



FACT SHEET

Future Youth Policy: the challenges ahead

The adoption of the European Pact for Youth marked a new phase in the development of the youth cooperation at EU level. Based on European Council conclusions, the Commission presented in May 2005 a communication under the title "Addressing the concerns of young people in Europe - implementing the European Youth Pact and promoting active citizenship".

Following the proposals of the Commission, the Council has in November 2005 redefined the European framework for cooperation in the youth field established by the Council in May 2002. The new framework comprises the following **three strands**:

- **Supporting the active citizenship of young people**, through the Open Method of Co-ordination, through implementing common objectives in the 4 priority areas of '*participation*' and '*information*' of young people, '*voluntary activities*' and '*improving knowledge about youth issues*'.
- **The 'European Pact for Youth'**, which highlights youth issues in core areas of the Lisbon partnership for growth and jobs ('*employment and social inclusion*', '*education*', '*training and mobility*' and '*reconciling family life and working life*') The Youth Pact, as an integral part of the Lisbon partnership for growth and jobs, places young people in the centre of this process. It will be implemented through the instruments and reporting mechanisms supporting the Lisbon strategy.
- **Including a youth dimension in other relevant European policies**. The Resolution emphasises the policy areas '*anti-discrimination*', '*health including sport*', and '*research on youth issues*' (in agreement with the policy areas identified by the Commission in its Communication).

Future developments until 2009:

2006 - The Commission will present a report on the implementation of the Common Objectives for the "participation" and "information" priorities. On the basis of this report, the Finnish presidency will propose a Resolution to be adopted by the Council in November.

2007 - The Commission will present a report on the implementation of the Common Objectives for the "voluntary activities". On the basis of this report, the Portuguese presidency will propose a Resolution to be adopted by the Council by the end of 2007.

2008 - The Commission will present a report on the implementation of the Common Objectives for the "better knowledge". On the basis of this report, the Council will adopt a Resolution in 2009.

2009 - The 'Open Method of Coordination' will be subject of an evaluation.

In the context of future policy-making in the youth field, the European Youth Week has added the component of a **structured dialogue** between young people and the European institutions.

To find out more:

http://europa.eu.int/youth/news/index_1794_en.html