je tudi razlog za povabilo EK k interaktivnemu sodelovanju Evropejcev pri reviziji Ekonalepke.

Prvi korak je vprašalnik:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/consultation_en.htm

Več o tem:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/whats_eco/ov_concept_en.htm

9. FARMACIJA IN ZDRAVSTVO

■ Nova uredba za varnejša zdravila za otroke

26. januarja je v veljavo stopila nova uredba za bolj varna in učinkovita zdravila, namenjena otrokom. T.i. »pediatrična regulativa« je namenjena uresničitvi treh ciljev; spodbuditi raziskave in razvoj na področju zdravil, namenjenih otrokom; zagotoviti, da so zdravila, predpisana otrokom, tudi primerno testirana in preizkušena za varno uporabo pri malih bolnikih ter izboljšati dostop do informacij o uporabi otroških zdravil (namen zdravila, stranski učinki,...).

Farmacevtska podjetja bodo morala odslej ugotavljati učinke zdravil na otroke (otroško

telo reagira na zdravilo drugače kot odrasli), navajati navodila za uporabo posameznega zdravila pri otrocih. Pridobiti pa bodo morala tudi mnenje o ustreznosti zdravila za otroke.

Pristojna agencija, ki bo preverjala zdravila in izdajala potrdila o ustreznosti le-teh, je Evropska agencija za zdravila (EMA) oz. Pediatrični odbor pri EMA, ki pa bo predvidoma ustanovljen julija 2007.

V vmesnem času se lahko zdravila, ki niso namenjena izključno otrokom, predpisuje le odraslim osebam.

Več o tem: <http://www.emea.europa.eu/>

Dokument je objavljen na spletni strani http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_378/l_37820061227en0010019.pdf

■ Dileme o čezmejnem zdravstvenem varstvu in mobilnosti pacientov

Evropsko sodišče je določilo, da določbe Pogodbe o prostem gibanju veljajo tudi za zdravstvene storitve, ne glede na to kako so urejene in financirane na nacionalni ravni. Področje je Komisija leta 2004 pričela natančneje urejati z Direktivo o storitvah na notranjem trgu, katero bo dopolnila letošnje leto s Strategijo politik (2007), znotraj katere bo razvila okvir Skupnosti za varne, visokokakovostne in učinkovite zdravstvene storitve ter okrepila sodelovanje med državami članicami.

Predvidene so naslednje oblike čezmejnega zdravstvenega varstva:

- čezmejno opravljanje storitev (dostava storitve iz ozemlja ene države članice na ozemlje druge);
- uporaba storitev v tujini, kar je znano kot „mobilnost bolnikov“;
- trajna prisotnost izvajalca storitev (primer: ustanovitev izvajalca zdravstvenega varstva v drugi državi članici - lokalne klinike večjih izvajalcev);
- začasna prisotnost oseb (primer: mobilnost zdravstvenih delavcev, na primer začasen premik v državo članico bolnika zaradi izvajanja storitev).

Ministrstvo za zdravje RS opozarja Bruselj, da bi lahko uveljavitev pravice do zdravljenja v drugih članicah EU negativno vplivala na nacionalni sistem zdravstvenega varstva. Posvetovanje se bo v mesecu februarju še nadaljevalo.

Več:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/cooperation/mobility/docs/comm_health_services_comm2006_sl.pdf in

<http://evropa.gov.si/aktualno/>

■ Sodelovanje EU in Japonske na področju zdravstva in varnosti

V začetku februarja so Evropska komisija, Evropska agencija za zdravstvo (EMA), Japonsko ministrstvo za zdravje, delo in socialno skrbstvo (MHLW) ter Japonska agencija za farmacijo in medicinske naprave (PMDA) podpisali dogovor o izmenjavi zaupnih informacij s področja zdravstva in varnosti.

Informacije, ki so predmet dogovora, so:

- Osnutki zakonodaje;
- Znanstvene nasvete o razvoju proizvodov – promocija inovacij;
- Presoja vlog za dovoljenje za trženje;
- Informacije o varnosti trženih zdravil, zavoljo zaščite javnega zdravja.

Prednosti, ki jih stranke pričakujejo kot posledico dogovora, so: hitrejši dostop do novih in inovativnih zdravil, nižji stroški zaradi izogibanja dvojnimi presojam o ustreznosti zdravil, povečana varnost javnega zdravja zaradi sodelovanja strokovnjakov iz EU in Japonske.

Več o tem:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/07/135&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

10. RR IN INOVACIJE

■ EU in ZDA za projektno sodelovanje

Znanstveniki in raziskovalci iz EU in ZDA bodo v prihodnje sodelovali na projektih s področja okoljskih raziskav ter ekoinformatike.

Bilateralni raziskovalni okvir je začrtal novo stopnjo sodelovanja med obema partnericama, namenjen pa je združevanju naporov pri reševanju in razumevanju okoljske problematike.

Prva priložnost za sodelovanje pri skupnih projektih se kaže v okviru 7. okvirnega programa ter razpisih, ki so že objavljeni na uradni spletni strani.

Spletna stran 7.OP:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

Več o dogovoru za sodelovanje:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/press/2007/pr0902-2en.cfm>

■ Vzpostavljen Forum za analizo v prihodnost usmerjenih tehnologij

Skupni raziskovalni center EU (Joint Research Centre) je patronat Foruma za analizo v prihodnost usmerjenih tehnologij (FTA – Future oriented Technology Analysis), ustanovljenega v začetku februarja. Forum je namenjen odprtemu in skupnemu dialogu med prekrivajočimi se področji, pripravi ocen tehnologij, strategij razvoja, napovedovanju usmeritve tehnologij...

