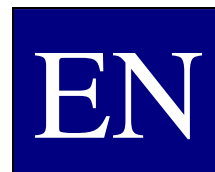




**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



7802/10 (Presse 70)

PRESS RELEASE

3004th Council meeting

General Affairs

Brussels, 22 March 2010

President

Mr Miguel Ángel MORATINOS
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain

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7802/10 (Presse 70)

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Main results of the Council

*The Council discussed preparations for the spring **European Council**, which will focus on the development of a new European strategy for **jobs and growth** – the EU 2020 strategy – and on **climate change**, as regards the follow-up to the Copenhagen conference in December.*

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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.
- 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 Olivier CHASTEL

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs with responsibility for preparing for the EU Presidency, attached to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Bulgaria:

Mr Konstantin DIMITROV

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Czech Republic:

Mr Jan KOHOUT

Mr Juraj CHMIEL

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Claus GRUBE

State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Guido WESTERWELLE

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Estonia:

Mr Raul MÄLK

Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Micheál MARTIN

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Dimitrios DROUTSAS

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Miguel Ángel MORATINOS CUYAUBÉ

Mr Diego LÓPEZ GARRIDO

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Secretary of State of the European Union

France:

Mr Bernard KOUCHNER

Minister for Foreign and European Affairs

Italy:

Mr Franco FRATTINI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Cyprus:

Mr Markos KYPRIANOU

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Latvia:

Ms Ilze JUHANSONE

Head of the European Union Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Lithuania:

Mr Audronius AŽUBALIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean ASSELBORN

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration

Hungary:

Mr Péter BALÁZS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Malta:

Mr Richard CACHIA-CARUANA

Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr Maxime VERHAGEN

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Austria:

Mr Michael SPINDELEGGER

Federal Minister for European and International Affairs

Poland:

Mr Mikolaj DOWGIELEWICZ

Secretary of State for European Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Pedro LOURTIE

Secretary of State for European Affairs

Romania:

Mr Teodor BACONSCI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Slovenia:

Mr Mitja GASPARI

Minister for Development and European Affairs

Slovakia:

Mr Miroslav LAJČÁK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Finland:

Ms Astrid THORS

Minister for Migration and European Affairs

Sweden:

Ms Birgitta OHLSSON

Minister for European Union Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr David MILIBAND

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

.....

Commission:

Mr. Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ

Vice-President

.....

Other participants

Ms Catherine ASHTON

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

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

The Council examined draft conclusions for the spring meeting of the European Council, which will be held in Brussels on 25 and 26 March.

The European Council is due to focus on:

- Jobs and growth: preparation of a new European strategy, the EU 2020 strategy;
- Climate change: follow-up to the UN conference in Copenhagen in December.

As regards jobs and growth, the European Council is due to agree on the general framework of the new strategy, in the light of a communication from the Commission (*doc.* [7110/10](#)), and drawing on preparatory work by several Council configurations. It is expected to adopt the strategy at its subsequent meeting, in June.

The European Council will also take stock of ongoing efforts by the EU and the member states to tackle the economic crisis, and will discuss issues relating to the G-20 and competitiveness within the European Union.

On climate change, the European Council will take stock of work on the follow-up to the Copenhagen conference, drawing on preparatory work by two Council configurations (Environment, Economic and Financial Affairs) and a communication from the Commission (*doc.* [7438/10](#)).

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

The Council, during a joint session (General Affairs/Foreign Affairs) discussed the organisation and functioning of the future European External Action Service, in view of a forthcoming proposal from High Representative Catherine Ashton.

Preparatory work has been ongoing within the Council on the EEAS, which is one of the most significant innovations of the Treaty of Lisbon, which entered into force on 1 December. The presidency intends to make every effort to reach an early agreement on the decision and related legislative proposals.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Report on proceedings in different Council configurations

The Council took note of a report from the presidency on decisions taken and issues currently under discussion in the Council's different configurations (*doc.* [7050/10](#)).

EMPLOYMENT POLICY

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Lithuania

The Council adopted two decisions mobilising a total amount of EUR 1.19 million under the EU's globalisation adjustment fund, providing support for workers made redundant in the furniture and clothing manufacturing sector in Lithuania (*docs.* [7113/10](#) + [7114/10](#)).

EUR 662 000 is earmarked for former workers of the Lithuanian furniture manufacturing sector and EUR 523 000 for workers made redundant in the Lithuanian clothing manufacturing sector. The support measures must be cofinanced by Lithuania and include training, occupational guidance, job-search assistance and assistance for entrepreneurship.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Safety in the sleep environment of children - Committee procedure

The Council decided not to oppose adoption by the Commission of a decision on safety requirements for products in the sleep environment of children, pursuant to directive 2001/95 (*doc.* [5769/10](#)).

Under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny, the Council can oppose an act which exceeds the implementing powers of the Commission, is not compatible with the aim or content of the basic instrument or does not respect the principles of subsidiarity or proportionality.

TRANSPARENCY

Transparency - Public access to documents

The Council adopted:

- a reply to a confirmatory application made by Mr Alexander MacKenzie (05/c/01/10), the Finnish and the Swedish delegation voting against (*doc.* [6212/10](#)); and
 - a reply to confirmatory application No. 06/c/01/10, the Finnish and the Swedish delegation voting against (*doc.* [6456/10](#)).
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