



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 20 May 2010

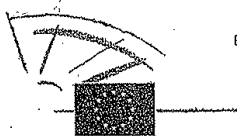
10048/10

**PE-L 65
ECOFIN 295
SOC 372
INST 168**

COVER NOTE

from: Mr. Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament
date of receipt: 12 May 2010
to: Mr Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council
Subject: "Europe 2020" strategy and integrated economic and employment guidelines

Delegations will find attached copy of the above letter.



ΕΒΡΟΠΕΪΚΙ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤ ΠΑΡΛΑΜΕΝΤΟ ΕΥΡΩΠΕΟ EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN PARLAIMINT NA HEORPA PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EIROPAS PARLAMENTS
EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EURÓPAI PARLAMENT IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLEMENT
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU PARLAMENTUL EUROPEAN
EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROOPARLAMENTET

The President

Mr Herman van Rompuy
President of the European Council
170, rue de la Loi
1048 Brussels
Belgium

307728 10.05.2010

Dear President, *Dear Herman,*

I am writing to inform you that the European Parliament's Conference of Presidents is very concerned about the timetable for the adoption of the "Europe 2020" strategy and the integrated economic and employment guidelines, designed to establish the policy priorities to be pursued by the European Union and the member states in partnership, in this important policy area.

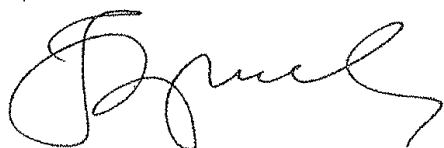
Unfortunately, the delayed adoption by the European Commission (on 27 April 2010) of its proposals for Council recommendations on both the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the member states and the guidelines for their employment policies simply does not provide adequate time for the Parliament to examine the proposals thoroughly in advance of the European Council meeting of 17 June 2010.

The recession, rising unemployment and the uncertain economic outlook all make it desirable to provide for a broad public and parliamentary debate on both the "Europe 2020" strategy (proposed by the Commission on 3 March) and the integrated guidelines, before they are finally adopted. Such a process would facilitate consensus-building and help generate of public support, underpinned by a serious and solid parliamentary in-put into the discussion. The timetable now envisaged makes this much more difficult.

An unsatisfactory situation concerning the Parliament's consultation on the two sets of guidelines has in fact persisted for the last decade. So, in the renewed spirit of cooperation between the European institutions promoted by the introduction of the Lisbon Treaty, I would like to invite you - as well as the Presidents of the other institutions, to whom I am copying this letter - to consider engaging in a proper inter-institutional dialogue on this matter, not only for this year, but in order to improve our joint procedures for the years to come.

In any case, as you may know, the employment guidelines at least cannot be formally adopted by the Council of Ministers before the Parliament has given its opinion on the matter (Article 148 TFEU). In light of this, I would like to invite you to ensure that – whatever broad political discussion is held in this field in the European Council in June – the adoption of the conclusions on both sets of guidelines is deferred until after the Parliament has had a chance to express a view on the matter, which it will obviously seek to do as expeditiously as practically possible.

Yours sincerely, *with deep regards*



Jerzy Buzek