



Brussels, 26 January 2012

**BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>**  
***INFORMAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL***  
**Monday 30 January in Brussels**

*This informal meeting of members of the European Council will consider immediate action to be taken to stimulate **jobs and growth**, focusing on the specific areas of youth unemployment, the single market and SMEs.*

*The debate will be held during a working session starting at 15.30.*

*Heads of state and government are also expected to endorse treaties on the **European Stability Mechanism** and the **fiscal compact**.*

*The meeting will be preceded at 15.00 by an exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament.*

*Indicative programme:*

<i>15.00:</i>	<i>meeting with the President of the European Parliament</i>
<i>15.15</i>	<i>family photo</i>
<i>15.30</i>	<i>working session</i>
<i>+/- 19.00</i>	<i>press conference by the President of the European Council and the President of the Commission</i>

[Full media programme](#)

[Invitation letter by President Van Rompuy](#)

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

## **Economic policy**

Heads of state and government will discuss immediate action that can be taken to enhance growth and competitiveness in Europe – and in particular to create jobs – without compromising the fiscal consolidation necessary for ensuring financial stability.

The meeting will focus on the specific areas of youth unemployment, the EU single market and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Whereas at its March meeting the European Council will provide broader guidance to the member states on economic and employment policies, this informal meeting will be used for a more specific exchange of experiences and best practices.

In addition, heads of state and government are expected to endorse an amended treaty on the European Stability Mechanism and to register agreement on a new treaty on stability, coordination and governance, as agreed at a euro area summit in December.

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