



Integrated Work Programmes 2004-2005

The European Policy Centre is changing its working methods to better complement its position as the leading Brussels EU affairs think-tank. During 2004 a new series of **Integrated Work Programmes** (IWPs) will be introduced. The IWP approach will allow crucial issues to be analysed in greater depth over a longer time-span.

What are Integrated Work Programmes?

- Multi-annual: two year's duration (but can go up to 36 months)
- Devoted to broad policy issues that are high on the EU/global agenda
- Flexible in design – projects can be added on, if necessary
- Multi-output
- Multi-constituency
- Managed by a Steering Group led by a major personality

What themes will IWPs examine?

- Growth and Jobs
- Economic Governance
- Multicultural Europe
- Political Europe
- Enlargement and Neighbourhood Europe
- EU and Global Governance
- The Future of European Foreign and Security Policy
- EU and Asia
- Better Regulation

Two important transversal themes will be integrated in all IWPs:

- The transatlantic dimension
- Post-enlargement

What will be the IWP activities and outputs?

An integrated approach combining:

- Closed expert meetings
- Public events such as dialogues and conferences for EPC members
- Research and analysis
- Publication of the results in the form of Issue Papers and Working Papers
- EPC Forums, which will be integrated into IWPs to ensure synergy

How will IWPs be financed/supported?

- From the EPC budget
- Through sponsorship from associated partners and sponsors
- In kind, for example, through short or long secondments of staff or expertise
- By actively contributing to the development of the project by lending your expertise

How will IWPs operate?

- A Steering Group, chaired by a leading personality, will draw up a plan of work for the IWP
- An EPC Programme Coordinator will implement the project and will provide the secretariat
- The Steering Group will meet quarterly to review progress and guide the project

Who can take part in the Steering Group?

- Any EPC member organisation wishing to actively contribute to an IWP
- External experts
- EPC staff

In addition: business as usual

In parallel to the IWPs, the EPC will continue its successful events programme of policy briefings, dialogues and seminars as well as provide regular analysis and reports on key issues on the EU and global policy agenda both on-line and in print.

How can I get more information on IWPs?

Contact the EPC by telephone (02 231 03 40) or by e-mail: info@theepc.be

European Policy Centre Integrated Work Programme 2004-2005

Growth and Jobs

Mission

The launch of the Lisbon process has not prevented Europe, together with most parts of the industrialised world, from sinking into low growth. The mid-term review of the Lisbon process at the Spring European Council in March 2004 will set the tone for the continuation of this ambitious project, which aims to ensure Europe has the most competitive, dynamic, knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010. But, despite the achievements so far, it is clear that Europe is not yet on target to meet the Lisbon goals.

EPC's *Growth and Jobs Programme* will monitor and analyse the core issues linked to the Lisbon agenda. In particular it will examine *economic growth, competitiveness and job creation*; and will contribute to the ongoing debate, taking into account such questions as *global competition, labour market developments in Europe, lifelong learning, the development of information technology, services of general interest, infrastructure investment, the completion of the internal market and entrepreneurship*. The programme will also pay close attention to the *transatlantic dimension*, and the *impact of enlargement on the EU*. It will also build on the results of the EPC's report on Europe's economic and social models.

Approach

The issues will be dealt with through a range of activities i.e. expert meetings, public events and publications. The Steering Group will determine the detailed work programme, but sub-projects might include the following:

- *Making Lisbon work*
Identification of core issues in the Lisbon process after the Spring Council with a view to presenting policy recommendations for the mid-term review in 2005.
- *Public investment for growth/infrastructure*
Production of a report on the costs of not implementing European infrastructure. Identification of best practice in relation to the state in growth and job creation.
- *The knowledge economy: innovation, R&D, lifelong learning, entrepreneurship*
Analysis of key issues in the Wim Kok report on adaptability and flexibility in companies and the workforce and the job creation potential linked to SME development.

The IWP Steering Group Chair will be **Professor Maria João Rodrigues**, Professor of Economics at Lisbon University and member of the EU's Employment Task Force.

