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## REPORT

on the Situation of the European economy: preparatory report on the broad  
economic policy guidelines for 2007  
(2006/2272(INI))

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Rapporteur: Udo Bullmann

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## MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

**on the Situation of the European economy: preparatory report on the broad economic policy guidelines for 2007  
(2006/2272(INI))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission's Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2005-2008) (COM(2005)0141) (the Integrated Guidelines),
- having regard to Council Decision 2005/600/EC of 12 July 2005 on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the Commission's Economic forecasts<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to the Commission's EU Economy 2006 Review of 22 November 2006, 'Adjustment dynamics in the euro area - Experiences and challenges',
- having regard to the Member States' autumn 2006 reports under the Lisbon Strategy on the implementation of their national reform programmes<sup>3</sup>,
- having regard to the Commission's annual progress report of 12 December 2006 on the Lisbon Strategy,
- having regard to the Commission's Communication to the Council and the European Parliament, 'The long-term sustainability of public finances in the EU' (COM(2006)0574),
- having regard to the Commission's Communication, 'The demographic future of Europe – from challenge to opportunity' (COM(2006)0571),
- having regard to the Commission's Communication to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Central Bank, 'Annual Statement on the Euro Area' (COM(2006)0392),
- having regard to its resolution of 26 May 2005 on the Commission recommendation on the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and the Community in the framework of the integrated guidelines for growth and jobs (2005-2008)<sup>4</sup>,
- having regard to the Key Issues Paper by the Council Presidency of ... for the Ecofin Council with a view to the spring 2007 European Council,
- having regard to the Presidency's conclusions at the European Council in Lisbon of 23-24

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 205, 6.8.2005, p. 21.

<sup>2</sup> Autumn 2006, No 5/2006

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/key/nrp2006\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/key/nrp2006_en.htm).

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 117 E, 18.5.2006, p. 248.

March 2000, the European Council in Göteborg of 15-16 June 2001 and the European Council in Brussels of 22-23 March 2005,

- having regard to Article 99(2) of the EC Treaty,
  - having regard to Rule 45 of its Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (A6-0012/2007),
- A. whereas the integrated guidelines are a central instrument of EU policy on the economy and employment focusing on a medium-term period of three years; whereas that instrument should, based on the version of 2005 and their forthcoming review, be assessed carefully and developed further in the interest of improving its implementation,
- B. whereas the integrated guidelines, the reformed Stability and Growth Pact and the Financial Framework for 2007 to 2013 will contribute together to creating greater coherence in the policy-making process and improving the economic governance of the European Union,
- C. whereas the integrated guidelines should not be regarded merely as a relabelling of existing policies but should become a genuinely integrated package of policies encompassing and converging macroeconomic, microeconomic and employment dimensions,
- D. whereas the integrated guidelines are an essential component of the Lisbon Strategy and should, as its central implementing instrument, with the aid of a balanced ‘policy-mix’ approach pursue reciprocally inspiring reforms in the areas of the economy, employment, the environment and social security,
- E. whereas economic growth is not an end in itself but a necessary condition, and as such, part of an integrated approach, for securing the welfare and living standards of citizens; whereas the endeavour to achieve sustainable growth must be based on a policy for the economy, social security, employment, the environment and the budget that does justice to its responsibility towards future generations,

***Making good use of the upswing in the economy and employment in the European Union***

1. Notes that after six years of low economic growth, stagnation or even recession in many Member States, the European economy is now achieving better results with a growth rate that exceeds that of previous years, that is to say a growth rate in 2006 of 2,8 % of GDP in the European Union and of 2,6 % of GDP in the euro area falling in 2007, however, to 2,4 % in the European Union and 2,1 % in the euro area; raises the question as to the extent to which European growth may be cyclical and stresses the need to enhance Europe’s growth potential so as to be able to generate employment;
2. Points out that there are wide disparities between the growth rates of the Member States and expresses concern at the relatively low growth rate in a number of the large Member States, which is primarily attributable to stagnant internal demand; notes in this context

the above-average growth rate enjoyed by the Scandinavian countries accompanied by a recent substantial reduction in unemployment;

