



Draft Resolution on the interdependence of EU's Lisbon Strategy and the Gothenburg Agenda

Resolution is forwarded by by Västra Götalandsregionen

The outcome of the European Council in Lisbon in 2000 - The Lisbon Strategy - committed the EU to develop by 2010 'the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion, and respect for the environment'.

The mid-term review by the High Level Group chaired by Wim Kok, in November 2004, pointed out that a key issue regarding the slow progress has been the 'lack of determined political action'. As a result, the EU makes vigorous efforts this year to put new force into the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy.

The North Sea Commission strongly supports these efforts, since we feel that our member Regions have a lot to contribute and a lot to gain.

The Regions are experienced in promoting more competitive economies. We are already in the process of achieving key aspects of the Lisbon agenda, in some cases with the support of EU's Structural and Cohesion Funds. These efforts must be continued in the future, with a clear focus on growth and jobs. A starting point for a knowledge-based society is a flexible structure to transfer competence and skills. All resources are to be used, and in particular modern information technology.

In addition the European Union also has its Strategy for Sustainable Development – 'The Gothenburg Agenda' of the Summit in June 2001. Great efforts are needed to make these European strategies move in the right direction.

The North Sea Commission wants to underline that the Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies must be seen as strongly interconnected. There is no chance of success in implementing the one without actively taking the other into consideration.

Therefore, the North Sea Commission strongly recommends its member regions to take concrete action in the following areas:

- The North-Sea Regions must take part in all further actions at European level to stimulate the European economy. The constructive role of the Regions would be promoted by creating a new generation of interregional co-operation programmes. An Interreg Programme for the North Sea would indeed contribute to sustainable growth and jobs, and to attain sustainable development, socially and environmentally.
- The North-Sea Regions are natural partners in the efforts to create national Lisbon programmes. These national programmes must also clearly reflect the commitments required by the Gothenburg Agenda and contain strong incentives for sustainable development.



- The North-Sea Regions should continue to promote investment and research in innovative technology- and know-how, and develop systems to reinforce the learning society.

By urging its' member regions to consider the recommended objectives, the North Sea Commission wishes to emphasise the role of the regions in the implementation of the Lisbon strategy and the Gothenburg Agenda. If we are to deliver the outlined long-term goals of sustainable development – involving economic, social and environmental policies – we, the member Regions of the North Sea Commission, must take immediate action..