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Europe

Shaping Europe's Economic Future

Economic Highlights of the Work Programme for the German Presidency
of the Council of the European Union, January - June 2007

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Foreword

A Strong and Secure Europe in a Globalised World

Europe is our response to globalisation. We face huge challenges resulting from the global integration of capital, service and product markets. Natural resources are becoming ever more scarce, whereas the demand for energy is rising. Our climate is changing. The demographic change in our population is continuing. Germany and Europe are confronted with **new realities**. Asian countries such as China and India are rapidly increasing their share in global trade due to the steep rise in exports and are attracting growing international investment as a result of low wage costs. The indisputable benefits of market liberalisation are marked with fears that companies may migrate and employees lose jobs.

Global challenges affect every aspect of our daily lives, both directly and indirectly. Nowadays, events in other regions of the world affect our social and internal security, energy supply and environment, but also our health. Attempts to influence global trends in our best interests appear to have had limited success to date. That is why many of our citizens feel insecure about the impact of globalisation.

Globalisation presents Europe with common challenges. Individual Member States are unable to represent their interests successfully in the global context. The **key to success** lies with the **European Union**. Due to a number of factors such as the Single Market and the euro, but also due to Europe's considerable trade clout, the EU holds all the cards it needs to help shape global events. Unlike any of its individual Member States, Germany included, the EU is a global player par excellence.

The **Federal Cabinet's Declaration on Germany's EU Council Presidency of 5 November 2006** therefore states: "The EU must help to safeguard and develop the European way of life and the European concept of social systems in the age of globalisation and demographic change; this is of paramount



importance for generating citizens' approval for European Union."

As the Federal Minister of Economics and Technology, I will **chair the Competitiveness Council** and the **Councils of Energy and Telecommunications Ministers** as part of Germany's Presidency of the Council of Ministers. I will also seek to further Europe's interests vis-à-vis the **Ministers of Trade** at a global level. We will coordinate the Presidency along with the Federal Chancellor and the Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In addition, the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology will focus on specific topics at a number of its own **events to be held during the Presidency**. I am determined to seize the opportunity at all these events to actively help shape the economic future of Europe. Our citizens should be able to regain confidence in the European institutions. In this way, we want to strengthen Europe at this important juncture. The citizens of Europe should be able to feel strong and secure in the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Glos', written in a cursive style.

Michael Glos
Federal Minister of Economics and Technology

Introduction

Europe will only be able to bring its weight to bear in today's globalised world if it is economically strong and dynamic. The German Council Presidency will therefore seek to gain support for a **competitive economic system with social and ecological responsibility**. In order to safeguard our economic future and the foundations of our social security systems, growth and employment will need to be comprehensively strengthened. The present economic upturn must lead to sustainable and dynamic growth. Continuing structural reforms in the current favourable macro-economic environment will further boost economic dynamism and enhance Europe's competitiveness in the context of the global economy.

The German Council Presidency will support the further expansion of a properly functioning and effective Single Market, whose integration effect will strengthen Europe in the globalisation process. It will enhance the **competitiveness of European companies** by improving the general conditions for industry and service providers in Europe and by strengthening the position of European companies in global competition. The competitiveness of European companies needs to be enhanced through better regulation and the promotion of an innovation-friendly "Europe of Knowledge".

Energy and climate protection are key issues of the 21st century. Given its strong dependence on energy imports, Europe needs a European energy policy. Europe also needs to promote measures at national and global level aimed at preventing climate change and to do justice to its role as a world leader on this issue. This is just one example of a number of issues which the Federal Government will address both within the framework of its EU and G8 Presidency.

The **Federal Government's EU Presidency Programme**, entitled "Europe – succeeding together", states with respect to energy issues: "A secure, economically viable and environmentally-friendly energy supply is a crucial factor for Europe's future development. Completing the internal market for electricity and gas, boosting energy efficiency, expanding renewable energy sources, encouraging closer cooperation with producer, transit and consumer countries and formulating a development-oriented energy policy will be key priorities of the German Presidency. The Presidency hopes that an ambitious Energy Action Plan can be adopted at the European Council meeting in March 2007."

