



**COUNCIL OF  
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from : Presidency  
to : Delegations  
Subject : **BRUSSELS EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
19/20 MARCH 2009**

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**PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS**

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Delegations will find attached the revised version of the Presidency Conclusions of the Brussels European Council (19/20 March 2009).

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13. Macro-financial stability is an essential element for the resilience of the European economy as a whole. Stressing the solidarity between Member States as a fundamental value of the EU, the European Council invites the Commission and the Council to take the necessary measures in order to be prepared, if needed, to act on a case-by-case basis, on the basis of all available instruments and where appropriate in close cooperation with International Financial Institutions. In particular, the Community stands ready to provide balance of payments support for eligible Member States that need it and, to this end, welcomes the Commission's intention to make a proposal for doubling the ceiling for the Union's support facility for balance-of-payments assistance to EUR 50 billion.

***Making full use of the renewed Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs***

14. In the current crisis, the renewed Lisbon Strategy, including the current Integrated Guidelines, remains the effective framework for fostering sustainable growth and jobs. The crisis underlines the need to pursue and accelerate structural reforms, which will bolster the credibility and impact of stimulus measures. The short-term measures taken by the EU and the Member States will bring maximum benefits if they are in line with the medium- and long-term objectives of the Strategy.
15. The European Council endorses the updated country-specific integrated recommendations for the economic and employment policies of the Member States and calls for their swift implementation. In this context, the European Council looks forward to the proposals on the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy the Commission will present during the second half of this year.

16. Work should be speeded up and concrete measures taken urgently in the following areas: removing barriers while preventing the creation of new ones and achieving a fully operational internal market; further reducing administrative burdens; improving framework conditions for industry in order to maintain a strong industrial base and for businesses with a special focus on SMEs and innovation; encouraging partnership between business, research, education and training; and stepping up and improving the quality of investment in research, knowledge, and education. In particular as regards the reduction of administrative burdens, the Commission is invited to present all proposals in each of the 13 priority areas before the end of its mandate. The strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training is of vital importance.
17. In line with the conclusions of its December 2008 meeting the European Council recalled the fundamental role of telecommunications and broadband development in terms of European investment, job creation and overall economic recovery. Taking account of the risks taken by the investing undertakings, efficient investment and innovation in new and enhanced infrastructure should be promoted. To this end, various cooperative arrangements between investors and access seeking parties to diversify the risk of investment should be permitted, whilst ensuring that the competitive structure of the whole market and the principle of non-discrimination are maintained. In this context, it invites the Commission to develop a European broadband strategy, by the end of 2009, in close cooperation with stakeholders.
18. Recognising that free and fair trade is a key element for global recovery, the European Council calls for a swift conclusion of bilateral trade negotiations and of the WTO Doha Development Agenda.

***Tackling the social impact of the crisis***

19. The rapid increase in unemployment is a cause of great concern. It is important to prevent and limit job losses and negative social impacts. Stimulating employment, in particular by promoting the acquisition of the new skills required by new jobs, is also a priority. Building on solidarity and allowing social protection systems to fully play their role as automatic stabilisers are key to restoring and strengthening confidence and help pave the way for recovery. Mobility has also proven to significantly contribute to economic growth. Particular attention should be given to the most vulnerable and to new risks of exclusion.
  
20. The Employment Summit to be held in May 2009 will allow for an exchange of experiences on the extent to which the recovery measures taken have succeeded in supporting employment. It will examine in particular issues such as maintaining employment levels through flexicurity and mobility, upgrading skills and anticipating labour market needs, with a view to identifying concrete orientations. It will also be an opportunity to look at strengthening and restructuring the labour market so as to prepare it for the future. The Summit will be prepared in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including the social partners.

***Working together at the global level***

21. A global crisis requires global responses. Coordinated and timely action is necessary to put the global economy back on track towards recovery. In line with the outcome of the Berlin Summit and the G20 ministerial meeting, the EU is doing its part to support demand and will take what action is necessary. Our efforts need to be adequately reflected at the international level.

22. The European Union will take a leading role at the global level in promoting a swift return to sustainable economic growth; strengthening our ability to manage crises; bringing forward the reform of financial markets; and supporting developing countries in order to avoid putting at risk the progress achieved in recent years, thus undermining their economic and political stability. The G20 Summit in London has a crucial role to play in reshaping the global financial system and rebuilding the confidence of economic actors across the world. To that end, the European Council adopts the joint position set out in Annex I and invites the Council and the Commission to ensure appropriate follow-up to the Summit. bla-bla
23. On these matters, the European Union will seek to promote multilateral consultative mechanisms in which regional groupings could participate.

