



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



11442/10

PRESSE 191

PR CO 6

PRESS RELEASE

3024th Council meeting

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy

Luxembourg, 24 June 2010

President **Mr José BLANCO LÓPEZ,**
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport of Spain

P R E S S

Rue de la Loi 175 B – 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 8914 / 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 281 8026
press.office@consilium.europa.eu <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/Newsroom>

11442/10

1
EN

Main results of the Council

*The Council adopted a decision on the signature and provisional application of a protocol amending the **EU-US "Open Skies"** agreement. The protocol was signed by the EU and the US in the margins of the Council meeting.*

*The Council also adopted conclusions on an action plan designed to help local, regional and national authorities attain the goal of sustainable, healthy and safe **urban mobility**.*

*Moreover, ministers held a debate on the contribution the transport sector can make to the new **Europe 2020** strategy for jobs and growth.*

*Outside the field of transport, the Council adopted without discussion a directive strengthening the social protection of **self-employed women** and of "**assisting spouses**", thereby reinforcing the principle of equal treatment between men and women.*

CONTENTS¹

PARTICIPANTS	5
ITEMS DEBATED	
TAKING THE EU-US OPEN SKIES AGREEMENT TO A NEW LEVEL.....	7
EU RESPONSE TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE VOLCANIC ASH CLOUD FOR AIR TRANSPORT.....	8
ACTION PLAN ON URBAN MOBILITY - <i>Council conclusions</i>	10
THE ROLE OF TRANSPORT IN THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY.....	11
ANY OTHER BUSINESS.....	12
Security scanners.....	12
EU- Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) summit and EU-LAC civil aviation summit.....	12
Agreement with the US on interoperability between the EU and US air traffic management systems.....	12
Galileo applications action plan.....	13
TEN-T days 2010.....	13
Meeting of Baltic Sea transport ministers (Haparanda, Sweden, 16-17 June 2010).....	13
High-level meeting on road safety: "road safety culture" (Madrid, 29 April 2010).....	13
Working time of mobile road transport workers.....	14
Work programme of the incoming presidency.....	14

¹ 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.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED*TRANSPORT*

- Guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network..... 15
- Agreements on air services - Albania - Bosnia and Herzegovina 15

ENERGY

- Notification of investment projects in energy infrastructure..... 15
- International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)..... 16

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

- Europol-Colombia agreement on cooperation against criminality..... 16
- Drug trafficking - threat assessment of airfields and light aircraft - *Council conclusions* 16

FISHERIES

- South Pacific Ocean - Convention on the management of high seas resources 19

SOCIAL POLICY

- Better social protection for self-employed women and assisting spouses 19

ENVIRONMENT

- Persistent organic pollutants 20

AGRICULTURE

- EFSA management board - Appointment of seven members 20

PARTICIPANTS

Belgium:

Mr Etienne SCHOUPPE

State Secretary for Mobility, attached to the Prime Minister

Bulgaria:

Mr Peter STEFANOV

Deputy Permanent Representative

Czech Republic:

Mr Gustáv SLAMEČKA

Minister for Transport

Denmark:

Mr Hans Christian SCHMIDT

Minister for Transport

Germany:

Mr Peter RAMSAUER

Federal Minister for Transport, Building and Urban Development

Estonia:

Mr Gert ANTSU

Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Noel DEMPSEY

Minister for Transport

Greece:

Mr Leonidas C. ROKANAS

Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr José BLANCO LÓPEZ

Ms Concepción GUTIÉRREZ DEL CASTILLO

Minister for Transport

State Secretary for Transport

France:

Mr Dominique BUSSEREAU

Minister of State with responsibility for Transport, attached to the Ministre d'État

Italy:

Mr Roberto CASTELLI

State Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport

Cyprus:

Ms Erato KOZAKOU-MARKOULLIS

Minister for Transportation, Communication and Energy

Latvia:

Ms Lelde LICE-LICITE

Deputy Permanent Representative

Lithuania:

Mr Raimundas KAROBLIS

Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Ms Michèle EISENBARTH

Deputy Permanent Representative

Hungary:

Mr VÖLNER Pál

State Secretary for Transport, Ministry of National Development

Malta:

Mr Austin GATT

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications

Netherlands:

Mr Camiel EURLINGS

Minister for Transport, Public Works and Water Management

Austria:

Ms Doris BURES

Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology

Poland:

