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signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

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Follow-up of the Recommendations of the Task Force on ICT Sector  
Competitiveness and ICT Uptake

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Part 1

**COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT**

**Follow-up of the Recommendations of the  
Task Force on ICT Sector Competitiveness and ICT Uptake**

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Technical annex in EN (Part 2)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to describe how the Commission is acting with regards to the key recommendations of the Task Force on ICT Sector Competitiveness and ICT Uptake and to outline other relevant EU activities in this area. A technical annex looks at each of the Task Force's recommendations in detail.

The ICT Task Force, established in June 2006, was one of several sector-specific initiatives announced in the 2005 Communication on industrial policy<sup>1</sup>, which aims to help create a more favourable environment for business in the EU. The Task Force complements i2010<sup>2</sup>, the EU information society strategy for growth and jobs launched in June 2005 and designed to boost the digital economy by combining research, regulatory tools and policy initiatives. The mandate of the Task Force was to identify major obstacles to the sector's competitiveness and the uptake of ICTs, help mobilise the sector, and recommend possible policy responses. The membership<sup>3</sup> comprised high-level representatives of the ICT industry and civil society. Industry members came from across the ICT sector and included incumbents, new entrants, and both large and medium-sized firms. Non-industry members represented trade unions, SMEs, chambers of commerce, consumers, investors and academia.

The Task Force produced a report<sup>4</sup> last November that delivers a clear picture of where effort should be concentrated in order to boost the competitiveness of the ICT sector<sup>5</sup>. Overall, the report's recommendations confirm that the Commission's ICT policy is on the right track. They endorse the good work already taking place to promote ICT uptake and entrepreneurship, strengthen the internal market and create a single regulatory environment, boost innovation, improve access to finance, match standardisation policy to current industry dynamics, and develop a long-term e-skills strategy.

The mid-term review of the Commission's industrial policy later this year will provide for a further follow-up on the conclusions of the ICT Task Force.

## 2. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

### 2.1. ICT Uptake

***Key Recommendations of Task Force: Make structural reforms for more flexible product and labour markets, create an environment favourable to investment in next-generation***

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1 COM(2005) 474, 5.10.2005

2 For full information on the i2010 initiative, see [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/eeurope/i2010/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/index_en.htm)

3 Task Force membership: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/doc/icttfm.pdf>

4 For the full report of the Task Force, a list of members and details of working arrangements, see <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/taskforce.htm>

5 The Commission's 2006 European Competitiveness Report, COM(2006) 697, includes a section analysing the competitiveness of the ICT sector.

**networks and services and online public services, and create a charter of consumer rights in the digital environment.**

The revised Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs provides an all-encompassing economic reform agenda, and its micro-economic pillar focuses on creating a business-friendly environment. In February 2007, the Commission proposed a broad package of measures<sup>6</sup> to help ensure a smoother functioning of the **internal market for goods**. This will make it easier for companies, particularly for SMEs, to market products in the EU, while assuring high levels of quality and safety.

The transposition by the Member States of the **Services Directive**<sup>7</sup> adopted in December 2006, will remove discriminatory and unjustified barriers, cut red tape, and modernise and simplify the legal and administrative framework, notably by the obligation to put in place, by 2009, electronic procedures for formalities and procedures relating to access to and the exercise of a service activity. It will also improve administrative cooperation between Member States and put in place an internal market information (IMI) system for that purpose. The Services Directive will have to be transposed by Member States by the end of 2009, and the Commission will support and assist them in the implementation process. The Directive complements the Internal Market regulatory framework for information society services that was established by the eCommerce Directive<sup>8</sup>. Furthermore, based on the completion in 2005 of the legislative phase of an action plan<sup>9</sup> aimed at developing a true European-wide market in **financial services**, the Commission is now implementing a new strategy<sup>10</sup> to deepen financial integration and deliver further benefits to industry and consumers alike.