Zainteresirani posamezniki so vabljeni k sodelovanju pri iniciranju bodočih razprav.

Več o tem: <http://forera.jrc.es/fta/forum.html>

■ Sredstva za raziskave v Sloveniji nižja

Po poročilu Eurostata se sredstva, ki jih Slovenija namenja za raziskave in razvoj, vsako leto nižajo. V letu 2001 so sredstva obsegala 1,55 odstotka BDP, leta 2004 1,45 odstotka, v letu 2005 pa le 1,22 odstotka BDP.

Cilj Lizbonske strategije, od katere se Slovenci očitno odmikamo, je 3% do leta 2010. Stanje je še hujše, če v obzir

vzamemo druge države, ki so sočasno stopile v EU; Estonija, Ciper, Latvija namenljajo raziskavam precej višji odstotek BDP.

O primerjavah s 'starimi' članicami EU in o investicijah v nepremičnine ne bomo izgubljali besed.

Informacije o sredstvih za R&R so objavljene na http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page?_pageid=1996,39140985&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

■ Za 'svetovne' grozde

12. januarja 2007 je v Bruslju potekal sestanek Svetovalne skupine visokih predstavnikov za grozde (High Level Advisory Group on Clusters).

Naloga predstavnikov je voditi pripravo Evropskega Memoranduma grozdov, ki bo podpisan 27. novembra 2007.

Memorandum bo načrtoval ključne cilje za politiko grozdenja v Evropi in vzpostavil jasno sliko o prihodnosti med- in transnacionalnega sodelovanja.

Več o tem:
www.proinno-europe.eu
www.europe-innova.org

11. KMETIJSTVO

■ Uveljavljena strožja pravila pri transportu živih živali

5. januarja 2007 je stopila v veljavo nova uredba o zaščiti živali med prevozom, katere namen je zmanjšati stres in poškodbe živali med kopnim in tudi vodnim transportom.

Nova pravila zahtevajo: predvsem izboljšanje pogojev za živali med prevozom (boljšo mikroklimo in oskrbo z vodo med prevozom). Pri tem so posebne zahteve za določene za mlade živali, novorojene živali in živali porodnice.

Zahteva se tudi boljše ravnanje z živalmi. Vozniki in oskrbniki morajo opraviti posebno usposabljanje (in z letom 2008 pridobiti

certifikate). Odgovornost za ravnanje z živalmi bodo odslej nosili tudi trgovci in druge osebe, ki imajo opravka z njimi.

Pri daljših prevozih (ki trajajo nad 8 ur), se zahteva opremljenost vozil s satelitskim navigacijskim sistemom, s katerim je omogočen lažji nadzor nad časom potovanja in počitka živali. Vozila morajo biti opremljena tudi z uradnim potrdilom, ki dokazujejo izpolnjevanje vseh predpisanih standardov.

Več o tem

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/transport/index_en.htm

■ Več sadja in zelenjave v prehrani Evropejcev

Evropska komisija je predstavila predlog reforme EU trga s sadjem in zelenjavo. Z reformo želijo med drugimi postaviti temelje za večjo konkurenčnost trga, povečati potrošnjo, izboljšati zaščito narave z minimalnimi ekološkimi zahtevami, povečati financiranje za organsko proizvodnjo, izboljšati promocijo sadja in zelenjave ter nenazadnje, kjer je mogoče, odpraviti administrativne ovire.

Več o tem:
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/capreform/fruitveg/index_en.htm

12. JUGOVZHODNA EVROPA

■ Znanstveni center za podporo državam Zahodnega Balkana

V Mariboru deluje nov slovensko-evropski center za naravoslovne raziskave - SENARC. Raziskovalni center je namenjen usposabljanju in izmenjavi znanja znanstvenikov iz jugovzhodne Evrope. Specialistična usmerjenost centra je predvsem v kemičnih in bioanaliznih merjenjih, v izobraževanju na univerzitetni, podiplomski in strokovni ravni, skupnih raziskovalnih projektih, strokovnih konferencah in seminarjih.

Konkretnije, gre za izmenjavo mnenj in izkušenj na področjih preprečevanja in nadzora onesnaževanja okolja, ravnanja z

zemljišči, obvladovanja naravnih nesreč, kot so npr. suše in poplave, merjenja radioaktivnosti, prisotnosti kemikalij ter varnost kemikalij.

Uradna spletna stran centra:
<http://www.senarc.si/eevents.htm>

■ **Bolgarija podpisala pogodbo za izgradnjo mosta preko Donave**

Bolgarija je konec januarja s španskim podjetjem 'Fomento de Construcciones y Contratas' podpisala pogodbo o izgradnji drugega mosta preko Donave. Projekt, vreden 236 mio €, bo spodbudil prekomejno sodelovanje in trgovino z Romunijo ter izboljšal transportne povezave s centralno Evropo.

Most s štiripasovnico in enim železniškim tirom naj bi bil zgrajen do 2011; predvidena je tudi 'obremenjenost' mosta – letno naj bi prečkalo preko mostu 400.000 vozil.

Sredstva za izgradnjo je Bolgarija pridobila iz predpristopne pomoči, EIB posojil ter dela nacionalnih sredstev.

