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### Information and Notices

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## I

(Information)

## COUNCIL

**Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the implementation of the European Pact for Youth**

(2006/C 70/01)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

HAVING REGARD to:

1. the objective, set by the Lisbon European Council on 23 and 24 March 2000 and reaffirmed by the Stockholm European Council on 23 and 24 March 2001, of making the European Union *'the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion'*;
2. the White Paper entitled *A new impetus for European youth*, adopted by the Commission on 21 November 2001<sup>(1)</sup>, which recognises that *'this strategy sets new goals for different policy fields which are closely related to youth, such as education, employment, social inclusion, information and civil society'*;
3. The Green Paper of 21 March 2005 entitled *Confronting demographic change: a new solidarity between the generations*, which underlined that greater efforts are needed to integrate young people into the labour market and to support them as they pursue 'non-linear' careers, alternating between employment, study, unemployment and retraining or the updating of skills;
4. the conclusions of the European Council of 22 and 23 March 2005 adopting the European Pact for Youth as one of the instruments contributing to the achievement of the Lisbon objectives of growth and jobs, aiming to improve the education, training, mobility, vocational integration and social inclusion of young Europeans, while facilitating the reconciliation of working life and family life;
5. the Commission Communication of 30 May 2005 on European policies concerning youth entitled *Addressing the concerns of young people in Europe — implementing the European Youth Pact and promoting active citizenship*<sup>(2)</sup>;
6. the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2005-2008)<sup>(3)</sup>, proposed by the Commission and endorsed by the Council, that should be taken into account by Member States and reported on in their national reform programmes;
7. the Commission Communication of 10 November 2005 entitled *Modernising education and training: a vital contribution to prosperity and social cohesion in Europe*<sup>(4)</sup>;
8. the Council Resolution of 15 November 2005 on addressing the concerns of young people in Europe — implementing the European Pact for Youth and promoting active citizenship<sup>(5)</sup>;
9. the Commission Communication of 22 December 2005 entitled *Working together, working better: a new framework for the open coordination of social protection and inclusion policies in the European Union*<sup>(6)</sup>;
10. the Commission's Annual Progress Report of 25 January 2006 on implementing the Lisbon Strategy, and its annexes, based on the national reform programmes of the Member States presented to the Commission in autumn 2005;

UNDERLINE:

11. that young people constitute a valuable resource for both the present and the future, and contribute to the creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship that Europe needs in order to fulfil the aims of the Lisbon Strategy;
12. that young people face many challenges, particularly in accessing the labour market, with youth unemployment on average double the overall rate within the EU;

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. 14441/01 — COM(2001) 681 final.

<sup>(2)</sup> Doc. 9679/05 — COM (2005) 206 final.

<sup>(3)</sup> Doc. 8008/05 — COM(2005) 141 final.

<sup>(4)</sup> Doc. 13415/1/05 REV 1 COM(2005) 549 final.

<sup>(5)</sup> OJ C 292, 24.11.2005, p.5.

<sup>(6)</sup> doc. 5070/06 — COM(2005) 706 final.

