



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 7 March 2012

6479/12

CRS/CRP 6

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 2396th meeting of the PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
held in Brussels on 15 and 16 February 2012**

SUMMARY

Page

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda and items "I" 10

Coreper Part 1

I

2. Replies to written questions put to the Council by Members of the European Parliament
- (a) n° E-010937/2011 put by Diogo Feio
"Two-speed eurozone"
 - (b) n° E-011121/2011 put by Jiří Maštálka
"Sites of Community Importance"
 - (c) n° E-012187/2011 put by Sonia Alfano
"EP resolution on organised crime and European Parliament involvement in EU policy cycle"
 - (d) n° E-012299/2011 put by Gerard Batten
"European Arrest Warrant - competent judicial authorities"
 - (e) n° E-012328/2011 put by Barbara Lochbihler
"Visa-free regime with countries from the Western Balkans - recent developments"
3. Case before the Court of Justice
Case C-619/11 (Dumont de Chassart)
Validity of Article 79.1 of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 of 14 June 1971
4. Case before the Court of Justice of the European Union
Case C-28/12 (European Commission against Council of the European Union)
5. Consumption of EAGF appropriations for the period from 16 October 2011 to 30 November 2011
6. Council Decision on approval, on behalf of the European Union, of the Declaration on the granting of fishing opportunities in EU waters to fishing vessels flying the flag of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the exclusive economic zone off the coast of French Guiana
7. Governing Board of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work
Appointment of Mr Jan BATEN, Belgian member, in place of Mr Willy IMBRECHTS, who has resigned
8. Governing Board of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work
Appointment of Ms Véronique CRUTZEN, Belgian alternate member, in place of Mr Christian DENEVE, who has resigned

9. Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work
Appointment of Mr Jan BATEN, Belgian alternate member, in place of Mr Willy IMBRECHTS, who has resigned
10. Governing Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
Appointment of Mr Alain PIETTE, Belgian alternate member, in place of Mr Jan BATEN, who has resigned
11. Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers
Appointment of Ms Jenni KARJALAINEN, Finnish alternate member, in place of Ms Liisa FOLKERSMA, who has resigned
12. Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Central African Republic on forest law enforcement, governance and trade in timber and derived products to the European Union (FLEGT)
13. European Heritage Label
Appointment by the Council of four members of the European panel for the European Union action for the European Heritage Label
14. Commission Regulation (EU) No .../.. of XXX amending Regulation (EC) No 62/2006 concerning the technical specification for interoperability relating to the telematic applications for freight subsystem of the trans-European conventional rail system
15. Commission Decision of XXX on the second set of common safety targets as regards the rail system
16. Council Decision on the position to be taken by the European Union concerning the adoption of a Decision by the Joint Committee of the Convention of 20 May 1987 on a common transit procedure and a Decision by the Joint Committee of the Convention of 20 May 1987 on the simplification of formalities in trade of goods concerning an invitation to Croatia and Turkey to accede to these Conventions
17. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 78/660/EEC on the annual accounts of certain types of companies as regards micro-entities (Council second reading) (Legislative deliberation + Statement)

II

18. Preparation for the Council meeting "Competitiveness" (Internal market, Industry, Research and Space) on 20 and 21 February 2012
1. Horizon 2020 (Legislative deliberations)
- (a) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)
 - (b) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the rules for the participation and dissemination in 'Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)'
 - (c) Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the Specific Programme Implementing Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)
 - (d) Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2014-2018) complementing the Horizon 2020 - The Framework programme for Research and Innovation
- 11
2. European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) (*Legislative deliberations*)
- (a) Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Strategic Innovation Agenda for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) : the contribution of the EIT to a more innovative Europe
 - (b) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
- 12
3. Europe 2020 Strategy (*Non-legislative activity*)
(Public debate pursuant to Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure [proposed by the Presidency])
- (a) Follow-up to the European Council of February 2011 12
 - (b) Annual Growth Survey 12