Več:
<http://www.eib.eu.int/>

■ **EU komisar za širitev je naklonjen nadaljnji širitvi EU**

Po uspešni vključitvi Bolgarije in Romunije, EU pušča odprta vrata za vključitev držav Zahodnega Balkana (Hrvaška, Bosna in Hercegovina, Srbija in Kosovo, Črna gora, Makedonija, Albanija). Ob tem pričakuje, da bodo te države privolile v pogoje in nujne reforme, ki jih postavlja EU.

Datum pristopa je odvisen od vsake države posameznice ter njenih prizadevanj in prilaganja EU zakonodaji. Potrebne bodo reforme na različnih področjih, ekonomije, varstva okolja, demokracije, decentralizacije, boja proti korupciji ...

Med potencialne bodoče kandidatke se uvršča tudi Turčija.

Vsekakor je širitev tema, ki še ni zaključena.

Več o tem:
http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index_sl.htm

13. NAJAVE DOGODKOV



2006 Training Programme on Technology Foresight

Bratislava, 19. – 22. februar 2007
<http://www.unido.org/doc/51187>



13th Annual Pharmaceuticals Conference: Growing Pains – How to Adapt to a Changing Market?

London, 20. februar 2007
http://www.economistconferences.com/Rountable/Public/con_common.asp?rtid=937&rtRegion=4&area=1



9th Russia Business Conference: Balancing Risks and Growth

Moscow, 20. februar 2007
http://www.economistconferences.com/Rountable/Public/con_common.asp?rtid=1068&rtRegion=3&area=1



Nanotechnologies...mythes de demain et réalités d'aujourd'hui

Bruselj, 23. februar 2007
<http://www.seii.org/view.php?articleid=78>



The 2007 Growth and Jobs Summit

Bruselj, 27. februar 2007
www.lisboncouncil.net



2nd International Energy Summit: Tilting the Global Balance – Strategic Implications, Strategic Synergies

Atene, 27.- 28. februar 2007
http://www.economistconferences.com/Rountable/Public/con_common.asp?rtid=1096&rtRegion=3&area=1



World Sustainable Energy Days

Wels (Avstrija), 28.februar - 2.marec 2007
<http://www.wsed.at/wsed/index.php?id=217&L=1>

 **3rd International Conference on Web Information System and Technologies**

Barcelona, 3.marec 2007
<http://www.ianis.net/index.php?page=events&sub=detail&idevent=1673>

 **The European Financial Directives Conference**

London, 6.marec 2007
http://www.epsilonevents.com/eps_current_event.asp?id=39&type=current

 **Regions for Economic Change – Fostering Competitiveness through Innovative Technologies, Products and Healthy Communities**

Bruselj, 7. marec 2007
<http://www.ianis.net/index.php?page=events&sub=detail&idevent=1655>

 **INTED 2007 International Technology, Education and Development Conference**

Valencia, 7. marec 2007
<http://www.ianis.net/index.php?page=events&sub=detail&idevent=1674>

 **Today is the Future**

Bruselj, 7. marec 2007
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/events/>

 **Econometrics in Action – Introduction to Econometrics**

Bruselj, 7. – 8. marec 2007
www.zew.eu

 **Energymed**

Napoli, 7. – 8. marec 2007
<http://www.energymed.it/>

 **Value-based Technomics**

Bruselj, 13. – 14. marec 2007
<http://www.seii.org/view.php?articleid=75>

 **5th European Business Summit: Reform to Perform**

Bruselj, 15. – 16. marec 2007
<http://www.ebsummit.org/index.html?page=103>

 **IRC Future Match**

Hannover, 15. – 21. marec 2007
http://www.futurematch.cebit.de/p_index.php

 **China Development Forum 2007**

Beijing, 18. – 19. marec 2007
<http://www.cdrf.org.cn/en/>

 **European Congress on the Validation of Competences**


Oviedo, 19. – 20. marec 2007
<http://www.creacproject.org/Default.aspx?>

 **Successors' European Youth Summit 2007**

Praha, 19. – 20. marec 2007
www.seys2007.com

 **The ASME European Forum on Sustainable Engineering**

Bruselj, 19. – 21. marec 2007
<http://www.asme.org/europeanforum/>

 **Competitiveness in New Member States: A Model for EU Candidates and Neighbours?**

Madzarsko, 19. – 21. marec 2007
<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/themes/eu/conference.aspx?confref=WP846>

 **Master in European Integration and Regionalism**

Barcelona, 19. – 30. marec 2007
www.eipa.eu



14th European Packaging Waste Law Conference

Bruselj, 20. – 21. marec 2007
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www.feinstaubfrei.at



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European Funding Academy: workshop on FP7

Budimpest, 2. – 6. april 2007
www.europamedia.org



Financial Management of EU Structural Funds

Maastricht, 3. – 4. april 2007
<http://www.eipa.nl/index.asp?option=products§ion=M&id=1436>



Implementing the New Structural Funds Regulations

Maastricht, 10. – 11. april 2007
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5th Eastern European e-Gov Days 2007

Praha, 11. april 2007
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Central & Eastern European Biofuels

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14th China Tianjin National Commodities Fair and Investment Conference

Tianjin (Kitajska), 18. – 22. april 2007
tianjin@euccc.com.cn



RENEXPO: Central and SE Europe

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■ 15. PRILOGE

PRILOGA I

What to expect from the German presidency

By Katinka Barysch

On January 1st 2007, Germany took over the rotating EU presidency. Chancellor Angela Merkel has ambitious goals, most notably an EU agreement on what to do with the Union's moribund constitutional treaty. She also wants progress towards a more efficient EU energy policy and closer links with countries in the former Soviet Union. None of these will be easy to achieve. To make the presidency look like a success, Germany may concentrate on endearing the EU to its citizens – by throwing a big anniversary party for the Rome treaty, for example – and to European businesses by cutting back red tape and bureaucracy.

