



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 23 January 2012

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CO EUR-PREP 2

NOTE

from:	the General Secretariat
to:	Committee of Permanent Representatives / General Affairs Council
Subject:	European Council (1-2 March 2012) - 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 1-2 March 2012.

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. ECONOMIC POLICY

The European Council will review the economic situation in Europe. It will conclude the first phase of the European Semester by:

- assessing progress made in implementing the 2011 European Semester country-specific recommendations and commitments under the Euro Plus Pact;
- giving guidance to Member States, based on the Commission's Annual Growth Survey, to be incorporated into their National Reform Programmes and Stability or Convergence Programmes;
- putting a particular emphasis on labour market reforms, employment and competitiveness;
- and providing guidance to Commission and the Council on the implementation of flagship initiatives.

The European Council will, on the basis of a report by the Presidency, track progress on the implementation of its February 2011 conclusions on innovation and, where appropriate, set new orientations.

The European Council will be informed by its President of the follow-up given to the 8 December 2011 meeting of euro area Heads of State or government, in particular regarding the further deepening of fiscal integration within the euro area as well as relations between the EU and the euro area.

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In the margins of the European Council, the treaty on stability, coordination and governance in the economic and monetary union will be signed.

II. INTERNATIONAL SUMMITS

The European Council will discuss the preparations for the forthcoming G8 and G20 summits to take place on 19-20 May and 18-19 June 2012 respectively.

It will also prepare the UN "Rio +20" conference to be held on 20-22 June 2012.

III. OTHER ITEMS

In line with its December 2011 conclusions, the European Council will be invited to confirm the decision expected from Council in February 2012 on granting candidate status to Serbia.

p.m. Schengen - accession of Bulgaria and Romania

p.m. in the light of events, the European Council may need to address some foreign policy issues