4.	Europe 2020 Strategy (<i>Non-legislative activity</i>)	13
5.	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Public Procurement (Public Procurement Package) (<i>Legislative deliberation</i>)	13
19.	Setting of the provisional agenda for the Council meeting "Environment" on 9 March 2012	13
20.	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals (recast) (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)	13
21.	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2004/40/EC on minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields) (eighteenth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC) (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)	14

Coreper Part 2

I

29. Case T-531/11 before the General Court
 - HAMAS v. Council of the European Union
30. Case before the General Court of the European Union
 - Case T-633/11 Guangdong Kito Ceramics Co Ltd against the Council of the European Union
31. Case before the General Court of the European Union
 - Case T-6/12 Godrej Industries Limited and VVT Limited against the Council of the European Union
32. Case before the Court of Justice of the European Union
 - Case C-10/12 P Transnational Company "Kazchrome" AO and ENRC Marketing AG against the Council of the European Union
33. Case T-63/10 (Jurašinović against the Council of the European Union)
 - Production of Council documents before the General Court
34. Transparency - Public access to documents
 - Confirmatory application No 25/c/01/11
35. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Short Selling and certain aspects of Credit Default Swaps (First reading)
36. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual use items (First reading)
 - a) adoption of the position of the Council in first reading
 - b) adoption of the statement of the Council reasons
37. Draft Council conclusions: Climate finance - follow-up to the Durban Conference
38. Draft Council conclusions: Economic aspects of the roadmap to a resource-efficient Europe
39. Legal act in the excessive deficit procedure for Hungary- adoption of texts in languages not available at the time of adoption of the legal act by the Council:
Council Decision establishing whether effective action has been taken by Hungary in response to the Council Recommendation of 7 July 2009
40. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the issuance of euro coins

41. Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 975/98 of 3 May 1998 on denominations and technical specifications of euro coins intended for circulation
42. Proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC01/2012 within Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2012
43. Special report No 14/2011: Has EU assistance improved Croatia's capacity to manage post-accession funding?
44. Draft Council conclusions on the budget guidelines for 2013
45. Discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2010
46. Discharge to be given to the bodies set up by the European Union in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2010
47. Discharge to be given to the executive agencies in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2010
48. Discharge to be given to the joint undertakings in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2010
49. Recommendation to the Council concerning the use of a cryptographic product to protect electronic links for the exercise European Endeavour 2012
50. Council Decision amending Council Decision 2010/232/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Burma/Myanmar
51. Council Decision amending Council Decision 2011/101/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Zimbabwe
52. Relations with the ACP States and the OCT
 - Council statement concerning the Statement of Assurance of the Court of Auditors relating to the activities of the 8th, 9th and 10th European Development Funds for the financial year 2010
53. Relations with the ACP States and the OCT
 - Discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the financial management of the 8th, 9th and 10th European Development Funds (financial year 2010)
54. Council Decision on adapting and extending the period of application of the appropriate measures first established by Decision 2002/148/EC concluding consultations with Zimbabwe under Article 96 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement
55. Updated Common Military List of the European Union (equipment covered by the Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment)

56. Twelfth Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy to Combat Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of SALW and their Ammunition (2011/II)
57. Six-monthly Progress Report on the implementation of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2011/II)
58. Enlargement
 - Accession negotiations with Iceland
 - = Outcome of screening on Chapter 17: Economic and Monetary Policy
59. Proposal for a Council Decision on a Union position in the Joint Committee on the implementation of Article 66 of the Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on Trade and Co-operation between the European Community, on the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza strip, on the other
60. Application of the COMIX-procedure to the debates regarding the proposed JHA Data Protection Directive and General Data Protection Regulation
61. Schengen evaluation of France - Draft Council conclusions on the follow-up to the Schengen evaluation conducted in 2009 and 2010
62. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing, as part of the Internal Security Fund, the instrument for financial support for external borders and visa
63. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Asylum and Migration Fund
64. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down general provisions on the Asylum and Migration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management
65. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing, as part of the Internal Security Fund, the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management

