



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: COREPER/Council

Subject: *European Council (10 and 11 December 2009)*
– *Draft conclusions*

Delegations will find attached the draft conclusions of the European Council.

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The meeting of the European Council was preceded by an exposé by the President of the European Parliament, Mr Jerzy Buzek, followed by an exchange of views.

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I. Institutional issues

1. The European Council welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December. The Treaty provides the Union with a stable and lasting institutional framework and will allow the Union to fully concentrate on addressing the challenges ahead.
2. The intensive preparatory work conducted during the Swedish Presidency has allowed for a smooth entry into force of the Treaty. On 1 December Mr. Herman Van Rompuy took office as President of the European Council and Baroness Catherine Ashton as High Representative of the Union of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.
3. The European Council invites the High Representative to rapidly present the proposal on the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service with a view to its adoption, together with the related legal acts, by the end of April 2010.
4. The European Council welcomes the launch by the Commission of a public consultation on the citizens' initiative. It invites the Commission to present a legislative proposal as soon as possible, with a view to its adoption within the first half of 2010.

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II. The economic, financial and employment situation

p.m. [to be completed after the Ecofin Council]

5. The EU has for some time been facing important structural challenges. Therefore the EU launched the Lisbon strategy ten years ago. This strategy has been useful but has not delivered all the results the EU had hoped for. The time has now come for refocusing policies towards long-term reforms in an ambitious post-2010 Lisbon Strategy. Against the background of the economic and social impact of the financial crisis and the challenges posed by ageing and by climate change, we need a coherent strategy more than ever. This will be crucial for the future success of the European social models.

6. The EU and the Member States need to deliver on a set of key areas:
 - **Strengthening the Internal Market and capture the benefits from external trade and openness.** A well functioning Internal Market and trade openness are key for increasing productivity, competitiveness and growth. An external agenda should capture the benefits from external trade and openness and provide a solid foundation for further trade liberalisation in a global context.

 - **Promoting knowledge-based growth.** Europe needs to make full use of every individual's potential through efficient investment in research, high quality education and training and to assure equal access to lifelong learning. Young people's transition to the labour market needs to be supported. Integrating higher education, research and innovation needs to be implemented and the ambition of an European Research Area and Higher Education Area fulfilled.

 - **Ensuring sustainable public finances to promote credibility for future welfare obligations.** Fiscal sustainability is key for sustainable economic growth, for future investments and to met fundamental welfare obligations. Policy actions need to be taken to reduce debt burden and restore confidence in public finances in line with agreed fiscal exit strategy.

- **Establishing inclusive labour markets to promote growth and social cohesion and ensure gender equality.** Europe needs to fully unlock its labour potential and increase its long-term labour supply with the objective of full employment. This calls for structural reforms, active labour market policies and active social security policies. Unlocking the potential of women on the labour market, will boost growth potential and employment. An efficient, flexible and demand-driven labour migration policy will contribute to meeting Europe's present and future labour needs.

 - **Creating opportunities through a greener economy and an innovative business climate.** Policies to create an eco-efficient economy should be designed to go hand in hand with keeping Europe competitive, creating growth and jobs. Better framework conditions are central to enhance resource and energy efficiency, encouraging entrepreneurship not least small and medium sized enterprises, together with ambitious policies for the digital agenda and efficient transport systems.
7. The European Council agreed that a new strategy needs a more transparent and efficient governance structure, emphasising implementation and results. Monitoring and evaluating policy measures are crucial. It calls for a more tailor made approach including better use of country-specific recommendations. The national ownership of the strategy must be strengthened through a more active involvement of regional and local authorities as well as social partners.

 8. The European Council takes note of the launching by the Commission of a consultation on the future "EU 2020 Strategy" and looks forward to an ambitious proposal from the Commission early 2010 on a new invigorated strategy in view of a full discussion at the Spring 2010 European Council.

Progress towards a long-term Sustainable Development

9. Sustainable development remains a fundamental objective of the European Union under the Lisbon Treaty. As emphasised in the Presidency's report on the 2009 review of the Union's Sustainable Development Strategy (doc. XXXX/09) the strategy will continue to provide a long term vision and constitute the overarching policy framework for all Union policies and strategies.
10. A number of sustainable trends require urgent action. For example, significant additional efforts are needed to curb and adapt to climate change, high energy consumption in the transport sector and to reverse the current loss of biodiversity. The shift to a safe and sustainable low-carbon and low-input economy will require a stronger focus in the future. Priority actions of the Strategy should be more clearly specified in future reviews. The governance of the Strategy, including monitoring and follow up mechanisms should be reinforced for example through clearer links to the future EU 2020 strategy and other cross cutting strategies.

