



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
MAIN TOPICS FOR THE COMING FORTNIGHT*
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* This document has been prepared under the sole responsibility of the Press Office.
Information may be subject to change, depending on further developments.

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For **video** coverage of Council sessions and **audiovisual** material, please see the following Council websites:

- <http://video.consilium.europa.eu> (live webcast of public deliberations, public debates and press conferences)

and

- <http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu> (audiovisual material available for download in broadcast quality)

In public deliberation, the Council will be invited to take note of progress achieved so far on the "energy efficiency package", which includes the following three proposals that strengthen and extend the scope of existing legislation on these issues :

- a directive on the **energy performance of buildings** ([16082/09](#)), which aims at reducing energy consumption of buildings and requires that all new buildings must be low energy buildings by 2020 and for buildings occupied by public authorities by 2018; furthermore, their energy consumption should to a very significant extent be covered by energy from renewable sources, including renewable energy produced on-site or nearby;
- a directive on **energy labelling** ([16406/09](#)) aimed at improving information to consumers by means of harmonized clear labelling on how much energy is consumed by certain products (including in the household, commercial and industrial sectors);
- a regulation on **labelling of tyres** with respect to fuel efficiency ([14639/09](#)), whose purpose is to increase the safety and the economic and environmental efficiency of road transport by promoting fuel efficient and safe tyres with low noise levels.

Background

These three proposals were presented by the Commission in November 2008. The Council has been working intensively with the European Parliament since its first reading opinions on these proposals in April and May 2009. An agreement on this package constitutes one of the main priorities of the Swedish Presidency, notably with a view to the Copenhagen conference in December.

The buildings sector is responsible for about 40% of the EU's total final energy consumption and CO2 emissions. Improving the overall energy performance of buildings and encouraging citizens to save energy in their everyday life will significantly contribute to the EU's target of reducing 20% the energy consumption and having a 20% share of energy from renewable sources by 2020.

Further information

- Commission communication: "Action Plan for Energy Efficiency: Realising the Potential" ([14349/06](#))
- Action Plan 2007-09 on Energy Policy for Europe ([7224/07](#), Annex I).
- Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (OJ L 140, 5.6.2009)

Event

Meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (energy items only) - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels (09h30).

A press conference will take place at the end of the proceedings.

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/currentcouncilsessions>

Contacts

Press officer: Helena Gomes, tel.:+ 32 2 281 70 40, helena.gomes@consilium.europa.eu

Swedish presidency: Elisabet Dahlen-Jonsson, tel. +32 476 50 50 22,

elisabet.dahlen-jonsson@foreign.ministry.se

The General Affairs Council will focus its debate on enlargement, on which it may adopt conclusions based on the Commission's Enlargement package for 2009. Furthermore, the Council will start the preparation of the European Council on 10 and 11 December 2009 focusing on draft European Council conclusions. Then, the incoming Trio Presidency (Spain, Belgium and Hungary) will present its programme for the next 18 months.

Further information

- Council website: <http://consilium.europa.eu/newsroom>

Event

Meeting of the General Affairs Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels (14.30).

A press conference will take place at the end of the proceedings.

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/currentcouncilsessions>

Note: Under the Lisbon Treaty, the "General Affairs and External Relations Council" is replaced by the "General Affairs" Council on the one hand and by the "Foreign Affairs" Council on the other. The latter will be chaired (as of January 2010) by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Contacts

Press officers:

Jesus Carmona, tel. +32 2 281 95 48, jesus.carmona@consilium.europa.eu

François Head, tel. +32 2 281 60 83, francois.head@consilium.europa.eu

Swedish presidency: Jörgen Gren, tel. + 32 475 24 56 60, jorgen.gren@foreign.ministry.se

Tuesday 8 December 2009

Foreign Affairs Council - overview of the agenda

The Foreign Affairs Council will discuss the Western Balkans and more particularly operation Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the Middle East peace process; on both issues, the Council will adopt conclusions. Then, it will discuss Iran and have a debate on "Europe as a global actor".

Ministers of Foreign Affairs will have a working dinner on Monday 7.

In the margins of the Foreign Affairs Council, the following meetings are scheduled:

- EU-Morocco Association Council
- Ministerial meeting with the Eastern Partnership Countries.

Further information

- Council website: <http://consilium.europa.eu/newsroom>

Event

Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels (9.00).

A press conference will take place at the end of the proceedings.

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/currentcouncilsessions>

Note: Under the Lisbon Treaty, the "General Affairs and External Relations Council" is replaced by the "General Affairs" Council on the one hand and by the "Foreign Affairs" Council on the other. The latter will be chaired (as of January 2010) by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Contacts

Press officers:

Jesus Carmona, tel. +32 2 281 95 48, jesus.carmona@consilium.europa.eu

François Head, tel. +32 2 281 60 83, francois.head@consilium.europa.eu

Swedish presidency: Jörgen Gren, tel. + 32 475 24 56 60, jorgen.gren@foreign.ministry.se

Thursday 10 and Friday 11 December 2009

European Council

The European Council will assess the state of negotiations at the Copenhagen conference on climate change, which will still be ongoing at the time, and take the necessary decisions to contribute to a successful outcome.

The European Council will also deal with the economic, financial and employment situation in the EU. In particular, it is expected to discuss the measures setting up a structure for financial supervision and the preparation of a new strategy for jobs and growth intended to replace the Lisbon Strategy after 2010.

Moreover, the European Council is due to adopt a multi-annual programme in the field of freedom, security and justice, called the "Stockholm Programme".

In addition, the European Council may have an exchange of views on a number of topics in the field of external relations.

On 19 November, EU heads of state or government agreed to elect Herman Van Rompuy as President of the European Council. The 10-11 December European Council will still be chaired by the Swedish Prime Minister. Mr. Van Rompuy will chair the European Council as of January 2010.