II

22.	Preparation of the Council meeting (Foreign Affairs) on 27 February 2012	
-	Other items in connection with the Council meeting	15
23.	Preparation of the Council meeting (General Affairs) on 28 February 2012	
a)	Preparation of the European Council on 1-2 March 2012	16
b)	Other items in connection with the Council meeting	16
24.	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on OTC derivative transactions, central counterparties and trade repositories (EMIR)	16
25.	Proposal for a Directive .../.../EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on Deposit Guarantee Schemes (recast)	16
26.	Presentation of the provisional agenda of the Council meeting (Justice and Home Affairs) on 8 March 2012	16
27.	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 573/2007/EC establishing the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008 to 2013 as part of the General programme "Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows" and repealing Council Decision 2004/904/EC	16
28.	Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020)	
-	Information on the state of play on the basis of technical clarifications undertaken in the Friends of the Presidency Group (MFF) and in the Working Party on Own Resources in January and February 2012	17
66.	Preparation of the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 21 February 2012	
a)	Proposals from the Commission on Economic Governance	17
b)	Negotiating mandate for Savings Taxation Agreements with third countries	17
c)	(poss.) Macroeconomic imbalances: Alert mechanism report	18
d)	Contribution to the European Council meeting on 1-2 March 2012	
-	European Semester (including EuroPlus Pact)	
=	Council conclusions	18
=	Conclusions of Member States participating in the EuroPlus Pact	18
e)	Preparation of G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Governors (Mexico, 25-26 February 2012)	18
f)	Other items in connection with the Council meeting	18
-	Any other business	18

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda and items "I"
doc. 6457/12 OJ/CRP1 6
6433/12 OJ/CRP2 6

The above-mentioned agendas are approved.

The Committee approved the "I" items as set out in the summary. Details are contained in the document quoted under item 1.

Coreper Part 1

II

18. Preparation for the Council meeting "Competitiveness" (Internal market, Industry, Research and Space) on 20 and 21 February 2012

1. Horizon 2020 (Legislative deliberations)

- (a) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)**

17933/11 RECH 410 COMPET 578 IND 162 MI 631 EDUC 283 TELECOM 197
ENER 389 ENV 919 REGIO 143 AGRI 826 TRANS 342 SAN 260
CODEC 2273
+ REV 1 (sv, fi)

- (b) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the rules for the participation and dissemination in 'Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)'**
17934/11 RECH 411 COMPET 579 ATO 151 CODEC 2274

- (c) **Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the Specific Programme Implementing Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)**
17935/11 RECH 412 COMPET 580 IND 163 MI 632 EDUC 284 TELECOM 198
ENER 390 ENV 920 REGIO 144 AGRI 827 TRANS 343 SAN 261

- (d) **Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2014-2018) complementing the Horizon 2020 - The Framework programme for Research and Innovation**
17936/11 RECH 413 COMPET 581 ATO 152
+ COR 1

- **Orientation debate**

6281/12 RECH 37 COMPET 77 ATO 15 MI 85 IND 27

The Committee took note of the questions proposed by the Presidency for the orientation debate as set out in 6281/12 + COR 1.

2. European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) (*Legislative deliberations*)

- (a) Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Strategic Innovation Agenda for the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) : the contribution of the EIT to a more innovative Europe**

18091/11 RECH 419 COMPET 589 EDUC 286 CODEC 2306

- (b) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**

18090/11 RECH 418 COMPET 588 EDUC 285 CODEC 2305

- Presentation by the Commission**

The Committee was briefly informed on the 2 proposals which will be presented by the Commission at the Competitiveness Council on 21 February 2012.

3. Europe 2020 Strategy (*Non-legislative activity*)

(Public debate pursuant to Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure [proposed by the Presidency])

- (a) Follow-up to the European Council of February 2011**

- Progress report**

6279/12 RECH 35 COMPET 75

- (b) Annual Growth Survey**

- Policy debate**

17229/11 ECOFIN 804 SOC 1017 COMPET 534 EDUC 274 ENV 891

RECH 380 ENER 376 FISC 151

+ ADD 1

6280/12 RECH 36 COMPET 76

The Committee took note of the progress report and of the questions proposed by the Presidency for the policy debate as set out in 6279/12 and 6280/12.

