

DER 4.-5.11.04
bilag 4

Medlemmerne af Folketingets Europaudvalg
og deres stedfortrædere

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Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges formandskabets reviderede udkast til konklusioner vedrørende Det Europæiske Råds møde i Bruxelles den 4.-5. november 2004, 13803/04.

P. B. Olsen



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 22 October 2004

13803/04

LIMITE

POLGEN 41

NOTE

From : The Presidency

To : Coreper

Subject : *European Council (4-5 November 2004)*
- Draft conclusions

The Presidency hereby submits to Coreper a revised draft of the conclusions to be arrived at by the European Council.

This draft may require updating in order to reflect the outcome of the JHA Council (25/26 October 2004).

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1. The European Council discussed in particular
 - preparation of the Mid Term Review of the Lisbon Strategy
 - an area of Freedom, Security and Justice: the Hague Programme
 - communicating EuropeIt also held discussions with the Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr Allawi.
2. The meeting of the European Council was preceded by an expose by the President of the European Parliament, Mr Josep Borrell, followed by an exchange of views.
3. The European Council met for the first time with the President of the new Commission, Mr José Manuel Barroso, participating. It expressed its desire to work constructively in the years ahead with both the newly elected Parliament and the new Commission.

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I. THE LISBON STRATEGY: PREPARING FOR THE MID TERM REVIEW

4. The European Council confirmed the validity and relevance of the process it set in motion in Lisbon in March 2000 aimed at enhancing substantially the competitiveness of European economies through a balanced strategy with an economic, social and environmental dimension. It encouraged the Council to build on the progress made since the Spring meeting and to maintain the momentum of its work. It reiterated the importance of the implementation of agreed measures by the Member States.
5. The European Council stressed the importance of the Mid Term Review at the 2005 Spring European Council for providing renewed impetus to the Lisbon Strategy. In this connection it welcomed a presentation by Mr Wim Kok, Chairman of the High Level Group advising the Commission on its preparations for the Mid Term Review. The presentation was followed by an exchange of views.

6. The European Council welcomed the new European Commission's intention to make implementation of the Lisbon Strategy a key component of its policy. In this connection it invited the President of the Commission, on the basis of the Report by the High Level Group chaired by Mr Kok and taking into account views of Member States, to bring forward proposals by the end of January 2005 for the Mid Term Review. The European Council invited the Council to examine these proposals in good time and looks forward to further concrete contributions with a view to the successful implementation of the Lisbon Strategy in all its dimensions to promote sustainable economic growth and employment.
7. The European Council took note of the exchange of views at the Tripartite Social Summit and, recognising the key role social partners play at all levels in relation to modernisation of the labour market and anticipation of change, invited them to commit to the Mid Term Review on a more effective implementation of the Lisbon Strategy.
8. The European Council noted with satisfaction that a programme of actions was undertaken to drive the joint initiative on better regulation forward. EU institutions have made good progress towards developing a common methodology for impact assessments and adapting working methods for the simplification programme, as foreseen in the Inter Institutional Agreement on Better Lawmaking.

The European Council further welcomed

- the recommendations by the Economic Policy Committee regarding a common methodology for measuring administrative burdens;
- the Commission's intention to present shortly a communication on this issue;
- the cooperation between the Commission and Member States in pilot projects aiming at the further determination of this methodology, to be completed as soon as possible in 2005.

The European Council called on the Commission to implement the methodology in its guidelines for impact assessments and working methods for simplification after finalisation of the pilots.

The European Council welcomed the progress made by the Commission, Member States and the Council towards establishing Council priorities for simplification of existing Community legislation and invited the Commission to include these in its rolling simplification programme. It noted that the priorities are likely to be identified in the [agriculture, environment, e-commerce, transport and statistics] sectors. It invited the Council to pursue work primarily within these selected sectors and to identify, at its November meeting, agreed priorities in the form of a shortlist of 10-15 legal acts.

The 2005 Spring Council will discuss better regulation in the context of the Lisbon Mid Term Review.

II. AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE: THE HAGUE PROGRAMME

9. The security of the European Union and its Member States has acquired a new urgency, especially in the light of the terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001 and in Madrid on 11 March 2004. The citizens of Europe rightly expect the European Union, while guaranteeing respect for fundamental freedoms and rights, to take a more effective, joint approach to cross-border problems such as terrorism, organised crime, illegal migration as well as trafficking in and smuggling of human beings.