The following sections set out in greater detail how the Federal Government intends to shape the **economic policy for the citizens of Europe** within the framework of its Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

I. The Single Market: the Economic Heart of Europe

Europe is the largest single market in the world. Its potential must be exploited to boost growth and create new jobs. However, we will only succeed in doing so if a functioning single market secures the economic success of Europe in global competition. In 2007 we will be able to look back on 15 years of the Single Market. Based on a comprehensive appraisal by the European Commission, we will evaluate achievements to date and initiate measures needed to **strengthen the Single Market**, and hence to strengthen Europe in the global context, in order to stimulate the forces of innovation and advance market liberalisation in growth industries. The strengths and weaknesses of the Single Market in international locational competition will also be addressed at the **Informal Competitiveness Council** to be held in **Würzburg** at the end of April 2007.

The German Presidency will act to strengthen the internal market for services. The service sector accounts for around 70 percent of jobs and 70 percent of gross value added in the EU and is thus a key area for Europe's competitiveness. Yet it only accounts for around 20 percent of total intra-EU trade. Its general conditions need to be improved so that its potential can be exploited. The imminent implementation of

the **EU Services Directive** is an important starting point for realising this potential. The Member States and the European Commission need to take the necessary concrete steps swiftly and to develop elements so that a consistent EU system can be created in respect of both European administrative cooperation and the establishment of "single contact points". The German Presidency will monitor this work closely.

Germany is also aiming to achieve further progress in the full liberalisation of the European market for **postal services**, the revision of the legal framework for **telecommunications**, and the achievement of an efficient and competitive information society (i2010). In the postal sector, the German Council Presidency intends to press ahead as far as possible with ongoing negotiations on liberalisation of the postal service for letters with the aim of reaching initial political agreement before the end of its Presidency. The objective is to ensure lower prices and better quality for postal customers and to offer equal market access to all European postal service providers.

In the field of telecommunications, we will seek to gain support for the adoption of the **Roaming**



Regulation in order to reduce roaming charges for mobile phone users across Europe. The present roaming charges, which are clearly excessive, are inconsistent with the internal market, hamper competition within the EU and are a burden on European con-

sumers. Further, we want to press ahead with revising the legal framework for telecommunications with a view to further enhancing the competitiveness and innovativeness of European companies.

Additional Measures: Single Market

Facilitating the free movement of goods, modernising the legal foundations of the internal market

A large quantity of goods traded in the EU continue to be subject to different national regulations and hence remain subject to a wide range of obstacles. In order to improve the free movement of goods, the German Presidency of the Council of the EU will seek to **strengthen and enforce the principle of mutual recognition more effectively**. Germany is striving for a regulation that will codify the principle of mutual recognition and make it binding on all Member States so that goods which are lawfully produced and sold in one Member State can, in principle, be sold in all other Member States.

The “new approach” relating to **norms and standardisation** in the EU is a success model, with the volume of EU trade totalling EUR 1.5 billion per year. With its forthcoming revision, the Presidency will strive for a comprehensive framework for regulation in respect of security-related issues pertaining to the use, circulation and marketing of products.

The German Presidency will also seek to gain support for a strengthened and efficient legal protection system for public procurement. It will therefore endeavour to ensure that the **Public Procurement Remedies Directive** is adopted as soon as possible. The German Presidency will also seek to ensure that the Commission consistently and coherently pursues the **revision of regulations governing state aid**, which it launched in the summer of 2005, so that Member States can continue to use their economic funding instruments appropriately in the interest of businesses.

II. Competitive Enterprises in Europe

In order to remain successful, European enterprises need to further strengthen and enhance their competitiveness. Competitive conditions for the **industrial and services sectors**, and particularly for **small and medium-sized enterprises**, are largely set at the European level. That is why general conditions in the EU need to be such that they boost the competitiveness of these SMEs and in turn stimulate growth and employment.

With its **industrial work programme** consisting of horizontal and sectoral initiatives, the European Commission has chosen the right approach for creating framework conditions that will assist, rather than obstruct, European industry in global competition. The German Presidency of the Council of the EU will press ahead with this action plan in the Council bodies and other fora. The aim is to take stock of progress already made and reach agreement on political guidelines for further action.

