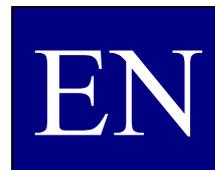




**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



10008/09 (Presse 136)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

2942nd Council meeting

### **General Affairs and External Relations**

#### **General Affairs**

Brussels, 18 May 2009

President

**Mr Jan KOHOUT**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of  
the Czech Republic

\* The 2943rd meeting on External Relations is the subject of a separate press release (10009/09).

# **P R E S S**

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10008/09 (Presse 136)

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**EN**

## **Main results of the Council**

*The Council examined an annotated draft agenda prepared by the presidency for the European Council meeting to be held in Brussels on 18 and 19 June.*

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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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## PARTICIPANTS

The governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

### Belgium:

Mr Karel DE GUCHT  
Mr Olivier CHASTEL

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

### Bulgaria:

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Permanent Representative

### Czech Republic:

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Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs  
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### Denmark:

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### Germany:

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Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

### Estonia:

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Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and at the Department of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility for European Affairs

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State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

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State Secretary for the European Union

### France:

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State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

### Cyprus:

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### Austria:

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**Portugal:**

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State Secretary for European Affairs

**Romania:**

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State Secretary for European Affairs

**Slovenia:**

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Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Slovakia:**

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Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Finland:**

Mr Alexander STUBB

Ms Astrid THORS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Migration and European Affairs

**Sweden:**

Mr Carl BILDT

Ms Cecilia MALMSTRÖM

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Minister for European Affairs

**United Kingdom:**

Mr David MILIBAND

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

**Commission:**

Ms Benita FERRERO-WALDNER

Member

**ITEMS DEBATED****PREPARATION OF THE JUNE EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

The Council examined an annotated draft agenda prepared by the presidency for the European Council meeting to be held in Brussels on 18 and 19 June. (*doc. [9666/09](#)*). It will prepare the meeting in greater detail at its meeting on 15 June.

The issues to be addressed by the European Council are:

- Institutional issues, in particular: guarantees in response to the concerns of the Irish people presented by the Irish prime minister;
- Economic, financial and social situation, in particular: measures taken to promote stability, to strengthen the regulation and supervision of the financial sector and to support the economy and employment, as well as implementation of the steps agreed at the G20 summit in London on 2 April;
- Climate change and sustainable development, in particular: preparation of the international conference on climate change to be held in Copenhagen in December, as well as implementation of the EU's sustainable development strategy and strategy for the Baltic Sea;
- External relations.

The annotated draft agenda will serve as the basis and structure for draft European Council conclusions to be prepared by the presidency and submitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee in the run-up to the Council's meeting on 15 June.

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED****EXTERNAL RELATIONS****Preparation of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers**

The Council took note of preparations for the 34th session of the Council of Ministers from the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of countries (ACP) and the EU, which will take place on 28 and 29 May in Brussels.

It also approved the draft agenda for the meeting.

**Generalised system of preferences - Venezuela**

The Council confirmed that there is no qualified majority in favour of or against a Commission proposal removing Venezuela from the list of countries which benefit from the EU's special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance ("GSP+").

The Commission may therefore adopt the legislative act.

**Union for the Mediterranean - Civil protection cooperation**

The Council adopted draft EU guidelines on civil protection cooperation with Mediterranean partners with a view to a Union for the Mediterranean ministerial meeting on justice, liberty and security.

### **Ratification of the revised Cotonou agreement - Equatorial Guinea**

The Council approved a letter informing the president of the Council of ACP ministers that the EU objects to a reservation that the Republic of Equatorial Guinea included in its instrument of ratification with regard to the revised ACP - EU partnership agreement (Cotonou agreement) ([8733/09](#)).

The revised Cotonou agreement between Equatorial Guinea and the EU cannot therefore enter into force at this stage.

### **European diplomatic programme**

The Council approved an updated text on the European diplomatic programme (EDP). The EDP, created in 1999, is aimed at creating personal networks among European diplomats, raising diplomatic awareness with regard to the specifically European dimension of diplomacy and providing a learning environment where officials can be trained within a framework that has no direct parallel within the national setting ([9705/09](#)).

## **EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY**

### **Development of EU military capabilities**

(see also conclusions on ESDP, "External Relations" press release, 10009/09)

The Council took note of a progress report on the development of EU military capabilities, and approved its transmission to NATO for information ([8715/09](#)).