Policy support for the development of next-generation networks and services is primarily assured through the **ongoing review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications**<sup>11</sup>, as well as through other measures in the **first pillar of the i2010 initiative**<sup>12</sup>, which aims to create a Single European Information Space by combining regulatory and other instruments at the Commission's disposal to create a modern, market-oriented regulatory framework for the digital economy. Widening the availability of public online services has been a key priority, in particular through the **eGovernment Action Plan**<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> See press-release IP/07/181 of 14.02.2007. The package notably includes "Proposal for a Regulation laying down procedures relating to the application of certain national technical rules to products lawfully marketed in another Member State", COM(2007) 36, 14.02.2007

<sup>7</sup> Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market, OJ L 376, 27.12.2006, pp. 36–68.

<sup>8</sup> Directive 2000/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2000 on certain legal aspects of information society services, in particular electronic commerce, in the Internal Market.

<sup>9</sup> The Financial Services Action Plan (FSAP),  
[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/finances/actionplan/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/finances/actionplan/index_en.htm)

<sup>10</sup> Financial Services Policy 2005-2010 (White Paper), COM(2005) 629, 05.12.2005

<sup>11</sup> See [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/policy/ecommm/tomorrow/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/policy/ecommm/tomorrow/index_en.htm).  
Legislative proposals will be tabled by the end of 2007.

<sup>12</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/eeurope/i2010/single\\_infor\\_space/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/single_infor_space/index_en.htm)

<sup>13</sup> i2010 eGovernment Action Plan: accelerating eGovernment in Europe for the benefit of all, COM(2006) 173, 25.04.2006

and the development of the European interoperability framework for pan-European eGovernment services<sup>14</sup>.

In addition, the December 2006 European Council pledged to **review the challenges facing and posed by the next generation of the Internet and networks** within the framework of the Lisbon Strategy at the 2008 Spring European Council. **Future trends in networks and the Internet**, as well as foreseeable obstacles to their development, will also be addressed in 2007 in the reflection process paving the way for a mid-term review of i2010 in 2008.

In March 2007, the Commission adopted a consumer policy strategy for the years 2007-2013<sup>15</sup>. It stresses that a lack of consumer confidence, together with regulatory obstacles, are still hampering a fully fledged internal market, and aims at tackling the challenges of the digital environment in order to ensure that consumers are able to shop from anywhere in the EU, from corner-shop to website, confident that they are equally effectively protected. A **major consultation exercise on EU consumer rules** was launched early in 2007 with the adoption of a Commission Green Paper<sup>16</sup> reviewing existing legislation. One of the purposes of this initiative is to adapt the existing consumer rules to the digital world. With the help of the feedback from the Green Paper, the Commission aims to boost consumer confidence in the Single Market by developing a single, simple set of rules that will enable consumers to know their rights, make sound choices and enjoy adequate protection if things go wrong. Proposals for specific initiatives — regulatory or otherwise — to remedy existing problems and shortcomings will be brought forward after the consultation. Furthermore, by eliminating the current minimal harmonisation clauses in this field, the positive effects on the internal market of the eCommerce Directive will be consolidated.

**Universal Service**, an important element of the e-communications regulatory framework, aims to grant an affordable and high-quality service to all, regardless of geographical location, and has provided the possibility for everyone to get a phone or Internet connection at a reasonable price. In this sense, it is an enabler of ICT usage. There is a need to review the principle and the scope of Universal Service for electronic communication in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and the Commission will publish a Green Paper on this issue at the end of 2007 and launch a wide-ranging debate.

