



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



16906/09 (Presse 361)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Extraordinary Council meeting

### **General Affairs and External Relations**

Geneva, 30 November 2009

President      **Mrs Ewa BJÖRLING**  
Minister for Trade of Sweden

# **P R E S S**

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## **Main results of the Council**

*The Council took stock of preparations for the 7th ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation.*

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### **OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

*None*

- <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 Alex VAN MEEUWEN

Ambassador

### Bulgaria:

Mr Traicho TRAIKOV

Minister for Economy, Energy and Tourism

### Czech Republic:

Mr Martin TLAPA

Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade, European Union Section

### Denmark:

Mr Per Stig MØLLER

Minister for Foreign Affairs

### Germany:

Mr Bernd PFAFFENBACH

State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Technology

### Estonia:

Ms Marina KALJURAND

Undersecretary for Economic and Development Affairs

### Ireland:

Mr Billy KELLEHER

Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with special responsibility for Trade and Commerce

### Greece:

Mr Dimitrios GIANNOS

Director-General, International Economic Policy, Ministry of Economy and Finance

### Spain:

Ms Silvia IRANZO GUTIERREZ

State Secretary for Trade

### France:

Ms Anne Marie IDRAC

Minister of State with responsibility for Foreign Trade, attached to the Minister for Economic Affairs, Industry and Employment

### Italy:

Mr Adolfo URSO

Deputy Minister for Economic Development

### Cyprus:

Mr Andreas HADJICHRYSANTHOU

Permanent Representative to the UN Office and other Specialised Institutions in Switzerland

### Latvia:

Mr Janis MAZEIKS

Ambassador to the UN Office in Geneva

### Lithuania:

Ms Asta SKAISGIRYTE LIAUSKIENE

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

### Luxembourg:

Mr Jean GRAFF

Ambassador

### Hungary:

Mr Istvan MAJOR

Ambassador

### Malta:

Mr Victor CAMILLERI

Permanent Representative to the WTO

### Netherlands:

Mr Frank HEEMSKERK

Minister for Foreign Trade

### Austria:

Mr Josef MAYER

Director-General, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs, Family and Youth

**Poland:**

Mr Marcin KOROLEC

Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

**Portugal:**

Mr Pedro LOURTIE

Secretary of State for European Affairs

**Romania:**

Ms Maria PÂRCĂLĂBESCU

State Secretary, Ministry for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Trade and the Business Environment

**Slovenia:**

Mr Andrej LOGAR

Permanent Representative to the UN Office in Geneva

**Slovakia:**

Ms Eva SZABOOVA

Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Economy

**Finland:**

Mr Pekka HUHTANIEMI

Undersecretary of State

**Sweden:**

Ms Ewa BJÖRLING

Minister for Trade

**United Kingdom:**

Mr Gareth THOMAS

Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Consumer Affairs

**Commission:**

Ms Catherine Ashton

Member

**ITEMS DEBATED****WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

The Council congratulated commissioner Catherine Ashton on her nomination as the first High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to be appointed under the Lisbon Treaty.

The Council took note of information provided by the Commission and the comments made by delegations on preparations for the 7th ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

It also stressed the crucial role of the WTO in the current economic and financial crisis, and its full endorsement of the WTO's efforts to provide an effective monitoring process to counter protectionism.

The EU intends to play a very active role during the conference, to make progress on the themes of the two working sessions, without losing sight of the effects of the current economic downturn on least developed countries.

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

None

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