

# Enterprise policy: multiannual programme MAP 2001-2005

2000/0107(CNS) - 26/04/2000 - Legislative proposal

**PURPOSE** : to present a communication on the challenges for enterprise policy in the knowledge-driven economy. **CONTENT** : this communication sets out the challenges to be faced by enterprise policy over the next 5 years. By overcoming them, the EU will achieve what President Prodi, in his contribution to the Lisbon European Council, referred to as Enterprise Europe. Further, it presents the Multiannual Programme for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship 2001-2005, which provides for a framework of actions in support of these objectives. A successful enterprise policy is essential to achieve sustainable development. The new open method of co-ordination, which was initiated by the Lisbon European Council, implies a co-ordinating role for the European institutions, using benchmarking methodology and an effective monitoring of progress to ensure a more coherent strategic direction. On the basis of the principles outlined in this communication, the Commission will identify indicators and propose more specific targets and dates in the second semester of 2000, in the context of the forthcoming benchmarking exercise. In addition, the present communication should be seen in the light of the Commission's overall commitment to sustainable development and in the specific context of four other related and forthcoming initiatives of the Commission: - the comprehensive eEurope Action Plan, by June 2000; - the benchmarking exercise on entrepreneurship and innovation, to be launched by June 2000, first results presented by December 2000; - the European Charter for Small Enterprises, to be endorsed by June 2000; - a review of EU financial instruments to redirect EU funding towards high tech start-ups and other risk capital initiatives. With regard to reporting and evaluation, this programme focuses on a small number of priority objectives, targeted on actions that must be cost effective and have a clear added value at European level. Evaluation of actions undertaken will take place as a matter of course. The programme foresees a report by the Commission by the end of June 2003.