Officially, Merkel will not present the presidency programme until January 17th, when she will step in front of the European Parliament. But her government has already published a 25-page list of projects and objectives, ranging from encouraging innovation to liberalising rail transport and fighting illegal immigration. Germany's overall objective is nothing less than "re-launching Europe" ("*Europa neu begründen*", as Merkel puts it).

A game of two halves

During the first half of the presidency, Merkel and her team will focus on 'deliverables' such as energy policy, climate change, economic reform and internal security. Like Tony Blair when he convened the informal Hampton Court summit in 2005, Merkel hopes to prove that the EU has much to offer to its people. The spring summit in March – traditionally devoted to economic issues – will focus on energy questions and cutting red tape. Moreover, EU leaders will discuss climate change, which ties in nicely with the G8 presidency that Germany also holds in 2007.

The second part of the presidency will kick off with a month-long party to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome which established the European Economic Community in 1957. Local festivities such as cake-baking competitions and all-night street parties will culminate in a grand political declaration to be signed by the 27 EU leaders at an informal summit in Berlin on March 25th. The text will remind Europeans that the EU once brought peace and prosperity to a war-torn continent; it will lay out the values that unite the Union; and it will warn that only the EU can help European countries to cope with new challenges such as climate change, international terrorism or global competition. Since the Berlin declaration is supposed to find a wide audience, the Germans want to fit all this on just a few pages.

One issue that is unlikely to get a mention in the political declaration is the constitutional treaty. The issue remains so controversial that it risks spoiling the party. Germany will start talking to its 26 EU peers about the treaty early on in the presidency, but discreetly and away from the limelight. It hopes to get a compromise on what kind of treaty the EU needs and how to get it by the June European summit.

Expectations management

Germany's presidency programme is certainly ambitious. In the autumn, Merkel and her ministers started backtracking, in particular playing down prospect for a constitutional settlement. But there are several reasons why expectations towards Berlin's leadership remain high. And there are as many reasons why they may be disappointed.

★ **Bigs and smalls:** After a year of small-country presidencies (Austria followed by Finland), Europeans hope that Germany – with its economic weight and political clout – can finally move the EU forward on several fronts. Small countries often find it easier to adopt the role of an 'honest broker' that is expected of an EU president. Although large-country presidencies are often

less consensual, as they tend to push their own positions more strongly, they can use their weight to create political momentum and move difficult dossiers forward. They also find it easier to shoulder the administrative burden of running the EU agenda. Over the next six months, Germany will preside over around 4,000 EU internal meetings, as well as managing over 40 meetings with non- EU countries, including EU summits with Russia, Japan, Canada and the US.

The risk is that unrealistically high expectation could make the German EU presidency look like a failure. This could dampen the mood in Europe at a time when the eurozone economy is finally picking up, and renewed optimism is sorely needed to tackle a multitude of problems. Germany will be followed in the EU chair by Portugal and Slovenia. Not until the second half of 2008 will another large country (France) take the lead. However, closer co-operation between successive presidencies under a new 'trio-presidency' system should help to mitigate the lack of large-country leadership between mid-2007 and mid-2008.

★ **Peerless leader:** In Great Britain, Tony Blair is due to hand over power to a successor (most likely Gordon Brown) before mid-2007. France holds presidential elections in April and May 2007 (with legislative elections due in June). The Netherlands only has a caretaker administration, following the collapse of the centre-right coalition in June 2006. Italy's fractious coalition government is busy squabbling about domestic reforms, which suggests that Rome will continue punching below its weight in the EU. Poland's EU policies are oscillating between awkward and obstructive, while Spain's interests are fairly narrowly defined. Europe is begging for leadership. And Merkel looks like the only one who can provide it.

While political uncertainty in the other large EU countries leaves Merkel with an unusually strong hand, it also brings problems. It would be hard enough having to consult 26 EU governments. But Merkel will also have to talk to various candidates and would-be leaders. This will vastly complicate negotiations, in particular on the EU constitutional treaty. In France, a new government will only just be settling in by the end of the German presidency.

★ **The art of compromise:** Merkel made a strong debut on the EU stage in December 2005, when she helped to broker a deal on the EU's common budget, ending months of difficult negotiations. This performance, combined with her ability to hold together Germany's unwieldy coalition government, has brought her a reputation for being adept in forging compromises – a key skill for any EU president. However, Merkel's critics say that her penchant for compromise and consensus have come at the expense of leadership. "Merkel does not forge decisions", says one German official, "she manages discord."

★ **Domestic backing:** Intra-coalition disputes between Merkel's conservative CDU and her Social Democrat partners have impeded domestic reform in Germany. But in EU policy, disagreements between the two coalition parties are less pronounced. The most notable exception is Turkey's potential membership, with the CDU favouring a privileged partnership. But after the EU partly suspended Turkish accession talks in December 2006, enlargement questions are largely off the agenda.

Public opinion in Germany is unlikely to be a major concern: an Ipsos poll from December 2006 found that 85 per cent of Germans were unaware of their country's forthcoming EU chairmanship. Meanwhile, a majority of Germans broadly supports Merkel's biggest presidency project – the revival of the EU constitution.

