



Brussels, 19 February 2010

BACKGROUND¹
GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
Monday, 22 February, in Brussels

The General Affairs Council, chaired by Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos, will begin at 16.00 on Monday, 22 February.

*The main item on the Council's agenda is the preparation of the **Spring European Council**, which will focus on the new **European strategy for jobs and growth (Europe 2020)** and **climate change**, particularly the follow-up to the Copenhagen conference. The Council will also discuss the state of play regarding the work of the different Council configurations on climate change.*

The Council will be followed by a press conference at approximately 18.30.

Press conferences and public events can be followed 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>

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office

Preparation of the Spring European Council

The Council will examine an annotated draft agenda for the Spring European Council to be held on 25 and 26 March drawn up, under the new Treaty of Lisbon provisions, by the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, in close cooperation with Prime Minister Rodríguez Zapatero and President Barroso.

The European Council is expected to focus on:

- the new European strategy for jobs and growth (Europe 2020), and
- the follow-up to the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change.

As regards the Europe 2020 strategy, the European Council will be invited to agree on the general framework of the Union's new strategy for jobs and growth, on the basis of the Commission's communication on Europe 2020. It will be invited, in particular, to finalise the governance of the strategy and agree on a limited number of quantitative targets. The European Council will also take stock of the ongoing efforts by the European Union and its member states to tackle the current economic crisis.

On climate change, the European Council will take stock of the work on the follow-up to the Copenhagen Conference, both as regards the international negotiation process and the Union's relations with its strategic partners.

The annotated draft agenda for the European Council will serve as the basis for draft European Council conclusions to be prepared by the President of the European Council, in close cooperation with Prime Minister Rodríguez Zapatero and President Barroso, and submitted to the permanent representatives' committee (COREPER).

On Monday night, ministers will have a working dinner with President Van Rompuy.

Climate change

The Council will discuss the state of play on the mainstreaming of climate change in all EU policies, as well as the need to ensure consistency in the Union's external action.