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European Policy Centre Integrated Work Programme 2004-2005

Enlargement and Neighbourhood Europe

Mission:

This IWP, building on the work already done by EPC, will examine the EU's relations with its neighbours to the south, southeast and east, paying particular attention to the development of the EU's Action Plans under the rubric of the *Wider Europe* policy. The IWP will also monitor the continuing enlargement process. Two over-arching themes will be *future energy supplies for the EU*, and *conditionality* (how the EU might make better use of its instruments to promote its goals of democracy and human rights).

Approach:

These issues will be dealt with through a range of activities including expert meetings, public events and publications. Sub-projects may include:

- Eastern neighbours

Focusing on the problems of developing closer relations with *Russia and Ukraine*, the sub-project will monitor political and economic developments in these countries and examine the areas of mutual cooperation, such as *energy*. The situation in the *Caucasus and Central Asia* will also be followed with the twin focal points being *human rights/democracy* and *energy*.

- Balkans

This sub-project will consider the *progress towards meeting EU criteria for membership* and on assessment of the *Stabilisation and Association Agreement* (SAA) negotiations. There will be events covering regional integration (e.g. trade, the environment, crime, stability and democracy) as well as cooperation with the ICTY. Another sub-project will examine democratic control of all security forces (including border forces) in South East Europe.

- Euromed

This will examine, in particular, the reasons for the lack of progress in the Barcelona process and the different interests of the EU and its southern partners, including such issues as *security* (terrorism) and *trade* (EU agricultural protection), as well as the lack of political and economic reform. There will be a special project on *Turkey's readiness for EU membership*, along with a project on the *economic dimensions of a Middle East peace settlement*. Other themes will be *conditionality* and *the promotion of democracy and good governance*.

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European Policy Centre Integrated Work Programme 2004-2005

The EU and Global Governance

Mission:

This IWP will examine both the EU's role in the global system and efforts to reform the major multilateral institutions. It will take as its starting-point the provisions in the new draft treaty and the objectives outlined in the Solana European Security Strategy ("EU must support effective multilateralism"), Commission proposals, as well as the aims of the Global Progressive Forum. It will seek to contribute to the Kofi Annan report on UN reform. Another main theme will be the progress of the Doha Development Round. The programme will also pay close attention to the transatlantic dimension as well as the impact on the new Member States post-enlargement.

Approach:

The issues will be dealt with through a range of activities including expert meetings, seminars public events and publications. Among the publications envisaged will be a paper on the EU and multilateral institutions, WTO reform (based on the Sutherland Report) and on the use of conditionality. The Steering Group will determine the detailed work programme, but sub-projects might include the following:

- *The EU and effective multi-lateralism*
The project will build on the work already done by the EPC and partner organisations, including the EPC's Working Paper on *The EU and Global Governance*, the Rasmussen Report on *The New Global Order* and the UNDP Arab development report. A number of expert level events will be arranged, with a particular focus on raising awareness of the issues with a broader public.
- *World Trade issues*
The second major theme will be an on-going assessment of the *Doha negotiations* and their implications for the EU and developing countries. This assessment will be carried out through a number of expert and public meetings plus a range of publications. There will be also networking possibilities with other partners, including those in third countries.

The IWP Steering Group Chair will be **Poul Nyrup Rasmussen**, former Prime Minister of Denmark.

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European Policy Centre Integrated Work Programme 2004-2005

Political Europe

Mission:

This IWP will seek to understand the implications of the growing demand for a more democratic European political system and see how a strengthening of the role of political parties and other civil society actors can better reflect the interests and address the concerns of citizens, and begin to fill the current democratic deficit in EU policy-making.

This IWP is being launched at a crucial moment in the institutional and political development of the EU: the political landscape in Brussels is being transformed with a new, enlarged Parliament and Commission taking up office against the backdrop of the biggest and most historical enlargement of the EU. The impact of enlargement on the functioning of the institutions and on the perceptions and, more importantly, the lives of 450 million EU citizens, is of central importance and will be a decisive factor in determining the ability of the Union to meet citizens' expectations and, ultimately, the success of the European political project.

