



Brussels, 15 September 2010

## **BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>**

### ***EUROPEAN COUNCIL***

**Thursday 16 September in Brussels**

*The European Council, chaired by President Herman Van Rompuy, will start at 10.00. This one-day meeting will be largely devoted to the EU's relations with strategic partners.*

*The European Council is expected to consider how to give new momentum to the Union's external relations, taking full advantage of the opportunities provided by the Lisbon Treaty. In the run-up to a number of important summits and events over the coming weeks and months, it will aim to provide guidance and to identify a number of measures to enhance the effectiveness of the Union's external policy.*

*The European Council is also due to take stock of progress achieved in the Task Force on economic governance.*

#### *Indicative programme*

- 10.00 start of meeting
- 13.30 working lunch
- ± 16.30 press conference by the President of the European Council

See [full media programme](#)

*Press conferences and public events by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu/>*

*Video coverage of the event will be available for preview and download in broadcast quality (MPEG4) on <http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu>*

*Accreditation for the European Council will be required for access to the press centre as from Thursday morning  
See <http://european-council.europa.eu>*

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<sup>1</sup> This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office

## **RELATIONS WITH THE EU's STRATEGIC PARTNERS**

The European Council will discuss how the European Union should organise itself so as to be an effective global actor, ready to share the responsibility for global security and to take the lead in the definition of joint responses to common challenges, against the background of a changing world.

The discussion, in the presence of foreign ministers, will be guided by basic considerations such as:

- the importance of a strong economy and internal cohesion to strengthen the Union's ability to project its influence in the world;
- the assets the Union has at its disposal, such as a wide range of instruments including a common security and defence policy supported by crisis management tools; its position as the largest donor of official development aid; its status as the world's largest trading power;
- the objective of making full use of the opportunities offered by the Lisbon Treaty to act more strategically so as to bring Europe's weight to bear internationally.

The discussion will aim at providing strategic guidance for a series of important international meetings in the coming weeks. These include summits with China and South Korea and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in October, followed later in the year by a summit with India, offering a good opportunity to engage with key partners.

Further summits include:

- the G20 summit in Seoul in November, which will allow a review of the global economic recovery and the commitments made by G20 members;
- the EU-United States summit in November, which will offer an opportunity to concentrate on maximising the potential benefits of transatlantic economic relations, working more closely on major international issues and confronting global challenges in a concerted manner;
- the Cancun conference on climate change;
- the EU/Africa summit;
- forthcoming summits with Russia and Ukraine.

The European Council is expected to look at a number of measures to improve the functioning of the EU's external policy, including in terms of the planning, preparation and output of international summits and summit with partners.

## **TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE**

President Van Rompuy will present an interim report on the work of the Task Force on economic governance which that he chairs.

The European Council is expected to take note of progress already achieved. It will come back to the work of the Task Force at its October meeting on the basis of a final report.

The Task Force was established by the European Council in March 2010.

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