While Germany's powerful *Länder* governors are unlikely to pay much attention to the EU presidency, Berlin's mighty ministries could be a headache. The German constitution gives individual ministers considerable power to run 'their' area of policy. Differences within the cabinet could impede Merkel's ability to lead at the EU level. With regard to climate change, for example, the environment ministry wants Germany to push for strict post-Kyoto targets on greenhouse gas emissions while the economics ministry worries about the costs for German business.

Energy, environment and economic reform

Germany's economic upswing, shrinking budget deficit and falling jobless numbers will bolster Merkel's credibility when she calls for renewed reform efforts at the spring EU summit. Two years after reviewing the Lisbon reform agenda, EU leaders will take stock whether the agreed changes are helping to improve Europe's growth and competitiveness. From the long list of Lisbon policies, Germany is likely to single out a few, such as energy market liberalisation, equal opportunities in the labour market and the EU's 'better regulation' agenda launched in 2002.

★ **Better regulation:** Germany is likely to ask EU governments to commit to reducing the regulatory burden for business by 25 per cent by 2012. According to Günter Verheugen, the (German) Commissioner in charge of this dossier, this would add \$150 billion (or 1.5 per cent) to EU GDP over the medium term. Businesses will undoubtedly welcome such plans. However, it is not yet clear how the 'bureaucratic burden' will be measured; and how much responsibility for reducing it will lie with the Commission and how much with EU governments (some of which are prone to 'gold plating' EU rules at the national level). A Commission paper on the subject – due in January – should provide some clarity.

More promising could be Merkel's idea to set up an independent expert panel to assess the impact of new (and in due course) existing EU regulations. Germany has recently created such a body at the national level and thinks that the EU would also do better if independent experts, rather than Commission officials, studied draft laws. Finally, Merkel has suggested that the EU should adopt the principle of 'discontinuity'. At the national level, legislative initiatives become void if a new parliament is elected. At the EU level, draft directives can hang around for decades. In future, every new Commission and Parliament (together with the Council) would sift through draft directives that have not been adopted during the 5-year term of the Commission and European Parliament, to see which ones should be ditched and which re-submitted.

★ **Energy policy:** The repeated threat of Russian gas shortfalls, high global oil prices and national protectionism against cross-border mergers have kept energy near the top of the EU agenda. In March 2006, the Commission published a green paper on energy. It called for the completion of the EU's internal gas and electricity markets, the increased use of renewables and a more coherent external energy policy, in particular vis-à-vis Russia. Although EU governments routinely pay lip-service to the importance of energy security, there has been little progress towards a more coherent and effective EU energy policy. So the Commission will step in again, this time with a strategic energy policy review, to be released on January 10th. The spring European Council in March is expected to agree on specific steps and policy targets.

Although Germany has officially endorsed many of the Commission's ideas, it will struggle to be seen as an honest broker by its EU partners in this policy area. The lobbying power of Germany's energy giants has at times been an obstacle to building a single EU market for gas and electricity. On December 11th, Germany, alongside France, indicated that it would bloc Commission plans to force energy companies to 'unbundle' power generation from transmission and distribution. Similarly, Berlin's close bilateral ties with Moscow have prevented the EU from speaking with one voice when dealing with Russia, which supplies one-third of the EU's gas.

If questions of market liberalisation and energy diplomacy prove overly controversial, Germany may seek to shift the emphasis towards technical and environmental issues. In particular, Germany is planning to submit a "renewable energy road map" and new energy efficiency targets for buildings and transport. Some energy-related issues are so controversial that Germany will try to keep them off the agenda altogether. In particular, Berlin will resist any attempts to transfer new regulatory powers to Brussels or grant other EU countries easy access to its massive gas storage facilities.

★ **Climate change:** Fighting climate change is another area where Germany's credentials are a little weak. In December, the European Commission shaved 30 million tons off Germany's quota for CO₂ emissions for the 2008-2012 period, saying that Germany's own targets had been too lax. The country's 'big four' energy companies cried foul, and Berlin is now lobbying Brussels for a higher quota. Germany is not the only laggard though: currently only three EU countries are likely to meet their Kyoto targets. On the other hand, many Germans are distressed about the Stern report on the cost of climate change, and Merkel is said to take the issue very seriously. She plans to reach an agreement with her EU counterparts on a new climate change regime for the years after 2012, when the Kyoto protocol expires. Such an intra-EU agreement – due to be endorsed at the spring EU summit – would then form the starting point for climate change negotiations with the US, China, India and other big countries invited to the G8 summit in Heiligendamm in June.

Foreign and security policy

The EU's foreign policy during the German presidency will to a significant degree be dictated by world events. Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia and Sudan will be on the agenda when EU foreign ministers meet under German leadership, as well as the Middle East peace process and Kosovo's 'final status' negotiations. Although Germany's presidency programme talks about improved coherence in EU foreign policy, there are unlikely to be big practical steps. Possible improvements such as merging the jobs of the Council's High Representative for foreign policy and the External Relations Commissioner would be seen as 'cherry picking' from the EU constitution and are therefore off limits while the negotiations on the treaty still go on. Instead, Berlin will try to direct EU foreign policy towards the EU's eastern neighbourhood.

★ **A new agreement with Russia:** The German government had been hoping to use its presidency to get the EU and Russia to agree on the parameters of a new bilateral treaty, to replace the partnership and co-operation agreement (PCA) that expires in November 2007. However, Poland has been vetoing the EU's own negotiating position because Russia bans Polish meat imports. Even if Warsaw withdrew its veto, internal EU divisions, a general cooling in EU-Russia relations and the forthcoming Russian presidential and parliamentary elections would stand in the way of rapid progress towards a new treaty. The impact on EU-Russia relations would be slight since the PCA is prolonged automatically unless either side gives notice. EU energy companies, however, may be disappointed: Germany wants to take some of the rules on pipeline access, investment and transparency from the Energy Charter Treaty (which Russia refuses to ratify) and tie them into the post-PCA package.