Approach:

The issues will be dealt with through a range of activities including expert meetings, public events and publications. The following sub-projects are envisaged:

- *European political parties*: What factors lead to "Europeanisation" and what obstacles hinder this process? What are the voting patterns of European political families in the European Parliament? How to establish closer links between MEPs, their constituencies and national politics at large?
- *National and European democracy*: Are national parliaments prepared and willing to better scrutinise national governments? What is the impact of the EU debate on national politics? What fault-lines does the EU generate in the political landscape of key Member States? How can national media coverage of EU affairs be enhanced?
- *Functioning of EU institutions*: What is the future role of the Commission in shaping the EU political agenda? What is and what should be the extent of the European Parliament's democratic control of the Commission? What scenarios are there for differentiated integration?

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European Policy Centre Integrated Work Programme 2004-2005

Economic Governance in the EU

Mission:

This programme will spotlight current EU economic instruments and policies and will assess their effectiveness in contributing to growth and cohesion across the Union. It will identify the main shortcomings and will seek to find solutions for the future. Searching questions will be asked about the EU budget, which is currently under review, and the crucial issue of economic coordination and governance, particularly the Growth and Stability Pact, in the light of increasing calls for the rules governing the Pact to be re-written.

Approach:

The issues will be dealt with through a range of activities including expert meetings, seminars, public events and publications. Close attention will be paid to the transatlantic dimension as well as the impact on the new Member States post-enlargement. The Steering Group, chaired by **Joly Dixon**, will determine the detailed work programme. Potential sub-projects include:

- Governing EMU
The main focus of this sub-project will be on *coordination of fiscal policies* in the Union/eurozone and the deficiencies in the current *Stability and Growth Pact* and how these can be addressed. Should the SGP be amended? Is a rules-based system appropriate? How should these rules be applied?
- Making sense of the EU budget
The enlargement of the EU to 25 states raises fundamental questions about how the EU budget is spent and whether the financing priorities are the right ones. This touches on major political issues such as the common agricultural policy and regional policy. Is there a case for re-nationalising agricultural policy? What is the central purpose of regional policy: solidarity or catching up? Should the EU introduce an EU tax?

The IWP Steering Group chair will be **Joly Dixon**, former Director on International and Economic issues in DG Economic and Financial Affairs in the European Commission

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European Policy Centre Integrated Work Programme 2004-2005

The EU and Asia

Mission:

This IWP will examine the development of EU-Asia relations. Given the region's rapid economic and population growth, the complicated security dimension and the changing relationship with both the EU and US, it is timely to analyse the wider picture and bilateral and regional trends. The IWP will focus on the political, security and economic aspects and examine, in particular, the EU's growing relations with China, India, Japan and ASEAN. There will be networking possibilities with other partners, including those in third countries.

Approach:

The issues will be dealt with through a range of activities including expert meetings and seminars, public events and publications. Potential sub-projects include:

- China's new global role
This sub-project will concentrate on the immense potential of China and growing areas of partnership between the EU and China. It would examine the impact of China's growth on Japan and on ASEAN. It would also consider the impact of China's membership of the WTO on domestic and international economic policy. Several events are envisaged, including an expert roundtable on the prospects for EU-China relations, building on the statement from the last summit.
- EU-Japan: Strengthening the partnership
This sub-project would examine the potential to develop the EU's relations with Japan further - particularly in the economic and trade spheres. It would also look at Japan's changing attitude to international security issues and global governance. There would be a public event to coincide with the EU-Japan summit.
- EU-India: a New Strategic Relationship
This sub-project will examine India's growing economic role and the implications for regional developments (SARC) and relations with the EU.
- ASEAN
This sub-project will consider the prospects for integration of ASEAN in several fields – political, security, trade and economic. It would also review prospects for the development of EU-ASEAN relations.

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Multicultural Europe

Mission:

Europe is becoming increasingly diverse and is moving towards being a multicultural society. Migratory flows are increasing but with the growing influx of immigrants and the inadequacy of integration policies in the Member States, the issue of migration has become controversial and has led to an increase in racism and xenophobia (including Islamophobia and anti-semitism) across Europe. Moreover, recent developments on the external and security fronts have put the spotlight on the Islamic world and the rights and responsibilities of Muslims in Europe. The EU needs effective policies to manage migration and to combat racist tendencies. Europe, with its ageing population and declining birth rates, needs migrants to be able to maintain economic growth and thus continue to sustain the future of the European economic and social model. This IWP, which will be run jointly with the King Baudouin Foundation, will seek to raise awareness about the facts, as well as the myths, surrounding “Multi-cultural Europe.”