In the area of **services**, Germany will stress the importance of **tourism** as a growth industry by hosting a European Tourism Conference. A special conference entitled "Tourism – growth engine of the future" will discuss health tourism and new growth markets. The subsequent meeting of European Tourism Ministers will take account of the results of the Tourism Conference when discussing the opportunities facing the sector.

Better regulation in the EU can make a key contribution towards **improving the environment** for entrepreneurship in Europe and **reducing unnecessary bureaucracy**. The German Presidency will actively support the Commission's work in this field. It will focus, in particular, on reducing existing costs incurred by red tape, notably by seeking the adoption of a standardised system for measuring the costs of administrative burdens and a reduction target. It will also press ahead with the simplification of existing EU law as a political priority for all EU institutions, ensuring that the impacts and consequences of all new laws are assessed in a rigorous manner.

Small and medium-sized enterprises are the key driving forces stimulating growth and employment.

We need to continue to give due consideration to their requirements in the European context according to the principle "Think Small First". The **Fourth Conference on the European Charter for Small Enterprises** (4-5 June 2007) will deal specifically with issues relating to improving the business environment. The objective of this conference is to exchange good practice in Member States with regard to improving the general conditions for start-up entrepreneurs, simplified online access for SMEs, simpler tax collection systems and innovative financial tools. The challenges facing craft industries will also be considered at the **Fourth European Conference on Craft Industries** (16-17 April 2007). Issues such as upskilling, the lack of young craftspeople, integrating small and medium-sized craft enterprises into the innovation process and technological progress have a European dimension. The intention is to continue developing a common European policy.

We will further develop the initiatives launched under the Finnish Council Presidency on **European innovation policy**, particularly in the area of government demand for innovation, incorporation of standardisation into research projects and the patent system. Here we will seek to gain support for improvements to the European patent system that encourage innovation, in particular through progress in attempts to find a uniform and efficient dispute settlement system and in reducing the translation costs of patents (lean and cost-effective language regime).

Under the German Presidency, the Federal Ministry of Economics will be hosting a **European Standardisation Conference** together with the "Deutsches Institut für Normung" (DIN) (German Standards Institute) on the subject of "Innovation and Standardisation" (27 March 2007). Its aim is to make the business community, scientists and politicians aware of the potential of standardisation as a market-oriented tool for technology transfer.

The Presidency will advocate swift clarification of management structures and financial issues in respect of the important **technology project GMES** (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security, which combines spatial, air and terrestrial systems).

The foundations for a **European Space Programme** are to be laid at a joint Council of the EU and ESA on European Space Policy. This will take account of the changes within space travel towards a greater user

focus and will define new objectives and priorities based on the EU and ESA's space travel activities. The fascination of space research must be linked with greater economic benefits in all areas.

Additional Measures: Competitiveness

Safeguarding and expanding industrial competitiveness

A key area is the **automotive industry**, on which the Commission issued a Communication after taking account of the sector-specific recommendations made by the CARS 21 High Level Group. Next steps are to define areas of political priority and to press ahead with their consistent implementation.

For the textile industry, the **High Level Group on Textiles and Clothing** has drawn up recommendations that pool initiatives from industry, trade unions and government representatives. These recommendations now need to be implemented. The **ceramics industry** will take stock of its competitive situation in order to develop relevant recommendations for action in cooperation with the European Commission and the Member States. The final report of the High Level Group EnginEurope, aimed at boosting the competitiveness of European **mechanical engineering** as a strategic branch of industry, is currently at the stage of completion. The Presidency will support and further these important initiatives and will focus on implementing the proposals that have been drawn up. In the field of **biotechnology**, the European Commission will present a mid-term review of the EU's biotechnology strategy in April 2007. The Presidency will take this forward with a view to further strengthening Europe's competitive position at global level.

Strengthening small and medium-sized enterprises

By implementing the new **Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)**, we want to ensure that smaller and medium-sized enterprises derive concrete benefits from funding measures. The German Presidency intends to boost the competitiveness of SMEs by further developing these new financing instruments and by stimulating public demand for innovative products and services.