4. Europe 2020 Strategy (*Non-legislative activity*)

- Policy debate (internal market and industry)

(Public debate pursuant to Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure
[proposed by the Presidency])

17229/11 ECOFIN 804 SOC 1017 COMPET 534 EDUC 274 ENV 891

RECH 380 ENER 376 FISC 151

+ ADD 1

5955/12 COMPET 51 IND 18 MI 69

The Committee endorsed the policy debate at the Council meeting (Competitiveness) on 20 and 21 February 2012 on the basis of document 5955/12.

5. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Public Procurement (Public Procurement Package) (*Legislative deliberation*)

- Orientation debate

6268/12 MAP 10 MI 84 CODEC 315

The Committee took note of the Presidency discussion paper and the questions set out in 6268/12 in view of the orientation debate to be held at the Competitiveness Council on 20 and 21 February 2012.

19. Setting of the provisional agenda for the Council meeting "Environment" on 9 March 2012

The Committee approved the provisional agenda as set out in 7021/12.

20. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals (recast) (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)

- Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue

The Committee took note of the information provided by the Chair on the outcome of the informal trilogue with the European Parliament, held on 14 February, where a compromise text on the proposal was considered acceptable by all parties. A future meeting of the Committee will be asked to confirm that this outcome of the trilogue is acceptable as a first-reading agreement on the proposal.

- 21. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2004/40/EC on minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields) (eighteenth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC) (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)**
- **Preparation for the informal trilogue**
6239/12 SOC 102 CODEC 308

The delegations provided the Presidency with a mandate based on document 6239/12. In particular, some delegations supported the Commission proposal, while others including the Commission, in a spirit of a compromise, could agree on a shorter period (18 months).

Coreper Part 2

II

22. Preparation of the Council meeting (Foreign Affairs) on 27 February 2012

- Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Committee took note of information provided by EEAS (H. Schmid) on the planning of the HR for the Council. Presence of Turkish FM likely to be over lunch at March FAC.

Subjects to be discussed in his presence: Syria, MEPP, Iran.

On agenda items the following should be noted: Serbia/Kosovo discussion will focus on Belgrade/Pristina dialogue and regional cooperation, ahead of General Affairs Council assessment on 28 February 2012. On Syria, a ministerial discussion is foreseen on developments (EU active engagement, "Friends of Syria" meeting on 24 February 2012) and Council conclusions are being prepared. Work will continue in order to further strengthen existing sanctions. On Egypt, a discussion is foreseen on developments (finalisation of electoral process, crackdown on national and international civil society organisations) and Council conclusions are being prepared. On South Caucasus, a ministerial discussion could focus on long term perspective and conflict solution; draft Council conclusions are being prepared. MEPP: lunch item, focus on Palestinian conciliation and possibly formation of technocratic Government under Abbas.

On Yemen, EEAS took note of request by UK/DE/FR and others, pointing out to the need for Council conclusions given developments on the ground.

Following ES request, HR will debrief on recent trip to Brazil and Mexico. Strategic debate on EU relations with these and other Latin American countries to be held at a later stage.

Following PL request, supported by others, EEAS informed that the situation of Christian minorities in Arab countries, will be discussed at Gymnich meeting in the context of wider Human rights discussion.

23. Preparation of the Council meeting (General Affairs) on 28 February 2012

a) Preparation of the European Council on 1-2 March 2012

- **Draft guidelines for the conclusions**
6188/12 CO EUR-PREP 6

The Committee took note of the draft guidelines setting out the state of progress of the various topics of the European Council's agenda. A discussion on the basis of the guidelines took place over lunch.

b) Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Committee was informed of the Presidency intentions regarding the conclusions on Serbia's candidate status.

24. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on OTC derivative transactions, central counterparties and trade repositories (EMIR)

- **Debriefing from the trilogue on 9 February 2012**
6438/12 EF 37 ECOFIN 145 CODEC 365

The Presidency informed the Committee on the principle agreement reached with the European Parliament at the trilogue on 9 February 2012 and on the next steps ahead.

