

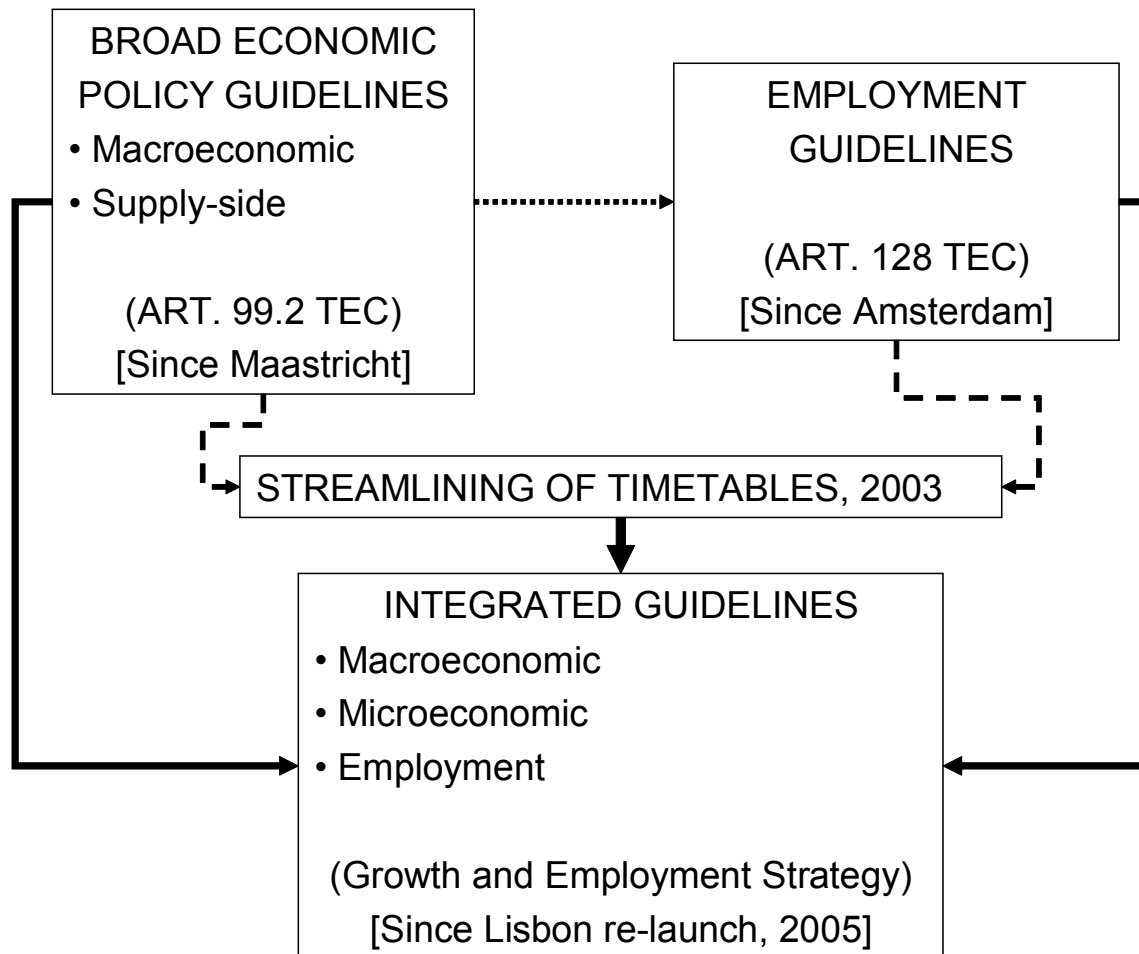
# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED GUIDELINES

2005/06

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# THE ROUTE TO LISBON II



# THE RELAUNCH

- Growth and employment as headline goals
  - Playing-down of social and environmental
- A new partnership approach
  - NRPs based on 24 integrated guidelines
    - Same for all Member States
    - Yet big differences in practice
  - Community Lisbon Programme – far-reaching
    - But what is new in it?
- No national recommendations...yet

# IF OWNERSHIP IS THE KEY...

- It has to be nurtured
  - By becoming relevant in national politics
  - Through transparency
  - Communication strategy therefore vital
- Also needs ammunition from scrutiny
  - Not enough from the Commission's review
- Or is it necessary but not sufficient?

# CONSISTENCY OR EVOLUTION?

- 100+ Lisbon I aims and targets
- 24 Integrated Guidelines
  - All with detailed aims
- 4 Hampton Court priorities
  - Again with sub-divisions
- Energy policy as the topical issue
- ...plus we all have our own favourites
- Certainly, there are overlaps, but ...

# A EURO AREA DIMENSION

- Potential inter-play with monetary policy
  - Increased flexibility induces lower interest rate
    - Similar to Stability & Growth Pact reasoning
  - But with uncertain pay-off
- Governance and institutional questions
  - How does euro area concert its approach?
  - Requires more than finance ministers
  - Discouraging 'free-riders'

# CUSTOMISING GUIDELINES

- The one-size-fits-all syndrome
- Or is Lisbon a menu to choose from?
  - Temptation to favour the ‘sexy’ guidelines
    - For example research-linked
- Alternative I: national recommendations
  - Political choice to avoid them in 2005/06
- Alternative II: the OECD approach
  - Select and monitor key priorities

# LISBON POLITICALLY

- Commission scrutiny reasonably thorough
  - But couched in neutral, even positive terms
  - Limits pressures on governments to improve
- Very little visibility in national discourses
  - ‘Isn’t it the capital of Portugal?’
- Uncertain roles of Community institutions
  - ...not least, the Parliament



# SOME WAYS FORWARD

- Supporting Lisbon through EU budget
  - Should be high priority for 2008/09 review
- “Smart growth” – using clean technologies
  - But with focus on global market opportunities
  - Huge potential for growth & jobs
- Leading public debate
  - Improving accountability
- Promoting real ownership

# CONCLUDING COMMENTS

- Diagnosis not, or no longer, the issue
- Danger of Lisbon becoming *too* pervasive
  - Becoming everything ... and nothing
- Need to balance consistency & innovation
- Key challenge will be implementation
  - And it will require concerted action
- Lisbon II has made a start, small steps
- It now needs consolidation: move up a gear

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