Promoting innovation and research

Boosting innovation and research activities in Europe is a **key pillar of the Lisbon Strategy**. The Member States have pledged to increase R&D expenditure to 3 Percent of GDP by 2010. The 7th **Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities** and the Framework Programme for Competitiveness and Innovation create the framework for European innovation and research projects between 2007 and 2013. Both programmes are due to be launched during Germany's EU Council Presidency. The Presidency will press for simpler and less bureaucratic language in the management of research projects and seek to ensure that small and medium-sized enterprises benefit appropriately from funding opportunities.

III. Secure, Environmentally-friendly and Competitive Energy Supply for Europe

Ensuring a secure, environmentally-friendly and competitive energy supply is a basic prerequisite for the economic success of Europe in the age of globalisation. The EU and the Member States must work closely together to represent Europe's interests in ensuring a secure energy supply to the outside world, and to remind supplier countries of their international obligations. Against this backdrop, energy supply faces special challenges: the finite nature of fossil fuels, sustained high prices for oil and gas, growing instability in important global regions and the effects of climate change. In view of these challenges, adopting the **European Energy Policy Action Plan** will be a key objective of the European Council in Spring 2007.

An important goal of European energy policy is to **complete a functioning internal market for electricity and gas** by 1 July 2007. The German Presidency advocates the full liberalisation of markets for electricity and natural gas on the basis of simultaneous implementation of EU regulations in all Member States. In view of the high prices of electricity and gas, it is important for competition to gain momentum in Europe. The Implementation Report of the European Commission on the Second Internal Market Package and its Final Report on the Sectoral Review will be published in early 2007. This will show where deficits exist, where Member States still have work to do and where additional new measures may be required. We will press ahead with the discussion process, inter alia by holding a high level workshop in Berlin at the end

of March in order to ensure that conclusions can be reached at the Energy Council scheduled for early June. Important topics will include adequate investment and fair market opportunities for new providers.

Bearing in mind the three goals of **security of supply**, economic efficiency and environmental compatibility, the demand for energy imports must be limited by increasing energy efficiency, by generating savings and by expanding renewable energies (also in the area of refrigeration/heating), inter alia by increasing the use of biomass potential and regenerative raw materials. We will strive to enhance the safety of nuclear power plants in the context of ensuring the security of supply.

Key areas with respect to increasing **energy efficiency** will be the buildings sector, which is one of the main consumers of energy, and the product sector. The German Presidency will press for the revision, enhancement and above all dynamisation of EU-wide labelling, particularly in respect of energy consumption labelling of household appliances. In parallel, it will advocate the rapid implementation of the EcoDesign Directive. Important contributions can also be made to the climate change agenda, in particular by enhancing energy efficiency, increasing energy savings and developing clean fossil power generation.





Additional Measures: Energy

Strengthening research and innovation in the energy sector

The German Presidency will seek to lay the foundations for a long-term and coherent EU fuel strategy and will support proposals on innovative propulsion technologies. This should also help ensure that Europe maintains its technological lead in this field. **Research and innovation in the energy sector** are to be strengthened via the 7th Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities. The options for clean fossil power production with respect to separation and storage must become a focus of research.

Promoting research and innovation

Furthermore, the EU needs to place **external energy relations** with important supplier, transit and consumer countries on a sound and reliable footing. This will require the further development of a cooperative approach through intensive dialogue and with greater involvement of the Member States. Furthering energy dialogues will be especially important, notably with Russia as part of the partnership and cooperation agreement that is to be renegotiated, and the US. Energy issues will also be given greater consideration within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. Under the German Presidency, we will also address the issue of the geographical expansion of the Energy Community that was established on 1 July 2006; and facilitate preparations for the Conference of Ministers of Energy in the second half of 2007 or in 2008 within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EUROMED).

IV. Boosting Trade and European Competitiveness Globally

Growth, employment and European living standards, but also Europe's political clout in the world, are based very much on the success achieved by European companies in global markets. The EU is the world's largest trading partner, accounting for 20 percent of global trade. This means that its influence extends far beyond the reach of individual Member States. **International trade** promotes our competitiveness and our economic growth. Developing fair, multilateral rules will play a key role in further boosting European competitiveness.

