

**What will the Commission be working on in 2009? EC work programme published**

The European Commission has published its work programme for 2009, outlining its strategic and priority initiatives. For each initiative, the European Commission has issued a roadmap containing the context and defining the problem, stating the objectives of EU initiatives, discussing policy options and making an initial assessment of further impact assessment work. Only a few of the priorities are listed hereunder:

- The European Commission will publish a communication on the five years of an enlarged EU. There will be transition in terms of a new college of Commissioners, and a new European Parliament (elections in June).
- In spring 2009, the European Commission intends to publish a statement of what the EU has achieved to build the European Union of the 21st century.
- The European Commission will also publish the EU budget review, which will look at how the EU can use the tools of the budget to pursue modern policies to best effect.
- The financial and economic crisis will obviously be addressed by the European Commission: it intends to reshape the regulatory framework for the EU financial system, with a package of several financial measures (May – July 2009).
- Climate change will be high on the agenda, particularly with the Commission's Strategic Energy Review
- The third strategic review of better regulation will report on the core components of the better regulation agenda and will look particularly at how to strengthen impact assessment. (January 2009)

Find the work program at [http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/clwp2009\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/clwp2009_en.pdf)

Find a document on strategic initiatives on

[http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/clwp2009\\_roadmap\\_strategic\\_initiatives\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/clwp2009_roadmap_strategic_initiatives_en.pdf)

Find a document on priority initiatives on

[http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/clwp2009\\_roadmap\\_priority\\_initiatives\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/docs/clwp2009_roadmap_priority_initiatives_en.pdf)

**Greens shut out from transparency working group**

In May this year the European Parliament has decided to set up an inter-institutional working group to explore the possibility of developing a common register for lobbyists. The European Parliament Conference of Presidents last week decided to restrict the institution's participation to its three largest political groups. The Greens judged this decision as a deliberate move to keep out the groups most in favour of transparency.

Read an article on the issue on <http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/2008/11/greens-fume-over-lobbying-review/63076.aspx>

**“From Secrecy to Openness – and back?” Seminar on Access to Documents, December 11, Brussels**

The finish Ministry of Justice and the Finish Parliament are jointly organising a panel discussion on the reform of the regulation 1049/2001 on public access to documents in Brussels on the afternoon of December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Let Regula Heggli ([coordinator@act4europe.org](mailto:coordinator@act4europe.org)) know if you are interested and she will forward you the program.

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The EU Civil Society Contact Group brings together eight large European NGO platforms in the following fields: culture (culture action europe), development (CONCORD), environment (Green 10), human rights (HRDN), lifelong learning (EUCIS-LLL), public health (EPHA), social (Social Platform) and women (EWL). Together we work to develop the dialogue between civil society organisations and the EU institutions as an essential part of strengthening participatory democracy.