✓ **II. Energy and climate change** Nai  
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*Enhancing the Union's energy security*

24. Energy security is a key priority which needs to be enhanced by improving energy efficiency, diversifying energy suppliers, sources and supply routes, and promoting the Union's energy interests vis-à-vis third countries. In order to deliver on energy security, the EU collectively, as well as each Member State, must be prepared to combine solidarity with responsibility. In that light, the European Council endorses the broad initiatives set out in the Second Strategic Energy Review (SER) and further refined in the Council (TTE) conclusions of 19 February 2009. In particular, it agrees on the following:

- Energy infrastructures and interconnections must be developed. To that end, the Commission, in cooperation with Member States, is invited to rapidly present the detailed actions required to realise the priority areas identified in the SER<sup>1</sup>. These actions are without prejudice to other agreed priority energy projects. Looking to the longer term, the Commission is invited to present early in 2010 its proposal for a new EU Energy Security and Infrastructure Instrument.
  
- The recent gas crisis has demonstrated the urgent need to establish adequate crisis mechanisms in the EU as well as to work to obtain clear guarantees from suppliers and transit partners that supplies will not be interrupted. The Council should examine by the end of 2009 the forthcoming Commission proposals to revise legislation on the security of gas supply. This should include an appropriate crisis mechanism ensuring the preparedness of all actors, including the energy industry, transparency and prior information through the development of EU and regional plans for security of supply; solidarity among Member States through the development of regional plans; and improved assessment and coordination through the redefinition of the threshold for deciding actions at Community level.
  
- The promotion of energy efficiency can make a major contribution to energy security. The European Council therefore calls on the Council to agree, before the end of the year, on the proposals contained in the Energy Efficiency Package. It invites the Commission to rapidly propose a revision of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan.
  
- An efficient, liberalised and well connected internal energy market is a prerequisite for an effective policy on energy security. Therefore the European Council calls on the Council and the European Parliament to conclude an agreement on the third package for the Internal Energy Market before the parliamentary recess.

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<sup>1</sup> Southern Gas Corridor, a diverse and adequate LNG supply for Europe, effective interconnection of the Baltic region, the Mediterranean Energy Ring, adequate North-South gas and electricity interconnection within Central and SE Europe and the North Sea and North West Offshore Grid.

- Stressing the importance of diversifying sources, fuels and routes of energy supply, the European Council underlines the increasingly important part played by energy in the EU's external relations. It invites the Commission to present by the end of the year proposals for concrete action on the development of the Southern corridor including a mechanism to facilitate access to Caspian gas. It is of particular importance for the EU and its Member States to continue delivering consistent messages ("speaking with one voice") to supplier and transit countries.
  
- The European Council also recalls the need to make the best use of its own energy resources, including renewables, fossil fuels and, in countries which choose to do so, nuclear energy.

### *Preparing the Copenhagen Conference on climate change*

25. The European Union remains committed to playing a leading role in bringing about a global and comprehensive climate agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009 designed to limit global warming to below 2°C. To this end, the European Council recalls the EU's commitment to a 30% emission reduction as its contribution to such an agreement provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and that advanced developing countries contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities. The Council conclusions of March 2009 set out in more detail the efforts the EU expects from developed and developing countries, including the need for the overall target for developed countries to be distributed in a manner that is fair and ensures the comparability of efforts.
  
26. The European Council emphasises the importance of building a global carbon market, including a reformed Clean Development Mechanism.

27. Significant domestic and external sources of finance, both private and public, will be required for financing mitigation and adaptation actions, particularly in the most vulnerable developing countries. The European Union will take on its fair share of financing such actions in developing countries. Future discussions on generating financial support should focus on, *inter alia*, different approaches, including a contributory approach based on an agreed scale, market-based approaches based on auctioning arrangements or a combination of these and other options.
28. The European Council will further discuss these issues at its June meeting. The European Council underlines the need to explore in more detail international financing mechanisms. It will determine well in advance of the Copenhagen Conference 1) the EU positions on main approaches for financing mitigation, adaptation, technology support and capacity building, 2) the specifics of the EU's contribution and 3) principles of burden sharing among Member States. This will be done on the basis of concrete proposals by the Commission. In this context, the European Union will pay special attention to the needs of the most vulnerable developing countries.

### **III. European Neighbourhood Policy**

#### ***Eastern Partnership***

29. Promoting stability, good governance and economic development in its Eastern neighbourhood is of strategic importance for the European Union. In line with the Commission communication of 3 December 2008, the European Council welcomes the establishment of an ambitious Eastern Partnership and adopts the Declaration annexed to these conclusions. It calls for all necessary preparations to be made for the Eastern Partnership launching summit with the partner countries on 7 May 2009.