## 2.2. SMEs and entrepreneurship

**Key Recommendations of Task Force: More training in entrepreneurship skills, and raise firms' awareness of the benefits of ICTs.**

**Promoting entrepreneurship and skills** is one of the five specific action lines of the Commission' SME policy<sup>17</sup>. The Commission recognises the increasingly important role of

<sup>14</sup> See <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/2319/5644>

<sup>15</sup> "EU Consumer Policy Strategy 2007-2013", COM(2007) 99, available via: [http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/overview/cons\\_policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/overview/cons_policy/index_en.htm)

<sup>16</sup> Green Paper on the review of the consumer *acquis*, COM(2007) 744, 08.02.2007

<sup>17</sup> Laid down in "Implementing the Community Lisbon Programme: Modern SME Policy for Growth and Employment", COM (2005), 10.11.2005

entrepreneurship education and, more specifically, the key role of schools and universities in fostering an entrepreneurial mindset. Furthermore, the Spring European Summit in March 2006 invited Member States to encourage entrepreneurship, including via entrepreneurship education and training. The Communication "Fostering entrepreneurial mindsets through education and learning"<sup>18</sup> has contributed towards formulating **more systematic approaches to entrepreneurship education** and enhancing the role of education and training in creating a more entrepreneurial culture in Europe. It brings together examples of good practice, focuses on supportive policy measures, and proposes a set of recommendations for action that could be taken at national or regional level.

Many information society actions are supported by the structural funds, which include components on e-business and SMEs.

The **eBSN (European eBusiness Support Network)**<sup>19</sup> provides a policy coordination platform for national and regional initiatives promoting the uptake of eBusiness practices by SMEs, and fosters the exchange of information and case-studies on eBusiness-related issues. The eBSN has surveyed national awareness-raising campaigns and confirmed a policy shift in all Member States away from sponsoring and co-financing ICT investment and internet connectivity and towards coaching SMEs to innovate through using ICTs. More recently, the eBSN has observed a further shift towards sector-specific policies<sup>20</sup>, i.e., policies supporting SMEs in adopting ICTs taking into account their particular business environment (business partners, suppliers, customers, etc.). The eBSN will continue to bring Member State representatives together in order to learn and gain inspiration from each other and help stimulate a more dynamic approach to awareness-raising.

### 2.3. Single regulatory environment

***Key Recommendations of Task Force: Deliver a regulatory environment that facilitates convergence and an inclusive information society, foster the creation of an internal market for knowledge-intensive services, and review copyright levies.***

Convergence is one of the three priorities of the i2010 initiative "Creating an Information Space". This initiative foresees an adjustment in legislation involving the review of the electronic communications regulatory framework and the adoption of the Directive on Audiovisual and Media Services, and involves a number of initiatives to encourage the emergence of new audiovisual services, such as the Charter on Film Online and forthcoming communications on online content and mobile broadcasting. Convergence involves other challenges in the area of IPR, security and consumer protection<sup>21</sup>. These issues will be addressed in the reflection process leading to the mid-term review of the i2010 strategy in 2008.

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<sup>18</sup> COM(2006) 33, 13.02.2006

<sup>19</sup> See the eBSN portal: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/e-bsn/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/e-bsn/index_en.html)

<sup>20</sup> Observations drawn from recent eBSN workshops and the eBSN database of national projects

<sup>21</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/europe/i2010/docs/i2010\\_high\\_level\\_group/i2010\\_hlg\\_convergence\\_paper\\_final.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/europe/i2010/docs/i2010_high_level_group/i2010_hlg_convergence_paper_final.pdf)

The i2010 mid-term review, due in 2008, will address the internal market dimension of ICT services, including knowledge-intensive ones, and is synchronised with the **overall review of the Single Market strategy**<sup>22</sup>. This latter review will result in a **report on the Single Market in the 21st century**, including concrete proposals for future action, to be presented by the Commission to the European Council in 2007.

Regarding **copyright levies**, in December 2006, after extensive consultations<sup>23</sup> involving stakeholders and the Member States, the Commission decided that more reflection is required on this complex issue.

## 2.4. Intellectual property

**Key Recommendations of Task Force: Given the diversity of IPR strategies in the ICT sector, wide consultation should take place before changing EU legislation. Also, limit criminalisation for IPR infringement to wilful counterfeiting of trademarks, copyright infringement and design piracy. Promote the adoption of the London Protocol, and reduce patent costs.**

The Commission has proposed a directive<sup>24</sup> on criminal measures to ensure the enforcement of IPRs. This proposal does not contain a limitation only to trademarks, copyright and design rights. The European Parliament and the Council are currently discussing the Commission's proposal.

