



European Commission

Enterprise and Industry
Directorate-General

Industrial Policy and the Competitiveness of the steel sector

Jacques Woeldgen



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Enterprise and Industry - Unit I2
Steel, non-ferrous metals,
non-energy extractive industry

**Screening meeting Croatia and Turkey -
Chapter 20 - Brussels, 28 March 2006**

Legal framework for steel

- ❑ The ECSC Treaty expired in 2002
- ❑ Sensitive sector in terms of MSA
- ❑ Specific bilateral agreements on trade
- ❑ RTD in steel
- ❑ Restructuring of the EU steel industry



Ongoing policy actions

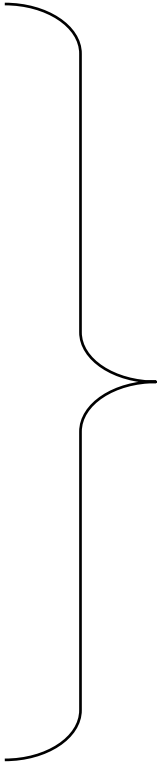
Commission Communication (2005) 474 and Staff Working Document SEC (2005) 1216

- In-depth assessment of competitiveness
- High-Level Group on Competitiveness, Energy and Environment



Priority areas

1. Competitiveness
2. RTD
3. Environment
4. Social performance and employment
5. Restructuring



Stakeholder
dialogue



(1) Competitiveness

Benchmark for EU steel industry

- Global players
- Leader in quality of steel products
- High productivity levels
- RTD in products and processes
- Sustainable development



(1) Competitiveness

- ❑ 133 Committee
- ❑ Consolidation process /competition rules
- ❑ The external dimension
 - WG on industrial policy (China, RU)



(2) Research and Technological Development

- ❑ 7 Framework Programme on Research
- ❑ Research Fund for Coal and Steel
 - Annual budget / pluriannual projects
- ❑ Steel Technology Platform
- ❑ ULCOS



(3) Environment: legislative initiatives

- European Climate Change Policy
- Air pollution Directive
- IPPC Directive
- BAT reference documents in Steel
- REACH



(3) Environment: voluntary actions

- Environmental management systems
- Environmental reporting
- Sustainable Development Indicators



(4) Social performance and employment

- Further improve industry's performance in the field of health and safety
- Ensure the future supply of a sufficiently skilled and educated workforce



(5) Restructuring

- Enhance the competitiveness of the sector in new Member States, accession countries and candidate countries
- Improve the social and environmental performance of the sector in these countries



(5) Restructuring

- ❑ Monitoring of the progress achieved
- ❑ Formulation of recommendations
- ❑ Regular reports to the Member States



(5) Restructuring

- Assist new Member States and candidate countries in the implementation of the acquis and informing them about our industrial policies
 - TAIEX-sponsored workshops: <http://taiex.be>
- Contribute to conferences in these countries



Particular situation with regard to state aid in CR and TR

- ❑ Adoption of IBPs for beneficiary companies and NRPs
- ❑ Evaluation by the EC
- ❑ Monitoring
- ❑ Assistance

