

Medlemmerne af Folketingets Europaudvalg
og deres stedfortrædere

Bilag
1

Journalnummer
400.C.2-0

Kontor
EUK

25. september 2003

Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges formandskabets kommenterede dagsorden vedrørende Det Europæiske Råds møde i Bruxelles den 16.-17. oktober 2003, 12724/03.

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 23 September 2003

12724/03

POLGEN 64

NOTE

From: The Presidency

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: *European Council (16/17 October 2003)*
– *Annotated draft agenda*

According to the Seville European Council Conclusions the General Affairs and External Relations Council, acting on a presidency proposal, shall draw up an annotated draft agenda at least four weeks before the meeting of the European Council.

The Presidency accordingly submits the following annotated draft agenda, which sets out the main items it expects the European Council to address in Brussels on 16/17 October. The revised final version of the annotated draft agenda which the Presidency will submit to the GAERC immediately preceding the European Council will take into account the outcome of relevant work in sectoral Councils (ECOFIN, TTE, JHA) meeting earlier in the month.

The Presidency furthermore recalls that Heads of State or Government will also meet as an Intergovernmental Conference on the new Constitutional Treaty in the margins of this European Council. For the sake of completeness, indications on the likely proceedings of the IGC will be contained in the revised version of this note.

o

o

o

A. INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE**p.m.****B. EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

The Presidency intends to limit the agenda to the following items:

- I. Relaunching the European economy
- II. Strengthening the area of freedom, security and justice
- III. External relations

I. RELAUNCHING THE EUROPEAN ECONOMY

After a period of uncertainty, some positive signs are emerging in Europe. An improvement in the international economic environment, low levels of inflation, stabilised oil prices and better conditions in the financial markets are key factors behind a pick up in economic activity, which is expected to begin in the second part of the year and strengthen in the course of 2004.

Since the situation remains fragile, a message of confidence in the European Union's economic future is needed. Enhancing sound macroeconomic policies, accelerating structural reforms and promoting investment in profitable infrastructure and human capital are key priorities. The expected pick up in economic activity should be used to strengthen budgetary consolidation with a view to improve the growth potential of the European economies and to ensure the long-term sustainability of public finances, as emphasised by the Brussels Spring European Council. To this end, appropriate measures aimed at relaunching growth along a number of axes should be taken, in the context of the Lisbon Strategy. The purpose of this European Council, without seeking to pre-empt the Spring 2004 rendez-vous, is to focus attention on certain areas of particular and immediate relevance to growth, in order to organise work and to offer guidance in view of concrete conclusions at the European Council on 12/13 December.

Boosting investment in key projects in a framework of sound macroeconomic policies

Speeding up the implementation of European physical networks and increasing investment in human capital while enhancing sound macroeconomic policies will be crucial for growth and help achieve an effective integration of the enlarged Europe, with significant gains in productivity.

To this end the European Council is expected to endorse the ECOFIN Council's report of 7 October in relation to the Initiative for Growth with a view to the ECOFIN Council's assessment prior to the European Council in December. The involvement of the private sector in financing European projects is a key component in making this programme a reality through the provision of additional and larger sources of private funding.

(Initiative for Growth – To be completed after the ECOFIN Council on 7 October)

Connecting the internal market

Completing a fully effective internal market also plays a vital role in boosting growth. Maximising its benefits requires modern, efficient transport infrastructure to ensure easy and equal access to and from all EU Member States, also in view of the upcoming enlargement. In this framework, the European Council is expected to give particular attention to the new Decision on the priority projects for transport TENs – accompanied by proposals intended to boost the volume and the efficiency of investment in those projects – and other proposals being examined by the TTE Council *(to be updated after the TTE Council on 9/10 October)*. To this end, a higher rate of Community co-financing and stronger coordination among Member States will be considered. This must be accompanied by a modern transport policy which accords due importance to considerations of safety and sustainability.

The completion of an integrated market for electricity and gas will enhance security of supply and competitiveness, giving further impetus to growth. In addition, the development of energy infrastructures will also ensure the full involvement of the new EU's neighbours and partner countries in the European market.

Enhancing the competitiveness and long-term growth potential of the European economy

Enhancing competitiveness remains a key to stimulating economic growth. In this regard, the European Council is expected to give concrete substance to the indications provided by Spring European Councils in the following areas:

- accelerating structural reforms across the board,
- evaluating the role of Industrial policy at European level, addressing general framework conditions for businesses
- implementing an effective better regulation (improved quality of legislation and simplification) at European and national level, in order to provide the appropriate environment for businesses,
- further extending and deepening the knowledge base, with investment in research and advanced technologies as well as in human capital playing a crucial role in this regard.

