



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
MAIN TOPICS FOR THE COMING FORTNIGHT*
5 - 18 October 2009

Friday 9 October 2009

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (transport items only)

- The future of the European transport policy..... 3
- Rights of ship passengers.....4

Monday 12 October 2009

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (Health ministers)

- Influenza A (H1N1).....5

Other events.....6

*
* *

* This document has been prepared under the sole responsibility of the Press Office. Information may be subject to change, depending on further developments.

For **video** coverage of Council sessions and **audiovisual** material, please see the following Council websites:

- <http://video.consilium.europa.eu> (live webcast of public deliberations, public debates and press conferences)

and

- <http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu> (audiovisual material available for download in broadcast quality)

Friday 9 October 2009

The future of the European transport policy

The Council will hold a public debate on a communication from the Commission presenting the main trends and challenges as well as fields for possible action in the area of European transport policy in the decades ahead. The debate is to prepare the adoption of Council conclusions on this issue at the next Transport Council meeting in December.

Background

In 2001, the Commission issued a White Paper setting out the agenda for the European transport policy until 2010. This White Paper underwent a mid-term review in 2006. As the above 10-year period approaches its end, the Commission decided to launch a reflection and a public consultation on the transport policies for the next decade. In this framework the Commission outlined its general views on the issue in a communication, published in June 2009 and to be discussed at this Council meeting.

The ongoing reflection process on the future of the European transport policy prepares the ground for a new White Paper on the transport policy agenda for the next decade, which the Commission will draw up in 2010.

Further information

- Commission communication: A sustainable future for transport: Towards an integrated, technology-led and user friendly system ([11294/09](#))

Event

Meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (transport items only) - Conference Centre-FIL, Luxembourg (10.00)

The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room in Brussels on Tuesday, 6 October, at 9.15.

A press conference will take place at the end of the proceedings.

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/currentcouncilsessions>

Contacts

Press officer: Reinhard Schmidt, tel.: +32 2 281 88 47, reinhard.schmidt@consilium.europa.eu

Swedish presidency: Elisabet Dahlen-Jonsson, tel. +32 476 50 50 22,

elisabet.dahlen-jonsson@foreign.ministry.se

Friday 9 October 2009

Rights of ship passengers

In public deliberation, the Council will seek to reach a political agreement on a proposal for a regulation on the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway. The draft regulation lays down rules ensuring assistance and information to passengers with disabilities or reduced mobility. Concerning passengers in general, it contains provisions on assistance, information and compensation in the event of cancellation or delay of their travel.

Background

The proposed regulation forms part of the EU's general policy to ensure equal treatment of passengers, irrespective of the mode of transport they use for travel. Similar legislation has already been adopted in the field of air and rail transport, and has been proposed for bus and coach services.

The Commission presented its proposal in December 2008. The European Parliament adopted its first-reading opinion in April 2009.

Further information

- Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway ([11990/08](#))

Event

Meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (transport items only) - Conference Centre - FIL, Luxemburg (10.00)

The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room in Brussels on Tuesday, 6 October, at 9.15.

A press conference will take place at the end of the proceedings.

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/currentcouncilsessions>

Contacts

Press officer: Reinhard Schmidt, tel.: +32 2 281 88 47, reinhard.schmidt@consilium.europa.eu

Swedish presidency: Elisabet Dahlen-Jonsson, tel. +32 476 50 50 22,

elisabet.dahlen-jonsson@foreign.ministry.se

Monday 12 October 2009

Influenza A (H1N1)

The EU Health ministers will hold an exchange of views on the current situation of the A/H1N1 influenza outbreak and adopt conclusions on this topic. In the prospect of a possible intensification of the pandemic, ministers are expected to define key issues for a coordinated EU approach against influenza A(H1N1). This includes inter alia the availability of vaccines, the vaccination strategy and the regulatory process.

Ministers will also be briefed by the Commission on its communication "Pandemic (H1N1) 2009".

Background

On 11 June 2009 the World Health Organisation (WHO) raised the level of influenza pandemic alert from phase 5 to phase 6, which corresponds to the worldwide spread of the influenza virus Influenza A(H1N1) 2009. On the basis of scientific and epidemiological data and knowledge the WHO and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) advised countries in the northern hemisphere to prepare for a further expansion of the pandemic.

On 30 April 2009, EU Health ministers highlighted the need to coordinate national measures in Europe and called upon the Commission to continue to facilitate information sharing and cooperation between the member states, in particular on risk evaluation, risk management and medical countermeasures.

Further information

- Commission communication: [13355/09](#)
- Council conclusions: [9392/09](#)

Event

Meeting of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council - Conference Center - FIL, Luxembourg (14.30).

The Presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room in Brussels on 6 October, around 9.30, following the briefing on the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council.

A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/currentcouncilsessions>

Contacts

Press officer: Jérôme Unterhuber, tel. +32 2 281 53 94, jerome.unterhuber@consilium.europa.eu
Swedish presidency: Elisabet Dahlen-Jonsson, tel. +32 476 50 50 22, elisabet.dahlen-jonsson@foreign.ministry.se

OTHER EVENTS

5 October 2009 (Brussels, Justus Lipsius Building - working lunch at 13.00)

- Informal meeting of Agriculture ministers
(http://www.se2009.eu/en/agriculture_ministers_invited_to_lunch_meeting_to_discuss_milk_market)

6 October 2009 (Stockholm, Sweden)

- EU–Brazil Summit
(http://www.se2009.eu/en/EU-Brazil_Summit_-_Swedish_Presidency_of_the_European_Union)

8 October 2009 (Stockholm, Sweden)

- EU-Australia ministerial troika meeting
(http://www.se2009.eu/en/EU-Australia_ministerial_troika_meeting_-_Swedish_Presidency_of_the_European_Union)

14 - 16 October 2009 (Umeå, Sweden)

- Informal meeting of Competitiveness ministers
(http://www.se2009.eu/en/informal_meeting_of_competitiveness_ministers)
-