3. Stresses the improvement in public finances with a reduction in the average budget deficit to 2% of GDP for 2006; expects further improvements in the quality of public finances which do not only mirror cyclical factors;
4. Notes the positive development in the employment market, with a doubling of the annual growth rate of labour productivity from 0.6 to 1.2 % and a decline in unemployment to 8 % in both the European Union and the euro area in 2006, and a predicted unemployment rate of 7.3% in the European Union and 7.4% in the euro area by 2008, employment growth around 1.4%, representing 2.9 million new jobs in 2006 with the prospect of a further 7 million new jobs in the period 2007 to 2008, which would mean a rise in the employment rate from 63.7% in 2005 to 65.5% by 2008; notes, however, that unemployment rates, particularly among women, are still high and far from achieving the Lisbon Objectives; calls, therefore, for further efforts towards an effective and inclusive European labour market, which combines flexibility and security and is able to achieve a significantly higher participation rate; stresses in this context that necessary reforms should be designed and implemented in best collaboration with the social partners;
5. Is concerned at the constantly high level of poverty in the EU which, following a fall from 17% to 15% in the mid-1990s, has recently risen again to 17% in 2005; considers it unacceptable in this connection that, in the EU-27, around 80 million people have a disposable income of below 60% of the national equalised median income;
6. Points out that in 2006, the European Union expanded its leading role as a world champion exporter, with an 8 % growth in exports, but underlines the fact that the export surplus only accounts for about 0.3 percentage points of the current GDP growth in the euro area and stresses the risk factor attached to the high euro-dollar exchange rate; draws attention to the fact that the present economic upswing is predominantly riding on recovering domestic demand and that this is largely as a result of short-term investment; points out that the fundamental problem facing the European economy in the last decade has been inadequate domestic demand attributable to a lack of confidence caused by unemployment; expresses concern as to how far a continual increase in investment and consumer expenditure, together with a sustained improvement in the employment situation, can be achieved to ensure that the mainly cyclical upswing will turn into a structural upward trend;
7. Considers that the European economy has been strengthened by the main achievements of the EMU and the single market; calls for full completion of the internal market, particularly in financial services as well as the energy sector by means of rapid and complete implementation of the electricity and gas directives; accordingly, stresses the importance of investment in the infrastructures needed to achieve this objective; expects further economic stimuli from a European market in services that will guarantee service providers' access free of discrimination and the protection of labour and social security laws at the place of the service provision; urges the Member States, with regard to the latest enlargements, to maintain an open and free labour market that supports economic growth;

8. Points out that a more permanent increase in economic growth potential in the European Union under the umbrella of the Lisbon Strategy needs the ongoing implementation of well-balanced reforms, including measures aimed at strengthening innovation, technological advance and human capital accumulation, removing remaining barriers hampering the operation of the internal market, and creating a more conducive environment for business activities in Member States;
9. Draws attention, against the background of an expected decline in growth in the United States and hence in world trade, of potential external shocks, such as the abrupt adjustment of global imbalances with massive effects on exchange rates and financial markets, and of a possible further rise in the price of oil, to the need to support and strengthen the economic upswing by an economic policy improving the effectiveness in the markets of goods, services, labour and capital, that promotes growth and is equally geared to export and domestic demand;
10. Is concerned about a euro exchange rate which could harm Europe's competitiveness as against the United States; expects the European Central Bank to monitor developments closely and to take appropriate measures in order to safeguard Europe's economic interests in the international financial system;

***Encouraging the Member States to produce benchmark results***

11. Notes that the real economic growth in the EU is characterised by old and new divergences, with the lowest growth rates in Portugal (1.2% of GDP) and Italy (1.7%), and high growth rates among the EU-15 in Spain (3.8%), Greece (3.8%) and, in particular, Sweden (4%), Finland (4.9%) and Luxembourg (5.5%); notes that the new Member States are registering particularly high growth rates in Slovakia (6.7%), Lithuania (7.8%), Estonia (10.5%) and Latvia (11%); underlines that these divergences also reflect important structural differences, different domestic economic policies and demographic structures as well as asymmetric impacts of common policies, illustrating underlying risks to the European Union's internal cohesion; therefore stresses the need for policies that strengthen economic cohesion and thus foster the internal market and monetary union;
12. Points out that, in the case of modernising efforts and economic performance, the countries that are most successful are those that combine forward-looking and well-balanced structural reforms with higher-than-average investment in transport, information technology, research and development as well as innovation, education, lifelong learning and care facilities, and the renewal of reliable social networks; notes that, for the most part, the same Member States have a highly efficient and transparent administration, an innovative entrepreneurship environment, budget surpluses, lower-than-average debt rates and high-quality public spending, while showing signs of a contribution by technical progress to the national growth result that is almost twice the size of the EU average; concludes that those countries' policies seeking to achieve high employment rates, including the employment of women and older workers, will enable the European Union to face with greater confidence present and future challenges such as an ageing population and growing competition as a result of globalisation;
13. Emphasises in this connection that the most successful countries with regard to their strategies of economic and social renewal can also be seen as role models for the

successful implementation of the Lisbon Strategy, and encourages other Member States to be guided by them, even if the measures implementing the Lisbon Strategy must be developed to suit the situation of the relevant Member State and must remain the responsibility of that Member States;

