



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

GENERAL AFFAIRS



06.11.09

The Upcoming General Affairs Council Meeting 16/17th November

At its General Affairs session, the Council will discuss the post-Lisbon strategy and Lisbon strategy for jobs growth and will proceed with the preparation of the European Council meeting of 10 and 11 December.

As regards the external relations session, the Council will discuss Russia, in view of the EU-Russia summit, Ukraine and Somalia.

The GAERC meeting will be marked by the presence of the ministers for defence and the ministers for development. In a joint session, foreign ministers and their defence colleagues will discuss Bosnia-Herzegovina/Althea operation and the ESDP, on which the Council will adopt conclusions.

The ministers for defence are due to discuss military capabilities, and more precisely the EDA's (European Defence Agency) activities and the EUNAVFOR Atalanta as well as broader engagement of the EU in Somalia.

The ministers for development will focus on the following items: operational framework on aid effectiveness, climate change and development and policy coherence for development. The Council may adopt conclusions on some of these issues.

The following events are also scheduled in the margins of the Council meeting:

- Association Council with Jordan (troika)
- EEA Council
- OSCE (ministerial troika)
- Informal meeting with the NATO Secretary-General
- EDA Steering Board (Defence Ministers)



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- Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference
- MoD Troika with Candidates Countries

Lisbon Treaty

Klaus ratifies the Treaty of Lisbon – 03/11/2009

On the news that Vaclav Klaus has signed the bill ratifying the Treaty of Lisbon in the Czech Republic, European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek said that this was great news and news that everyone was waiting for a long time. The signing completes the ratification in all 27 Member States and the Treaty of Lisbon. The Treaty which greatly enhances the powers of the European Parliament can now enter into force before the end of the year. The European Parliament can now proceed with the hearings of the new Commission as quickly as possible. The European Parliament will be ready as of the 25 November to start the hearings of the new Commissioners- designate as there is the need of a new and strong European Commission in place as soon as possible to continue tackling essential issues such as climate change etc. [Click here](#) for more info

Anti-dumping

COM (2009) 573 – Report from the Commission to the European Parliament 27th annual report on the community's anti-dumping, anti-subsidy and safeguard activities (2008)

This is a report on the community's anti-dumping, anti-subsidy and safeguard activities for the year 2008. It is being submitted to the European Parliament following its resolution of 16 December 1981. The report concludes that 2008 saw a significant increase in the number of new cases initiated in comparison to 2007 as well as an increase in definitive measures imposed. However, there was a considerable drop in the number of investigations terminated without the imposition of measures and the number of provisional measures imposed.

Statistics

Euro area unemployment up to 9.7%, EU27 up to 9.2% - 30/10/2009

The euro area (EA16)¹ seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 9.7% in September 2009, compared with 9.6% in August. It was 7.7% in September 2008. The EU27 unemployment rate

¹ The euro area (EA16) consists of Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.



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was 9.2% in September 2009, compared with 9.1% in August. It was 7.1% in September 2008. For the euro area this is the highest rate since January 1999 and for the EU27 since the start of the series in January 2000.

Eurostat estimates that 22.123 million men and women in the EU27, of which 15.324 million were in the euro area, were unemployed in September 2009. Compared with August, the number of persons unemployed increased by 286 000 in the EU27 and by 184 000 in the euro area. Compared with September 2008, unemployment went up by 5.011 million in the EU27 and by 3.204 million in the euro area. [Click here](#) for further details

Industrial producer prices down by 0.4% in euro area and down by 0.7% in EU27 – 04/11/2009

In September 2009 compared with August 2009, the industrial producer price index fell by 0.4% in the euro area (EA16) and by 0.7% in the EU27. In August, prices increased by 0.5% in both zones. In September 2009 compared with September 2008, industrial producer prices dropped by 7.7% in the euro area and by 7.3% in the EU27. [Click here](#) for more info

EU - India Summit

An EU27 surplus in trade in goods with India of 2.1 bn euro in 2008 and surplus of 1.5 bn in trade in services – 04/11/2009

Between 2000 and 2008, EU27 trade in goods with India more than doubled in value: exports rose from 13.7 billion euro to 31.6 bn, while imports increased from 12.8 bn to 29.5 bn. As a result, the EU27 surplus in trade with India increased from 0.8 bn in 2000 to 2.1 bn in 2008. India accounted in 2008 for 2.4% of EU27 exports and 1.9% of EU27 imports, and was the EU27's 10th most important trading partner.

In the first half of 2009 the value of EU27 exports to India fell to 12.7 bn euro, compared with 15.7 bn in the first half of 2008, and imports decreased to 12.9 bn from 14.9 bn. As a result, the EU27 trade balance with India moved from a surplus of 0.8 bn in the first half of 2008 to a deficit of 0.2 bn in the same period of 2009. It should be noted that the fall in the value of EU27 trade with India recorded between the first half of 2008 and the first half of 2009 is in line with the general downward trend in the EU27's total external trade over the same period.

On the occasion of the 10th European Union - India summit which will take place on 6 November in New Delhi, Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, issues data on trade and investments between India and the EU. [Click here](#) for further info.

These figures are published by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities.



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EU - USA Summit

EU27 surplus in trade in goods with the USA down by half in the first six months of 2009,
Surplus of 4 bn in trade in services in 2008

The EU27 has a structural, but decreasing, surplus in trade in goods with the USA. This surplus rose steadily from 32 billion euro in 2000 to a peak of 94 bn in 2006, but has fallen for the last two years, to reach 63 bn in 2008. In the first half of 2009, the EU27 trade surplus with the USA continued to fall, reaching 16 bn, compared with 33 bn in the same period of 2008.

On the occasion of the European Union - USA summit which took place on 3 November, Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, issues data on trade and investments between USA and the EU. [Click here](#) for further details

EU-US Summit in Washington puts global challenges at centre of discussion – 03/11/2009

The first EU – US Summit with the new US Administration was held on Tuesday, 3 November in Washington D.C. At the Summit, whereby the Leaders will discuss how the EU and the US can co-operate to tackle global challenges, like economic recovery and growth, climate change and effective assistance to developing countries. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Middle East and Iran are expected to be the major foreign policy issues. An important outcome of the Summit will be the launch of the EU-US Energy Council which held its first meeting the day after the Summit. While looking at global energy security, new technologies and research, the Energy Council aims at stepping up political interaction in this field.

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Other Matters

European Globalisation Fund

COM (2009) 602 - Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund

The Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 allows for the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) through a flexibility mechanism, within the annual ceiling of EUR 500 million over and above the relevant headings of the financial framework. Eligibility rules applicable to the contributions from the Fund are laid down in Regulation EC N°



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1927/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 establishing the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF). This Regulation has been last amended by Regulation (EC) N° 546/2009 which broadens the scope for application of EGF. The amended Regulation is applicable for applications received as of 1 May 2009.

For the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2009, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) shall be mobilised to provide the sum of EUR 15 931 423 in commitment and payment appropriations.