



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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COVER NOTE

from : Presidency
to : Delegations

Subject : **EUROPEAN COUNCIL BRUSSELS
22 and 23 MARCH 2005**

PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

Delegations will find attached the Presidency conclusions of the Brussels European Council (22 and 23 March 2005).

European Youth Pact

Against the background of Europe's ageing population, the European Council sees a need for young Europeans to benefit from a set of policies and measures forming a fully integrated part of the Lisbon Strategy. The Youth Pact aims to improve the education, training, mobility, vocational integration and social inclusion of young Europeans, while facilitating the reconciliation of working life and family life. The Pact should ensure the overall consistency of initiatives in these areas and provide the starting point for strong, ongoing mobilisation on behalf of young people. Its success depends on the involvement of all parties concerned, first and foremost national, regional and local youth organisations as well as the European Youth Forum, regional and local authorities and the social partners.

The European Council calls on the Union and Member States, each within the limits of its own powers and in particular under the European employment strategy and under social inclusion strategy, to draw upon the following lines of action:

Employment, integration and social advancement

- specifically monitoring policies for the sustained integration of young people into the labour market, in the context of the mutual learning programme on employment;
- endeavouring to increase employment of young people;
- giving priority under national social inclusion policy to improving the situation of the most vulnerable young people, particularly those in poverty, and to initiatives to prevent educational failure;
- inviting employers and businesses to display social responsibility in the area of vocational integration of young people;

- encouraging young people to develop entrepreneurship and promoting the emergence of young entrepreneurs.

Education, training and mobility

- ensuring that knowledge matches the needs of a knowledge-based economy and, to this end, encouraging the development of a common set of core skills; in this context, concentrating primarily on the problem of drop-outs from the school system;
- expanding the scope for students to undertake a period of study in another Member State;
- encouraging mobility of young people by removing obstacles for trainees, volunteers and workers and for their families,
- for researchers, stepping up ongoing initiatives under the Marie Curie programme;
- developing, between Member States, closer cooperation on transparency and comparability of occupational qualifications and recognition of non-formal and informal education.

Reconciliation of working life and family life

- promoting the reconciliation of working life and family life by sharing the responsibility between partners, particularly by expanding the child care network and developing innovative forms of work organisation;
- considering child-friendly policies, in the light of discussions on the Commission Green Paper on demographic change.
