



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
MAIN TOPICS FOR THE COMING FORTNIGHT¹

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- <http://video.consilium.europa.eu> (live webcast of public deliberations, public debates and press conferences)

and

- <http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu> (audiovisual material available for download in broadcast quality)

For photo coverage: <http://consilium.europa.eu/photo>

Thursday 11 February 2010

Informal meeting of EU heads of state or government

The President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, convened an informal meeting of the Union's heads of state or government to discuss the economic strategy, climate change and the situation in Haiti.

With respect to the current financial and economic crisis, EU leaders are due to have an exchange of views on how to overcome the short-term challenges and how to press ahead with the structural changes necessary to secure economic recovery and to sustain future economic growth and job creation.

Concerning the fight against climate change, they will reflect on the lessons to be drawn from the Copenhagen Conference and on how the negotiation process can best be taken forward.

As regards the situation in Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake, the leaders are expected to consider how, after the emergency help, the EU can give further support to reconstruction.

Event

Informal meeting of EU heads of state or government in Brussels.

A press conference will be held at the Justus Lipsius building at the end of the meeting.

For additional information concerning the meeting, including media accreditation, see

European Council section on: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu>

Contacts

Spokesperson of the President of the European Council:

Dirk De Backer, tel. +32 2 281 97 68, dirk.debacker@consilium.europa.eu

Deputy spokesperson of the President of the European Council:

Jesús Carmona, tel. +32 2 281 95 48, jesus.carmona@consilium.europa.eu

Head of press office:

Nicolas Kerleroux, tel. +32 2 281 82 39, nicolas.kerleroux@consilium.europa.eu

Monday 15 February 2010

Education and training for the Europe of 2020

As a contribution to the ongoing preparations for the future "EU 2020" strategy, the Union's education ministers will hold, in public debate, an exchange of views on the role of education and training in Europe's efforts to promote growth and jobs.

Moreover, the Council and the Commission will adopt their joint progress report on the implementation of the "Education & Training 2010" work programme.

Background

The "EU 2020" strategy currently under preparation will be a new strategy for growth and jobs for the period after 2010, designed to succeed the ten-year programme known as the Lisbon Strategy adopted a decade ago. In a knowledge-based economy, education and lifelong learning are bound to play a vital role.

The joint report to be adopted focuses on progress towards agreed education and training objectives during the period 2007-2009. It is based on an assessment of national reports and performance against a set of indicators and reference levels of European average performance ("benchmarks"). The main focus is on the implementation of the 2006 recommendation on key competences. In addition, the report covers national lifelong learning strategies, reforms in the fields of vocational education and training and of higher education as well as newly identified challenges.

Further information

- Joint progress report of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the "Education & Training 2010" work programme ([5394/10](#))

Event

Meeting of the Education, Youth and Culture Council (education items only) - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels (10.00).

The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room on Friday 12 February at 14.30. A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/currentcouncilsessions>

Contacts

Press officer: Susanne Kiefer, tel.: +32 2 281 94 42, susanne.kiefer@consilium.europa.eu

Spanish presidency: Beatriz Monge Moreno, tel. + 32 479 951 221, beatriz.monge@reper.maec.es

Tuesday 16 February 2010

Overview of the agenda of the ECOFIN Council

The Council is expected to discuss implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact, in particular as regards Greece.

It is also expected to adopt a recommendation on the appointment of the vice-president of the European Central Bank, and conclusions on the Services Directive.

Moreover, the Council will adopt a recommendation to the European Parliament on the discharge to be given to the Commission for implementation of the budget for 2008.

In the margins of the Council, the following events will take place:

Monday 15 February

- Macro-economic dialogue with the social partners (13.30 -15.30)
- Eurogroup meeting (17.00)

Further information

- Resolution of the European Council on the Stability and Growth Pact (OJ C 236/97);
- Directive 2006/123/EC on services in the internal market (OJ L 376/2006);
- Commission Communication "Driving European Recovery" ([7084/09](#)).

Event

Meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (starting with a ministerial breakfast at 09.00) - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels

The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room on Friday 12 February at 09.30

A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

For full information concerning this meeting, please see:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/currentcouncilsessions>

Contacts

Press officer: François Head, tel. + 32 2 281 60 83, francois.head@consilium.europa.eu

Spanish presidency: Ana De Miguel Langa, tel. + 32 476 460 723, ana.demiguel@reper.maec.es

OTHER EVENTS

7 - 9 February 2010 (San Sebastián, Spain):

- Informal meeting of ministers in charge of competitiveness issues
<http://www.eu2010.es/>

12 - 13 February 2010 (La Coruña, Spain):

- Informal meeting of transport ministers
<http://www.eu2010.es/>

15 February 2010 (Madrid, Spain):

- EU-Brazil Ministerial Meeting
<http://www.eu2010.es/>

17- 18 February 2010 (Segovia, Spain):

- Informal meeting of development ministers
<http://www.eu2010.es/>

19 February 2010 (Madrid, Spain):

- Informal Regional Policy Ministers Meeting
<http://www.eu2010.es/>
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