Budget review

11. The European Council recalls the invitation to the Commission to carry out a comprehensive review covering all aspects of EU spending and resources and to report in 2008/2009. The European Council invites the Commission to come forward with a report no later than July in order for the Council to provide orientations on priorities during 2010.

III. The Stockholm Programme - An open and secure Europe serving the citizens

12. Five years after the Hague Programme it is time for the Union to review its policy to effectively meet the new challenges. To this end the European Council adopted a new multi-annual programme for the years 2010-2014, the Stockholm Programme.

13. The European Council considers that the priority for the coming years shall be to focus on the interests and needs of the citizens and other persons for whom the EU has a responsibility. The challenge will be to ensure respect for fundamental freedoms and integrity while guaranteeing security in Europe. It is of paramount importance that law enforcement measures and measures to safeguard individual rights, the rule of law and international protection rules are coherent and mutually reinforcing. The Stockholm programme focuses on the following main priorities:
- **Promoting citizenship and fundamental rights:** European citizenship must become a tangible reality. The area of freedom, security and justice must above all be a single area in which fundamental rights are protected. Respect for the human person and human dignity and for the other rights set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights are core values. For example, the exercise of these freedoms and citizens' privacy must be preserved beyond national borders, especially by protecting personal data.
 - **A Europe of law and justice:** The achievement of a European area of justice must be consolidated. Priority should be given to mechanisms that facilitate access to justice, so that people can enforce their rights throughout the Union. Cooperation between public professionals in the area of justice and their training should be improved, and resources should be mobilised to eliminate barriers to the recognition of legal acts in other Member States.
 - **Europe that protects:** An internal security strategy should be developed in order to improve security in the Union and thus protect the lives and safety of European citizens. It should tackle organised crime, terrorism and other threats. The strategy should also aim at strengthening cooperation in law enforcement, border management, civil protection, disaster management as well as criminal judicial cooperation.

- **Access to Europe in a globalised world:** Access to Europe for businessmen, tourists, students, scientists, workers, persons in need of international protection and others having a legitimate interest to access EU territory has to be made more efficient. At the same time, the Union and its Member States have to guarantee security for its citizens. Integrated border management and visa policies should be construed to serve these goals.

 - **A Europe of responsibility, solidarity and partnership in migration and asylum matters:** The development of a forward-looking and comprehensive European migration policy, based on solidarity and responsibility remains a key policy objective. Well-managed migration can be beneficial to all stakeholders and the EU should work towards flexible admission systems and a closer match between immigration and the needs of the EU labour market. The Global Approach to Migration and the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum provides a clear basis for further development in this field. The objective to establish a common asylum system remains and people in need of protection must be ensured access to legally safe and efficient asylum procedures. It is necessary to prevent and control illegal immigration. A European response is required to address migratory challenges at the Union's external borders in line with the European Council conclusions of June and October 2009.

 - **The role of Europe in a globalised world – the external dimension:** The importance of the external dimension of the EU's policy in the area of freedom, security and justice underlines the need for increased integration of these policies into the external policies of the European Union.
14. The European Council invites the Commission to present an Action Plan for implementing the Stockholm Programme in the first semester of 2010 and to submit a midterm review before June 2012.

IV. Working towards an agreement at the Copenhagen conference on climate change

15. The Copenhagen Conference constitutes a historic opportunity for the international community to act together to respond to the challenge of climate change. All Parties must devote themselves fully to reaching a global, comprehensive and substantial Copenhagen Agreement that will include all key issues and parts of the Bali Action plan. A prerequisite for a Copenhagen Agreement is that it uses commonly agreed, transparent, international standards for measurement, reporting and verification of greenhouse gases, thus ensuring transparency of actions and commitments. The agreement should establish a process that aims at finalising a legally binding agreement within six months after the Copenhagen Conference for the period starting 1 January 2013.
16. The European Council welcomes in this context the recent pledges from a number of countries. Our common objective must be to stay within the science-based two degree limit for global warming. Some Parties have not yet presented offers corresponding to this objective. The European Council urges them to do so without further delay.
17. The European Union continues to be at the forefront of efforts to fight climate change. As part of a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012, the EU reiterates its conditional offer to move to a 30% reduction by 2020 compared to 1990 levels, provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and that developing countries contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities.
18. The Copenhagen agreement should include provisions on immediate action after Copenhagen starting in 2010 and acknowledges that this requires scaled up financial support. Fast-start international public support should imply specific and separate support for adaptation, mitigation and capacity building. The EU calls on developed countries to announce their contributions to such support. The EU is ready to contribute with fast start funding of at least [X] billion Euros for the years 2010 to 2012.

V. **External relations** (poss.)

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