



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 5 February 2007

5950/07

POLGEN 18

NOTE

from : Presidency
to : Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject : *European Council (8 and 9 March 2007)*
 – *Annotated draft agenda*

In accordance with Article 2(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, 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.

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The Presidency intends to limit the agenda of the European Council to those items that will actually be discussed by the Heads of State and Government on 8 and 9 March 2007. The European Council conclusions should primarily contain operative and forward looking decisions. The conclusions themselves should be short and focused.

The meeting will be preceded by an exposé by the new President of the European Parliament, Mr Hans-Gert Pötering, followed by an exchange of views.

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Europe – succeeding together:

For a competitive, social and environmentally-sustainable Europe

I. Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Employment

The European Council is expected to note that the Lisbon Strategy is bearing fruit and to welcome the Commission's Annual Progress Report. The European Council will be invited to endorse the country-specific recommendations for the Member States and the Eurozone. The European Council should also adopt measures to further improve governance within the Lisbon Strategy.

The European Council is expected to call for action within the following areas:

- a. growth- and stability-oriented financial and economic policy*
- b. strengthening of the Internal Market (including financial market integration) and strengthening Europe's competitiveness*
- c. strengthening innovation, research and education*
- d. fostering employment and developing the European Social Model*

II. Better Regulation

The European Council is expected to emphasize the three elements of Better Regulation and will be invited to call for further measures as regards:

- *better legislation*
- *simplification (supporting the Commission's programme)*
- *reducing administrative burdens (including a quantitative target)*

III. An integrated energy and climate policy

Energy policy

In order to achieve the three central objectives of the EU's Energy policy - security of supply, competitiveness and environmental sustainability – the European Council will be invited to adopt the EU Energy Action Plan, which will be attached to the Conclusions, and to emphasize its key measures.

Climate protection

The European Council will be invited to call on the EU to take a leading role in international climate protection; and to develop and strengthen EU emission trading.

Foreign Relations (if necessary)

Current international issues where European Council discussion appears necessary.
