

## *Session D:*

## *Taking Forward the EU Social Inclusion Process*

### The new EU governance - The “renewed” Lisbon strategy agreed by EU Heads of State and Government (March 2005)

Decision:

- to refocus the EU Lisbon Strategy on growth and jobs as from 2005; but, at the same time
- to ensure that social inclusion policy be pursued “by the Union and by Member States”, “with its multifaceted approach”.

NB: Lisbon objectives maintained (four dimensions: growth, jobs, environment, and social protection and inclusion), but strategy for reaching these objectives will now give the priority to growth and jobs

### Outline:

1. New EU governance: the ***feeding in*** challenge
2. ***Mainstreaming social inclusion*** through establishing a scheme of systematic *policy assessments*
3. Preserving NAPs/inclusion but ***restructuring*** them ***fundamentally***
4. Allowing for European Commission's ***recommendations*** in the field of social inclusion
5. Conclusions

### Ensure a *mutual, reinforcing feedback* at national and EU level between two “Processes”:

1. The refocused strategy, with its “Integrated Guidelines”:
  - these Guidelines will bring together the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines and the Employment Guidelines in a single coherent text
  - they will cover a period of 3 years
  - the first ones are to be adopted this summer, for the period 2005-2008
2. The Open Method of Coordination (OMC) in the social field:
  - EU cooperation in the social field currently covers 3 strands: social inclusion, pensions and health and long-term care
  - This cooperation will be synchronised and rationalised as from 2006
    - There will be a “streamlined” *EU Social Protection and Social Inclusion Process*

### The “*feeding in pudding*” - 2 important ingredients:

1. Include the Joint Report on SP & SI (or at least its *key messages*) in the annual refocused Lisbon Strategy “package” to be submitted to the *Spring Summit*.
2. Implement a true mainstreaming of social inclusion in domestic policymaking.

### Mainstreaming social inclusion:

- Systematic policy assessment of social inclusion policies... but also of employment, economic and sustainable development policies
- Assessment of policies implemented at national and sub-national levels (potential role of the new *Sustainable Development Strategy*)
- Political and administrative commitment indispensable
- Building knowledge: developing statistical and analytical expertise at country and EU levels

### National Action Plans on social inclusion (NAPs/inclusion)

- They are to be maintained under the streamlined *Social Protection and Social Inclusion Process*...but they need to be fundamentally restructured so as to become true strategic “action plans”
- They should contain a diagnosis of the causes of poverty and social exclusion, together with explicit analyses of the expected relation between policies and the delivery of outcomes
- They should follow a focused, targeted and monitored approach; they should be strictly objective-driven



