

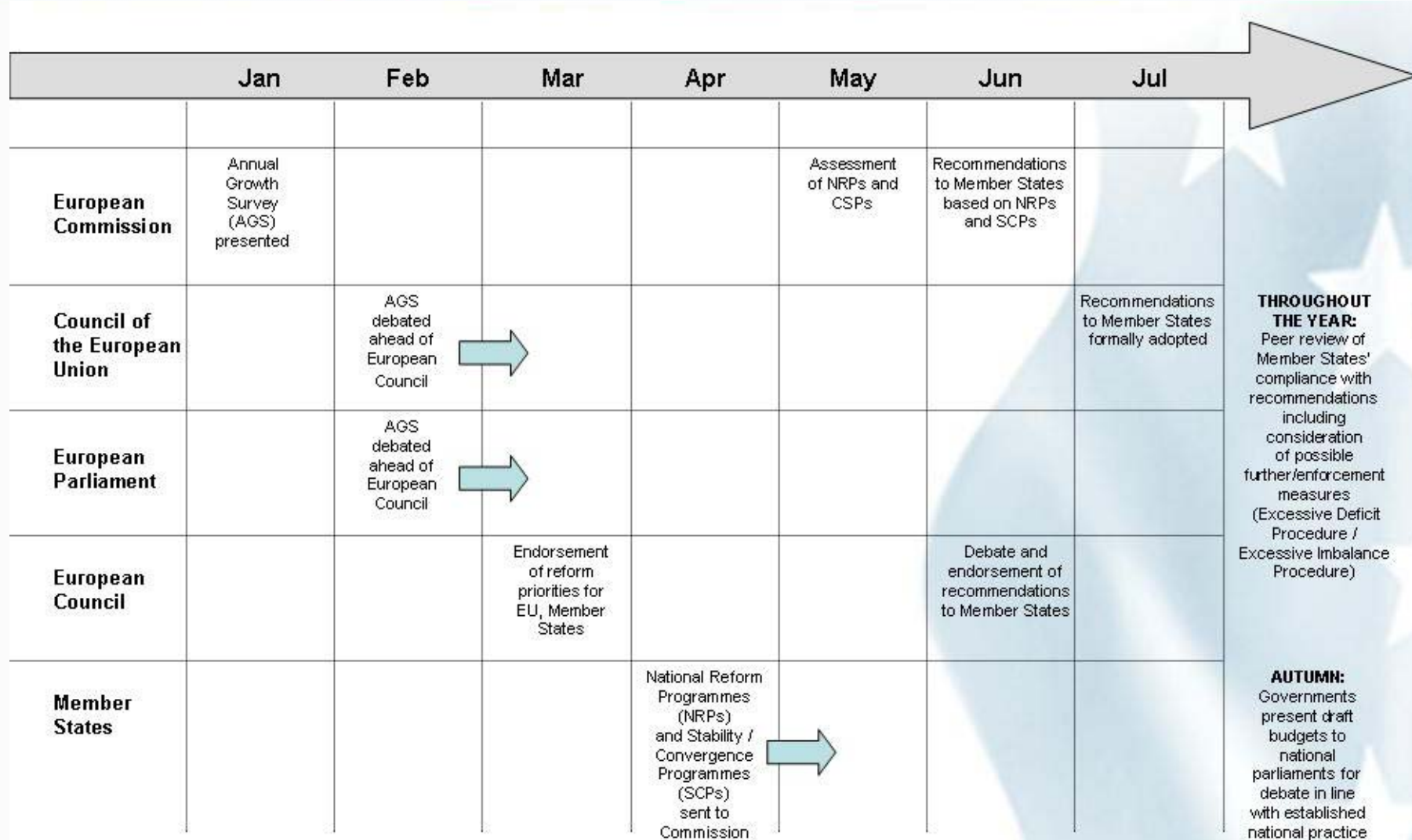
Ongoing activities in the field of employment and social affairs - update

04 December 2012



European Commission

The European Semester



Annual Growth Survey

COM(2012)750, adopted on 28 November 2012

- 5 priorities of last year's AGS remain valid

- Pursuing differentiated, growth-friendly fiscal consolidation
- Restoring normal lending to the economy
- Promoting growth and competitiveness for today and tomorrow
- Tackling unemployment and the social consequences of the crisis
- Modernising public administration

- Joint Employment Report

- Analysis of labour market
- Major challenges

Europe 2020 Strategy - indicators

	Headline indicator	2005	2009	2010	2011	Target
Employment	Employment rates (% of the population aged 20-64)	68.0	69.0	68.6	68.6	75
R&D	Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (% of GDP)	1.83	2.01	2.00	:	3
Climate change & energy	Greenhouse gas emissions (index 1990=100)	92	83	85	:	80
	Share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption (%)	8.5	11.7	12.5	:	20
	Primary energy consumption (Million tonnes of oil equivalent)	1 704	1 596	1 647	:	1 474