★ **Neighbourhood policy plus:** Following the 2004 eastward enlargement, Germans display little enthusiasm for admitting further countries into the EU. At the same time, Germany worries more than most about instability along the EU's new eastern border. Political mayhem, poverty, crime and extremism in the former Soviet Union could quickly spill over into the EU. In 2004, the EU launched its European neighbourhood policy (ENP) to help stabilise the countries around its external borders and bind them closer to the EU. However, so far the ENP has had little impact on the ground. Germany wants a new neighbourhood policy to offer juicier carrots, so that the neighbours are motivated to reform.

Berlin had to give up its initial idea that an "ENP-plus" should be available only to the EU's eastern neighbours, such as Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. There was too much opposition from Spain and other southern EU countries that worry about political instability in, and economic migrants from, Northern Africa. Now Germany, together with the Commission, is working on a new package that will in principle be available to both the East and the South. Neighbouring countries will be offered deeper integration with the EU in individual sectors such as energy and transport. Countries that respect democratic standards and have reasonably open economies will be offered 'deep free trade', which entails the dismantling of tariffs and regulatory barriers to trade. In addition, the EU also wants to encourage more co-operation among East European countries, for example those around the Black Sea.

★ **Central Asia:** Finally, Germany will use its presidency to formulate the EU's first-ever strategy towards Central Asia. The region is important for Europe as a potential energy supplier, but also as a source of illegal immigrants, extremism or smuggled drugs and weapons. Nevertheless, while the US, Russia and China are engaged in a 'great game' to gain influence in Central Asia, the Europeans are almost entirely absent. Germany therefore wants to draw up plans for more co-operation with the likes of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan on counter-terrorism, smuggling, migration, regional stability, transport and of course energy. However, attempts to build stronger ties with the region's autocratic governments will be criticised by the EU's Nordic members that have traditionally stressed human rights in EU foreign policy. Divisions are already opening up. France and Germany recently campaigned – along with Russia – for Kazakhstan to take over the chairmanship of the OSCE; Britain and some others took the American line and blocked this move, on the grounds that the country's human rights record was not up to scratch.

Internal security and migration

Germany – usually in the vanguard for more European integration – has been rather cautious about increasing the EU's power in justice and home affairs. Most other EU countries, however, are convinced of the need for deeper collaboration on immigration policy, border controls and the fight against crime and terrorism. Public fears about terrorism and waves of illegal immigrants arriving on Europe's Mediterranean coastline will keep JHA on the EU's agenda.

★ **Stronger EU bodies:** The German presidency will argue that Frontex, the EU border agency, cannot cope with the huge task of co-ordinating member-state efforts against illegal immigration without stronger powers and more experts and money. Germany also wants to set up an intelligence network at Europol, the EU's police office, to clamp down on terrorist organisations that recruit and train through the internet. The Germans intend to put fresh pressure on EU governments that are holding up moves to let Europol officers work directly on ongoing police investigations and to share intelligence more widely. There will also be a debate over what other powers Europol should have to make it more effective in the fight against crime.

★ **Treaty of Prüm:** Germany is likely to push for all EU members to sign up to a treaty on police cooperation, first agreed in the German town of Prüm in 2005. The Prüm treaty allows signatories to freely share DNA and fingerprint data, and to work together more closely in cross-border police operations. Seven member-states have already ratified the treaty and more, including Britain, want to sign up. But if they cannot get the unanimous support needed to make Prüm an EU treaty, German diplomats might try using special rules that allow a smaller group to press ahead and fold Prüm into the EU treaties. This proposal could be contentious: the rules for such 'enhanced co-operation' have never been used. Tough negotiations are also expected on a revamped law to fight racism and xenophobia, including a possible EU ban on the display of Nazi symbols, and on standards for protecting citizen's rights during cross-border trials.

The EU constitutional treaty

★ **Germany's maximalist position:** The future of the EU constitution is the area where Germany may find it hardest to play the role of an impartial broker since it leads the camp of those who want to save the agreement. Embarrassingly, Germany's federal president has refused to sign off the treaty after the constitutional court said it would not rule on a challenge made by a German MEP before all EU countries had agreed what to do with the text. Nevertheless, German politicians routinely point out that two-thirds of EU countries have already ratified the treaty (18 including Germany and the two newest members, Bulgaria and Romania). According to Reinhard Silberberg from Germany's foreign ministry, the sheer force of numbers means that those who have not ratified will have to "move more than others". To drive the point home, Spain and Luxemburg are organising a get-together for those that have already ratified the treaty in January.

Merkel insists that the constitutional treaty must be the starting point for any future negotiations. While she initially seemed willing to accept a less ambitious name, more recently she has stressed that the new treaty must be “a constitution” (the German word *Verfassung* implies a basic set of rules of a higher order than ordinary law). The name could be bargained away in return for concessions in other areas. But Germany will still want to save as much of the treaty as possible, arguing that it represents a delicate compromise among the member-states that should not be unravelled.