The European Council could also give consideration to how further action to enhance **sustainability** and **environmental protection** could contribute to boosting growth, while evaluating its impact on competitiveness.

Completing the integration of the Financial Markets

Fully integrated and stable financial markets will play a crucial role in channelling savings into productive investment and enhancing economic growth. The European Council is accordingly expected to call for rapid progress on all the outstanding components of the Financial Services Action Plan with a view to finalisation in accordance with the agreed timetable.

The European Council is also expected to give impetus for bringing work on the take-over bids Directive to a rapid and successful conclusion.

Reinforcing the social dimension

The systems of social protection play a vital role in achieving the goals set out in the Lisbon Strategy and reinforcing competitiveness while maintaining the European social cohesion model. The improvement of these systems requires reforms to be pursued in order to ensure their long-term sustainability, particularly in the context of the challenges posed by an ageing population.

The European Council is accordingly expected to consider and support the Member States on ways of enhancing the global and mutually-reinforcing nature of the Lisbon Strategy : on the one hand, by ensuring that social aspects are fully integrated into the Union's economic and employment policies, and on the other, by developing policies aimed at reforms of the labour market and preparing for the challenges posed by an ageing population, in particular the sustainability of pensions systems while maintaining their quality, adequacy and availability.

I. STRENGTHENING THE AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

Immigration, Frontiers And Asylum

The European Council conclusions are likely to include the following elements:

The European Council reaffirms the principles and priorities of the EU policies on immigration and asylum as set out in the European Councils in Thessaloniki, Seville, Laeken and Tampere. In the framework of a balanced approach between illegal migration and reception and integration of legal immigrants, it invites the Council and the Commission to continue the active implementation of the initiatives agreed upon in the field of migration and asylum. In this regard, the European Council recalls the priority of defining the pending proposals for Council directives in the field of asylum, in order to complete the legal framework provided for in the Treaty of Amsterdam.

At the same time, it underlines the urgency of full implementation of the Plan on the management of external borders, including the close coordination and monitoring of “Centres” and operational activities, . Furthermore, the European Council supports joint initiatives between Member States for border management, also on a regional basis. In this framework, the European Council invites the Commission to put forward as soon as possible a Communication on the possible creation of an Agency for the management of external borders, in time for the Council to discuss main issues at its 27/28 November session, . This Communication should draw on experience by the Common Unit activities [reflecting Thessaloniki point 13 and 14].

The European Council takes note of the results of the study launched by the Commission on maritime borders and invites the Council to draw up a work programme to be adopted by the end of the year.

The European Council reaffirms that the use of all appropriate instruments in the context of the EU's external relations should be an essential component of the EU's strategy to combat illegal migration. In this context, the European Council underlines the importance of an active partnership with third countries of origin and transit of migratory flows, in the framework of an overall integrated, comprehensive and balanced dialogue with those countries.

In this regard, it regrets the slow progress in concluding Community readmission agreements, invites the Commission, the Council and the Member States to set up a [package of instruments – to be clarified] in order to facilitate the successful conclusion of these agreements. It welcomes the Commission's initiation of a study into national legal immigration quotas and notes that each Member State is responsible for the number of legal immigrants admitted to its territory, in accordance with its law and reflecting its specific situation. The value of combining national quotas to support the Commission in its international negotiations on behalf of the Community shall be analysed and it invites all Member States, Accession States and Candidate States to cooperate fully with the Commission to this end [reflecting results of the informal JHA Council in Rome].

The European Council reaffirms the importance of solidarity in the implementation of a common return policy and in this framework invites the Commission to present proposals, taking into account the current financial perspectives and the financial envelope foreseen in Thessaloniki, to provide financial support for the repatriation in humane and dignified conditions to the main countries of origin and transit of flows of illegal immigration.

Judicial Cooperation

The European Council welcomes with satisfaction the approval of the Regulation on parental responsibility as a fundamental step to improve the legislative framework in civil proceedings concerning the custody and the protection of minors. This Regulation and the related international Conventions will also contribute to a better regime in this matter in the relationships with third countries. Furthermore, the Regulation is a major first step towards the construction of a European family law.

Recalling the Laeken Conclusion, the European Council reaffirms the importance of intensifying the fight against drug trafficking and the urgency of adopting the Commission proposal on the subject by the end of 2003.

II. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

p.m.

