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## Competitiveness and Innovative ICT

Networked Business and Government –  
Something Real for the Lisbon Strategy

Finland's EU Presidency Conference in  
Helsinki 23-24 October, 2006  
House of the Estates

Costas Andropoulos  
DG Enterprise and Industry, European  
Commission

## Innovation Competitiveness Lisbon Strategy

- Review of Lisbon Strategy 2005; Growth & Jobs
- Industrial Policy Communication 2005
- Broad-based Innovation Strategy and Action Plan
- Lahti: Innovation-friendly, modern Europe

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## European Challenges / Paradoxes

- Inventions not converted into products, jobs, patents, growth
- Small innovative start-ups not growing into global scale
- Uneven ICT uptake across sectors
- Result: Europe not consistently able to bridge the innovation gap

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## ICT: Driver and enabler

- Technological and non-technological innovation:
- Development of new (online) business models
- EU ICT sector: Responsible for
  - 4 % of value added to GDP,
  - 40 % of productivity growth
- EU strengths:
  - Sophisticated and high-quality products
  - Chip design, software and services
  - Human capital
- EU challenges:
  - Danger for an outflow (off-shoring) of R&D
  - Manufacturing trade deficit
  - Lower investment growth compared to emerging economies

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## ICT Task Force

- Emanating from Industrial Policy Communication
- 25 representatives of the ICT industry and civil society
- 6 working groups:
  - ICT uptake;
  - IPR for competitiveness and innovation;
  - Innovation in R&D, manufacturing and services;
  - SMEs and entrepreneurship;
  - Skills and employability;
  - Achieving a single market
- First meeting on 6 June
- WG reports submitted by now
- Final meeting scheduled for 27 November

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## Three (3) main obstacles slowing Europe's competitiveness down

- Obstacle 1: EU IPR system
- Obstacle 2: Regulatory constraints
- Obstacle 3: Lack of interoperability

**All speakers are invited to present**

**a)** three concrete measures to boost European competitiveness through the effective utilization of ICT and public-private partnerships. We are looking for measures that are quick to implement – with direct effects to citizens, companies and public administration in the development, take up and expansion of innovations.

**b)** three main obstacles that are currently slowing Europe's competitiveness down.

Vote for the seminar audience to identify three most important measures from the whole session.

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## Three (3) concrete measures to boost Europe's competitiveness

- Measure 1: e-Skills for ICT practitioners:  
Multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Measure 2: Framework conditions for SMEs online: Sectoral solutions
- Measure 3: Lead market approach

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