Against the backdrop of globalisation, the German Presidency will focus particularly on the impact of trade and internal market policies on the competitiveness of European industry. In this context, it will provide special support for initiatives aimed at boosting the **external competitiveness of European industry**. This applies to both merchandise trade and, increasingly service industries. In areas such as financial services, telecommunications, logistics, construction, and many freelance professions, international business is becoming increasingly important. There are business opportunities especially in ambitious newly industrialised countries, where trade barriers tend to be high. These will need further reducing.

One priority for Germany will be to bring the **WTO Doha Round to a successful conclusion**. As a leading export nation, we place great importance on the need to further liberalise international markets for European goods, services and investment within

the framework of the global trade system. The multilateral trade system continues to be the ideal solution for free and fair trade and global, open markets. In light of the possibility that WTO negotiations might be resumed, it is possible that this issue will become the key trade policy proposal of Germany's Presidency. If so, we will use every possible opportunity to bring the negotiations, which reached a stalemate in the summer of 2006, to a successful conclusion.

It is also important that **trade rules are enforced globally** in relation to **third markets** in order to ensure a level playing field for competing companies. Only the EU as a whole, and no Member State alone, has sufficient clout to achieve such fair competition. Germany will resolutely oppose anti-competitive behaviour and unfair trade practices such as dumping, unlawful subsidies, violation of intellectual property rights or forced technology transfer. The second phase of the EU initiative to **implement intellectual property rights** and the ongoing **review of individual trade policy instruments** (e.g. in respect of trade policy instruments and public procurement) need to be pursued. We will aim to adopt a revised EU market access strategy based on a Communication which the EU Commission expects to issue in early 2007.

Strengthening and further aligning export controls in Europe: the existing framework of export controls applying to goods that can be used for both civil and military purposes, created by the Council Regulation on Dual Use Items and Technology, is to be reinforced and harmonised on the basis of a Com-



mission proposal to be issued in late 2006. Against the backdrop of the risks of proliferation and the threat of international terrorism, we advocate setting an effective and harmonised standard in accordance with our strict national export control policy. The aim is to achieve an effective and responsible export control framework that also minimises time delays.

The German Presidency is also in favour of creating **equal competitive terms for export credits** and avoiding additional red tape. Specifically, this means safeguarding the equal conditions created within the EU and OECD for the granting of export credits supported by export credit agencies. It also involves, inter alia, developing their common approaches for evaluating the environmental impact of infrastructure projects within the framework of the OECD consensus. In order to maintain and boost the competitiveness of European companies, it is crucial that non-

OECD countries such as China and India are encouraged to create the general terms for export credits that apply within the OECD. The German Presidency will focus particularly on opposing unjustified red tape at the negotiations on international framework conditions. This applies especially to the revision of OECD environmental guidelines. The Presidency will advocate equal competition between Airbus and Boeing at the negotiations on the sectoral agreement on aircraft.

Bilateral or biregional trade agreements with selected partners can complement multilateral rules. Future EU free trade agreements must therefore be based as comprehensively as possible on WTO rules and address subjects that are currently not being negotiated in the WTO (investment, competition and public procurement, to name but a few). They will thereby strengthen and develop the WTO system.

Additional Measures: Bilateral Trade

Expansion of the transatlantic economic partnership

The German Presidency will support the strengthening of **transatlantic relations** in the political and economic area. Basing itself on the **joint economic initiative**, the Presidency will focus on regulatory cooperation, innovation and technology, trade and security, capital markets, energy and the protection of intellectual property.

Renewal of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements with Russia and Ukraine

There is a high probability that negotiations will be resumed under the German Presidency on the follow-up agreements to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements with Russia and Ukraine, which are due to expire in 2007 and late February 2008 respectively. The German Presidency will closely monitor the negotiations also with respect to important economic objectives. The issues range from eliminating trade barriers and harmonising legislation with EU laws right through to creating a “comprehensive” free trade zone after these countries have acceded to the WTO and enhancing the security of energy supply based on the principles of the Energy Charter.