★ **The repeat referendum threat:** Merkel concedes that the Dutch and French governments will not submit the same treaty to repeat referendums. She also knows that anything resembling the current constitutional treaty would most likely be killed in a popular vote in the United Kingdom. She will therefore aim for a compromise document that is ambitious enough not to make the EU look lacklustre and deadlocked (and the German presidency like a failure); but at the same time modest enough so that it can be adopted by most or all EU countries without a referendum. One likely issue of contention will be the charter of fundamental rights and freedoms that is part of the current treaty. Germany insists that the charter should stay, to add gravitas to the treaty and also to show EU citizens that the Union cares about their rights. The UK, however, has always disliked the charter’s vague social principles (such as the ‘right to strike’) and it fears that it would be almost impossible to avoid a referendum if the new treaty contained a bill of rights.

★ **The timetable:** Germany hopes to get a broad agreement on which parts of the treaty should be saved and which should be watered down or ditched altogether by the June European Council. It also wants the summit to adopt a road map that lays out how and when the new treaty should be adopted. Ideally, Germany would like a new treaty to be in force by May 2009, when Europeans vote for the new European Parliament, and the new Commission gets ready to take office. For this deadline to be kept, the member-states would have to convene a short ‘intergovernmental conference’ in the second half of 2007. Assuming that it takes at least a year for all 27 EU members to ratify a treaty, they would have to reach a final agreement by early 2008 – a highly ambitious timetable. Understandably, the Germans hope to get as much of the substantive negotiations as possible out of the way before they hand over to the Portuguese in July 2007.

The UK government also has an interest in an early solution: it wants to keep the EU issue well away from national elections, which are due in 2009 at the latest. On the other hand, if the negotiations dragged on, they would become entangled with the EU’s budget review that will get under way in 2008.

The UK could then tie demands for farm policy reform to concessions on the treaty. The biggest headache for the timing is France, however. France cannot really engage in substantive negotiations until after the new president is installed in May 2007. That may leave the Germans just weeks to create a compromise. For Merkel getting agreement on a road map but not on the principles of the new treaty would feel like defeat. She could even be tempted to single out those countries that oppose a new treaty. Blaming ‘eurosceptic’ members for a failed summit may look preferable to taking responsibility for a wishywashy agreement. However, rather than being the great unifier of Europe – as many people hope – Merkel would then leave the EU even more divided.

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World Energy Technology Outlook to 2050

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/index_en.html

The WETO-H2 study has developed a Reference projection of the world energy system and two variant scenarios, a carbon constraint case and a hydrogen case. These scenarios have been used to explore the options for technology and climate policies in the next half-century. All the projections to 2050 have been made with a world energy sector simulation model – the POLES model – that describes the development of the national and regional energy systems, and their interactions through international energy markets, under constraints on resources and climate policies.

The development of the world energy system in the reference projection

The reference projection

The Reference projection describes a continuation of existing economic and technological trends, including short-term constraints on the development of oil and gas production and moderate climate policies for which it is assumed that Europe keeps the lead.

World energy consumption

The total energy consumption in the world is expected to increase to 22 Gtoe per year in 2050, from the current 10 Gtoe per year. Fossil fuels provide 70% of this total (coal and oil 26% each, natural gas 18%) and non-fossil sources 30%; the non-fossil share is divided almost equally between renewable and nuclear energy.

Energy efficiency improvement

The size of the world economy in 2050 is four times as large as now, but world energy consumption only increases by a factor of 2.2. The significant improvement in energy efficiency arises partly from autonomous technological or structural changes in the economy, partly from energy efficiency policies and partly from the effects of much higher energy prices.

North-South balance in energy consumption

Energy demand grows strongly in the developing regions of the world, where basic energy needs are at present hardly satisfied. The consumption in these countries overtakes that of the industrialised world shortly after 2010 and accounts for two thirds of the world total in 2050.

Oil and gas production profiles

Conventional oil production levels off after 2025 at around 100 Mbl/d. The profile forms a plateau rather than the “peak” that is much discussed today. Non-conventional oils provide the increase in total liquids, to about 125 Mbl/d in 2050. Natural gas shows a similar pattern, with a delay of almost ten years.

Oil and gas prices

The prices of oil and natural gas on the international market increase steadily, and reach 110 \$/bl for oil and 100 \$/boe for gas in 2050¹. The high prices mostly reflect the increasing resource scarcity.

¹ In 2005 \$

Electricity: the comeback of coal, the take-off of renewable sources and the revival of nuclear energy

The growth in electricity consumption keeps pace with economic growth and in 2050, total electricity production is four times greater than today. Coal returns as an important source of electricity and is increasingly converted using new advanced technologies. The price of coal is expected to reach about 110 \$/ton in 2050². The rapid increase of renewable sources and nuclear energy begins after 2020 and is massive after 2030; it implies a rapid deployment of new energy technologies, from large offshore wind farms to “Generation 4” nuclear power plants³.

CO2 emissions

The deployment of non-fossil energy sources to some extent compensates for the comeback of coal in terms of CO2 emissions, which increase almost proportionally to the total energy consumption. The resulting emission profile corresponds to a concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere between 900 to 1000 ppmv in 2050. This value far exceeds what is considered today as an acceptable range for stabilisation of the concentration.

The European energy system in the reference projection

Energy demand trends

Total primary energy consumption in Europe increases only a little from 1.9 Gtoe / year today to 2.6 Gtoe / year in 2050. Until 2020, the primary fuel-mix is rather stable, except for a significant increase in natural gas consumption. Thereafter the development of renewable energy sources accelerates and nuclear energy revives. In 2050 non-fossil energy sources, nuclear and renewable provide 40% of the primary energy consumption, much above the present 20%. The consumption of electricity keeps pace with economic growth; the market for electricity remains dynamic because of new electricity uses, especially in the Information and Communication Technologies.

