



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

3119th Council meeting

### **General Affairs**

Luxembourg, 11 October 2011

President      **Mr Mikołaj Dowgielewicz**  
State Secretary for European Affairs of Poland

# **P R E S S**

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## **Main results of the Council**

*The Council reviewed preparations for the October meeting of the **European Council** and for the **G-20 summit** to be held in Cannes at the beginning of November.*

*It took note of a report from the presidency on **growth-enhancing measures** in Europe.*

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<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.

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Mr Johannes HAHN

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**ITEMS DEBATED**

**COHESION POLICY**

The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission of proposals for rules on implementation of the EU's policy on economic and social cohesion during the 2014-20 period.

It held an exchange of views.

## **GROWTH-ENHANCING MEASURES**

The Council took note of a report from the presidency, "*Towards a European consensus on growth*", following a conference held in Brussels on 6 October.

The report identifies key growth-enhancing measures that might help re-establish growth dynamics by unlocking growth potential and thus help the EU overcome the current crisis.

The Council held an exchange of views.

**G-20 SUMMIT IN CANNES**

The Council reviewed preparations for the G-20 summit that is due to take place in Cannes on 3 and 4 November.

The summit is expected to tackle the following issues: coordination of economic policies; the framework for growth (addressing macroeconomic imbalances); reform of financial regulation; reform of the international monetary system; commodity price volatility; other issues, such as food security, global governance, development cooperation, trade, corruption, employment and energy.

A meeting of G-20 finance ministers and central bank governors will be held in Paris on 14 and 15 October. The European Council will adopt the EU's position for the Cannes summit at its meeting in Brussels on 23 October.



## **PREPARATION OF THE OCTOBER EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

The Council examined draft conclusions for the October meeting of the European Council.

President Herman Van Rompuy has convened the European Council and a Eurozone summit for 23 October, a few days later than originally scheduled.

The European Council is due to focus on:

- Economic policy: external aspects, with a view to enhancing competitiveness and economic growth;
- G-20: adoption of the EU's position for the G-20 summit in Cannes on 3 and 4 November;
- Climate change: adoption of the EU's position for the UN conference to be held in Durban from 28 November to 9 December.

The draft conclusions will be reviewed in the light of the Council's discussion. An annotated draft agenda was approved at the Council's meeting on 12 September ([13078/11](#)).

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED****INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS****Amendment of the EU treaties**

The Council agreed to submit to the European Council proposals for the addition to the EU treaties of:

- a protocol on the concerns of the Irish people regarding the Treaty of Lisbon ([13181/11](#)).
- a protocol on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights to the Czech Republic ([13840/11](#)).

In accordance with the provisions of the EU treaties, it agreed to notify the proposals to national parliaments and to recommend that the European Parliament and the Commission be consulted. It also recommended that the European Council request the European Parliament's consent not to convene a convention to examine the texts, considering that this does not seem to be justified by the extent of the proposed amendments.

In June 2009, EU heads of state and government agreed on a decision on the concerns of the Irish people regarding the Treaty of Lisbon. At the same time, they declared that they would, at the time of conclusion of the next accession treaty (i.e. EU enlargement), set out the provisions of that decision in a protocol to be attached to the EU treaties. In October 2009, they agreed that they would, at the time of conclusion of the next accession treaty, attach a protocol to the EU treaties on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights to the Czech Republic.

**ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS****Financial assistance to Ireland and Portugal**

The Council adopted two decisions amending the terms of financial assistance granted to Ireland and Portugal under the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism

The decisions extend the maximum average maturity of the loans to Ireland and Portugal to 12,5 years, while the maturity of individual tranches of the loan facilities may be of up to 30 years. The interest rate margins will be reduced to the EU's cost of funding. The extension of maturities and the reduction in the interest rate margin will also apply to the tranches that have already been disbursed.

The decisions amend implementing decisions 2011/77/EU and 2011/344/EU on granting EU financial assistance to Ireland and Portugal. They implement conclusions reached by the euro area heads of state or government on 21 July 2011.

**External auditors of the central bank of Portugal**

The Council adopted a decision approving the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers & Associados - Sociedade de Revisores Oficiais de Contas as external auditors of the Banco de Portugal for the financial years 2011 to 2016.

**DECISION TAKEN BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE****EU NAVFOR mission**

The Council authorised<sup>1</sup> the opening of negotiations for an agreement with the Sultanate of Oman on the transit and stationing of maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft belonging to the EU NAVFOR mission fighting piracy off the Somali coast.

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<sup>1</sup> The written procedure was concluded on 11 October.