Expansion of relations with Central Asia

With regard to the expansion of relations between the EU and the countries of Central Asia, the German Presidency will work towards the swift development and adoption of a Central Asia Strategy. The key objective from an economic perspective will be improved cooperation in the energy sector in order to diversify European energy supplies.



Resumption of negotiations on free trade agreements with India and ASEAN

European industry expects the EU to launch negotiations on free trade agreements with ASEAN and India. It rightly fears that it might suffer disadvantages in the Asia Pacific region vis-à-vis third countries such as the USA or Japan, which have already concluded relevant agreements or are about to do so. The German Presidency will endeavour to ensure that it receives a mandate to conduct negotiations with India and ASEAN as soon as possible so that the EU can initiate concrete negotiations. As such, we intend to pursue an ambitious approach that incorporates not only the reduction of customs duties but also services, investment and the protection of intellectual property. The elimination of trade barriers within the framework of confidence-building measures will be the focus of discussions with Korea, particularly in the automotive and pharmaceutical sectors.

Open trade and fair partnership with China

The German Presidency supports the strategy adopted by the European Commission vis-à-vis China, which is based on open trade and fair partnership. China must meet its WTO obligations and further liberalise access to its goods, services, investment and procurement markets. Involuntary technology transfer and export conditions that aim to achieve the latter are incompatible with these obligations. Greater legal security needs to be created for EU companies, particularly in the field of intellectual property, and unfair subsidy and protection measures also need to be discontinued for strategically important branches of industry. The Council Presidency will deal with these issues in the overall dialogue between Europe and China. They are also some of the core elements included in the negotiating mandate issued in 2005 to update the trade and cooperation agreement and will hence be the subject of forthcoming negotiations. The trade and investment policy strategy presented by the EU Commission in October 2006 provides appropriate terms of reference for this.

Consolidation of relations with Latin America and the Caribbean

Negotiations on an Association Agreement with Mercosur are to be concluded. Negotiations will also be started with the countries of Central America and the Andean Community. A free trade section is a key element of these Association Agreements.

Events chaired by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology within the framework of Germany's EU Council Presidency 2007



Formal meetings at ministerial level

- ▶ **Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council** (Brussels, 15 February 2007) (focusing on energy-related issues): chaired by Federal Minister Michael Glos, this Council will help prepare a prioritised action plan on an "Energy policy for Europe". This will subsequently be considered and adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the European Council (8-9 March 2007).
- ▶ **Competitiveness Council** (Brussels, 19 February 2007): this will focus on the Lisbon Process and on the Competitiveness Council's contribution to the European Council (8-9 March 2007).
- ▶ **Competitiveness Council** (Brussels, 21-22 May 2007): this will focus on issues relating to the internal market such as the free movement of goods, patent policy, public procurement and a new customs code. A further key priority will be integrated Council conclusions on the Commission's industrial policy initiatives. Issues concerning global space policy will be dealt with in the so-called European Space Council.
- ▶ **Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council** (Luxembourg, 7-8 June 2007). In the field of telecommunications, this Council will seek to adopt the so-called Roaming Regulation which will reduce the costs of making international calls from mobile telephones. It will also hold an initial orientation debate on the review of the regulatory framework for telecommunications markets and is likely to draw initial conclusions in relation to a Communication on mobile television. It will also strive to reach political agreement on the further liberalisation of postal services in Europe. In relation to energy, the Council will consider conclusions on the Commission's proposals on improving the functioning of the internal market for electricity and gas; as well as discuss the Commission's proposals on renewable energies based on the Energy Package, expected 10 January 2007.