Mr Maciej JANKOWSKI

Under Secretary of State in the Ministry of Infrastructure

Portugal:

Mr Carlos CORREIRA DA FONSECA

State Secretary for Transport

Romania:

Mr Constantin DASCALU

State Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure

Slovenia:

Mr Uroš VAJGL

Deputy Permanent Representative

Slovakia:

Mr Lubomír VÁŽNY

Minister for Transport

Finland:

Ms Marja RISLAKKI

Deputy Permanent Representative

Sweden:

Ms Åsa TORSTENSSON

Minister for Communications at the Ministry of
Enterprise, Energy and Communications

United Kingdom:

Mr Philip HAMMOND

Secretary of State for Transport

.....

Commission:

Mr Siim KALLAS

Vice-President

Mr Antonio TAJANI

Vice-President

.....

ITEMS DEBATED**TAKING THE EU-US OPEN SKIES AGREEMENT TO A NEW LEVEL**

The Council adopted a decision ([9913/10](#)) on the signature and provisional application of a protocol to amend the air transport agreement between the EU and the US (the "Open Skies" agreement), which was signed in 2007 and has been provisionally applied since 2008. Following the adoption of the decision, the EU and the US signed the protocol in the margins of the Council.

The amendment to the agreement launches a process leading towards additional foreign investment opportunities in the airline industry; it further opens market access and strengthens regulatory cooperation in all fields of aviation policy, in particular with a view to limiting the environmental impact of aviation. It also recognises the importance of high labour standards.

Further expansion of business opportunities will be based on mutual concessions. While the US is asking the EU to give the Commission a stronger role in monitoring noise-based operating restrictions at big airports so as to increase transparency in this respect, the EU is asking the US for greater investment liberalisation, allowing majority ownership and control of US airlines by EU nationals. Once those stipulations are met, the EU and the US will grant each other's airlines additional rights to provide air services between their territories and third countries, and they will also remove market access barriers for third-country airlines owned and controlled by each other's nationals; in addition, the EU will reciprocate as regards majority ownership and control of EU airlines by US nationals. If one side has fulfilled the conditions without the other side following suit, the complying side has the right to freeze operations carried out by the other side's airlines under the agreement.

The amending protocol, initialled by the negotiators in March this year, is the result of eight rounds of negotiations launched in May 2008. A roadmap for such negotiations was already included in the 2007 agreement, which established a framework for regulatory cooperation with the US and brought new commercial freedoms for airline operators, but failed to open access to the US domestic market.

EU RESPONSE TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE VOLCANIC ASH CLOUD FOR AIR TRANSPORT

After listening to a report by the Commission, the Council had an exchange of views on the initiatives taken in response to the impact of the air traffic disruptions following the eruption of an Icelandic volcano in mid-April.

Ministers invited the Commission to continue its efforts along the lines described in its report. Some of them urged the Commission to speed up work, in particular with a view to rapidly establishing common procedures and standards for risk management. The Commission was also asked by some member states to look into further ways to improve the financial situation of the air industry, and to strike a fair balance between passenger rights, which must be maintained, and the financial burden on airlines when reviewing the EU legislation in this field. The presidency noted that there is political resolve in all European institutions to deal with the consequences of the ash cloud disruptions in a coordinated way.

At its extraordinary meeting on 4 May dedicated to the volcanic ash crisis, the Council had adopted conclusions which determined the lines of the EU response (see press release [9280/10](#)). The Commission reported that in order to implement the key elements of those conclusions, the following actions have been undertaken so far:

- As regards safety **risk management**, the EU's new approach is based on the three-zone scheme established by transport ministers on 19 April, defining a no-fly zone, a zone with possible flight restrictions and a zone without restrictions, according to the concentration of ash. The authorities concerned continue to apply that scheme on the basis of scientific assessments which are updated every six hours. In addition, the EU is preparing a coordinated position on risk management in the event of volcanic eruptions for the general assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in September.
- Work is in progress to define binding **limit values** for the impact of volcanic ash on aircraft engines.

- Implementation of the Single **European Sky** is being accelerated: a European Aviation Crisis Coordination Cell was created, and a coordinator tasked with facilitating and speeding up the establishment of functional airspace blocks between member states has been designated. Work on the appointment of a European network manager is also underway.

