

GÜNTER VERHEUGEN

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Mrs. Grażyna Gęsicka
Minister of Regional Development
Ministerstwo Rozwoju Regionalnego
Ul. Wspólna 2/4,

PL - 00-926 Warszawa

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter dated 12 December 2006 and for the attached copy of the National Development Strategy 2007-2015 for Poland, which is clearly a document of key importance for the future development of your country.

I would like to share with you some observations resulting from the analysis of this document by my services. I strongly support your approach to create a single strategic document, which offers a coherent framework for the National Reform Programme, for the National Strategic Reference Framework, and for other documents related to economic development and reforms. I could not stress more the importance of ensuring coherence and co-ordination between all such policies and processes, which should lead to one goal: a more performing economy and better living standards for the Polish people. I wish to encourage you to keep a strong participation of all stakeholders in shaping this and future strategies. As you rightly indicate in this document, ownership of the development strategy by social partners is key for its success.

As you will be aware, the Commission has recently adopted its analysis of progress achieved by Member States in implementation of their National Reform Programmes. I noted with satisfaction the progress achieved by Poland in the microeconomic pillar. At the same time, the analysis clearly showed that challenges remain, in particular as far as the need to improve competition in network industries and financial sectors and to boost R&D and innovation capacity of the Polish economy are concerned.

I am confident that a focussed implementation of the priorities outlined in the National Development Strategy and the support through the EU regional policy will help Poland to quickly catch-up with the development level of the more advanced EU economies.

Yours sincerely,