14. Notes, with regard to the Member States' national reform programmes, that by and large there are signs of greater harmonisation and also of a new commitment to direct policy towards objectives agreed throughout Europe; underlines, however, that Member States have different points of departure and show considerable variations as regards the content, pace and intensity of reforms across policy areas; takes the view that the reforms only respond to a limited extent to the present economic and employment situation, and that in many cases such central tasks as innovation, job creation, energy supply, a sustainable environment and better law-making are still not being adequately incorporated into an integrated reform agenda; regrets that even in the fields of boosting the employment rate and active employment policy, progress and reform efforts are moving less rapidly than in other fields; welcomes, however, the efforts to strengthen responsibility at national and regional level ('ownership') and the involvement of the parliaments and social partners, and calls for the further expansion of such endeavours;

***Strengthening potential – extending success: what still needs doing***

15. Calls on the Member States to make good use of the new economic situation and the resulting margin for manoeuvre to promote a more sustainable form of economic growth, and one that is more closely geared towards quality objectives; underlines that a healthy and stable macro-economic environment requires improving the quality of public finances with budgets that are further consolidated, and an intelligent private and public investment policy that delivers forward-looking infrastructure and opens up tomorrow's markets today;
16. Stresses that in order to benefit fully from the potential of the internal market and to strengthen Europe's position in the global market, current protectionist and anticompetitive tendencies must be curbed;
17. Emphasises the role played by SMEs in generating employment; accordingly, stresses the need to create a favourable climate for them through more favourable tax arrangements, a reduction in regulation and administrative burdens, improved access to financing, improvement of the situation regarding business costs in terms of energy, transport, communications and services, improved ICT access and increased investment in research and innovation for SMEs;
18. Stresses the importance to the European economy of excellent competitiveness as well as the need to sustain demand potential, and expects the economic policy actors to make further efforts to achieve a higher long-term growth rate in conditions of economic stability and sustained development also by effectively coordinating economic policies;
19. Stresses in this context the importance of education, in particular tertiary education, to the strengthening of future growth potential and increasing skills levels, mobility and adaptability of European citizens; calls on Member States to step up efforts aimed at making European education systems more attractive, accessible and competitive;

20. Recalls that the achievement of the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy requires sufficient financial resources through the Community budget; regrets in this context the insufficiency of financial resources to achieve the said objectives;
21. Takes the view that a simultaneous and coordinated approach by the Member States to growth-intensive spending, the stimulation of private investment and joint initiatives in the area of private and public cooperation can unleash substantial synergies, improve Europe's ability to meet the existing challenges in the fields of science and research, transport and communication, energy and environmental sustainability and will support the efficient allocation of resources throughout Europe; Notes in this connection the importance of a coordinated fiscal framework including corporate tax arrangements favourable to SMEs and geared to generating employment; considers that Member States should improve the efficiency of tax and social contribution arrangements in order to ease job creation, particularly for specific social groups such as women, the long-term unemployed and older people; considers that competitive tax regimes should encourage the establishment of new businesses without undermining national funding capacity and should shift the burden from taxation on labour to environmental taxation, including fiscal incentives to support R&D and the use of renewable resources;
22. Calls once again, in view of the forthcoming review of the Financial Framework, further to adapt the EU budget in the light of the Lisbon Objectives and in this way to support the full implementation of the Lisbon Strategy as a whole;
23. Recognises that much progress has been made in shifting the focus of State aid to horizontal objectives; encourages Member States to continue this trend and to further align State aid with the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy such as employment, innovation and sustainability;
24. Underlines the need in the future to direct the competitiveness of European economies even more strongly towards an intelligent and sustainable economic process, to go hand-in-hand with the more efficient use of resources; recommends here in particular looking into the following measures at national level, which serve the aims not only of modernising the economy, developing new technologies and strengthening competitiveness, but also of environmental compatibility and opening up new areas of employment:

