



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



6033/07 (Presse 17)

PRESS RELEASE

2779th Council Meeting

General Affairs and External Relations

General Affairs

Brussels, 12 February 2007

President **Mr Frank-Walter Steinmeier**
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany

* The 2780th meeting on External Relations is the subject of a separate press release (6039/07).

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6033/07 (Presse 17)

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Main Results of the Council

*The Council reached a political agreement on a draft common position concerning restrictive measures against **Iran**, with a view to implementing UN Security Council resolution 1737. The common position is aimed at imposing at EU level restrictive measures against Iran, namely a ban on the supply of goods and technology related to Iran's nuclear and missile programmes; a visa ban against persons and a freeze of assets against persons and entities listed in resolution 1737 and other persons or entities associated with these programmes; and steps to prevent specialised teaching or training of Iranian nationals in disciplines related to these fields.*

*The Council also approved programmes for the 2007-13 period dealing with prevention, preparedness and on consequence management of **terrorism and security-related risks**, prevention of and the **fight against crime** as well as **criminal justice**.*

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- 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.
- The documents whose 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 abovementioned Council Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

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PARTICIPANTS

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

Belgium:

Mr Karel DE GUCHT
Mr Didier DONFUT

Minister for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary for European Affairs, attached to the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Bulgaria:

Mr Ivailo KALFIN

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

Czech Republic:

Mr Tomáš POJAR

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Per Stig MØLLER

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Frank-Walter STEINMEIER
Mr Günter GLOSER

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Estonia:

Mr Urmas PAET

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Dermot AHERN

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Ioannis VALINAKIS

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Alberto NAVARRO GONZÁLEZ

State Secretary for the European Union

France:

Mr Philippe DOUSTE-BLAZY
Ms Catherine COLONNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister with responsibility for European Affairs

Italy:

Mr Massimo D'ALEMA

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Cyprus:

Mr Yiorgos LILLIKAS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Latvia:

Mr Artis PABRIKS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Lithuania:

Mr Zygimantas PAVILIONIS

Under-Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean ASSELBORN

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Immigration

Mr Nicolas SCHMIT

Minister with responsibility for Foreign Affairs and
Immigration

Hungary:

Ms Kinga GÖNCZ

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Malta:

Mr Michael FRENDU

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr Bernard BOT

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Austria:

Ms Ursula PLASSNIK

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Poland:

Ms Anna Elżbieta FOTYGA

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Luís AMADO
Mr Manuel LOBO ANTUNES

Ministro de Estado, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Secretary of State for European Affairs, attached to the
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Romania:

Mr Mihai-Răzvan UNGUREANU

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Slovenia:

Mr Dimitrij RUPEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Slovakia:

Mr Ján KUBIŠ

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Finland:

Mr Erkki TUOMIOJA

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Sweden:

Mr Carl BILDT
Ms Cecilia MALMSTRÖM

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for European Affairs

United Kingdom:

Ms Margaret BECKETT

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Commission:

Ms Benita FERRERO-WALDNER

Member

General Secretariat of the Council:

Mr Javier SOLANA

Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP

ITEMS DEBATED**PREPARATION OF THE SPRING EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

The Council examined an annotated draft agenda prepared by the presidency for the European Council meeting to be held in Brussels on 8 and 9 March. (5950/07)

The European Council will focus, in particular, on energy policy and climate as well as on its annual review of the strategy for jobs and growth that it established at Lisbon in March 2000 and re-launched in March 2005. In particular, it is due to endorse country-specific recommendations for member states and for members of the euro area.

The issues to be addressed by the European Council are as follows:

- the Lisbon strategy for jobs and growth;
- the EU's "*better regulation*" initiative;
- an integrated energy and climate policy, with the EU to take a leading role internationally on climate protection.

The European Council will also review the international situation if necessary.

The annotated draft agenda will serve as the basis for draft European Council conclusions to be prepared by the presidency and submitted to the permanent representatives committee and to the Council at its meeting on 5 and 6 March.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**EXTERNAL RELATIONS****Iran - Restrictive measures**

The Council reached a political agreement on a draft common position on restrictive measures against Iran, in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1737 (2006), which aims to persuade Iran to suspend some proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities without further delay.

