



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 3 February 2014

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NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Committee of Permanent Representatives / General Affairs Council
Subject:	European Council (20 and 21 March 2014) - Annotated draft agenda

In accordance with Article 3(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Council, the President of the European Council, in close cooperation with the member of the European Council representing the Member State holding the six-monthly Presidency of the Council and with the President of the Commission, shall submit an annotated draft agenda to the General Affairs Council.

Delegations will find attached the annotated draft agenda submitted by the President of the European Council, setting out the main items the European Council is expected to address on 20 and 21 March 2014.

In the light of the final discussion to be held by the General Affairs Council within the five days preceding the European Council meeting, the President of the European Council shall draw up the provisional agenda.

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I. GROWTH, COMPETITIVENESS AND JOBS

A) The European Semester

The European Council will conclude the first phase of the European Semester by:

- assessing overall progress made in implementing the 2013 country-specific recommendations;
- providing guidance to Member States on their 2014 Stability and Convergence Programmes and National Reform Programmes for the implementation of the priorities set out in the Commission's Annual Growth Survey and as agreed at the December 2013 European Council.

On the basis of a mid-term review provided by the Commission, the European Council will take stock of the situation concerning the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy and provide guidance as appropriate.

B) Industrial competitiveness

The European Council will underline the importance of a strong and competitive European industrial base as a driver for economic growth and jobs. Building on the Commission's recent Communication, it will highlight some of the key issues to be addressed, such as the cost of energy in industrial production, the skills mismatch, infrastructure development, patenting, global value chains, smart specialisation and KETs.

C) Climate and Energy

The European Council will hold a first policy debate on the basis of the Commission Communication on a framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030. The European Council will also look at the state of implementation of the May 2013 European Council conclusions on energy.

PM: Single Resolution Mechanism (Results of legislative work and the IGC)

PM: Taxation (Results of Council work)

II. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The European Council will look at the state of preparations for the upcoming EU-Africa summit and have an in-depth policy debate on our relations with Africa.

In the light of events, the European Council may address other specific foreign policy issues.