## **Progress report on EU military capabilities**

The Council took note of a progress report on the development of the EU's military capabilities.

The report provides an update on progress concerning activities undertaken since November 2008 to improve the EU's military capabilities and the capability development process.

## **Guinea-Bissau - EU mission in support of security sector reform**

The Council adopted a joint action extending for six months, until 30 November, joint action 2008/112/CFSP on the EU mission in support of security sector reform in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau ( EU SSR Guinea Bissau) ([7958/09](#)).

The aim of EU SSR Guinea Bissau is to provide advice and assistance to the local authorities on reform of the security sector in Guinea-Bissau, in order to contribute to creating the conditions for implementation of the national security sector reform strategy, in close cooperation with other EU, international and bilateral actors, and with a view to facilitating subsequent donor engagement.

Joint action 2008/112/CFSP was adopted in February 2008 (*OJ L 40, 14.2.2008, p. 11*).

## **TRADE POLICY**

### **Anti-dumping - Imports of polyester staple fibres**

The Council adopted a regulation amending regulation 428/2005 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of polyester staple fibres originating in China and Saudi Arabia, amending regulation 2852/2000 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of polyester staple fibres originating in the Republic of Korea and terminating the anti-dumping proceeding in respect of such imports originating in Taiwan ([9088/09](#)).

**GENERAL AFFAIRS****Work in the Council's different configurations**

The Council took note of a report on proceedings in its different configurations ([9665/09](#)).

**ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS****Lending to member states in financial difficulty**

The Council adopted a regulation raising the ceiling for lending under the EU's support facility for non euro-area member states in financial difficulty, in accordance with a political agreement reached at its meeting on 5 May, see *9457/09*.

**JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS****Schengen agreement - 2007 report on data on stolen cars**

The Council approved a report on implementation (during the year 2007) of article 102A of the convention implementing the Schengen agreement ([16900/08](#)). The report will be forwarded to the European Parliament.

Article 102A of the convention gives member states responsible for issuing registration certificates for vehicles the right to access data entered into the Schengen information system for the purpose of checking whether vehicles presented to them for registration have been stolen, misappropriated or lost. It also requires the Council to submit each year a report to the European Parliament on its implementation.

The report includes information and statistics on the use made of the provisions of Article 102A and the results obtained in their implementation, and states how data protection rules have been applied.

Data on vehicle registration certificates and vehicle number plates which have been stolen, misappropriated, lost or invalidated has been entered into the Schengen information system since 31 March 2006.

## **INTERNAL MARKET**

### **Lamp oils and grill lighter fluids**

The Council decided not to oppose adoption by the Commission of a decision amending directive 76/769/EEC on the marketing and use of dangerous substances and preparations, as regards restrictions on the marketing and use of lamp oils and grill lighter fluids.

The amendments are intended to reinforce human health protection by strengthening the provisions on lamp oils used in decorative lamps, and by ensuring that grill lighter fluids intended for supply to the general public are appropriately labelled and respect packaging requirements, thus minimising the risks of accidents for children.

The amending decision is subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny, allowing the Council to oppose the adoption of legal acts by the Commission. Now that the Council has given its green light, the Commission may adopt the decision, unless the European Parliament objects.

## **AGRICULTURE**

### **Extension of the grains trade convention**

The Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to vote within the International Grains Council in favour of an extension of the grains trade convention for a further period of up to two years ([8330/09](#)).

Without this prolongation, the grains trade convention would expire on 30 June 2009.

**Extension of the international sugar agreement**

The Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to vote within the International Sugar Council in favour of an extension of the international sugar agreement for a further period of up to two years ([8333/09](#)).

Without this prolongation, the international sugar agreement would expire on 31 December 2009.

**FISHERIES****Review of the regulation fixing fisheries quotas for 2009.**

The Council approved the text of a letter replying to Greenpeace as regards a request for an internal review of certain provisions of regulation 43/2009 on fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks for 2009.

In its answer, the Council recalls that the sustainable exploitation of marine resources is a pillar of its common fisheries policy and that the Community is strongly committed to ensuring sustainable fisheries, including in particular bluefin tuna fisheries, through sound management plans and adequate conservation and control measures and in full cooperation with the international community. It also provides specific and concrete answers to several points raised by Greenpeace ([9507/09](#)).