



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
MAIN TOPICS FOR THE COMING FORTNIGHT¹

22 March - 4 April 2010

Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 March 2010

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¹ This document has been prepared under the sole responsibility of the Press Office.
Information may be subject to change, depending on further developments.

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)

For photo coverage: <http://consilium.europa.eu/photo>

Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 March 2010

Foreign Affairs Council - overview of the agenda

The Foreign Affairs Council, which will be chaired by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, is expected to discuss in particular Haiti, Chile, Afghanistan and the Middle East Peace Process following the HR's visit to the region. The Council will adopt conclusions on Haiti and Afghanistan.

Ministers, in a joint Foreign affairs/General affairs session, will also discuss work on the External Action Service.

In the margins of the Council, the following events are due to take place:

Tuesday 23 March 2010

- Ministerial political dialogue with IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) - Horn of Africa

Event

Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels on Monday 22 (10.00) and Tuesday 23 March.

A press conference will take place at the end of the proceedings (around 15.00).

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

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

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Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 March 2010

General Affairs Council - overview of the agenda

The General Affairs Council will prepare the Spring European Council meeting scheduled for 25 and 26 March, focusing on a draft of European Council conclusions.

Ministers, in a joint Foreign affairs/General affairs session, will also discuss the state of play on preparatory work for the setting-up of the European External Action Service.

The following event is also scheduled in the margins of the Council meeting:

- Association Council EU-Croatia

Further information

- Council website: <http://consilium.europa.eu/>
- European Council website: www.european-council.europa.eu/
- Spanish presidency website: www.eu2010.es/

Event

Meeting of the General Affairs Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels, on Monday 22 (16.00) and Tuesday 23 March.

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>

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Spanish presidency:

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Thursday 25 and Friday 26 March 2010

European Council

The Spring European Council, chaired by its President Herman Van Rompuy, will address mainly two topics, i.e. the new European strategy for jobs and growth and the follow-up to the Copenhagen conference on climate change.

The heads of state and government will be invited to agree on the general framework of the Union's new strategy for jobs and growth and in particular to finalise the governance of the strategy and agree on a limited number of EU-wide quantitative targets. In this context the European Council will take stock of ongoing efforts by the EU and Member states to tackle the current economic crisis.

As for the fight against climate change, the European Council will assess the state of work regarding the follow-up to the Copenhagen Conference, both as regards the international negotiation process and the Union's relations with its strategic partners.

Further information

- European Council on 10 and 11 December 2009, presidency conclusions (EUCO 6/09)

Event

European Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels, 25 - 26 March 2010.

A press conference by the President of the European Council is expected to take place on Thursday evening (+/- 22.30) and another at the end of the European Council proceedings on Friday, (+/- 13.00).

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

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Monday 29 March 2010

Overview of the agenda of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Agriculture and Fisheries Council is expected to adopt conclusions on how to improve the functioning of the food supply chain. Ministers already had a debate on this issue at their meeting in January.

The Council will have an exchange of views on agriculture and the Common Agricultural Policy in the perspective of the new European strategy for jobs and growth currently under preparation.

Following an exchange of views at the last Agriculture Council meeting in February, the presidency will present conclusions on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy as regards market management measures in the years after 2013.

Moreover, ministers will take note of the latest quarterly report from the Commission on the dairy market.

Further information

- Press releases on the Agriculture Council meetings of January 2010 ([5375/10](#), p. 7) and of 22 February 2010 ([6678/10](#), p. 9)
- Commission communication "A better functioning food supply chain in Europe" ([15330/09](#))

Event

Meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels (11.00).
The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room on Wednesday 24 March at 15.00.
(tbc).

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

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

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

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Agenda of the President of the European Council

(22 - 26 March 2010)

Monday 22 March:

- Meeting with NATO Secretary-General, Anders Fogh RASMUSSEN.

Wednesday 24 March

- Meeting with the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola GRUEVSKI;

Thursday 25 March

- Tripartite Social Summit, at 10.00;
- European People's Party (EPP) Summit, at 13.00;
- EUROPEAN COUNCIL;

Friday 26 March

- EUROPEAN COUNCIL - [click here for the programme](#);
- Meeting with the President of the World Bank, Mr Robert B. Zoellick, at 16.00;
- Speech at the Brussels Forum 2010 of German Marshal Fund, at 19.45.

OTHER EVENTS

22-24 March 2010 (Barcelona, Spain):

- ECRI 2010 Conference (European Conference on Research Infrastructures)
www.eu2010.es

25- 26 March 2010 (Valencia, Spain):

- Informal meeting of ministers for equality matters
www.eu2010.es

29 March - 1 April 2010 (Tenerife, Spain):

- EU-ACP Parliamentary Assembly
www.eu2010.es

1 April 2010 (Barcelona, Spain):

- Informal meeting of Culture Ministers
www.eu2010.es
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