



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

GENERAL AFFAIRS



20.11.09

Informal Meeting of EU Heads of State or Government

19 November 2009

The Heads of State or Government of the EU noted that the Lisbon Treaty will enter into force on 1 December 2009.

The Lisbon Treaty will provide the Union with a permanent President of the European Council and a High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy that will enhance continuity and strengthen the Union's role in the international arena.

The Heads of State or Government reached a political agreement on the following appointments:

- President of the European Council- Mr Herman VAN ROMPUY will be the President of the European Council. He will be elected by the European Council, for a period of two and a half years, renewable once.
- High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy - Ms Catherine ASHTON will be the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. She will be appointed by the European Council, with the agreement of the President of the Commission. The President of the Commission, the High Representative and the other members of the Commission will be subject as a body to a vote of consent by the European Parliament.
- Secretary-General of the Council - Mr Pierre de BOISSIEU will be the Secretary-General of the Council. He will be appointed by the Council.

The formal decisions on these appointments will be taken once the Treaty of Lisbon has entered into force, on 1 December 2009. For further reference [click here](#)



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Anti-dumping duties

COM (2009) 625 - Proposal for a Council Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of furfuryl alcohol originating in the People's Republic of China following an expiry review pursuant to Article 11(2) of Regulation (EC) No 384/96

In October 2003 the Council imposed definitive anti-dumping measures in the form of a specific duty on imports of furfuryl alcohol originating in China. When these measures were about to expire in May 2008, the Commission received a request for a review.

Following an expiry review investigation, the Commission came to the conclusion that a recurrence of dumping and a recurrence of injury towards the Community industry are possible. Hence, the Commission is proposing that the Council adopt the proposed Regulation in order to extend the measures currently in force for a period of two years.

Council Conclusions

Main results of the GAERC Council
17 November 2009

The Council conducted its six-monthly review of developments and projects in the field of European Security and Defence Policy, in the presence of defence ministers. In particular, it:

- underlined the contribution of EUNAVFOR- ATALANTA to maritime security off the coast of Somalia by protecting World Food Programme chartered vessels delivering aid, vessels supplying critical shipments to the AU peace support operation in Somalia (Amisom), and other vulnerable vessels, notably in the Gulf of Aden and in the Somali Basin. It agreed to extend Operation ATALANTA for another year following the end of the current mandate on 12 December. Finally, the Council approved a crisis management concept on a possible ESDP mission to contribute to the training of TFG security forces.
- welcomed further progress in preparatory planning work for the possible future development of Operation ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina towards a non-executive capacity-building and training operation. It reiterated that a decision on the matter would necessarily take account of political developments, including the future role of the EU special representative;



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Development ministers held their six-monthly meeting within the Council. They adopted an operational framework on aid effectiveness containing key measures to reduce the burden on developing countries and to contribute to a more effective delivery of aid.

Furthermore, the Council took note of final preparations for the EU-Russia and EU-Ukraine summits which will be held respectively in Stockholm on 18 November and Kiev on 4 December.

The Council reviewed the situation in Belarus and decided to extend until October 2010 the restrictive measures provided for by Common Position 2006/276 CFSP, as extended by Common Position 2009/314/CFSP. However, in order to encourage progress in the areas identified by the EU, the Council decided at the same time to extend the suspension of the application of the travel restrictions imposed on certain officials of Belarus. [Click here](#) to view more

The Council asked the Commission to give its opinion on Albania's application to join the European Union. [Click here](#) to view more

Regional Policy

COM (2009) 617 – Report from the Commission 20th Annual Report on implementation of the Structural Funds (2008)

This report is presented in accordance with Article 45(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds. It covers the activities linked to Structural Funds 2000-2006 assistance during 2008. Moreover, further detailed information is available in the Commission Staff Working Document (attached to this report).

Other News

COM (2009) 622/3 - Green Paper on a European Citizens' Initiative

The Lisbon Treaty introduces a new form of public participation in European Union policy shaping, the European citizens' initiative, which enables one million citizens who are nationals of a significant number of Member States to call directly on the European Commission to bring forward an initiative of interest to them in an area of EU competence.

Before citizens can start exercising this new right, a few ground rules and procedures have to be laid down in an EU regulation. Given the importance of this new tool for citizens, civil society and stakeholders across the EU, the Commission has opened a broad public consultation in



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order to seek the views of all interested parties on how the citizens' initiative should work in practice. The Commission's Green Paper which launches this consultation, gives an overview of the legal, administrative and practical issues that will need to be addressed by the Regulation and asks a number of questions to which interested parties are invited to respond by 31st January 2010.

