

## Conclusions of the Lisbon European Council: extract on the role of the EIB (23 and 24 March 2000)

**Caption:** In March 2000, at the Lisbon European Council, the European leaders set themselves the goal of making Europe 'the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world' within ten years. Since then, one of the EIB's priority operational goals has been to contribute to the implementation of this ambitious initiative, known as the 'Lisbon Strategy'.

**Source:** European Council - Presidency Conclusions (Lisbon, 23 and 24 March 2000). [ON-LINE]. [Strasbourg]: European Parliament, [18.04.2012]. Disponible sur [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/summits/lis1\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/summits/lis1_en.htm).

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## Presidency conclusions of the Lisbon European Council of 23 and 24 March 2000

The European Council held a special meeting on 23-24 March 2000 in Lisbon to agree a new strategic goal for the Union in order to strengthen employment, economic reform and social cohesion as part of a knowledge-based economy. At the start of proceedings, an exchange of views was conducted with the President of the European Parliament, Mrs Nicole Fontaine, on the main topics for discussion.

### **I. Employment, economic reform and social cohesion**

[...]

#### **Putting decisions into practice: a more coherent and systematic approach**

[...]

Mobilising the necessary means

41. Achieving the new strategic goal will rely primarily on the private sector, as well as on public-private partnerships. It will depend on mobilising the resources available on the markets, as well as on efforts by Member States. The Union's role is to act as a catalyst in this process, by establishing an effective framework for mobilising all available resources for the transition to the knowledge-based economy and by adding its own contribution to this effort under existing Community policies while respecting Agenda 2000. Furthermore, the European Council welcomes the contribution that the EIB stands ready to make in the areas of human capital formation, SMEs and entrepreneurship, R&D, networks in the information technology and telecom sectors, and innovation. With the "Innovation 2000 Initiative", the EIB should go ahead with its plans to make another billion euro available for venture capital operations for SMEs and its dedicated lending programme of 12 to 15 billion euro over the next 3 years for the priority areas.

[...]