



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

**Brussels, 7 March 2012**

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**LIMITE**

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**DRAFT MINUTES**

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Subject: Meeting of the EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
held on 1 and 2 March 2012

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**1. Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament**

The President of the European Parliament was heard by the European Council.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

The European Council adopted its agenda (doc. EUCO 3/1/12 REV 1).

**3. Economic policy**

The European Council discussed the implementation of the EU's economic strategy. It endorsed the five priorities for 2012 set out in the Commission's Annual Growth Survey and discussed action that has to be taken at national and at EU levels.

**4. International Summits**

The European Council set the EU's priorities for the forthcoming G20 meeting and UN Rio+20 Conference, with a particular emphasis on growth-enhancing measures and reforms. The European Council was informed of the state of play regarding preparations for the G8 summit.

**5. Foreign policy**

The European Council took stock of developments concerning the Arab Spring and set guidance for future EU action to support that process. It also discussed latest events in Syria.

**6. Other items**

- **Serbia**

The European Council granted candidate status to Serbia.

- **Schengen: accession of Bulgaria and Romania**

The European Council agreed that the Council should revert to the issue of Bulgaria and Romania's accession to the Schengen area in order to adopt its decision in September.

- **Election of the President of the European Council**

The European Council re-elected Mr Herman Van Rompuy President of the European Council for the period from 1 June 2012 until 30 November 2014.

**7. Approval of the conclusions**

The European Council approved its conclusions, setting out the outcome of its discussions (doc. EUCO 4/11).

**8. Adoption of the minutes of the European Council meeting on 9 December 2011**

The European Council approved the minutes of its meeting held on 9 December 2011 (doc. EUCO 159/11).

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