

Medlemmerne af Folketingets Europaudvalg
og deres stedfortrædere

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Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges formandskabets udkast til konklusioner vedrørende Det Europæiske Råds møde i Bruxelles den 4.-5. november 2004, 13590/04.



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 15 October 2004

13590/04

LIMITE

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NOTE

From : The Presidency

To : Coreper

Subject : *European Council (4-5 November 2004)*
– *Draft conclusions*

The Presidency hereby submits to Coreper a first draft of the conclusions to be arrived at by the European Council.

In general, this draft will require updating in the weeks prior to the meeting of the European Council. This applies in particular to the paragraphs relating to the Lisbon Strategy and to Freedom, Security and Justice, which will be amended to take into account the outcome of relevant Council meetings.

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1. The European Council discussed in particular
 - issues in view of preparation of the Mid Term Review of the Lisbon Strategy
 - an area of Freedom, Security and Justice: the Hague Programme
 - communicating Europe

It also held discussions with the Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr Alawi.

2. The meeting of the European Council was preceded by an expose by the President of the European Parliament, Mr Josep Borrell, followed by an exchange of views.
3. The European Council met for the first time with the President of the new Commission, Mr José Manuel Barroso, participating. It expressed its desire to work constructively in the years ahead with both the newly elected Parliament and the new Commission.

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I. THE LISBON STRATEGY: PREPARING FOR THE MID TERM REVIEW

Economic prospects

4. The recovery in world trade and the improving international economic climate provide a favourable setting for an upturn in European economies, to be backed by sound budgetary policies in the Member States in accordance with the Stability and Growth Pact and the monetary policy pursued by the European Central Bank. The European Council expects this renewed confidence to be used to exploit and enhance European economies' growth potential to the full in 2005 in order to boost employment.
5. In this connection, the European Council confirmed the validity and relevance of the process it set in motion in Lisbon in March 2000 and welcomed the new European Commission's intention to make implementation of the Lisbon Strategy a key component of its policy.

Mid Term Review

6. The European Council welcomed a presentation by Mr Wim Kok, Chairman of the High Level Group advising the European Commission on its preparations for the Mid Term Review of the Lisbon Strategy in March 2005. The presentation was followed by an exchange of views.
7. The European Council invited the Commission and the Council, each within its respective sphere of responsibility, to take the report by the High Level Group into consideration in preparing the Mid Term Review of the Lisbon Strategy at the 2005 Spring European Council. The European Council welcomes the Commission's intention to bring forward concrete proposals in this regard and looks forward to further contributions with a view to the successful implementation of the Lisbon Strategy.
8. The European Council reviewed progress made in implementing the Lisbon Strategy since the Spring Council in March 2004. It noted in particular the following main issues.

Better regulation

9. The European Council reaffirmed the importance of better regulation in order to increase competitiveness and productivity. In this connection it:
 - welcomed the support by the Council for common principles for measuring the administrative burden of legislation on business as well as the intention of the Commission to present a Communication to this end;
 - furthermore welcomed the decisions of the Council in October on co-operation between the Commission and Member States on pilot projects to help define the envisaged common methodology for measuring administrative burden on business to be applied in impact assessments of European legislation;
 - called on the Council to continue its efforts to identify – before the end of 2004 – specific legislation or areas of legislation to be simplified as a matter of priority, in line with ongoing efforts to this end.

Completing the Internal Market

10. The European Council invited the Council

- to solve the outstanding issues in the Financial Services Action Plan and to reach agreement on the 8th Company Directive before the end of the year;
- to adopt, as a matter of urgency, the draft Directive on Services in 2005.

11. The European Council invited the Council to reach agreement on the Directive on the common system of taxation applicable to mergers, divisions, transfers of assets and exchanges of shares concerning companies of different Member States.

Research and development

12. The European Council reaffirmed the merit of enhanced support for basic research of the highest quality. It calls on the Council to examine the case for specific funding and to take up the proposals by the Commission, including the possible setting up of a Research Council.

13. The European Council reaffirmed its strong support for the efforts currently undertaken by the Commission to find a solution in the negotiations with international partners on the host site of ITER and for the European candidate, Cadarache. It invited the Council to reach agreement in November 2004 on the main elements of the future international agreement on ITER .