Informal Ministerial Meetings

- ▶ **Informal Competitiveness Council** (Würzburg, 26-28 April 2007): chaired primarily by Federal Minister Michael Glos (research-related issues to be chaired by Federal Minister Dr. Annette Schavan), this will deal primarily with the issue of Europe's positioning in the globalisation process. Introductory speakers from global industrial enterprises will outline the benefits and drawbacks of Europe as a business location for their industries.
- ▶ **Informal Meeting of Trade Ministers** (Brussels, 11 February 2007): to discuss the current status of negotiations on the WTO Doha round.
- ▶ **Informal Meeting of EU Telecommunications Ministers** (Hanover, 15 March 2007): Federal Minister Michael Glos will invite his counterparts from the telecommunications sector to an informal meeting in the context of the CeBit trade fair. This will provide a forum for exchanging views on topical issues relating to information and communication technology, such as the Telecommunications Review and Roaming. Ministers will have the opportunity to take part in individual walkabouts, including visiting the exhibition stands of their respective countries.
- ▶ **European Tourism Conference** (Berlin/Potsdam, 15-16 May 2007): the conference will deal with tourism as one of the major growth sectors of the future. The German National Tourist Board (Deutsche Zentrale für Tourismus e.V.) will host an additional experts conference in Berlin on 15 May 2007 at the behest of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. This conference will be linked to the international travel workshop "Germany Travel Mart" which is being held at the same time. As one of the highlights of the European Tourism Conference, European Tourism Ministers will subsequently convene in Potsdam on 16 May to discuss the future of tourism in Europe.



Other events (ceremonies, conferences, meetings, workshops)

▶ **High Level Workshop: “Completing the internal market for electricity and gas. Security of supply in the tension field between the market and regulation”** (29-30 March 2007): this workshop will deal with specific issues on the status and evolution of the internal market for electricity and gas. The workshop will help prepare conclusions for the Council of Energy Ministers in June 2007 and provide impetus for further measures to be implemented at EU and Member State level. Participants are high-level experts, for instance from the EU Commission, the national ministries and regulatory authorities, members of the European Parliament and the national parliaments as well as representatives of the energy industry.

▶ **Launch Event for the EU Structural Funds Programme 2007 – 2013** (Hof, 9 May 2007): participants will include Federal Minister Michael Glos, EU Commissioner Danuta Hübner, the Premier of Saxony Prof. Dr. Georg Milbradt, and the Czech Minister for Regional Development Petr Gandalovič. The festivities will kick off the new funding period and are intended to build a bridge between the old and new Member States, as the latter will be included in a full funding period for the first time.

▶ **RFID: Towards the ‘Internet of Things’.** **NextGenerationMedia: RFID-based applications and services** (Berlin, 25-26 June 2007): the widespread introduction of RFID technologies in everyday life has already begun. It will, in the years to come, lead to major changes in application areas such as trade, logistics, production and even consumer goods. It is now a matter of safeguarding growth, employment and competitive advantages in the international environment. The planned conference is intended to initiate a European industrial and technological strategy (RFID Roadmap) in this future-oriented area.

▶ **European Digitisation Conference** (Berlin, 13 June 2007): the conference will consider the process of digitisation in the media sector within the EU. This will involve exploring, together with high-ranking experts from the Member States, opportunities for implementing the digital dividend for the media in the most effective way following the Regional Radio Conference (RRC 06).

▶ **Event on GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security)** (Munich, scheduled for late April-early May): on the threshold to the long-term consolidation of GMES, this conference with around 150 participants will discuss two main themes:

- i) demonstration of priority GMES services and report on progress of spatial components; and
- ii) safeguarding sustainable development and long-term operational concept.

▶ **European Biotechnology Conference** “En route to the Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy – KBBE” (Cologne, 30-31 May 2007): hosted by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, with the involvement of the EU Commission. The Conference will highlight important developments in research and industry en route to a bio-economy in the next 20 years. At presentations and during a plenary discussion, high-ranking representatives from industry, the scientific community and politics will respond to questions on topical issues relating to general conditions, trends and strategies in research and applications.

▶ **EnginEurope** (Brussels, February/March 2007): this high level working group is of paramount importance for the European mechanical engineering industry. Maintaining and expanding the competitiveness of this core industry is key, given that it uses a large number of innovative products and production systems and can thus be classified as a macroeconomic innovation driver. This event will be used to present the working results to the European Commission.

► **European Shipbuilding Conference**

(Nuremberg, June 2007): the conference will be attended by around 150 high-ranking representatives of the Member States and the European shipbuilding industry (companies, associations, trade unions). Key topics will be the situation on the global shipbuilding market and an interim appraisal of the “LeaderSHIP 2015” programme.