Event

European Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels.

A presidency press conference is expected to take place on Thursday evening and another at the end of the European Council proceedings on Friday.

For full information concerning the meeting, including the media programme and media accreditation, see European Council section on: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu>

Contacts

Head of press office:

Nicolas Kerleroux, tel. +32 2 281 82 39, nicolas.kerleroux@consilium.europa.eu

Press officers:

Jesus Carmona, tel. +32 2 281 95 48, jesus.carmona@consilium.europa.eu

François Head, tel. +32 2 281 60 83, francois.head@consilium.europa.eu

Susanne Kiefer, tel. +32 2 281 94 42, susanne.kiefer@consilium.europa.eu

Swedish presidency: Jörgen Gren, tel. + 32 475 24 56 60, jorgen.gren@foreign.ministry.se

Simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy

The Council will have an exchange of views on the simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), on the basis of a short questionnaire from the Presidency ([15511/09](#)) concerning the Commission's assessment of the 39 suggestions for simplification of CAP presented by several member states in the Agriculture Council of 24 April 2009 ([9103/09](#)). They had asked in particular for further efforts in the areas of aid applications under direct support and rural development schemes, land parcel identification systems and systems for identification and registration of animals. According to the Commission services, a positive follow-up can be recommended for the majority of the suggestions. The document also includes a summary of the various other CAP simplification projects which are currently being carried out. In the context of the future of CAP, the Council will also hold a policy debate on rural development.

Background

The Council already adopted in May 2009 conclusions on simplification of CAP (9859/09) which is an ongoing priority with comprehensive objectives that need to be pursued in all policy areas relevant to the agricultural sector. During the Swedish Presidency, this issue has been discussed in several different contexts and the Council stands committed to reaching by 2012 at the latest, the target of a 25% reduction in administrative burdens on farmers arising from EU legislation.

Further information

- Commission Communication "A simplified CAP for Europe - a success for all" ([7771/09](#))

Event

Meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council, Justus Lipsius building, Brussels. The session will start at 10.00 on Monday dealing with fisheries. The agricultural items will be addressed on Wednesday 16 December.

The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room on Thursday, 10 December at 9.30. A press conference) will take place at the end of the proceedings.

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/currentcouncilsessions>

Contacts

Press officer: Carole Micmacher, tel.:+32 2 281 53 89, carole.micmacher@consilium.europa.eu

Swedish presidency: Elisabet Dahlen-Jonsson, tel. +32 476 50 50 22,

elisabet.dahlen-jonsson@foreign.ministry.se

The Transport Council will try to reach a political agreement on a draft directive on passenger rights in bus and coach transport.

The proposal aims at strengthening the rights of bus and coach passengers as regards assistance to persons with disabilities or reduced mobility, compensation in the event of accidents, rights in case of cancellation or delay of a journey, passenger information and handling of complaints.

Background

Buses and coaches are the most important means of public transportation in the EU. Currently, protection of their passengers varies from one member state to another. Common protection rules will guarantee that all EU citizens using this mode of transport enjoy an adequate set of minimum rights. By the same token, a level playing field will be established ensuring fair competition between operators from different member states in the single market.

The proposal is part of a general EU policy to ensure equal treatment of passengers, regardless of the mode of transport chosen, while reinforcing passenger rights. Similar legislation has been adopted for air and rail transport and is underway for ship passengers.

Further information

- Commission proposal ([16933/08](#))
- Council press release on June 2009 Transport Council meeting ([10850/09](#), p. 10-11)

Event

Meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels, at 10.00 (Thursday session on transport items).

The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room on Tuesday 15 December at 14.30 (tbc).

A press conference will take place at the end of the proceedings.

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/currentcouncilsessions>

Contacts

Press officer: Reinhard Schmidt, tel. +32 2 281 88 47, reinhard.schmidt@consilium.europa.eu

Swedish presidency: Elisabet Dahlen-Jonsson, tel. +32 476 50 50 22,

elisabet.dahlen-jonsson@foreign.ministry.se

TTE Council (telecommunications items) - overview of the agenda

The Council will hold a policy debate on the future of the i2010 strategy as the current strategy will come to an end by next year. The Council is expected to adopt conclusions which form a list of items that should be addressed in the new post-i2010 strategy and are meant to serve as an input for the Commission's drafting of a new "digital agenda for Europe".

It will also debate the digital dividend in Europe, based on the Commission communication "Transforming the digital dividend into social benefits and economic growth", on which the Council will adopt conclusions.

The Council is also expected to adopt a resolution on a Commission communication "Critical information infrastructure protection - protecting Europe from large scale cyber-attacks and disruptions: enhancing preparedness, security and resilience".

It will be informed by the Presidency on the fourth meeting of the Internet governance forum, held in Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt) from 15-19 November 2009.

Further information

- Commission communication "Transforming the digital dividend into social benefits and economic growth" ([15289/09](#))
- Commission communication "Europe's Digital Competitiveness Report - Main achievements of the i2010 strategy 2005-2009" ([12600/09](#))

Event

Meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels, at 10.00 (Friday session on telecommunications items).

The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room on Tuesday 15 December at 14.30 (tbc).

A press conference will take place at the end of the proceedings.

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/currentcouncilsessions>

Contacts

Press officer: Evi Liaskou, tel. +32 2 281 52 72, evi.liaskou@consilium.europa.eu

Swedish presidency: Elisabet Dahlen-Jonsson, tel. +32 476 50 50 22,

elisabet.dahlen-jonsson@foreign.ministry.se

OTHER EVENTS

7 - 18 December 2009 (Copenhagen, Denmark)

- United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 15
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