*(a) in the fields of research and development*

- incentives to extend private R&D activities;
- promoting public investment in the context of R&D, namely public-private partnerships;
- promoting networks and cooperation between universities, research institutes and companies;
- promoting national or regional coordination offices in the field of R&D;
- promoting innovation and new technologies by SMEs and small service providers, particularly by improved access to all sources of capital, in particular to venture capital; and



- promoting training and retraining in the interest of an active employment policy in the area of modern technologies;

*(b) in the fields of energy and the environment*

- implementing the electricity and gas directives in the interest of a fair, competitive, functioning and non-discriminating European energy market;
- securing energy supplies for the European economies through the diversification of sources and transit routes of energy imports;
- fiscal incentives, performance incentives and investment to promote energy efficiency measures, including implementation of energy-saving objectives;
- fiscal incentives, performance incentives and investment to promote renewable energies and environmentally efficient technologies and innovation;
- ensuring the independence of national regulatory authorities and their coordination at EU level;
- expanding and networking of regional energy generation;
- increasing the transparency in the energy market and a clear separation of energy production, distribution and marketing ('unbundling'); and
- the stronger establishment of 'environment certificates';

25. Regards it as a priority to open up new chances and opportunities for work to all sectors of society in a rapidly changing economy; underlines that the most vulnerable members of society are most at risk in this context and that priority should be given to promoting "active inclusion" and to creating better jobs, more broadly; underlines also the need to balance new demands for workers' flexibility and readiness to retrain with new job prospects and the safeguarding of new forms of security ('flexicurity') also in order to promote chances better to combine professional and private life; calls in this connection for an improvement in the opportunity for participation in and access to the employment market by women, older workers, young people, the long-term unemployed and immigrants, for which the following measures, among others, should be more strongly pursued at national level in the fields of employment and education:

- ensuring that every school leaver is offered a job, training or other equivalent measures within six months;
- introducing a legal entitlement to retraining and lifelong learning;
- incentives and investment to promote training, retraining and lifelong learning, and successful models for combining family and career and education with training;
- promoting flexible models for the transition from working to pensionable age on a voluntary basis, also with a view to facilitating access to the labour market for young people;
- promoting basic training and ensuring the handing-over of existing companies on grounds of age;
- further reducing the overall burden of taxation and social contributions on low and

average earnings;

- securing the qualification and first employment of young people by suitable private and public initiatives;
- increasing the availability and affordability of quality child care;
- ensuring a start-up time for new businesses of no more than one week, including low start-up fees and administrative costs;
- including entrepreneurship education into life-long learning curricula;
- ensuring a proper policy for legal immigration along the lines of the proposal for a European green card system;

26. Points out that in the interest of macro-economic stability, the rise in productivity must go hand in hand with fairer distribution of the fruits of growth and a strengthening of social cohesion; draws attention in this connection to the call for the rise in incomes to keep pace with medium-term growth in productivity; underlines the urgent need to strengthen a culture of encouragement and involvement as part of the concepts of corporate governance and corporate social responsibility;

27. Stresses the need for enhanced and structured cooperation in the European Union and especially in the euro area, to strengthen governance and the process of European integration, as this is the only way to tackle the global economic challenges; calls, therefore, on the Council and the Commission to ensure that the annual statement on the euro area delivers a more practical range of instruments in future, to make it possible to hold a more detailed dialogue between the various EU bodies that are involved in strengthening the economic governance of the European Union; further takes the view that the Euro Group should focus on ensuring that when national budget plans are drawn up and implemented they are better balanced and harmonised, both in content and timing, as this would make a big contribution to seeing through an economic policy reform agenda; proposes in the framework of a more enhanced and structured cooperation within the euro area to invite other Council formations concerned to participate in such cooperation;

### ***Stimulating necessary institutional reforms***

28. Welcomes the Commission's new approach to following up the assessment of the national reform programmes by proposing country-specific recommendations to guide Member States and urges the European Council to approve these; underlines, in this context, the urgent need to strengthen the mutually reinforcing approach of the integrated guidelines which must be reflected in national reform policies; calls once again for the transparent exchange of best practices and the publication of an annual 'league table' of countries with the best and worst reform records by the Commission in the interest of learning from both successes and failures; points out, however, in this connection that a sufficient number of integrated indicators are needed to cover all the policy areas of the Lisbon Strategy;