13. the importance of a youth perspective in the Lisbon Strategy and the key contribution which implementation of the 'Education and Training 2010' work programme, the open method of coordination in the field of social protection and social inclusion, the Structural Funds, the European Research Framework Programmes and other relevant programmes, such as the Lifelong Learning, Youth and future 'Youth in Action' Programmes, can make towards achieving the objectives of the Youth Pact;
  14. the need to promote the social inclusion of young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, so as to foster social cohesion;
  15. the importance for young people of policies aimed at balancing work and family life, particularly given the challenges posed by demographic change;
  16. the relevance of non-formal and informal learning and young people's mobility, supported by instruments such as the Youth Programme and the future 'Youth in Action' Programme 2007–2013, to helping young people develop a wide range of skills and competences;
  17. the importance of promoting a structured dialogue with young people, youth organisations and those active in the youth field at all levels;
- CONSIDER that:
18. as outlined in the Commission's 2006 Annual Progress Report, the response to the Youth Pact in most Member States has been encouraging, but that urgent action is still required to facilitate the entry of young people into the labour market in line with the Pact;
  19. the adoption of the European Pact for Youth has strengthened the involvement of ministries responsible for youth in the Lisbon process, leading to better internal coordination and reinforced mainstreaming of the youth dimension when developing policies on employment, social inclusion, education, training and mobility, in line with the mandate from the European Council;
  20. while many Member States refer explicitly to the Pact in their national reform programmes and others include measures that are consistent with it, better implementation of the objectives of the Pact and improved visibility of the Pact in the national reform programmes and in the Commission's Annual Progress Report would lead to more coherence, greater effectiveness and clearer monitoring of measures for young people, and would help to develop knowledge and expertise on the different areas of the Pact and the links between them;
21. while progress has been made, the European Commission and the Member States need to reinforce measures to implement the Pact by:
    - improving the employment situation of young people through strengthening employability and entrepreneurship and providing support for the transition from education and training to work;
    - ensuring that young people with fewer opportunities are a priority in terms of national employment and social inclusion policies;
    - reducing the numbers of early school leavers and developing closer cooperation on transparency and recognition of the value of non-formal and informal learning;
  22. Member States and the Commission should also develop and support measures in other areas of the Pact by:
    - taking measures that encourage young people's mobility, in particular by removing existing obstacles, taking into account the important role that mobility plays in developing young people's potential and in bringing the European Union closer to young people;
    - allowing young parents to reconcile work and family life, in particular by expanding the child care network and developing innovative forms of work organisation.
- INVITES THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL to:
23. encourage further progress with regard to measures for young people by implementing the European Pact for Youth in the Lisbon strategy;
  24. invite the Member States to reinforce links between policies on education, training, employment, social inclusion and mobility, so as to develop more effective cross-sectoral strategies for young people;
  25. invite the Member States, when preparing their national reform programmes, and the Commission, in its Annual Progress Report, to report more systematically and more visibly on the Pact within the Lisbon strategy, in order to facilitate monitoring of the progress made;
  26. reiterate its request to the Commission and the Member States to involve young people and youth organisations at all levels in the implementation of the European Pact for Youth.
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## COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates <sup>(1)</sup>

21 March 2006

(2006/C 70/02)

1 euro =

Currency	Exchange rate	Currency	Exchange rate		
USD	US dollar	1,2144	SIT	Slovenian tolar	239,57
JPY	Japanese yen	141,61	SKK	Slovak koruna	37,473
DKK	Danish krone	7,4628	TRY	Turkish lira	1,6260
GBP	Pound sterling	0,69420	AUD	Australian dollar	1,6903
SEK	Swedish krona	9,3730	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,4143
CHF	Swiss franc	1,5738	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	9,4234
ISK	Iceland króna	85,18	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,9489
NOK	Norwegian krone	7,9530	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,9635
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	KRW	South Korean won	1 175,96
CYP	Cyprus pound	0,5756	ZAR	South African rand	7,6617
CZK	Czech koruna	28,578	CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	9,7482
EEK	Estonian kroon	15,6466	HRK	Croatian kuna	7,3530
HUF	Hungarian forint	263,81	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	11 069,26
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4528	MYR	Malaysian ringgit	4,488
LVL	Latvian lats	0,6960	PHP	Philippine peso	62,080
MTL	Maltese lira	0,4293	RUB	Russian rouble	33,6410
PLN	Polish zloty	3,8964	THB	Thai baht	47,131
RON	Romanian leu	3,5147			

(<sup>1</sup>) Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

**Prior notification of a concentration**  
**(Case COMP/M.4059 — Swiss Re/GE Insurance Solutions)**

(2006/C 70/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 15 March 2006, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004<sup>(1)</sup> by which the undertaking Swiss Reinsurance Company ('Swiss Re', Switzerland) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation control of a substantial part of the direct insurance and reinsurance businesses of General Electric Company ('GE IS', USA) by way of purchase of shares and assets.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for Swiss Re: the worldwide supply of traditional reinsurance services, both life and non-life, as well as direct life and non-life insurance services;
- for GE IS: the worldwide supply of traditional reinsurance services, both life and non-life, as well as direct non-life insurance services.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 139/2004. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference number COMP/M.4059 — Swiss Re/GE Insurance Solutions, to the following address:

European Commission  
Competition DG  
Merger Registry  
J-70  
B-1049 Brussels

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

**COM documents other than legislative proposals adopted by the Commission**

(2006/C 70/04)

