

Mr Jean-Claude Juncker  
Prime Minister of Luxembourg and President of the  
European Council  
4, Rue de la Congrégation  
L – 1352 Luxembourg

14 June 2005

THE PRESIDENT

## **European Council 16-17 June 2005 – Declaration on Sustainable Development**

Dear President,

At the European Council on 16 and 17 June you will adopt the Declaration on Guiding Principles for Sustainable Development, which will serve as basis for the renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy to be launched later this year.

For our and our children's sake, the EU should be firmly committed to the Declaration of the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio and to the development of a tailor-made Sustainable Development Strategy. The Declaration on Sustainable Development is therefore an important step for all our future. But we are concerned that the Declaration runs the risk of confusion on how the future Sustainable Development Strategy will link with the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs. It could therefore spawn uncertainty about the future course of the European Union.

The Declaration rightly states that "the renewed Lisbon Strategy is an essential component of the overarching objective of sustainable development, allowing us to use the motor of a more dynamic economy to fuel our wider social and environmental ambitions". This link must be clarified further when it comes to *prioritisation* of EU policies, as well as in the *policy guiding principles* outlined in the Declaration.


As regards *prioritisation*, there should be a clear distinction between the pressing Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs and the longer-term Sustainable Development Strategy. Therefore the Sustainable Development Strategy and its resulting actions must be fully consistent with the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs which you will also adopt at the European Council and which will form the basis of economic policy-making in the context of the National Action Plans and the EU Community Action Plan.

Since sustainable development is the overarching framework of EU policy-making, the *policy guiding principles* outlined in the end of the draft declaration cannot be considered as exhaustive. Competitiveness is a cornerstone of the EU's Sustainable Development Strategy, as the Commission rightly recognised in its 2002 Communication on Industrial Policy. Fostering Europe's competitiveness must therefore be included as the key policy

guiding principle for sustainable development. This principle is about promoting an innovative and market-oriented economic European environment. It is about creating growth and jobs and, indeed, addresses the most pressing need European society currently faces.

We ask you to clarify this relationship between the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs and the Sustainable Development Strategy, because the European business community needs certainty about the future course of Europe's policy stance.

Yours sincerely,



Jürgen Strube