Following the conclusions of the December 2006 European Council and the broad consultation of interested parties carried out in 2006, the Commission adopted, in April 2007, a Communication on **enhancing the patent system in Europe**<sup>25</sup>. While reducing patent costs is one of the main objectives, it should be borne in mind that the ratification of the London Agreement is in the hands of the Member States. Furthermore, in 2008 the Commission intends to present a comprehensive IPR strategy in order to provide the EU with an appropriate framework for encouraging and protecting innovation.

## 2.5. Innovation, research, investment and finance

**Key Recommendations of Task Force: Exchange best innovation practices, stimulate research through tax credit schemes, support collaborative research via European Technology Platforms and Joint Technology Initiatives, support the development of lead markets through public procurement, secure a level playing-field for the European semiconductor industry, create a venture-capital friendly environment, and further reform State aid policy.**

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<sup>22</sup> See the portal on [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/strategy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/strategy/index_en.htm)

<sup>23</sup> Accessible via [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/copyright/levy\\_reform/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/copyright/levy_reform/index_en.htm)

<sup>24</sup> Amended proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on criminal measures aimed at ensuring the enforcement of intellectual property rights, COM(2006) 168, 26.04.2006

<sup>25</sup> COM(2007) 165, 03.04.2007

The Member States have earmarked €9.1 billion for funding ICT research during the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), making it the largest research theme in the Cooperation Programme, which is itself the largest specific programme of FP7.

All 31 **European Technology Platforms**<sup>26</sup> have now published a "Vision" document, and the majority have also completed or developed an advanced draft of their Strategic Research Agenda (SRA). These platforms are now preparing to move to the implementation stage. The Commission has taken account of the outputs of their work when developing its research policy, notably when drawing up FP7. This has been a valuable way of ensuring their industrial relevance. Analysis shows that 15 SRAs will be covered under a single FP7 research theme (demonstrating the close cooperation with the formulation of FP7), and that the remaining 16 SRAs will address several research themes. The first **Joint Technology Initiative**, ARTEMIS<sup>27</sup>, covering R&D in embedded computing systems, is expected to start during the first half of 2007, with ENIAC<sup>28</sup> (European Nanoelectronics Advisory Council) following after.

The Commission has recently launched **PRO INNO Europe**<sup>29</sup>, which brings together over 200 innovation policy-makers and stakeholders from 33 countries, including the Member States. It combines analysis and benchmarking of national and regional innovation policy performance with support for cooperation between national and regional innovation programmes and incentives for joint actions involving innovation agencies and innovation stakeholders, such as transnational cooperation in cluster policy development<sup>30</sup>.

In its recent Communication "Towards a more effective use of tax incentives in favour of R&D"<sup>31</sup>, the Commission outlines the existing legal framework (with particular reference to compatibility with fundamental freedoms and the recently amended **State aid rules for research, development and innovation**<sup>32</sup>), and encourages Member States to improve the use and coordination of tax incentives with respect to R&D activities. The Communication also provides guidance on tax treatment, notably with respect to large-scale transnational R&D projects, the growth of young innovative enterprises, cross-border mobility of researchers, VAT and R&D tax treatment in the common consolidated corporate tax base, and philanthropic funding. The Commission will keep the situation under review.