- As for the Council's call for the development of an **interlinked European transport** system making it possible to switch to other transport modes in an emergency, the Commission is assessing potential shortcomings in cooperation and intends to present a report on possible improvements and the way towards a European mobility action plan in the autumn.

ACTION PLAN ON URBAN MOBILITY - *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted conclusions on an action plan designed to help local, regional and national authorities attain the goal of sustainable, healthy and safe urban mobility.

The action plan ([14030/09](#)), adopted by the Commission in September 2009, consists of a support package of twenty measures, which will be implemented through existing EU programmes and instruments. The authorities concerned can draw on this support for their action on urban mobility issues, as they see fit.

In its conclusions the Council welcomes the action plan and supports in particular the establishment of an urban mobility observatory in the form of a virtual platform for the voluntary exchange of information and experience. The Council underlines the fact that improvements in the field of urban mobility can be most efficiently achieved through cooperation between competent public bodies. The measures to be promoted cover areas such as environmental and health issues, clean and energy-efficient technologies, infrastructure improvement, transport and town planning, goods delivery logistics, innovation and research, road safety and awareness raising.

For the full text of the conclusions, see doc. [10603/10](#).

THE ROLE OF TRANSPORT IN THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY

The Council held a debate on the contribution that transport policy can make to the new Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth adopted by the European Council on 17 June.

Ministers discussed the elements of the strategy which are of particular relevance for transport policy. They stressed the importance of initiatives aimed at promoting the move to energy-efficient, low-carbon transport, developing innovative transport technology, ensuring effective transport and logistics networks throughout the Union, and addressing missing links and bottlenecks, for instance as regards network interconnection. They also highlighted the key role of a well-functioning transport sector for the whole of the European economy.

Several member states emphasised the need to improve the competitiveness of the transport sector. A number of ministers, in particular from the new member states, called for increased investment, including through the cohesion fund, so as to enable all EU countries to create modern transport infrastructures.

The results of this debate will give input to the White Paper which the Commission intends to adopt by the end of this year and which will set out a vision for the EU transport policy for the next decade taking account of the targets in the Europe 2020 strategy.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Security scanners

The Council took note of a Commission communication on the use of security scanners at airports ([10865/10](#)). Considering that this screening method can reinforce passenger security, the Commission advocates common European standards to ensure detection performance and at the same time the protection of health, personal data and privacy. The Council invited the Commission to work on such harmonisation.

EU- Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) summit and EU-LAC civil aviation summit

The Council was informed by the presidency and the Commission about the results of the EU-Latin America and Caribbean summit, held in Madrid on 18 May 2020, and of the EU-LAC civil aviation summit, held in Rio de Janeiro on 24 and 25 May 2010.

The Madrid summit adopted an action plan for 2010 to 2012, focused on innovation and technology for sustainable development and social inclusion. This will also include support for sustainable transport, with the EU pledging financial help.

The summit in Rio de Janeiro, jointly organised by the Brazilian civil aviation authority, the Latin America Civil Aviation Commission and the European Commission, was the first ever EU-Latin America summit in the area of civil aviation. Several agreements and political declarations were initialled or signed.

Agreement with the US on interoperability between the EU and US air traffic management systems

The Council was briefed by the Commission on the successful conclusion of the negotiations with the US Federal Aviation Administration on a memorandum of cooperation in civil aviation research ([11345/10](#)). The agreement, initialled on 18 June, will constitute the basis for addressing any research and development issues in civil aviation. One of the first steps will be to ensure interoperability between the EU and US air traffic management modernisation programmes SESAR and NextGen, so that aircraft will be able to fly in US and EU airspace with the same navigation, communication and positioning equipment.

Galileo applications action plan

The Council took note of the Commission's action plan on global navigation satellite system (GNSS) applications ([11137/10](#)), which aims at making full use of the possibilities offered by the European EGNOS and Galileo satellite programmes. The plan identifies key areas for action and describes the measures the Commission intends to take. Fostering the development of GNSS applications will increase European industry's share in the global GNSS market and contribute to the promotion of a knowledge-based society.

TEN-T days 2010

The Council took note of information from the presidency and the Commission on the outcome of this year's annual ministerial conference on trans-European transport networks (TEN-T), which was held in Zaragoza (Spain) from 8 to 9 June 2010 ([11347/10](#)). Discussions at the conference focused on the methodology for drawing up the future TEN-T planning and implementation framework and on how to mobilise funding more effectively. The participants at the conference agreed that a list of criteria should be set up for choosing the projects that will constitute a "European core network".