Document	Part	Date	Title
<a href="#">COM(2005) 133</a>		12.4.2005	Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: Accelerating progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals — Financing for Development and Aid Effectiveness
<a href="#">COM(2005) 290</a>		29.6.2005	Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Civil Society Dialogue between the EU and Candidate Countries
<a href="#">COM(2005) 320</a>		14.7.2005	Communication from the Commission — Report on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) 866/2004 of 29 April 2004 and the situation resulting from its application
<a href="#">COM(2005) 532</a>		25.10.2005	Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: Implementation of the Community Lisbon Programme — The Contribution of Taxation and Customs Policies to the Lisbon Strategy
<a href="#">COM(2005) 585</a>		23.11.2005	Communication from the Commission: Third package of legislative measures on maritime safety in the European Union
<a href="#">COM(2005) 626</a>		6.12.2005	Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the results of the consultation launched by the Green Paper on Defence Procurement and on the future Commission initiatives
<a href="#">COM(2005) 668</a>		21.12.2005	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Progress report on the Commission reform beyond the reform mandate
<a href="#">COM(2005) 669</a>		21.12.2005	Communication from the Commission: Policy Plan on Legal Migration
<a href="#">COM(2005) 675</a>		21.12.2005	Report from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee: Second report on the application of Council Directive 93/7/EEC on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State
<a href="#">COM(2005) 696</a>		23.12.2005	Green Paper on Conflicts of Jurisdiction and the Principle of ne bis in idem in Criminal Proceedings
<a href="#">COM(2005) 699</a>		23.12.2005	Report from the Commission to the budgetary authority on guarantees covered by the general budget situation at 30 June 2005
<a href="#">COM(2005) 701</a>		23.12.2005	Report from the Commission: 2004 Report on Phare, pre-accession and transition instruments
<a href="#">COM(2005) 706</a>		22.12.2005	Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Working together, working better: A new framework for the open coordination of social protection and inclusion policies in the European Union
<a href="#">COM(2005) 710</a>		23.12.2005	Report from the Commission to the Council on the future of the European Agency for Reconstruction

These texts are available on EUR-Lex: <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/>

## II

(Preparatory Acts)

## COMMISSION

## Legislative proposals adopted by the Commission

(2006/C 70/05)

Document	Part	Date	Title
<a href="#">COM(2005) 498</a>		17.10.2005	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending and updating Regulation (EC) No 1334/2000 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports of dual-use items and technology
<a href="#">COM(2005) 510</a>	1	22.12.2005	Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Community and the Kingdom of Thailand
<a href="#">COM(2005) 510</a>	2	22.12.2005	Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the implementation of the Agreement concluded by the EC following negotiations in the framework of Article XXIV.6 of GATT 1994, amending Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff
<a href="#">COM(2005) 539</a>		17.2.2006	Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 2494/95 as regards the temporal coverage of price collection in the harmonised index of consumer prices
<a href="#">COM(2005) 586</a>		23.11.2005	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on compliance with flag State requirements
<a href="#">COM(2005) 590</a>		23.11.2005	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector and amending Directives 1999/35/EC and 2002/59/EC
<a href="#">COM(2005) 592</a>		23.11.2005	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the liability of carriers of passengers by sea and inland waterways in the event of accidents
<a href="#">COM(2005) 634</a>		21.12.2005	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of clean road transport vehicles
<a href="#">COM(2005) 650</a>		15.12.2005	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on the law applicable to contractual obligations (Rome I)
<a href="#">COM(2005) 667</a>		21.12.2005	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste

Document	Part	Date	Title
<a href="#">COM(2005) 674</a>		20.12.2005	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulations (EC) No 1975/2004 and (EC) No 1976/2004 extending definitive anti-dumping and countervailing duties on imports of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film originating in India, to imports of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film consigned from Brazil and from Israel, whether declared as originating in Brazil or Israel or not
<a href="#">COM(2005) 687</a>		22.12.2005	Proposal for a Council Decision approving the accession of the European Community to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement concerning the international registration of industrial designs, adopted in Geneva on 2 July 1999
<a href="#">COM(2005) 704</a>		10.1.2006	Proposal for a Council Decision authorising Lithuania to apply a measure derogating from Article 21 of the Sixth Council Directive 77/388/EEC on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes
<a href="#">COM(2005) 711</a>		26.1.2006	Proposal for a Council Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed on imports of tartaric acid originating in the People's Republic of China

These texts are available on EUR-Lex: <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/>

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