The Commission is conducting a detailed analysis with stakeholders, including consultations of the European Technology Platforms and the Europe INNOVA Innovation Panels<sup>33</sup>, to identify possible areas where a combination of supply and demand measures could help the **emergence of lead markets**. This is consistent with the broad-based innovation strategy

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<sup>26</sup> For a list of European Technology Platforms, see [http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/individual\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/individual_en.html)

<sup>27</sup> For more details on ARTEMIS, see [http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/individual\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/individual_en.html)

<sup>28</sup> For more details on ENIAC, see <http://cordis.europa.eu/ist/eniac/home.html>

<sup>29</sup> See <http://www.proinno-europe.eu>

<sup>30</sup> See <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/eca.html>

<sup>31</sup> COM(2006) 728, 22.11.2006

<sup>32</sup> OJ C 323, 30.12.2006, pp. 1-26

<sup>33</sup> Sector-based panels of innovation experts, which suggest sector-specific priorities for action and formulate questions and issues to be tackled, are a central part of the Europe INNOVA initiative

outlined in 2006<sup>34</sup>. Based on the outcome, the Commission will prepare a policy paper in the second half of 2007.

**The semiconductor industry is clearly of strategic importance for the EU.** As for all branches of European industry, the establishment of a level playing-field worldwide remains the overall objective. **Improving framework conditions in order to stimulate more investment in R&D and develop high-level skills is also of key importance.**

The recently adopted **Community framework for State aid for research and development and innovation**<sup>35</sup> defines several categories of aid for fundamental research, industrial research and experimental development. The allowable aid intensity for industrial research is a maximum 50%.

In its June 2006 Communication "Financing SME Growth — Adding European Value"<sup>36</sup>, the Commission unveiled a set of initiatives to **help SMEs get easier access to finance for start-ups and growth**. It includes measures to generate more risk capital investments, develop bank finance for innovation, and make existing financing systems more SME friendly. As a follow-up, the Commission has established expert groups on **removing obstacles to cross-border investment by venture capital funds**<sup>37</sup>, on **seed finance**, and on **good practices in risk capital investment at regional level**. The new **Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme (CIP)**<sup>38</sup> will provide further incentives for private equity investors to invest in firms with growth potential, with the European Investment Fund (EIF) operating or helping to operate **several financial instruments for SMEs** on behalf of the Commission: the High-Growth and Innovative SME facility (GIF), the SME Guarantee facility (SMEG), and the Capacity-Building Scheme (CBS). In cooperation with the European Investment bank (EIB), the Commission will launch a **Risk-Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF)**<sup>39</sup> to support investment in high-risk RTD projects through loans and guarantees, with the EU contributing up to €1 billion from the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and a matching allocation from EIB.

## 2.6. Standards and interoperability

**Key Recommendations of Task Force: As industry is primarily responsible for technical interoperability, continue support for efforts to address legal and semantic interoperability, promote effective conformance systems, and develop procurement policies that promote interoperability.**

<sup>34</sup> COM(2006) 502, Putting knowledge into practice: A broad-based innovation strategy for the EU.

<sup>35</sup> OJ C 323, 30.12.2006, pp. 1-26

<sup>36</sup> COM(2006) 349, 29.06.2006

<sup>37</sup> The main aim of this group is to identify, for each participating country, the regulatory framework affecting domiciled and non-domiciled venture capital funds, and in cases where existing regulations hinder cross-border activities of venture capital funds, to find ways to overcome these obstacles. See <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/library/enterprise-europe/news-updates/2006/2006-11-29.htm>

<sup>38</sup> CIP: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise\\_policy/cip/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/cip/index_en.htm)

<sup>39</sup> See <http://www.eib.org/site/index.asp?designation=rsff>

The European Standardisation Organisations (ESOs) have developed and continue to develop **guidelines to help ensure that interoperability is taken into account when preparing standards**. Some standards are currently being updated in order to increase their interoperability features. In terms of **policy priorities**, interoperability is already at the centre of standardisation objectives, and is considered as a critical issue to be closely monitored under the forthcoming **review of ICT standardisation policy**. Various specific standardisation actions are addressing interoperability issues in specific domains such as eHealth<sup>40</sup>, the Single European Payment Area (SEPA), e-invoicing, etc. In addition, in 2006 the Commission launched a **study**<sup>41</sup> to prepare recommendations to help ensure the EU's standardisation policy for the ICT sector matches the changes to the sector brought about by liberalisation, globalisation and convergence.