25. Proposal for a Directive .../.../EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on Deposit Guarantee Schemes (recast)

- **Presidency compromise on key issues with a view to negotiations with the European Parliament**
6382/12 EF 33 ECOFIN 134 CODEC 345
6383/12 EF 34 ECOFIN 135 CODEC 346

The Committee had an exchange of views on the line to follow as a reaction to the European Parliament's vote at first reading. The Chair concluded that the Presidency would reflect on the best way to proceed.

26. Presentation of the provisional agenda of the Council meeting (Justice and Home Affairs) on 8 March 2012

The Presidency presented the provisional agenda for the Council meeting on 8 March 2012.

- 27. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 573/2007/EC establishing the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008 to 2013 as part of the General programme "Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows" and repealing Council Decision 2004/904/EC**
- **Confirmation of the informal agreement reached with the European Parliament**
6168/12 ASILE 18 CODEC 294 CADREFIN 64
6370/12 ASILE 23 CODEC 343 CADREFIN 80

The Committee had an exchange of views and mandated the Presidency to engage in further contacts with the European Parliament on the basis of Option 2, as set out in document 6168/12, and which suggests that a new recital referring to Article 80 TFEU be added in the text of the Decision. The Commission was invited to assist the Presidency in its contacts with the European Parliament.

- 28. Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020)**
- **Information on the state of play on the basis of technical clarifications undertaken in the Friends of the Presidency Group (MFF) and in the Working Party on Own Resources in January and February 2012**
6185/12 CADREFIN 66 POLGEN 22 RESPR 4

The Committee was informed about the state of play on the basis of a report from the Presidency on the technical clarifications undertaken in the Friends of the Presidency group (MFF) and in the Working Party on Own Resources in January and February 2012.

66. Preparation of the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 21 February 2012

- a) Proposals from the Commission on Economic Governance**
- **General approach**
6350/12 ECOFIN 131 UEM 29 CODEC 339

The Committee agreed the two draft proposals as modified by the ad hoc Working Group.

- b) Negotiating mandate for Savings Taxation Agreements with third countries**
- **Adoption**
6271/12 FISC 20 CH 4 FL 4 MC 2 AND 2 SM 2
6273/12 FISC 21 CH 5 FL 5 MC 3 AND 3 SM 3 RESTREINT UE

The Presidency informed that the discussion, at the level of ECOFIN Council, had to be postponed.

The item will be withdrawn from the ECOFIN Council agenda on 21 February 2012.

c) Macroeconomic imbalances: Alert mechanism report

- **Exchange of views**
6360/12 ECOFIN 133 UEM 31 SOC 115

The Committee had a first exchange of views of the report.

d) Contribution to the European Council meeting on 1-2 March 2012

- **European Semester (including EuroPlus Pact)**
 - = **Council conclusions**
6353/12 ECOFIN 132 COMPET 85 ENV 99 EDUC 38 RECH 43
SOC 114 POLGEN 25
 - = **Conclusions of Member States participating in the EuroPlus Pact**
6404/12 ECOFIN 142 COMPET 87 ENV 106 EDUC 39 RECH 46
SOC 116 POLGEN 26

The Committee agreed the two conclusions after two modifications.

**e) Preparation of G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Governors
(Mexico, 25-26 February 2012)**

- **Terms of Reference**

The Committee agreed the draft EU Terms of Reference to the Council, for endorsement.

f) Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Committee finalised the provisional agenda for this Council meeting and reviewed the state of readiness of the agenda items listed.

- Any other business

- = **17th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (Barcelona Convention) (Paris, 8-10 February 2012)**

The UK delegation, supported by FR, DE and IT, drew the attention of the Committee to the outcome of COP 17, which took place in Paris, on 8-10 February 2012. The same delegations deplored the delayed transmission by the Commission to the Council of a proposal for a Council Decision establishing the EU position for that Conference and the resulting inability for the Council to adopt this Decision in time and, therefore, for the EU to ensure an active participation at that meeting.

The Commission reassured delegations that action had been taken at that meeting to preserve fully the Council's prerogatives. The Presidency undertook to consider the best way forward, in order to ensure the possibility for the EU to react formally within the deadline set by the relevant decision of the Barcelona COP.

=====