Approach:

This IWP will contribute to the debate through a range of activities, including expert meetings, public events and publications. A number of sub-projects are envisaged:

- Migration and Integration
This project will explore how to develop a common EU level framework promoting the integration of migrants and the identification of common objectives requiring joint responses. It will examine the economic, social, cultural and political implications of improving integration, including exploring the rights and responsibilities of immigrants and attitudes towards immigrants, as well as how to foster the positive values of cultural pluralism and a multi-ethnic Europe.
- Management of Migration
Asylum and immigration are the policy areas where the degree of harmonization is being reduced to the lowest common denominator given the ongoing resistance from Member States. This project will explore the evolution of migration policies at EU level including the issues surrounding the global management of migration.
- Islam and Muslims in Europe
This project aims to stimulate knowledge of and reflection on Europe’s important relations with Islamic countries and the issues surrounding the integration of Muslims in Europe. It will analyse the challenges facing multicultural societies in Europe and will seek a better understanding of the global foreign, security and other policy challenges which are at the heart of the EU’s relations with Islamic countries.

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The Future of European Foreign and Security Policy

Mission:

This IWP will examine the evolution of European foreign and security in the light of treaty changes in the Inter-governmental Conference (IGC), the follow-up to the Solana security strategy paper and relations with the US and NATO. It will also follow and examine the development of the EU diplomatic service and the defence industrial dimensions of closer cooperation, including the European armaments agency. The project would build on the work already done by the EPC and partner organisations such as SIPRI and ISIS-Europe, and on EPC's Working Paper on European Security.

Approach:

This IWP will see a number of expert level events arranged, and will also seek to raise awareness of the issues with a broader public. There will be networking possibilities with other partners, including in third countries. Three sub-projects are foreseen:

- *Follow-up to Solana security strategy*
This sub-project will examine the priorities identified in the Solana paper, including follow-up action on WMD, proliferation, NATO-EU relations and effective multilateralism. A task force will monitor the transition of the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina from NATO to EU control.
- *Developing an EU Diplomatic Service*
This sub-project will examine the opportunity afforded by the new treaty to establish a nascent EU diplomatic service. It will consider the implications for national diplomatic services, for third countries and for international organisations. It will also consider the training requirements for an effective EU diplomatic machine.
- *The EU Armaments Agency*
This sub-project will consider the implications of the establishment of the new EU armaments agency in terms of institutional structures, mandate support from Member States, impact on defence research and development and the policy implications.

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Better Regulation

Mission:

The EU must reconcile the need to boost competitiveness with the necessity to develop a sustainable and social model. Regulation constitutes the fundamental basis for guaranteeing adequate standards of social, environmental and health protection and provides a safe economic framework for companies. But this can involve costs for economic operators and consumers. Thus, there is a need for a comprehensive system that ensures a high-quality regulatory process at EU level - in other words - “better regulation.”

Approach:

The principal objective of the **Better Regulation Programme** is to improve the governance of better regulation in the EU and to promote regulatory convergence at international level with special attention to the transatlantic dimension. It also focuses on risk-related issues and the precautionary principle, through a range of activities, including publications, seminars and conferences. It includes the following sub-projects:

- Science and Decision-Making in the EU
This sub-project aims to ensure that credible, sound science becomes a key input to effective policy, legislative and regulatory decisions by the European Commission and other EU institutions responsible for risk management decisions.
- Strengthening and implementing impact assessment in the EU
This sub-project – which is being implemented in partnership with King’s College London – aims to promote scientific-based risk analysis as a tool for better regulation in the European Union.
- The implementation of the precautionary principle in the EU
This sub-project will examine developments on the implementation of the precautionary principle at international level by analysing and comparing its application by the European Commission, Member States, the US administration and other international bodies and governments.
- Progress on the “better regulation” process in the EU
This sub-project will report on progress with the “better regulation” process.
- Regulatory convergence in specific sectors
This subject will consider sectoral issues that have horizontal implications, including food regulation and public health.

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