29. Regrets the still weak visibility of the Lisbon Strategy in the national politics of many Member States, takes the view that the mobilisation of all economic stakeholders is

essential to ensuring its effective implementation; in particular, believes that a better involvement of social partners, national parliaments and civil society will increase the visibility of the Lisbon Strategy, enhance the quality of public debate on economic reforms, reinforce accountability and raise the awareness of public opinion about the need to coordinate closely economic policies with a view to addressing the main challenges posed by the ongoing globalisation process and to adopt a collective position to improve economic governance inside the European Union; urges the Member States to implement the integrated guidelines and national reform programmes in the spirit of 'ownership' in a committed way, with the increased involvement of the national parliaments and other interested actors such as the social partners, and requests a regular review of the relevance of the national reform programmes according to the 'benchmarking' principle, including a broader consultation process in those Member States in which it is not yet the norm; expects the priorities of national reform programmes to be better reflected in the timetable as well as the content of national budget decisions;

30. Welcomes the consolidation and integration of the guidelines for economic, structural and employment policy measures; repeats in this connection that the economic and structural policy guidelines must receive the same legislative status as the guidelines for employment policy measures and that an interinstitutional agreement must be drawn up in order to clarify Parliament's participation in this context;
31. Expects, with a view to the forthcoming work on revising the integrated guidelines, to see a joint process of reflection between the EU bodies concerned and proposes an inter-institutional working party to be established after the Spring 2007 European Council; recommends the following aspects for improving implementation of the EU reform agenda for discussion and reflection:
  - presenting a thorough analysis of structural reforms and their direct impact on productivity, employment and internal market demand with a view to revising the integrated guidelines;
  - developing clearer and more focused integrated guidelines, while enlarging the range of reform areas to be covered as regards, for example, the comprehensive reform agenda for a more active policy of ecological sustainability, going beyond the scope of energy policy, and for a more committed policy to promote lifelong learning;
  - developing a more standardised reporting structure in the context of the national reform programmes, without compromising the right of Member States to set national reform priorities;
  - developing guidelines and benchmarks for national consultations, including recommendations for the involvement and active participation of national parliaments both in drawing up and reviewing the national reform programmes;
  - development and exchange of successful models for information and communication strategies;
  - increasing the effectiveness of the EU reform agenda by consolidating the content and timing of economic policy instruments that are still deployed separately, with the goal of a "smart growth strategy" that further concentrates the reporting and assessment work in the area of the national reform programmes, but at the same time also involves

the national stability and convergence programmes and systematic initiatives to incorporate the principle of ecological sustainability;

32. Regrets once again that a clear plan and code of practice has still not been agreed between Parliament, the Council and the Commission, which would guarantee appropriate cooperation and the full involvement of the three EU institutions concerned in the appropriate further handling of the integrated guidelines as key instruments of the Lisbon Strategy; calls in this connection on the Council and the Commission to submit forthwith proposals for the close cooperation of the three EU institutions with a view to the impending revision of the integrated guidelines;

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33. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Debates on the broad guidelines for economic policy have by now become a tradition in Parliament. That tradition is as old as the list of recommendations that the Council, Commission and Member States have not accepted. The very fact that Parliament has to draw attention again and again to this failure of cooperation is reason enough for producing a new report, although the Commission and the Council have decided to leave the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Employment for the period 2005-2008, submitted last year, unchanged. But the main focus of this report is not on an examination of the current guidelines but rather of their implementation by the Member States, in view of what is in many respects a new economic situation. In addition the first proposals can be made for the forthcoming review of the guidelines in the coming year.

Since our last report on the economic policy guidelines for 2006, drawn up by José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, there have been decisive changes in Europe. For the first time after six years of low growth, stagnation or even recession in many Member States, the European economy is in a clear upswing. Growth has risen in the EU to 2.8 % and in the euro area to 2.6. % of GDP. Forecasts up to 2008 predict that growth will remain robust at 2.4 % and 2.1 % respectively. Meanwhile the situation of public finance has improved and the average budgetary deficit for 2006 has fallen to 2 % of GDP.

This positive development is also reflected in the employment market. The growth of labour productivity has doubled and unemployment has fallen to 8 %. A further fall in unemployment is expected for 2008, to 7.3 % in the EU and 7.4 % in the euro area. In 2006, 2.9 million new jobs were created, representing employment growth of 1.4 %. By 2008 a further seven million jobs could be created, increasing the employment rate to 65.5 %.

