

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0070/07

pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jan Andersson, on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, Pervenche Berès,
on behalf of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
to the Commission

Subject: Commission Communication: 'The European Interest: Succeeding in the age of globalisation' (COM(2007)0581 final)

How does the Commission intend to ensure the integration and visibility of the social dimension of the Lisbon Strategy, and, in particular, in the Integrated Guidelines (IPGs)? How does the Commission intend to pay more attention to active inclusion and equal opportunities for all, promote adequate social protection and reinforce the fight against poverty?

What plans does the Commission have to address the wide disparities between Member States as regards the implementation and effectiveness of the Employment Guidelines? How will the Commission ensure that Member States more comprehensively apply the European Employment Strategy (EES) indicators and targets, life-long learning instruments and measures set out in the European Youth Pact and the European Pact for Gender Equality? Is the Commission planning to incorporate these commitments into the IPGs in order to promote a more a coherent and effective EES?

How does the Commission intend to promote ownership and enhance the involvement of the national parliaments, regional and local authorities and social partners in the framework of the Lisbon Strategy and, in particular, within the National Reform Programme process?

How would the Commission judge the impact and relevance of the IPGs on the willingness of Member States to reform their economy and labour markets? If the Commission sees some relevance for this economic instrument, how will it ensure further coherent guidance for Member States on new challenges such as financial crises, climate change and coordination of reforms taking place in Member States?

How does the Commission view the impact of investments in the EU economy by third-country sovereign funds, in particular where investments from EU funds in their economy are restricted or impossible? Should new measures be introduced to put the EU on an equal competitive footing with respect to these third countries?

The European Council, both in October 2007 and March 2008, is asked to bring the different economic instruments together and to respond coherently to the external and internal challenges. In the view of the Commission, how could this goal be implemented, in particular linked to the present economic instruments?

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Deadline for reply: 29.10.2007