10. Five years after the European Council's meeting in Tampere, when it agreed on a programme which laid the foundation for important achievements in the area of freedom, security and justice, it is time for a new programme to enable the Union to build on these achievements and to effectively meet the new challenges it will face. To this end, it adopted a new multi-annual programme for the next five years, to be known as the Hague Programme, which is attached to these conclusions. This programme reflects the ambitions as expressed in the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe and contributes to the preparation of the Union for its entering into force. It takes full account of the evaluation by the Commission as welcomed by the European Council in June 2004 as well as the Recommendation on the use of qualified majority voting and co-decision procedure adopted by the European Parliament on 14 October 2004.

11. The Hague Programme deals with all aspects of policies relating to the area of freedom, security and justice including their external dimension, notably fundamental rights and citizenship, asylum and migration including border management, integration, the fight against terrorism and organised crime, justice and police cooperation, and civil law, while a drugs strategy will be added in December 2004. In conjunction, the European Council considers that creating appropriate European legal instruments and strengthening practical and operational cooperation between relevant national agencies as well as timely implementation of agreed measures are of vital importance.
12. In the light of this Programme, the European Council invites the Commission to present an Action Plan in 2005 with proposals for concrete actions and a timetable for their adoption and implementation. Furthermore, it invites the Commission to present to the Council an annual report on implementation of Union measures ("scoreboard"). Member States shall provide the relevant information to this end. In this context, the European Council emphasised the importance of transparency and the involvement of the European Parliament.
13. The European Council called on the Council to ensure that the timetable for each of the various measures is observed.
14. Without prejudice to the eventual Financial Framework 2007-2013, the European Council noted that due account should be taken of the financial implications of the multi-annual agenda for the area of freedom, security and justice.
15. The European Council will review progress on the Hague Programme in the second half of 2006.

III. COMMUNICATING EUROPE

16. The European Council reiterated the need to strengthen awareness among citizens of the importance of the work of the Union and welcomes the outcome of the meeting of the Ministers of European Affairs dedicated to this subject. It encourages also future presidencies to continue discussion of this matter, including examination of possibilities for televised public debates on European issues prior to European Council meetings. The citizens of Europe hold essential values in common and politicians both at the national and the European level have a responsibility to communicate the relevance of European cooperation and to involve Europeans, through public debate and active citizenship, in decision making.
17. The European Council welcomed the special emphasis that the Commission places on communication, as demonstrated by the appointment of a Vice President responsible for Communication. It welcomed the Commission's intention to present its communication strategy in good time before the June 2005 European Council.
18. The European Council reiterated that the process of ratification of the Constitutional Treaty provides an important opportunity to inform the public about European issues. Member States may share information and experiences on this process, notwithstanding that campaigns relating to ratification remain the national responsibility of each Member State.

IV. ENLARGEMENT

19. The European Council heard a presentation by the President of the European Commission on the Progress Reports, the Strategy Paper on Enlargement and Recommendations regarding the four candidate states as well as the study on Issues arising from Turkey's membership perspective published by the Commission on 6 October 2004.
20. The European Council confirmed that, in line with previous conclusions, it will address outstanding enlargement issues at its meeting in December 2004.

V. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Sudan

These conclusions will be prepared by PSC on 26 October and will include language on possible further EU support to the African Union in its efforts to stabilise the situation in Darfur.

Iraq

21. The European Council met Iraqi Prime Minister Allawi to discuss the situation in Iraq and reiterated its strong support for the Iraqi Interim Government. It welcomed the Iraqi determination to continue the political process and assured the Prime Minister that the European Union will continue to support the brave and difficult course the people of Iraq are steering towards the restoration of security, democracy and the rule of law. In this context, the European Council adopted the attached Declaration and encouraged the Council and the Commission to take the necessary action for its implementation as a matter of urgency.

The text of the draft Declaration is to be circulated later in view of discussions still taking place in the Council framework on the basis of the report of the Fact Finding Mission.

Middle East

The SG/HR will present his plans regarding the short and medium term (as announced at the GAERC of 11 October) at the GAERC of 2 November. Draft conclusions will therefore only become available shortly before the European Council.

Iran

The Presidency will propose a draft text for these conclusions shortly before the European Council.