Meeting of Baltic Sea transport ministers (Haparanda, Sweden, 16-17 June 2010)

The Swedish delegation briefed the Council on the results of a meeting in Sweden where transport ministers from Baltic Sea countries as well as representatives from the European Commission and China discussed the role of transport and infrastructure networks in optimising the resources of the Baltic Sea region ([11184/10](#)). The participation of China highlighted the potential of that region as a gateway between Asia and Europe.

High-level meeting on road safety: "road safety culture" (Madrid, 29 April 2010)

The presidency and the Commission informed the Council about the results of the recent high-level meeting of EU member states' road safety experts in Madrid, who discussed among other things the effects of alcohol, drugs and medication on drivers, and the prevention of accidents among motorcyclists ([11297/10](#)). Such meetings take place twice a year to allow member states to exchange experiences and best practice.

Working time of mobile road transport workers

The Commission informed the Council about the rejection by the European Parliament of the proposal for a modified directive on the working time of mobile road transport workers ([11411/10](#)). The Parliament did not accept the exclusion of self-employed workers from the scope of the directive. Given this situation, the Commission announced that it would withdraw its proposal. Consequently the current directive remains applicable.

Work programme of the incoming presidency

The Belgian delegation presented the incoming presidency's work programme in the transport sector, with sustainable transport, safety and security in transport, and innovation as overall priorities. Key topics include the "Eurovignette" proposal (that is, charging for infrastructure costs), a data exchange system for road offences, the second Single European Sky package, safety and security in air traffic, and the full integration of waterborne transport into the logistics chain.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

TRANSPORT

Guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network

The Council adopted a recast of a decision on guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, originally adopted in 1996. The recast (*PE-CONS [13/10](#) + Addenda 1 to 7*) includes the various amendments made to the decision over time and incorporates new amendments necessary to take account of the enlargement of the EU to 27 member states.

The guidelines constitute a general reference framework for projects of common interest which contribute to the development of the trans-European transport network. The objective is to establish such a network gradually by 2020, by integrating land, sea and air transport infrastructure networks throughout the Union.

Agreements on air services - Albania - Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Council adopted decisions approving the conclusion of agreements with Albania and with Bosnia and Herzegovina on certain aspects of air services. Both agreements were signed on 5 May 2006.

ENERGY

Notification of investment projects in energy infrastructure

The Council adopted the regulation concerning the notification to the Commission of investment projects in energy infrastructure within the European Community (*[7524/10](#) + [COR 1](#)*).

The aim of the regulation is to establish a common framework for the notification by member states of data and information on their projects regarding energy infrastructure in the oil, natural gas, electricity (including electricity from renewable sources) and biofuel sectors, as well as on investment projects related to the capture and storage of carbon dioxide.

The Energy Council reached political agreement on this proposal on 12 March and on that occasion the Commission presented a declaration concerning the templates for the notification by member states of the required data and information, which will be inserted in the minutes of Council ([8428/10](#)).

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

The Council adopted a decision on the conclusion of the Statute of the International Renewable Energy Agency by the European Union and on the exercise of its rights and obligations ([8612/10](#)).

Both the Union and its Member States have competences in the areas covered by the Statute which stipulates that regional intergovernmental economic integration organisations that become members will have to declare the extent of their competence.

The Council decision on the signing of the IRENA Statute was adopted in October 2009 ([13687/09](#)). As twenty five countries have already ratified the Statute, it will enter into force on 8 July 2010.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Europol-Colombia agreement on cooperation against criminality

The Council authorised the Director of Europol, the European Police Office, to conclude an operational cooperation agreement with Colombia in order to support the EU member states and Colombia in the fight against serious forms of international crime, in particular through the exchange of information.

