



*"We must move from consensus on the importance of ICT for growth and jobs - to taking action. This is a joint responsibility of the Commission, Member States and all stakeholders. Though the first year of i2010, has been successful - we all must accelerate progress towards achieving concrete results".*

Viviane Reding Commissioner for  
Information Society and Media



## What comes next? Plans for 2006 - 2007

In June 2005 the Commission launched the "i2010" (European Information Society 2010) initiative, to foster economic growth and jobs in the information society and media industries. i2010 is a comprehensive strategy for deploying and modernising EU policy instruments that encourage development of the digital economy: regulatory instruments, research and partnerships with industry.

The three pillars of this strategy aim to:

- create an open and competitive single market for information society and media services within the EU,
- increase EU investment in research on information and communication technologies (ICT), and in innovations based on these
- promote an inclusive information society in Europe.

This fiche summarises the next steps planned for each of these 3 pillars, in the coming year.

### The Single European Information Space

The review of the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications, which aims to make markets more competitive, stimulate investment and innovation and hence enhance consumer benefits, will be concluded in 2006. As part of this overhaul, the Commission will review its recommendation on the 18 wholesale and retail markets for electronic communications products and services that under EU rules can be

regulated, ex ante, to promote competition. It is also preparing a regulation to reduce charges for using a mobile phone abroad. The Commission will also present proposals for a reform of spectrum management to facilitate access to radio frequencies for new technologies and applications, and will assess developments with regard to mobile TV.

The convergence of digital content, networks and devices offers a wide range of opportunities to businesses and benefits to consumers. However, many people are still reluctant to use information society and media services, due to security and privacy concerns. In 2006, the Commission will look at ways to address these concerns.

*In 2006/2007, the Commission plans to:*

- make proposals for the review of the eCommunications regulatory framework and promote an efficient management of spectrum,
- assess developments in standardisation and interoperability with regard to mobile TV services,
- extend the Film Online initiative to Content Online and present proposals in a communication by late 2006,
- address trust, privacy and security issues in the forthcoming EU security strategy (mid-2006),
- review consumer protection rules, taking technological progress into account.

### Innovation and investment in ICT research

A new form of partnership for research activities has been established through up nine European Technology Platforms in information and communication technology (ICT) fields that ensure closer coordination between R&D programmes run by the Commission and EU Member States.

ICT also are an important subject for European Standardisation, and there is an Action Plan for reviewing standardisation policy in 2006 and 2007. Member States have launched a discussion on pre-commercial public procurement of innovation at EU level to promote research and innovation in ICT. Such developments can have a disruptive impact on companies and markets, as is already evident in manufacturing and retailing with the increasing take-up of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). The Commission will make policy proposals on this in the course of 2006

i2010 addresses the need to remove barriers to adoption of ICT by businesses. In 2006, the priority is to identify and analyse new trends and to assess the need for additional policy measures.

*In 2006/2007, the Commission plans to:*

- adopt a work programme for the EU's 7<sup>th</sup> research framework programme (2007-2013),
- propose two Joint Technology Initiatives<sup>1</sup> (Nanoelectronics and Embedded Systems),
- complete a public debate on RFID and issue a communication at the end of 2006,
- issue a communication on research and innovation in ICT,
- analyse the possible application of the public procurement directives to pre-commercial procurement and the procurement of innovation for the uptake of R&D,
- review standardisation for ICT, and
- review eBusiness policies and trends (2006) and define the necessary policy measures (2007).

<sup>1</sup>Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) are a new type of public-private partnerships envisaged under FP7. They will be established to implement the Strategic Research Agendas defined by certain Technology Platforms, which are of such an ambitious scale that they require the mobilisation of substantial public and private investments and research resources.

### Inclusion, better public services and quality of life

The use of ICT in public services can help make public finances sustainable and to simplify administrative procedures. The eGovernment Action Plan adopted in April 2006 lays out a road map for achieving for a range of targets for eGovernment by 2010, and the Commission has issued a Staff Working Paper on eHealth interoperability in March 2006, which will be followed by a Recommendation in 2007.

In addition, ICT can help to reduce the environmental impact of industry and society. The Commission will propose an ICT "flagship" project for 2007 to harness the potential of ICT for sustainable growth, focusing on energy efficiency and waste reduction.

*In 2006/2007, the Commission plans to:*

- set up an EU public health portal and prepare a Recommendation on eHealth interoperability,
- launch pilot projects to test, at an operational scale, technological, legal and organisational solutions to putting public services online (2007),
- launch the initiative "ICT for Independent living in an ageing society"
- propose a new "ICT for sustainable growth" initiative

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