



Brussels, 2 February 2011

**BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>**  
**EUROPEAN COUNCIL**  
**Friday 4 February 2011 in Brussels**

*Under the presidency of Herman Van Rompuy, the European Council will focus its discussions in the morning session on **energy policy**, and in particular on energy security, in terms of regulation, infrastructure and relations with key partners.*

*The European Council's working lunch will be devoted mainly to a discussion on the economy and ongoing efforts to counter the effects of the crisis, including work on a **comprehensive strategy for the euro area**.*

*The European Council will also exchange views on the latest events in **Egypt** and **Tunisia** and their implications.*

*During the afternoon session, the European Council will discuss ways to boost **innovation**.*

*Indicative programme:*

10.00	Meeting with the President of the European Parliament
10.15	Family photo
10.30	First working session
13.30	Working lunch
15.30	Second working session
+/- 17.30	Press conference by the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission

**Info package**

- [EU energy policy](#)
- [Energy infrastructure](#)
- [External dimension of EU energy policy](#)
- [EU Energy Data](#) (mini-project from the Open Knowledge Foundation and LOD2 based on data from Eurostat)

See [full media programme](#)

Press conferences and public events by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu/>

Video coverage for preview and download in broadcast quality (MPEG4): <http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu>

Accreditation will be required for access to the press centre as from Friday morning. See <http://european-council.europa.eu>

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<sup>1</sup> This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office

## **Energy issues**

The European Council will underline that safe, secure, sustainable and affordable energy contributing to European competitiveness remains a priority for Europe, and that action at EU level can and must bring added value to that objective. Based on all the work that has been carried out over the years on the main strands of an EU energy policy, including the setting of ambitious energy and climate change objectives and the adoption of comprehensive legislation supporting these objectives, the European Council is expected to underline the EU's commitment to these goals through a number of operational conclusions on the following issues:

- A fully functioning, integrated and interconnected market;
- Energy efficiency;
- Renewables;
- Energy and external relations;
- The long term perspective, including the elaboration of a low carbon 2050 strategy.

## **Innovation**

The European Council is expected to call for the implementation of a strategic and integrated approach to boosting innovation and taking full advantage of Europe's intellectual capital, to the benefit of citizens, companies - in particular SMEs - and researchers.

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