



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 20 February 2009

6681/09

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NOTE

from : Presidency

to : Council

Subject : *European Council (19 and 20 March 2009)*
 - Annotated draft agenda

In accordance with Article 2(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure the General Affairs and External Relations Council, acting on a Presidency proposal, draws up an annotated draft agenda at least four weeks before the meeting of the European Council.

The Presidency accordingly submits the following annotated draft agenda, which sets out the main items it expects the European Council to address on 19 and 20 March 2009. Work on many of those issues is in hand and the Presidency will draw on the outcome of that work in continuing preparations for the European Council.

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The Presidency intends to restrict the agenda for the European Council to the items which will actually be examined by the Heads of State and Government. The conclusions of the meeting will be brief and will focus principally on the decisions and general policies approved by the European Council.

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I. Economic and financial situation

The European Council will:

- take stock of progress achieved in ensuring greater stability, supervision and transparency of financial markets and consider further measures as necessary, particularly in the light of the recommendations expected from the High Level group established by the Commission last October;
- assess the implementation of the European Economic Recovery Plan, and if necessary consider additional measures;
- reiterate the commitment of Member States to return to medium-term budgetary targets as soon as possible, in accordance with the Stability and Growth Pact and keeping pace with economic recovery, setting the path towards a coordinated budgetary consolidation;
- stress the increased importance of making renewed progress in implementing the Lisbon Strategy in all its pillars, paying particular attention to the employment situation, and endorse the country-specific integrated recommendations;
- underline the determination of Member States to adhere to fundamental principles of the Internal Market and the need to make further progress in deepening the functioning of the Internal Market;
- establish the Union's position in view of the G-20 Summit to be held on 2 April 2009, including the international trade and financial architecture agenda (annexed to EC Conclusions).

II. Energy and climate change

The European Council will be invited, in accordance with the Second Strategic Energy Review/An EU Energy Security and Solidarity Action Plan, to agree on a set of concrete orientations in the following areas, aimed at enhancing the Union's energy security in the medium and longer term:

- developing energy infrastructures in Europe;
- improving gas and oil stocks and crisis response mechanisms in the interests of security of supply;
- improving energy efficiency;
- diversifying the Union's sources and routes of energy supply, including renewables;
- and promoting the Union's energy interests in its relations with all relevant partner countries.

The European Council will also reiterate the importance of a functional and efficient internal energy market.

Furthermore, the European Council will lay down orientations with a view to the Copenhagen Climate Change conference, including scaling up finance and investment flows for both mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing countries, including mechanisms for research and transfer of sustainable low-carbon technology.

III. External relations

The European Council will approve the Eastern Partnership initiative with a view to the summit to be held with the partner countries in May.

It may also take stock of developments regarding the Union for the Mediterranean.

IV. Treaty of Lisbon

Further to the conclusions of its meeting of December 2008, the European Council will receive an update from the Taoiseach.