Environment

14. The European Council underlined the potential of eco-efficient innovations for enhancing growth and competitiveness with a view to reaching the Lisbon goals. It called on the Commission and the Council to propose, in their inputs to the 2005 Spring European Council, practical actions to enable the Union to benefit from the synergies between eco-efficiency and growth.

15. The European Council reaffirmed its commitment to the Kyoto Protocol and called on all countries that have not yet done so to ratify it as a matter of urgency. The European Council welcomed the steps taken by Russia to start the national process of ratification.

Employment and mobility

16. The European Council welcomed the proposal of the Commission to revise the Working Time Directive and urged the Council to reach agreement without delay, preferably before the end of this year.
17. The European Council welcomed the agreement on a single framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass) and urged the Council to adopt the Temporary Workers Directive.

II. AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE: THE HAGUE PROGRAMME

18. The security of the European Union and its Member States has acquired a new urgency, especially in the light of the terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001 and in Madrid on 11 March 2004. The citizens of Europe rightly expect the European Union, while guaranteeing respect for fundamental freedoms and rights, to take a more effective, joint approach to cross-border problems such as terrorism, organised crime, irregular migratory flows and smuggling of human beings.
19. Five years after the European Council's meeting in Tampere, when it agreed on a programme which laid the foundation for important achievements in the area of freedom, security and justice, it is time for a new agenda to enable the Union to build on these achievements and to effectively meet the new challenges it will face. To this end, it adopted a new multi-annual agenda for the next five years. This agenda reflects the ambitions as expressed in the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe and contributes to the preparation of the Union for its entering into force. It takes full account of the evaluation by the Commission as welcomed by

the European Council in June 2004. This agenda, to be known as the Hague Programme, is attached to these conclusions.

20. The Hague Programme covers all aspects of policies relating to the area of freedom, security and justice, notably fundamental rights and citizenship, asylum and migration including border management, integration the fight against terrorism and organised crime, justice and police cooperation, and civil law, while a drugs strategy will be added in December 2004. In conjunction, the European Council considers that creating appropriate European legal instruments and strengthening practical and operational cooperation between relevant national agencies as well as timely implementation of agreed measures are of vital importance.
21. In the light of this Programme, the European Council welcomes the intention of the Commission to present an Action Plan in 2005 with proposals, and a timetable for their adoption and implementation. Furthermore, it invites the Commission to present to the Council a regular update on implementation of Union measures ("scoreboard"). Member States shall provide the relevant information to this end. In this context, the European Council emphasised the importance of transparency and the involvement of the European Parliament.
22. The European Council called on the Council to ensure that the timetable for each of the various measures is observed and to regularly review progress relating to the Hague Programme.
23. The European Council noted that when drawing up the Financial Framework 2007-2013 due account should be taken of the financial implications of the multi-annual agenda for the area of freedom, security and justice.
24. The European Council will review progress on the Hague Programme soon after the entry into force of the Constitution.

III. COMMUNICATING EUROPE

25. The European Council reiterated the need to strengthen awareness among citizens of the importance of the work of the Union and welcomes the outcome of the meeting of the Ministers of European Affairs dedicated to this subject. It encourages also future presidencies to continue discussion of this matter, including examination of possibilities for televised public debates on European issues prior to European Council meetings. The peoples of Europe hold essential values in common and politicians both at the national and the European level have a responsibility to convince citizens of the relevance of European cooperation and to involve Europeans, through public debate and active citizenship, in decision making.
26. The European Council welcomes the special emphasis that the Commission places on communication, as demonstrated by the appointment of a Vice President responsible for Communication. It invited the Commission to present its communication strategy in good time before the June 2005 European Council.
27. The European Council reiterated that the process of ratification of the Constitution provides an important opportunity to inform the public about European issues. Member States may share information and experiences on this process, notwithstanding that campaigns relating to national referendums remain a responsibility of the Member States.

IV. ENLARGEMENT

28. The European Council heard a presentation by the President of the European Commission on the Progress Reports, the Strategy Paper on Enlargement and Recommendations regarding the four candidate states as well as the study on issues relating to possible accession by Turkey to the European Union published by the Commission on 6 October 2004.

29. The European Council confirmed that, in line with previous conclusions, it will address outstanding enlargement issues at its meeting in December 2004.

V. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

P.M.