Contributions are welcome from citizens, organisations and public authorities.

- If one is answering this consultation as a **citizen**, one can [click here](#) to submit their contribution.
- If one is answering this consultation on behalf of an **organisation**, one can [click here](#) to submit contribution.
- If one is answering this consultation on behalf of a **public authority**, one can [click here](#) to submit their contribution.

COM (2009) 620 - Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of a protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union

COM (2009) 621 - Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and the provisional application of a protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union

These two proposals relate to the conclusion and the signing of the said agreement respectively. According to Article 6(2) of the Act annexed to the Treaty of Accession of the new Member States to the EU, accession of the new Member States to the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement is to be agreed by means of a protocol to that Agreement. The same article provides for a simplified procedure, whereby the protocol is to be concluded by the Council, acting unanimously on behalf of the Member States, and by the third country concerned. This procedure is without prejudice to the Community's own competences.

On 23 October 2006 the Council authorised the Commission, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, to negotiate with Tunisia a protocol amending the agreements concluded between the European Community and third countries, in particular the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Tunisia, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the new Member States to the EU.



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The negotiations with Tunisia have since been completed to the satisfaction of the Commission. Tunisia marked its agreement in an exchange of letters which was concluded on 25 June 2009. The attached proposal concerns a Council Decision on the conclusion of the protocol.

The text of the protocol negotiated with Tunisia is attached. The most important aspects of the protocol are the provisions for the accession of the new Member States to the EU-Tunisia Association Agreement, and the inclusion of the new official languages of the EU, to take account of the enlargement of the EU.

The Commission asks the Council to approve the attached proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the protocol. The European Parliament will be called upon to give its assent to this protocol.

COM (2009) 631 - Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing on behalf of the European Community and provisional application of the Framework Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Korea, of the other part

Acting on a recommendation from the Commission (December 2007), the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate a new Framework Agreement with the Republic of Korea (hereinafter 'Korea') in May 2008. Korea is increasingly active on the international scene as a like-minded country committed to human rights, free markets and multilateralism. Next to a thriving trade and investment relationship, cooperation is also expanding in areas such as science and technology, education, climate change and development assistance. Political dialogue has also deepened in recent years, particularly (but not exclusively) focused on North Korea. This new Framework Agreement, negotiated in parallel with a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA), will establish a fully coherent modernised framework for bilateral relations. Following successful negotiations, the negotiators initialled the Framework Agreement on 14 October 2009.

The Framework Agreement forms the contractual basis for our relationship with Korea and is underpinned by a broad set of common principles and shared values. Its objective is to offer Korea a broad basis for cooperation with the EU, including on major political and global issues. It includes modern and comprehensive provisions on economic cooperation. It allows for cooperation in the field of justice, freedom and security (e.g. combating organised crime and corruption, drugs and money laundering, migration, protection of personal data, etc.) as well as on good governance in the field of taxation. It introduces a basis for working together on global issues such as: climate change; security of energy supply; approaches to labour issues, education and other issues relating to structural change in the world economy; proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; terrorism; and a shared understanding on the need to prosecute



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the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. It also clarifies the relationship between, on the one hand, the Framework Agreement and, on the other hand, specific sectoral agreements (both existing and future), including the FTA. Such agreements are considered to form “an integral part of overall bilateral relations as governed by [the Framework-Agreement]” and to “form part of a common institutional framework”.

The Framework Agreement will be the first contractual instrument of its kind concluded by the EU with a developed country. When in force, the Framework Agreement will form the basis for a Strategic Partnership with Korea, in line with the outcome of the 4th EU-Korea Summit held in Seoul on 23 May 2009.

COM (2009) 638 - Proposal for a Council Regulation repealing Regulation (EC) No 1859/2005 imposing certain restrictive measures in respect of Uzbekistan

- On 14 November 2005, Council adopted Regulation (EC) No 1859/2005 imposing certain restrictive measures in respect of Uzbekistan.
- This Regulation was adopted further to Common Position 2005/792/CFSP of the same date. The relevant restrictive measures were extended by Common Positions 2006/787/CFSP, 2007/734/CFSP and 2008/843/CFSP and are due to expire on 13 November 2009.
- On 27 October 2009, Council concluded that the measures would not be extended further.
- The Commission proposes therefore that Regulation (EC) No 1859/2005 be repealed with effect from 14 November 2009.