



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 12 May 2004

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NOTE

From : The Presidency

To : Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject : *European Council (17-18 June 2004)*
– *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, 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 Brussels on 17-18 June. Work on many of those questions is in hand or will begin shortly and the Presidency will draw on the outcome of that work when submitting a further version of the annotated draft agenda.

The Presidency further recalls that on the occasion of the European Council Heads of State or Government will also meet in an InterGovernmental Conference which is expected to reach agreement on the new Constitutional Treaty.

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

- I. Appointments
- II. Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
- III. Terrorism
- IV. Enlargement
- V. Financial Perspectives
- VI. Economic Issues and Employment
- VII. External Affairs/CFSP/ESDP

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

I. APPOINTMENTS

The European Council is expected to

- nominate the person it intends to appoint as the next President of the Commission;
- designate the Secretary General of the Council/High Representative for CFSP and the Deputy Secretary General of the Council for the period as from 18 October 2004.

II. AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

The European Council is expected, on the basis of a Communication from the Commission, to initiate the process for the further development of policies in the area of justice and home affairs, building on the achievements of the Tampere programme.

III. TERRORISM

The European Council is expected to consider, on the basis of a detailed report from the Council in co-operation with the Secretary-General/High Representative and the Commission, the state of implementation of the measures set out in the Declaration on combating terrorism of 25 March 2004. It will also consider proposals by the Secretary General/High Representative for the integration within the Council Secretariat of an intelligence capacity on all aspects of the terrorist threat.

IV. ENLARGEMENT

The European Council is expected

- as regards **Bulgaria** and **Romania**, to reflect the state of play in the accession negotiations.
- as regards **Turkey**, to note the progress made in its reform efforts ahead of the decision to be taken by the European Council in December.
- as regards **Croatia**, to take a decision on the recommendation in the Commission Opinion that negotiations for accession to the European Union should be opened with Croatia.

V. FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVES

The European Council, which will have an analytical report from the Presidency based on the study conducted in Coreper of the Commission Communication, is expected to indicate a process for the further handling of this dossier.

VI. ECONOMIC ISSUES AND EMPLOYMENT

The European Council is expected to

- endorse the Employment Guidelines for 2004 and the recommendations to the Member States as agreed by the EPSCO Council on 1/2 June;

- note progress achieved on a number of major policy files relevant to the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy.

VII. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/CFSP/ESDP

The European Council is expected to

- consider a report from the Presidency on implementation of the four areas agreed for initial action under the **European Security Strategy**
- endorse the regular six-monthly report on **progress in ESDP**, including the work programme for the incoming Presidency;
- approve a **European Neighbourhood Strategy**, on the basis of a report from the Commission;
- consider a final report from the Presidency, Council Secretariat and Commission on the EU strategic partnership with the **Mediterranean and the Middle East**;
- consider the medium-term strategy for the EU's relations with **Iraq** to be presented by the High Representative and the Commission;
- consider the annual Presidency report on implementation of the EU Programme for the **prevention of violent conflicts**

If warranted by urgent developments, the European Council may address other situations in the external relations area.