



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
SECRETARIAT GENERAL
The Secretary General

Brussels, 19 December 2005
SG.D(2005) 12526

Dear National Lisbon Coordinators,

2005 has seen the relaunched the Lisbon Strategy set on firm foundations. In particular, a close partnership between the Community-level authorities and the Member States has been put at the centre of the new governance arrangements for the strategy. One of the innovations in this partnership has been national governments' reform programmes for growth and jobs. The goal of this exercise is to increase the ownership of the joint objectives of the strategy at national level.

As foreseen by the European Council of March 2005, in January the Commission will present its first annual report on progress achieved, looking ahead to the next European Council. The Commission's analysis of the national reform programmes will be the key building block of the 2006 report. This analysis will be presented in the form of one chapter per programme and will constitute an integral part of the Commission's report.

The Commission representatives with whom you discussed these issues in the summer have now completed the first analysis of your country's programme. In tune with the spirit of partnership, the Commission now wishes to launch an informal exercise to check the facts in the draft chapter relating to your programme. This has been forwarded to you by electronic mail, in parallel with this letter.

Please note that this is basically a technical exercise aimed at keeping you informed and at avoiding factual errors or misunderstandings in our assessment of the national programmes. The same approach is being adopted in relation to the other national coordinators. Given the deadline for the adoption of our report, we will only be able to take account of comments that reach us before 9 January. Please send your comments to Mr Michel Servoz at the address Michel.Servoz@cec.eu.int.

You might also wish to be aware that in January, the Commission will complement the fiches with its opinions on each national programme. These texts will also be sent to the National Lisbon Coordinators in due time.

Thank you in advance for your valuable assistance,

Yours faithfully,

[Signed]
Catherine DAY
Secretary General

Cc.: Madams and Messrs the Permanent Representatives of the Members States to the EU