Drug trafficking - threat assessment of airfields and light aircraft - *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Recalling that the Stockholm Programme¹ sets priorities for creating an area of freedom, security and justice and states that organized crime, drug trafficking and other serious crimes, continue to challenge the internal security of the European Union;

Mindful of the Internal Security Strategy of the European Union² in which it is emphasised that The European Council is convinced that the enhancement of actions at European level, combined with better coordination with actions at regional and national level, are essential to protection from trans-national threats.;

Reaffirming that the fight against trans-national crime is the first target of law enforcement cooperation and that Europol should be used as a hub for information exchange between the law enforcement authorities of the Member States, a service provider and a platform for law enforcement services;

Highlighting the European Strategy on Drugs (2005-2012)³, which considers that in the field of EU judicial and law enforcement drugs policy focus should be, among other priorities, on strengthening police and customs cooperation through the exchange of best practices, mainstreaming and strategic and operative analysis of the drug crime phenomena³;

Considering the EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012, which under priority 3 states that the EU needs more effective law enforcement at EU level to counter drug production and trafficking, making full use of the capacities of Europol and other EU structures⁴ ;

¹ Stockholm Programme, an open and secure Europe serving and protecting citizens (EU Official Journal 111 Published on 04.05.2010)

² EU Internal Security Strategy integrated in the Stockholm Agenda

³ EU Drugs Strategy (2005-2012) (15074/04 CORDROGUE 77)

⁴ EU Drugs Action Plan for 2009-2012, (16116/08 CORDROGUE 85)

Recalling the Council conclusions which set up the EU priorities regarding the fight against organized crime¹ and establish eight specific counter-measures for the Member States to confront drug trafficking using the West and Central African Route. Its eighth counter-measure mentions that, on the basis of risk analysis studies, there is a need to enhance the level of security checks and customs surveillance at small airports, which routinely escape the authorities' control especially in respect of small planes";

Recalling the second recommendation adopted by the VIII HONLEA Europe meeting, in which it was agreed that due to the growing use of non-commercial aircraft to traffic drugs using routes from North Africa to landing points in Europe, Governments must take immediate steps to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement authorities and the general aviation sector and to support authorities in gathering the information necessary and implementing the procedures required, in order to enable those authorities to respond more effectively to the growing trafficking threat;

Taking note of the Report - assessment carried out by the Spanish presidency of the Council of the European Union on the possible threat posed by airfields and medium, small size and light aircraft in relation to drug trafficking².

Agrees on the following:

To encourage Member States to carry out threat/risk assessments on the use of airfields and non-commercial aviation for drug trafficking.

To invite Member States to explore the possibility of establishing common minimum criteria to achieving more effective monitoring of non-commercial aviation.

To encourage Member States to consider facilitating the access of law enforcement agencies to flight plans and aircraft records.

¹ Draft Council conclusions setting the EU's priorities for the fight against organised crime based on the OCTA 2009 and the ROCTA (8301/3/09 REV 3 CRIMORG 54).

² 9927/10 CORDROGUE 50 + COR 1

To invite Member States to foster cooperation among the relevant bodies involved in the investigation of drug trafficking in the field of civil aviation, in particular police, customs services and the aviation communities.

To invite Europol, in cooperation with the European Commission, to promote the collection, exchange and dissemination of best practices in this field.

To encourage Europol to continue their works on the analysis of the threats posed by the use of non commercial aviation for drug trafficking, fostering information and intelligence sharing, in relation with the competent bodies of UNODC and, if appropriate, Interpol and the Council of Europe (Pompidou Group)."

FISHERIES

South Pacific Ocean - Convention on the management of high seas resources

The Council adopted a decision approving the signing of the Convention on the conservation and management of high seas fishery resources in the South Pacific Ocean, subject to the conclusion of the said Convention ([9825/10](#)).

SOCIAL POLICY

Better social protection for self-employed women and assisting spouses

The Council adopted a directive strengthening the social protection of self-employed workers and of "assisting spouses", thereby aiming to strengthen the principle of equal treatment between men and women who want to establish or extend a self-employed activity ([18/10](#) + [10899/10 ADD 1](#)). The adoption of the directive follows an agreement with the European Parliament at second reading.

The new directive entitles self-employed women and assisting female spouses of self-employed workers to maternity benefits for the first time and creates autonomous social protection rights for the assisting spouses of self-employed workers.

For more details, see press release [11299/10](#).

ENVIRONMENT**Persistent organic pollutants**

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption by the Commission of a regulation updating annexes I and III to regulation 850/2004, which implements the commitments set out in the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants in EU law.

AGRICULTURE**EFSA management board - Appointment of seven members**

The Council adopted a decision appointing half of the members of the management board of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to replace the members who will finish their term on 30 June 2010. The seven members nominated are Diana Bánáti, Manuel Barreto Dias, Marianne Elvander, Milan Kováč, Stella Michaelidou-Canna, Jan Mousing, and Pieter Vanthemsche.