The draft common position, which will be formally adopted at a forthcoming Council meeting, introduces the following restrictive measures:

- a ban on the supply of goods, technology or technical or financial assistance which could contribute to enrichment-related, reprocessing or heavy water-related activities or to the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems;
- a visa ban on persons and a freeze of assets on persons and entities listed in UNSCR 1737 (2006) and designated by the UN Security Council or by the sanctions committee, and other persons or entities directly associated with or providing support for Iran's proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities or for the development of nuclear weapon delivery systems;
- steps to prevent the specialised teaching or training of Iranian nationals in disciplines which would contribute to Iran's proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities and development of nuclear weapons delivery systems.

Liberia - Restrictive measures

The Council adopted a common position modifying and renewing restrictive measures imposed on Liberia under common position 2004/137/CFSP in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1731 (2006) (5072/07).

Under the common position:

- the restrictive measures on arms and travel will apply for a further period of 12 months;
- the restrictive measures on rough diamonds will apply for a further period of six months;
- the measures on arms will not apply to supplies of non-lethal military equipment other than non-lethal weapons and ammunition intended solely for use by Liberian police and security forces.

The common position will apply from 23 December 2006 to 22 December 2007.

Ivory Coast - Restrictive measures

The Council adopted a common position renewing restrictive measures imposed on Ivory Coast in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1727(2006) (5071/07).

The common position extends until 31 October 2007 measures imposed by common positions 2004/852/CFSP and 2006/30/CFSP, with effect from 16 December 2006. The measures restrict the provision of arms and military assistance to Ivory Coast and establish the framework for a visa ban and freeze of assets on persons constituting a threat to peace and national reconciliation. In addition, they prohibit imports of rough diamonds from Ivory Coast into the Community.

Somalia - Restrictive measures

The Council adopted a common position amending restrictive measures imposed on Somalia under common position 2002/960/CFSP in accordance with United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1725 (2006) (5075/07).

The common position introduces an additional exemption to the arms embargo against Somalia for supplies of weapons and military equipment and technical training and assistance intended solely for the support of or use by the mission stipulated in UNSC resolution 1725 (2006).

EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Financing of EU operations having military implications (Athena mechanism)

The Council adopted a decision amending decision 2004/197/CFSP on the mechanism for the financing of the common costs of European Union operations having military or defence implications (Athena mechanism) (16722/06).

The new decision introduces a series of technical modifications and reviews the different categories of items to be borne by Athena. It also provides for the financing by Athena of EU military actions in support of third states or third organisations.

Training programme in security and defence matters 2007-2009

The Council approved an EU training programme in the field of European security and defence policy for the years 2007 to 2009 (5565/1/07).

TRADE POLICY

Duty-free treatment for pharmaceutical active ingredients

The Council adopted a regulation providing for duty-free treatment for specified pharmaceutical active ingredients bearing an "international non-proprietary name" designated by the World Health Organisation, and for specified products used for the manufacture of finished pharmaceuticals (14901/06).

The regulation amends regulation 2658/87 by extending duty-free treatment in the Community to an additional 1290 pharmaceutical and chemical products. The Community grants duty-free treatment to imports of 7329 products, as provided for under the 1994 record of discussions on trade in pharmaceutical products agreed upon within the World Trade Organisation.

Revision of the WTO government procurement agreement - *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council reiterates that the effective access of SMEs to public contracts is of crucial importance. It therefore invites the Advisory Committee on Public Procurement to explore all means of improving SMEs' access to public contracts in the EU and around the world.

In this context the Council stresses the need for open and transparent procurement markets. The Council underlines the importance of a successful and quick conclusion to the ongoing revision of the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA). This revision should lead to an overall improvement of access to the procurement markets among GPA Members, removing the existing imbalance. The Council regrets that the level of ambition among some of our GPA partners does not correspond to the commitments the EC is willing to undertake. The Council also points to the need to reconsider the EC's level of ambition if no balanced access to the public procurement markets among other GPA members can otherwise be achieved.

A number of our GPA partners are maintaining derogations for preferential treatment of their SMEs in the area of public procurement. The Council calls upon our GPA partners to substantially improve their offers in the ongoing negotiations in the GPA context for the sake of better and balanced access to public procurement markets.

The Council invites the Commission to keep it informed of the progress of the negotiations on the revised GPA and agrees to return to the matter when necessary, at a later stage."

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**EU/Southern Africa - Framework for economic partnership agreement**

The Council approved the EU's response to the Southern African Development Community economic partnership agreement (EPA) framework tabled in March 2006.

The framework is a part of negotiations for EPAs with ACP countries and regions that were launched in 2002. According to the EU-ACP partnership agreement, they should be concluded by the end of 2007.