Europe 2020 Strategy - indicators

	Headline indicator	2005	2009	2010	2011	Target
Education	Early leavers from education and training (% of population aged 18-24)	15.8	14.4	14.1	13.5	< 10
	Tertiary educational attainment (% of population aged 30-34)	28.0	32.2	33.5	34.6	≥ 40
Poverty or social exclusion	People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (million)	123.9	113.8	115.7	:	20 million fewer
	People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (% of total population)	25.6	23.1	23.4	:	
	People living in households with very low work intensity (%)	10.3	9.0	10.0	:	
	People at risk of poverty after social transfers (%)	16.4	16.3	16.4	:	
	Severely materially deprived people (%)	10.7	8.1	8.1	:	

Commission Work Programme 2013

COM(2012)629, adopted on 23 October 2012

•Boosting competitiveness through the Single Market and industrial policy

- Modernise our approach to intellectual property rights to ensure that it is effective and consumer-friendly in the digital world (no new initiative)
- Making the VAT system more efficient through a review of the rates structure (legislative)

•Growth for jobs: inclusion and excellence

- Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion (Communication) – guidance in context of European Semester + preparing the new generation of programmes under the ESF
- Integration of the Roma (Recommendation)
- Effective Institutions for Occupational Retirement Pensions (review of Directive)
- Internationalisation of Higher Education (Communication)
- Modernisation of Public Employment Services (legislative)
- European platform to fight undeclared work (legislative)

Tripartite Social Summit 18 October

- Discussion on social partners' key role in EU governance

Commissioner Andor: "Collective bargaining and strong social dialogue remain major attributes of our European Social Model. Social partners' involvement in the EU economic governance, at national and EU level, is crucial to provide renewed impetus in our efforts to deliver a job-led recovery and growth."

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-1115_en.htm

Women on Boards

COM(2012)614 and 615, adopted on 14 November 2012

Commission Communication and Proposal for a Directive

•Rationale

- Gender balanced boards improve financial performance of companies
- Legally fragmented approach risks hampering the Single Market
- Voluntary approach does not work: +0,6%/year (since 2003)

•Main elements

- Objective of 40% for members of under-represented sex for non-executive members of boards of companies listed on stock exchanges – by 2020; by 2018 for listed public undertakings (does not apply to SMEs)
- Flexi-quota: obligation to set individual self-regulatory targets regarding executive directors
- Clear, gender-neutral and unambiguous selection criteria; at equal qualification/merit, preference for under-represented sex
- MS to lay down appropriate and dissuasive sanctions
- Systems in place can be kept if equally effective as proposed system in attaining objective

Rethinking Education: Investing in skills for better socio-economic outcomes

COM(2012)669, adopted on 20 November 2012

1. Building skills for the 21st century

- Stronger focus on transversal and basic skills (e.g. entrepreneurship, IT, languages,...)
- Technology driven skills (STEM) as a priority area of education
- Enhancing attractiveness and quality of VET

2. Stimulating open and flexible learning

- Exploiting the potential of ICT and Open Educational Resources
- Improving the learning outcomes approach, assessment and recognition
- Supporting the teaching professions

3. Funding education

- Effective investment
- Cost sharing
- Partnership

Rethinking Education: Investing in skills for better socio-economic outcomes

COM(2012)669, adopted on 20 November 2012

New Commission initiatives...

- Enhanced (country-specific) support to Member States: monitoring of progress, OMC, new benchmark on language teaching,...
- European Area of Skills and Qualifications
- Funding Education for Growth
- Opening up Education – ICT and OER
- Entrepreneurship education actions
- Partnerships between Education, enterprises and research, promoted through new programme Erasmus 4 All
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Youth Employment Package

- Commission Communication
- Second-stage consultation EU social partners on a Quality Framework on Traineeships
- Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Establishing a Youth Guarantee

EU social dialogue at the test...?

- Negotiations on revision of working time Directive
- Transposition of sectoral agreements into EU legislation

Thematic Liaison Forum on ESD outcomes and policy impact – 3 December 2012

- Issues identified
 - Translation of SD texts
 - Problem of meaning of terminology in different languages
 - Implementation and follow-up of outcomes (where relevant) should be part of the agreed text and integrated in SSDC work programme
 - Due attention for dissemination/communication ("story-telling")
 - Tendency at EU/national level to consider social partners as stakeholders as any others -> to be taken into account in sp's strategies
- Invitation to SSDCs to provide 15 lines on SSDC outcomes, achievements in 2012, by 10/01, for next SD Newsletter

Social dialogue

- **Calls for proposals**

- VP/2012/001 – Social Dialogue and Industrial Relations
 - First deadline: 17 April – 44 proposals received – 29 accepted
 - Second deadline: 4 September – 133 proposals received – 51 accepted
- VP/2011/002 – Information and training measures for workers' organisations
 - Deadline: 7 May – 45 proposals received – 23 accepted

Public consultations

- Which are the TOP 10 most burdensome legislative acts for SMEs?
→ 21/12/2012
- Review of existing legislation on VAT reduced rates → 04/01/2013
- Civil enforcement of intellectual property rights: public consultation on the efficiency of proceedings and accessibility of measures → 30/03/2013

http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/consultations/index_en.htm

Thank you for your attention!

Social Europe



European Commission