CO2 emissions

This combination of modest climate policies and new trends in electricity supply results in CO2 emissions that are almost stable up to 2030 and then decrease until 2050. At that date CO2 emissions in Europe are 10% lower than today.

Electricity production

Because of relatively strong climate policies, European electricity production is 70% decarbonised in 2050; renewable and nuclear sources provide 60% of the total generation of electricity and a quarter of thermal generation is equipped with CO2 capture and storage systems.

Hydrogen production

Hydrogen develops after 2030, with modest although not negligible results: it provides in 2050 the equivalent of 10% of final electricity consumption.

The carbon constrained world energy system

The carbon constraint case

This scenario explores the consequences of more ambitious carbon policies that aim at a long-term stabilisation of the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere close to 500 ppmv by emerging and developing countries.

A “Factor 2” reduction in Europe

² Or about 22\$ per barrel of oil equivalent

³ The scenario assumes that economic and societal obstacles to nuclear can be overcome

In this carbon constraint case, global emissions of CO₂ are stable between 2015 and 2030 (at about 40% above the 1990 level) and decrease thereafter; however, by 2050, they are still 25% higher than in 1990. In the EU-25, emissions in 2050 are half the 1990 level; on average they fall by 10% in each decade.

An accelerated development of non-fossil fuels

By 2050, annual world energy demand is lower than in the Reference case by 3 Gtoe / year. By 2050, renewables and nuclear each provides more than 20% of the total demand; renewable sources provide 30% of electricity generation and nuclear electricity nearly 40%. Coal consumption stagnates, despite the availability of CO₂ capture and storage technologies. By 2050, the cumulative amount of CO₂ stored from now to 2050 is six times the annual volume of emissions today.

Energy trends in Europe

In Europe, the total consumption of energy is almost stable until 2030, but then starts to increase⁴. This is in a sense a statistical phenomenon arising from the high primary heat input of nuclear power. Renewable sources provide 22% and nuclear 30% of the European energy demand in 2050, bringing the share of fossil fuels to less than 50%. Three quarters of power generation is based on nuclear and renewable sources and half of thermal power generation is in plants with CO₂ capture and storage. Hydrogen delivers a quantity of energy equivalent to 15% of that delivered by electricity. By 2050, half of the total building stock is composed of low energy buildings and a quarter of very low energy buildings⁵. More than half of vehicles are low emission or very low emission vehicles (e.g. electricity or hydrogen powered cars).

The world energy system in the H2 case

The hydrogen scenario

The hydrogen scenario is derived from the carbon constraint case, but also assumes a series of technology breakthroughs that significantly increase the cost-effectiveness of hydrogen technologies, in particular in end-use. The assumptions made on progress for the key hydrogen technologies are deliberately very optimistic.

Total energy demand

Although the total energy demand in 2050 is only 8% less than in the Reference case, there are significant changes in the fuel mix. The share of fossil fuels in 2050 is less than 60%; within this share, the demand for coal drops by almost half compared to the Reference case, and this despite the lower cost assumed for CO₂ capture and storage. The share of nuclear and renewable energy increases, especially between 2030 and 2050; this behaviour is partly caused by the high carbon values across the world and partly by the increased demand for hydrogen.

Electricity production

The move to a hydrogen economy induces further changes in the structure of generation and the share of nuclear reaches 38%. Thermal electricity production continues to grow and is associated with CO₂ capture and storage systems; in 2050, 66% of electricity generation from fossil fuels is in plants equipped with CCS against 12% in the Reference case.

Hydrogen production and use

The use of hydrogen takes-off after 2030, driven by substantial reductions in the cost of the technologies for producing hydrogen and the demand-pull in the transport sector. From 2030 to

⁴ This increase is mainly linked to the strong penetration of nuclear, as due to the comparably low efficiency of nuclear power plants a given amount of electricity from nuclear requires more primary energy input than the same amount of electricity coming from fossil fuels or renewables

⁵ Buildings with a reduction by a factor of 2 (low) to 4 (very low) from the consumption of present buildings

2050, production increases ten-fold to 1 Gtoe / year. By 2050, hydrogen provides 13% of final energy consumption, compared to 2% in the Reference case. The share of renewable energy in hydrogen production is 50% and that of nuclear is 40%.

Around 90% of hydrogen is used in transport. By 2050, the consumption of hydrogen in transport is five times as high as in the Reference case, with a share of 36% of the consumption of the sector. Hydrogen is used in 30% of passenger cars and about 80% of these are powered by fuel cells; 15% are hydrogen hybrid vehicles and 5% are hydrogen internal combustion engines.

The European energy system in the H2 case

Total energy demand

Nuclear energy provides a third of the total energy demand in Europe. Oil, natural gas and renewables each provides roughly 20% and coal 6%.

Electricity production

The share of fossil fuels in power generation decreases steadily and significantly. The use of CO2 capture and storage systems develops strongly; by 2050, more than 50% of thermal electricity production is from plants with CO2 capture and storage.

Hydrogen production and use

The production of hydrogen increases rapidly after 2030 to reach 120 Mtoe by 2050, or 12% of world production. Hydrogen provides 7% of final energy consumption in Europe, against 3% in the Reference case. In Europe, hydrogen is produced mainly from the electrolysis of water using nuclear electricity. The share of hydrogen produced from renewables is also substantial (40% in 2050). About three quarters of the hydrogen produced in Europe go to the transport sector.