

EU POLICIES/TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

INFORMATION SOCIETY

The Portuguese Presidency will promote the working agenda of the strategic framework i2010 for the information society, network security, and the general theme of Internet governance.

Within the context of the ongoing actions developed by the European Commission and the former presidencies, Digital Inclusion (eInclusion), electronic Government (eGov) and Research & Development for the information society will be main priorities for the Portuguese Presidency.

Digital Inclusion (eInclusion)

The development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), particularly in the last decades of the XX century, and its wider availability to the population led to profound changes in economic and social activities, with substantial impact on citizen's quality of life, and in the competitiveness and productivity of enterprises. Nowadays access to ICTs, and to the required competencies for its usage, are very important factors differentiating social opportunities. Furthermore, ICTs are a powerful instrument for social inclusion, opening up new horizons to social policies and actions promoting inclusion. Hence, these technologies can and should be social cohesion factors, combating exclusion.

In the field of European policy for the Information Society, the Portuguese Presidency will highlight the priority given to digital inclusion, namely ICT usage by the social groups who are info excluded. Within this framework, the Presidency will place special emphasis to the following themes: accessibility, ageing, and illiteracy.

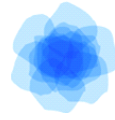
Electronic Government (eGov)

Electronic government is a process supported by the development of ICTs which places the citizen and the enterprise at the *heart of things*. It aims to improve the quality and the commodity of services, and to strengthen the practice of citizenship through active participatory means. Simultaneously, it increases efficiency, reduces costs, and contributes to the modernization of States.

The Portuguese Presidency will continue the effort carried out by the European Union in the field of electronic government, and will stimulate the visibility of national policies and the sharing of best practices at a European level.

R&D in the Information Society

The development of coherent policies for the information society increasingly demands its articulation with science and technology policies. Presently, we should recognize the need to bring to the consideration of the Competitiveness Council various opportunities opened by information society policies.



The wider usage of Internet created possibilities for the dissemination, sharing of information, and knowledge transfer without precedent. The competitiveness of science in Europe also depends on the broader sharing of information and knowledge. Following the work conducted by the Commission (“Scientific information in the digital era: access, dissemination and preservation”), the Presidency will promote the debate for a European policy on publishing and scientific and technical information, namely in the field of scientific digital libraries, involving all interested stakeholders, whose mutual trust must be established.

At a time when the Commission is preparing a mid-term review of the European strategy for Nanosciences and Nanotechnologies, the Presidency will highlight this area and focus in particular the coordination of efforts between national and European initiatives.

Finally the Presidency will also address the advances registered in the transition to the *Internet of Things*, and issues related with security and trust in the information systems and communication networks.