



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



6737/10 (Presse 37)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

2997th Council meeting

### **General Affairs**

Brussels, 22 February 2010

President      **Mr Miguel Ángel MORATINOS**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain

\* The 2998th meeting on External Relations is the subject of a separate press release (6739/10).

# **P R E S S**

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6737/10 (Presse 37)

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## **Main results of the Council**

*The Council discussed preparations for the spring **European Council**, which will focus on the development of a new European strategy for **jobs and growth** and on **climate change**, particularly the follow-up to the Copenhagen conference in December.*

*It also agreed to notify the **United States** of the EU's decision to terminate provisional application of an EU-US agreement on the processing and transfer of financial messaging data for the purposes of the **tracking of terrorist financing**. This follows rejection of the agreement by the European Parliament.*

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<sup>1</sup>

- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

The governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

### **Belgium:**

Mr Steven VANACKERE  
Mr Olivier CHASTEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
State Secretary for European Affairs

### **Bulgaria:**

Mr Nickolay MLADENOV

Minister for Foreign Affairs

### **Czech Republic:**

Mr Juraj CHIMIEL

Minister for the European Affairs

### **Denmark:**

Mr Per Stig MØLLER  
Mr Claus GRUBE

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Permanent Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### **Germany:**

Mr Werner HOYER

Minister of State

### **Estonia:**

Mr Urmas PAET

Minister for Foreign Affairs

### **Ireland:**

Mr Micheál MARTIN  
Mr Dick ROCHE

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Minister of State for European Affairs

### **Greece:**

Mr Dimitris DROUTSAS

Alternate Minister for Foreign Affairs

### **Spain:**

Mr Miguel Ángel MORATINOS  
Mr Diego LÓPEZ GARRIDO

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation  
State Secretary

### **France:**

Mr Pierre LELLOUCHE

State Secretary with responsibility for European affairs

### **Italy:**

Mr Franco FRATTINI  
Mr Andrea RONCHI

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Minister for European Policies

### **Cyprus:**

Mr Nicholas EMILIOU

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### **Latvia:**

Mr Māris RIEKSTIŅŠ  
Ms Ilze JUHANSONE

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Head of the European Union Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### **Lithuania:**

Mr Audronius AŽUBALIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

### **Luxembourg:**

Mr Jean ASSELBORN

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration

### **Hungary:**

Mr Péter BALÁZS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

### **Malta:**

Mr Tonio BORG

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

### **Netherlands:**

Mr Thom de BRUIJN

Permanent Representative

### **Austria:**

Mr Michael SPINDELEGGER

Federal Minister for European and International Affairs

**Poland:**

Mr Radoslaw SIKORSKI  
Mr Mikolaj DOWGIELEWICZ

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Secretary of State for European Affairs

**Portugal:**

Mr Pedro LOURTIE

Secretary of State for European Affairs

**Romania:**

Mr Teodor BACONSCI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Slovenia:**

Mr Mitja GASPARI

Minister for development and European Affairs

**Slovakia:**

Mr Miroslav LAJČÁK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Finland:**

Ms. Astrid THORS

Minister of Migration and European Affairs of Finland

**Sweden:**

Ms Birgitta OHLSSON

Minister for European Affairs

**United Kingdom:**

M. Kim DARROCH

Permanent Representative

**Commission:**

M. Maroš SEFČOVIČ  
Ms Connie HEDEGAARD

Vice-Président  
Membre

**Secrétariat Général**

M. Pierre De BOISSIEU

Secrétaire Général

## **ITEMS DEBATED**

### **PREPARATION OF THE SPRING EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

The Council examined an annotated draft agenda for the spring meeting of the European Council, to be held on 25 and 26 March (doc. [6493/10](#)).

The European Council is expected to focus on:

- preparation of a new EU strategy for jobs and growth; and
- the follow-up to the UN conference on climate change in Copenhagen in December.

As regards jobs and growth, the European Council will be held to agree on the general framework of the Union's new strategy, on the basis of the Commission's communication on "Europe 2020". It will be called on, in particular, to finalise the governance of the strategy and to agree on a limited number of quantitative targets. The European Council will also take stock of ongoing efforts by the EU and the member states to tackle the economic crisis, and will hold a preliminary discussion on preparation of the next G-20 summit.

On climate change, the European Council will take stock of work on the follow-up to the Copenhagen conference, both as regards the international negotiation process and the Union's relations with its strategic partners.

The Council (General Affairs) will hold a further discussion at its meeting on 22 March, drawing on the work of the other Council configurations involved, in the run-up to the European Council.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Council held an exchange of views on climate change and the follow-up to the UN conference in Copenhagen (7-19 December 2009).

The discussion focused on the integration of climate change considerations in all EU policies, as well as the need to improve the efficiency of the Union's relations with its partners.

The Council will revert to the issue at its meeting on 22 March. In the run-up to the European Council's meeting on 25 and 26 March, several Council configurations, coordinated by the General Affairs Council, are set to contribute to a reflection on the follow-up to the Copenhagen conference.

The political declaration issued in Copenhagen falls well short of the EU's objective of securing a legally binding agreement that ensures that the average global temperature increase remains below 2° C above pre-industrial levels. The EU however considers it a first step towards a more ambitious agreement and remains fully committed to continuing negotiations in order to conclude a legally binding agreement for the period after 2012 as soon as possible.

Further UN negotiations are scheduled to take place in Bonn from 31 May to 11 June, with a view to the 16th conference of the parties to the UN framework convention on climate change to be held in Cancún, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Madeira**

The Council expressed its concern at the situation in Madeira following the natural disaster on 20 February and presented its condolences to the victims.

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED****JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS****EU/US agreement on terrorist finance tracking programme - Termination of application**

The Council approved the text of a letter to be sent to the United States government, notifying it of the termination of the provisional application of an agreement on the processing and transfer of financial messaging data from the EU to the US for purposes of its terrorist finance tracking programme. This follows the European Parliament's refusal to approve the agreement (doc. [6443/10](#) and doc. [6443/10 COR 1](#)).

The EU/US agreement on the processing and the transfer of financial messaging data was signed on 30 November 2009.

Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December 2009, the Council can only adopt a decision to conclude such an agreement after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament. On 11 February, the Parliament adopted a resolution refusing to give its consent to the conclusion of the agreement.

**EU/Pakistan readmission agreement**

The Council decided to forward to the European Parliament, for its consent, a draft decision aimed at concluding an agreement with Pakistan on the readmission of persons residing without authorization (doc. [5942/10](#)).

The readmission agreement was signed in Brussels on 26 October 2009.

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