In the rapporteur's view these positive trends now need to be put to good use. It does not seem certain to him that the positive figures are not just signs of cyclical movement. Nor do the Commission's initial assessments of the National Reform Programmes permit any conclusions to be drawn about the contribution made by national reform efforts. The various activities of the Member States are at present listed here without having been subject to any detailed evaluation as to possible connections between cause and effect. In view of the patchy data situation it seems to the rapporteur essential that the Commission should step up its evaluation work and provide the public more rapidly relevant data.

Against this background of empirically established data the rapporteur sees it as significant that while the present upswing is accompanied by a further rise in EU export success (up 8.5 % in 2006), the recently improved export performance only accounts for a small proportion of the recovery (only 0.3 percentage points of the current 2.6 % upswing in the euro area).

Rather than exports he considers stabilisation of the short-term investment trend in the internal market to be of crucial importance. To make a structural upward trend out of what is predominantly a cyclical event, consumer demand needs in his view to be maintained at a high level and the employment market needs to see clear improvements, to carry the upswing in the longer term.

The rapporteur sees the common currency and the single internal market as outstanding achievements that are strengthening the European economy. He calls for rapid implementation of the policy for a single European energy market and expects further stimuli from discrimination-free access to the service markets, provided that employment and social law standards are not undermined by an asymmetrical legal situation at the point of service provision.

As a matter of principle, however, he also calls for a determined modernisation policy under the Lisbon Strategy guidelines, to enable the Member States to underpin the recovery. He regards a policy of better coordination on economic policy as just as essential as it is promising and calls for more commitment in this regard, for the euro area as well as for the whole European Union. By stepping up their cooperation the Member States ought also to succeed in preparing their economies for future challenges, for which the rapporteur regards resource efficiency and ecological sustainability as the decisive criteria.

To turn a pre-eminently cyclical upswing into a sustained structural improvement in economic growth in Europe, the rapporteur sees the Member States facing a task to which they can only do justice by a consistent approach and greater cooperation. But the European Parliament must in his view play a more active role in determining economic policy, so as to provide the Member States with assistance in implementing agreements that have been jointly concluded. The European Parliament is, as the only European Union body directly elected by its citizens, the appropriate forum for assessing and analysing the strategies and measures that the Member States are taking to improve economic policy coordination and implement the Lisbon guidelines. In view of the drafting in 2007 and ensuing assessment of the new Integrated Guidelines, this must also be reflected in appropriate entitlement to institutional participation.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Situation of the European economy: preparatory report on the broad economic policy guidelines for 2007		
	2006/2272(INI)		
<b>Committee responsible</b> Date authorisation announced in plenary	ECON 29.11.2006		
<b>Committee(s) asked for opinion(s)</b> Date announced in plenary	EMPL 29.11.2006	ITRE 29.11.2006	
<b>Not delivering opinion(s)</b> Date of decision	EMPL 13.12.2006	ITRE 28.11.2006	
<b>Enhanced cooperation</b> Date announced in plenary			
<b>Rapporteur(s)</b> Date appointed	Udo Bullmann 25.9.2006		
<b>Previous rapporteur(s)</b>			
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	23.10.2006	19.12.2006	23.1.2007
<b>Date adopted</b>	24.1.2007		
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ 34 - 0 0 1		
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Zsolt László Becsey, Pervenche Berès, Sharon Bowles, Udo Bullmann, Ieke van den Burg, David Casa, Corina Crețu, Philip Dimitrov Dimitrov, Jan Christian Ehler, Elisa Ferreira, José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, Robert Goebbels, Gunnar Hökmark, Othmar Karas, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Wolf Klinz, Guntars Krasts, Andrea Losco, Astrid Lulling, Gay Mitchell, Cristobal Montoro Romero, Joseph Muscat, John Purvis, Alexander Radwan, Bernhard Rapkay, Antolín Sánchez Presedo, Manuel António dos Santos, Peter Skinner, Margarita Starkevičiūtė, Ivo Strejček, Sahra Wagenknecht.		
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Mia De Vits, Ján Hudacký, Thomas Mann, Giovanni Pittella, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen.		
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>			
<b>Date tabled</b>	26.1.2007		
<b>Comments</b> (available in one language only)			