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POLGEN 33

NOTE

From : The Presidency

To : Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject : *European Council (20/21 June 2003)*
– *Annotated draft agenda*

According to the Seville European Council Conclusions the General Affairs and External Relations Council, acting on a presidency proposal, shall draw 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 in Thessaloniki on 20/21 June. Work on many of those questions is ongoing or will commence shortly and the Presidency will, as appropriate, draw on the outcome of that work when submitting a revised final version of the annotated draft agenda to the meeting of the GAERC immediately preceding the European Council.

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The Presidency intends to limit the agenda to the following items:

1. Convention / IGC
2. Asylum and immigration
3. Enlargement
4. Western Balkans
5. New Neighbours
6. Follow-up of the 2003 Spring European Council
7. External relations

The meeting will be preceded by an exposé by the President of the European Parliament, Mr. Pat Cox, followed by an exchange of views.

1. CONVENTION / IGC

The European Council will hear a presentation by President Giscard d'Estaing and discuss the final document containing the outcome of the Convention's work intended to provide a starting point for discussions in the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference. In this context, it is expected to take the political decision to launch the Conference by inviting the Council to initiate [at its meeting in July] [as soon as possible] the procedure for amending the Treaties laid down in Article 48 TEU. This should enable the Conference to start its work in [.....] 2003 and to conclude if possible by the end of the year and, in any event, well before the European Parliament elections.

2. ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION

- The European Council is expected to examine the reports listed below and give guidance on further action to be taken in these fields:

- a report by the Commission and the Council on the practical implementation of the guidelines agreed at the Seville European Council on measures to combat illegal immigration, more gradual introduction of the coordinated, integrated management of external borders, the integration of immigration policy into the Union's relations with third countries and speeding up legislative work on the framing of a common policy on asylum and immigration,
- a report from the Commission on the effectiveness of financial resources available at Community level for the repatriation of immigrants and rejected asylum seekers, for the management of external borders and for asylum and migration projects in third countries as well as on the principle of burden-sharing.
- It is furthermore expected that in accordance with the conclusions of the 2003 Spring European Council the European Council will return to the question of immigration, the integration of legal migrants and employment and be seized of a report on new approaches to international protection.

3. ENLARGEMENT

The European Council is expected to take stock of progress and indicate the way ahead in the enlargement process.

4. WESTERN BALKANS

The European Council is expected to endorse GAERC conclusions on ways of further strengthening the Union's Stability and Association policy for the Western Balkans region and approve the Joint Declaration of the EU/Western Balkans Summit on 21 June.

5. NEW NEIGHBOURS

The European Council is also expected to endorse GAERC conclusions on enhanced relations with the Union's new neighbours (Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, southern Mediterranean countries).

6. FOLLOW-UP OF THE 2003 SPRING EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The European Council is expected to

- endorse, as is customary, the draft Broad Economic Policy Guidelines and the draft Employment guidelines discussed in the ECOFIN and EPSCO Councils respectively;
- welcome, on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Presidency, progress achieved in implementing the various remits issued by the 2003 Spring European Council as well as certain other remits linked to the Lisbon Strategy.

7. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- The European Council is expected to
 - take note of, and where appropriate endorse, the regular reports on progress achieved on developing ESDP, the implementation of the EU common strategy on Russia and the implementation of the EU programme for the prevention of violent conflicts,
 - consider recommendations from the High Representative for an overall strategy in the field of foreign policy and security and, in this context, agree a number of basic principles for a comprehensive, coherent and effective European policy on weapons of mass destruction,
 - discuss future EU/US relations in view of the Summit on 25 June.
- The European Council is likely furthermore to address, if necessary, issues arising out of the latest developments on the international scene.