► **EU-G8 Energy Efficiency Conference** (Berlin, June 2007): event held within the framework of Germany’s EU and G8 Presidencies in 2007 on enhancing energy efficiency in the countries concerned and in selected newly industrialised nations. The combined conference reflects the importance of energy efficiency in both programmes of the Federal Government’s two presidencies.

► **European Competition Day/International Cartel Conference** (Munich, 26- 27 March 2007). Under the general theme of “Competition as a Guarantor of a Free Economic and Social Order”, this dual conference will discuss competition law issues and policies that are important for boosting the competitiveness of European companies and achieving a dynamic internal market.

► **4th European Charter Conference** (Berlin, 4-5 June 2007): the fourth European Charter Conference for Small Companies will be hosted by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology and the European Commission (Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry). The conference will deal with individual action areas aimed at improving the entrepreneurial environment. Between 300 and 400 representatives from more than 40 countries are expected to attend this conference: multipliers, representatives of SME interest groups and staff from public agencies in the EU and associated countries that want to strengthen the political environment for small companies

► **European Standardisation Conference** (Berlin, 26-27 March 2007): as part of Germany’s Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology will be hosting a European Standardisation Conference in cooperation with the “Deutsches Institut für Normung e.V.” (DIN) (German Standardisation Institute). The theme of this conference is the contribution which standardisation can make to speeding up the transition of innovations into marketable products. This is part of the Federal Government’s objective of strengthening the role of standardisation as a key element of its innovation policy. Over 350 participants from all over Europe are expected to attend.

► **4th European Conference on Craft Industries** (Stuttgart, 16-17 April 2007): hosted by the European Commission with the support of the German Confederation of Skilled Crafts and Small Businesses (Zentralverband des Deutschen Handwerks) (ZDH), this event is entitled “Challenges for successful craft and small enterprises in the single market by 2010 and their contribution to the Lisbon Agenda”. The aim of the conference is to discuss future challenges and opportunities for craft enterprises and to develop the cornerstones of a political action plan for the benefit of craft industries. Around 1,100 representatives from a wide range of craft industry organisations and staff from public bodies and in the participating countries are expected to attend.

Faces of the Presidency

Ensuring the success of the German Presidency of the Council of the EU has involved the efforts of a large number of BMWi employees. The Directorate-General “Europa” (Abteilung Europa) and its specifically established project team “Preparing the German Presidency” are responsible for coordinating all internal activities. The Permanent Representation to the EU represents the Presidency at the EU institutions in

Brussels. The division of responsibilities at the political level is also clearly set. The Federal Minister and the respective Secretaries of State determine and represent the policies of their Ministry in all Presidency-related issues. We have highlighted below a few of the key actors from the Ministry who will influence the pace and direction of the Presidency, and who represent all of their colleagues in the Ministry.



Michael Glos
Federal Minister of
Economics and
Technology



**Dr. Joachim
Wuermeling**
Administrative State
Secretary



Peter Hintze
Parliamentary State
Secretary



Claudia Dörr
Director-General
“Europapolitik”



Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Stotz
Deputy Director-
General “Europapolitik”



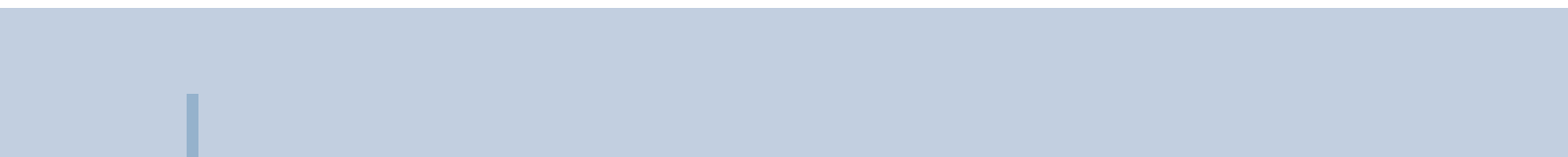
Dr. Peter Witt
Deputy Permanent
Representative of the
Federal Republic of
Germany to the EU –
Ambassador



Dr. Martin Ahbe
Head Project Team
“Preparing the German
Presidency”



Ursula Borak
Head Economics Section,
Permanent Representa-
tion of the Federal
Republic of Germany to
the EU



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