EPAs are aimed at fostering the regional integration of ACP states and their smooth and gradual integration into the world economy, notably with regard to their political choices and development priorities, thereby promoting their sustainable development and contributing to poverty eradication.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

EU programmes on security, the fight against crime and criminal justice (2007-2013) *

The Council adopted decisions establishing, for the period 2007 to 2013, two specific programmes under the EU's general programme on security and safeguarding liberties and one specific programme under the EU's general programme on fundamental rights and justice, (16945/3/06 and 5443/07 +ADD1).

The decisions establish:

- (as part of the EU general programme on security and safeguarding liberties):
 - a programme on "*Prevention, preparedness and consequence management of terrorism and other security related risks*", in order to contribute to supporting EU member states' efforts to prevent, prepare for, and to protect people and critical infrastructure against risks linked with terrorist attacks and other security related risks.
 - a programme on "*Prevention of and fight against crime*", in order to contribute to a high level of security for citizens by preventing and combating crime, in particular terrorism, trafficking in persons and offences against children, illicit drug and arms trafficking, corruption and fraud.
- (as part of the EU general programme on fundamental rights and justice):
 - a programme on "*Criminal justice*", in order to contribute to the strengthening of the area of freedom, security and justice.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

External auditors of national central banks – Spain

The Council adopted a decision approving the appointment of Deloitte S.L. as external auditors of the Banco de España for the financial years 2006 to 2008 (15985/06).

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Proceedings in the Council's different configurations

The Council took note of a report from the presidency on proceedings in its different configurations (5951/07).

AUDIOVISUAL POLICY

Switzerland - Participation in the EU's Media 2007 programme

The Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Switzerland for the latter's participation in the EU's Media 2007 programme.

APPOINTMENTS**Committee of the Regions**

The Council adopted decisions appointing to the Committee of the Regions (5535/07, 6021/07):

a) as members:

- Mr Cor LAMERS, burgemeester van Houten
 - Mr Henk KOOL, wethouder te Den Haag
- to replace Mr Fons HERTOOG and Mr Pieter VAN WOENSEL
- Mr José MONTILLA AGUILERA, Presidente de la Generalitat de Catalunya, in place of Mr Pasqual MARAGALL i MIRA

b) as alternate members:

- Mr Lodewijk ASSCHER, wethouder te Amsterdam
- Mr Rik DE LANGE, wethouder te Zutphen
- Ms Ellie FRANSSEN, wethouder te Voerendaal
- Ms Rinda DEN BESTEN, wethouder te Utrecht

to replace

- Ms Laetitia GRIFFITH
- Mr James LIDTH DE JEUDE
- Mr Wim ZWAAN
- Mr Alexander SAKKERS,

for the remainder of the term of office still to run, namely until 25 January 2010.

TRANSPARENCY

Public access to documents

The Council adopted:

- the reply to the letter sent to the Council by the European Ombudsman concerning complaint 817/2006/TN made by Mr Martin SKÖRVALD (5657/07);
- the reply to the letter sent to the Council by the European Ombudsman concerning complaint 3004/2006/JMA made by Mr Stephen HUGHES, MEP (5023/07);
- the reply to confirmatory application 40/c/01/06 made by Mr Sebastian Max HAUSER, the Danish and Swedish delegations voting against (5011/07);
- the reply to confirmatory application 02/c/01/07, the Swedish delegation voting against (5035/07).

DECISIONS TAKEN BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - Restrictive measures against political extremists

The Council adopted, on 7 February, a common position extending until 9 February 2008 common position 2004/133/CFSP on restrictive measures against extremists in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and amending it by updating the list of these persons (5073/07).

The measures are aimed at preventing admission to the EU's territory of certain individuals who actively promote or take part in violent extremist activities challenging the Ohrid framework agreement's basic principles of stability and territorial integrity and the multi-ethnic character of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and/or who deliberately undermine and obstruct implementation of the framework agreement by actions outside the democratic process.

The new common position will apply as from 10 February 2007.

Bosnia and Herzegovina - EU special representative's mandate

The Council adopted on 7 February a joint action extending and amending the mandate of the EU special representative (EUSR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) (5122/07).

Under this joint action, the mandate of Mr Christian Schwarz-Schilling as EUSR in BiH is extended until 30 June 2007.

Christian Schwarz-Schilling was appointed by the Council as new EUSR in BiH in January 2006 (*Official Journal L 26, 31.1.2006, p. 21*).
