

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL A European Economic Recovery Plan

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2.3. Actions in the four priority areas of the Lisbon Strategy

1. Launch a major European employment support initiative
2. Create demand for labour
3. Enhance access to financing for business
4. Reduce administrative burdens and promote entrepreneurship
5. Step up investments to modernise Europe's infrastructure
6. Improve energy efficiency in buildings
7. Promote the rapid take-up of "green products"
8. Increase investment in R&D, Innovation and Education
9. Developing clean technologies for cars and construction.
10. High-speed Internet for all

Comments:

- a) The construction industry is one of the key sectors of this recovery plan, in particular concerning energy efficiency and investment in infrastructure.
- b) There are a number of actions which are of special interest for the construction industry and which are mentioned in the following items of the action plan:
 2. reducing employers' charges; reduced VAT on labour intensive services
 4. ensure that public authorities pay invoices, including to SMEs within one month
 5. "frontload" the financing of infrastructure projects; €500 milion call for proposals for TEN-T; increased financing for climate change, energy security and infrastructure investment (by both EIB and EBRD)
 6. demanding targets for highest energy efficiency standards of public buildings, private and social housing; re-programme structural funds for greater share to energy efficiency investmenst; develop innovative financing models based on energy bill savings
 7. reduced VAT for green products and services
 8. Increase investment in R&D, Innovation and Education
 9. support innovation in particular in the construction industry; launch major partnership between public and private sectors in the construction sector (envelope: €1 bln): green technology, energy efficient systems/ materials in new/ renovated buildings. To include important regulatory and standardisation component. Involve a procurement network of regional/ local authorities. Backed by actions 5. and 6.

The European Commission calls on the heads of State and Government, meeting on 11-12/12/2008, among others, to endorse this Recovery Plan.