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THE LISBON STRATEGY COLLAPSED – EUROPE 2020 IS BORN

The Lisbon Strategy was set out in March 2000. At the beginning of a new Millennium the EU set itself a new strategic goal to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. The Leaders of the 15 Member-States agreed, that achieving this goal requires an overall strategy aimed at:

- preparing the transition to a knowledge-based economy and society by better policies for the information society and R&D, as well as by stepping up the process of structural reform for competitiveness and innovation and by completing the internal market;
- modernising the European social model, investing in people and combating social exclusion;
- sustaining the healthy economic outlook and favourable growth prospects by applying an appropriate macro-economic policy mix.

This Strategy has been reviewed in the middle of the road and despite all those efforts, in my opinion collapsed. It is not the case that it was too ambitious, but it was not enough reality instead of political wishful-thinking. In the meantime many new events caused the change of a geometry and structure of competitive environment.

The new strategy for the European Union agreed this year has the same dilemma as the Lisbon Strategy it means how to develop all those crucial targets within the next decade. The problem is because the frames have been changed:

1. The European Union is not the same group of 15 Member-States but 27 members.
2. The European Union after entering into force of the Lisbon Treaty is international organization giving inter alia the new status to the European Central Bank as an institution of the European Union.
3. Financial crisis in Greece and earlier in the world damaged the image of the Eurozone and pushed the EU Member-States to aid action on an unexpected scale with billions of euros flown to that country. Even from countries outside of the Eurozone like Poland.
4. Increase of importance of the other integrations and alliances of the countries in the world.

EUROPE 2020 includes almost the same targets as the Lisbon Strategy. Why it is so done. Just because there is no possibility to change 100 % the targets as people expect that they should be not only included but realised in general. There are three pillars quite different of those forecasted by the Maastricht Treaty and cancelled by the Lisbon Treaty. They are as follows:

I. SMART GROWTH divided into three parts each with flagship initiatives:

1. Innovation with initiative *“Innovation Union”*.
2. Education with initiative *“Youth on the move”*.
3. Digital society with initiative *“A digital agenda for Europe”*.

II. SUSTAINABLE GROWTH;

1. Climate, Energy and Mobility with initiative *“Resource efficient Europe”*.
2. Competitiveness with initiative *“An industrial policy for the globalisation era”*.

III. INCLUSIVE GROWTH with two parts:

1. Employment and skills with initiative *“An agenda for new skills and jobs”*.
2. Fighting poverty with initiative *“European platform against poverty”*.

Very ambitious strategy and the area for programming and building models for implementation into current life of the European Union as international organization. Ten years of hope and wish that this new strategy will be not a failure. Will be this strategy real encouragement for the upswing of European economy? Where does the edge of dreams ends we have to know now.