The ICT theme in FP7 includes **pre-normative and co-normative research relevant to improving interoperability and the quality of standards and their implementation**. Industry leads most pre-normative research activities. The FP7 ICT work-programme already includes actions aiming at improving cooperation in the development of standards and interoperable solutions.

The work-programmes of the European Standards Organisations (ESOs) focus on **technical interoperability**, especially within ETSI, while **semantic interoperability** has been integrated in the work-programmes of sectoral standardisation groups such as eHealth<sup>42</sup> and eBIF<sup>43</sup>. Other aspects of interoperability — legal aspects, for example — are not within their remit, though some of those are covered in FP7's ICT theme work-programme. As a starting point for identifying the **key enablers of interoperability**, the ESOs' work-programmes include activities on identifying problems and requirements. The overall ICT interoperability framework will be examined under the "internal market" heading of the i2010 mid-term review. Experience in implementing the legislation governing the free movement of goods has shown that some risk of distortion to competition exists because practices in designating and accrediting **conformity assessment bodies and systems** by national authorities vary widely. For this reason, and as part of the Commission's proposal for a new internal market package for goods<sup>44</sup>, the Commission recently adopted a proposal for a Regulation<sup>45</sup> introducing strengthened rules on market surveillance.

The **eProcurement Action Plan**<sup>46</sup> has interoperability as an essential requirement, and the **eGovernment Action Plan**<sup>47</sup> has explicit targets in this respect. Studies and consultations are

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<sup>40</sup> The i2010 eHealth sub-group is currently discussing a Commission Recommendation addressing guidelines and good practices in the field of interoperability for electronic health records and cards.

<sup>41</sup> "EU study on the specific policy needs for ICT standardisation", <http://www.ictstandardisation.eu>

<sup>42</sup> CEN's TC 251

<sup>43</sup> CEN's e-Business Interoperability Forum.

<sup>44</sup> For details, see [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/regulation/internal\\_market\\_package/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/regulation/internal_market_package/index_en.htm)

<sup>45</sup> Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products, COM(2007) 37, 14.02.2007

<sup>46</sup> Action plan for the implementation of the legal framework for electronic public procurement, COM(2004) 841, 13.12.2004

<sup>47</sup> COM(2006) 173, 25.04.2006

underway for the revision of the **European interoperability framework for pan-European eGovernment services**<sup>48</sup>, and proposals for a revision will be made in due course.

## 2.7. Skills and employability

**Key Recommendations of Task Force: As growing e-skills gaps limit innovation and ICT uptake, increase investment in teachers' professional development and support mechanisms, increase collaboration between industry, governments, employers and education institutions, and continue efforts in incorporating entrepreneurship into curricula.**

**Education, training and support** actions are mainly the responsibility of the Member States. The Commission will support such initiatives by organising studies, events, cooperation projects and exchanges of best practice via existing EU programmes, and notably under the new **Lifelong Learning Programme**<sup>49</sup>. Support will cover a broad range of skills for employability, ranging from e-skills and entrepreneurship<sup>50</sup> to communication skills and teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Moreover, the Commission will take the recommendations of the Task Force and the declaration of the recent European e-Skills Conference<sup>51</sup> into account when preparing the **Communication on a long-term e-skills strategy planned for adoption in 2007**.

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<sup>48</sup> See <http://ec.europa.eu/idabc/en/document/2319/5644>

<sup>49</sup> See [http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/newprog/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/newprog/index_en.html)

<sup>50</sup> The Commission has recently presented an "Oslo Agenda for Entrepreneurship Education in Europe" as part of its drive to promote entrepreneurial mindsets in society. See: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support\\_measures/training\\_education/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support_measures/training_education/index.htm)

<sup>51</sup> For the Conference Declaration, see [http://eskills.cedefop.europa.eu/conference2006/Thessaloniki\\_Declaration\\_2006.pdf](http://eskills.cedefop.europa.eu/conference2006/Thessaloniki_Declaration_2006.pdf)