



European Commission

Enterprise and Industry DG

“EU industrial policy in textiles and clothing”

Screening exercise with Croatia and Turkey
Chapter 20 – SME and industrial policy

27-29 March 2006

European Commission
DG Enterprise & Industry

EU industrial policy in textiles and clothing

29 October 2003

Communication “The future of the textiles and clothing sector in the enlarged EU”

- Sectoral application of horizontal industrial policy
- Importance of T/C sector for EU economy, employment, regional cohesion (EU-25, CCs, EuroMed area)
- Recent difficult economic situation
- EU enlargement on the horizon
- 1st January 2005: end to quantitative restrictions (quotas)

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29 October 2003

Communication “The future of the textiles and clothing sector in the enlarged EU”

Main message: increase competitiveness of T/C sector in EU
by concentrating on its strengths:

- quality & design
- innovation & technology
- high value-added products and services
- flexibility, rapidity, proximity to market

Creation of a high level group on textiles and clothing foreseen

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High Level Group on textiles and clothing

- set up early 2004
- **Members:** industry, retailers, distributors, trade unions, local T/C associations, European trade associations, 5 MS and 2 Members of the European Parliament
- **Mandate:** stimulate debate and provide recommendations to the Commission/other policy makers on possible initiatives to improve the conditions for the competitiveness of the industry and to facilitate the sector's adjustment to the current challenges.
- HLG Report “**European textiles and clothing in a quota-free environment**” approved 30 June 2004 with wide range of proposals for action (vocational training, better skills, R&D, innovation, IPR, trade-related issues etc.)
- **2006 closing year**, the HLG shall present its final report with a set of new recommendations

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in response to the HLG report

13 October 2004

Commission Communication

“Textiles and clothing after 2005 – Recommendations of the High Level Group for textiles and clothing”

+ accompanying Commission Staff Working Document

“Commission’s observations in response to the recommendations of the High Level Group for textiles and clothing”

(list of actions)

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Education, training and employment

- Leonardo da Vinci II programme 2000-2006:
 - Developing innovative e-learning content (a project to put in place media/information pool for teachers)
 - Promoting transparency of qualifications (a project to develop common European qualification standards for the sector)
- Socrates/Erasmus programme:
 - thematic networks between universities
- European Social Fund (ESF): develop/regenerate “employability”
 - Programmes developed and implemented by MS
 - “innovative actions” e.g. managing change/restructuring

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Research

- “LEAPFROG” IP (NMP), €26M budget, ca. €14M EU funding for revolution in clothing manufacture
- FP6 > €20M EU funding granted to end 2004 for T/C-related research projects under NMP priority
- 2005 NMP calls – technical textiles for construction, protective clothing, medical uses; biomaterials for medical implants
- 2005 ICT call for “ICT for networked businesses”: ambient intelligent technologies for new products, services and business environment
- European Technology Platform for the Future of Textiles and Clothing

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Innovation

- New Competitiveness and Innovation Programme 2007-2013
- Innovation projects for T/C under INNOVA framework (textiles networks of innovation clusters; textiles innovation financing networks; innovation panel)
- Review of State Aid rules affecting innovation
 - 2004 Vademecum on state aid for innovation
 - 2004 Communication on Lesser Amounts of State Aid
 - 2006 Review of the framework for state aid in R&D and innovation
 - 2006 Adaptation of Regulation on state aid for SMEs

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Regional initiatives

- The Commission's orientations for the new programming period for Regional Policy 2007 – 2013 have been defined in the draft regulations for the Structural Funds adopted in July 2004.
- The Commission adopted in July 2005 a proposal for the Community Strategic Guidelines.
- The final proposals sent to the Council reflected DG ENTR's priorities: emphasis on competitiveness and on actions that contribute to the stimulation of innovation, SMEs and entrepreneurship.
- These proposals are due to be adopted by the Council before Summer.

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Competitiveness-related issues

- REACH:
impact assessment study for textile downstream users,
based on detailed business case studies (final report June 2005)
- Commission's study on business relations examining unfair commercial practices occurring in T/C sector (to be launched in 2006)
- Protection of intellectual property rights:
 - Dialogue with stakeholders to determine what more should be for sound IPR framework was launched in 2006.
 - The Commission will review the state of progress in IPR with a competitiveness focus and come up with suggestions.
 - Discussions between the EU and the US about cooperation in the area of IPR and fighting counterfeiting started in January.

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Industrial co-operation

Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue on textiles and clothing industry
launched in December 2004

- Realise full potential of Euro-Med trade zone
- Enhance co-operation in concrete areas and undertake common projects (working groups: industrial co-operation, competitiveness, innovation & technology transfer, education & training, research & technological development)
- Possibility to associate Mediterranean partners with EU actions on skills, research, innovation and IPR protection

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Industrial co-operation

Regulatory and Industrial Policy Dialogues with China
(Regulatory launched in 2003, Industrial in 2004)

Regulatory and Industrial Dialogue with Russia
(kick-off February 2006)

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The way ahead

Member States

- Responsibility to take complementary actions in areas of their competence (e.g. regions)

Industry stakeholders

- Responsibility to take full advantage of opportunities to further modernise and improve the competitiveness
- Concentrate on value-added and innovative products

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The way ahead

European Commission + Member States

- promote social dialogue in the T/C sector which plays a major role in addressing the key challenges such as
 - ✓ enhancing skills and qualification
 - ✓ improving quality of work and modernising work organisation
 - ✓ promoting equal opportunities and delivering responsible restructuring

EU industrial policy in textiles and clothing

What is your industrial strategy in
textiles and clothing?

Which policy instruments do you apply to
strengthen the competitiveness of the
sector?

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Thank you for your attention!

Contact:

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Further information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/textile/index_en.htm