



Council Conclusions of 20 June 2008

Summary

In its Presidency Conclusions the European Council expresses its views on the following topics:

I. On the Lisbon Treaty the European Council

- stresses the need to adopt the Lisbon Treaty with a view to future enlargements
- decides to reconsider the situation of the Irish referendum at its meeting on 15 October 2008

II. Freedom, Justice and Security

- underlines the wish for a common immigration and asylum policy
- calls for an integrated border management strategy
- addresses counter-terrorism and access to information
- asks to take action on a common frame of reference for European contract law

III. Policy implications of high food and oil prices

- The European Council calls to continue to improve the market orientation of agriculture
- To enhance energy efficiency, productivity growth and the ability to adapt to climate change in agriculture
- The European Union shall finance in development countries safety nets for poor and vulnerable groups and to enhance support to public and private investments in agriculture
- To raise the issue of food export restrictions and export bans in WTO negotiations
- To take action on sudden oil and gas price increases
- To implement the 2006 action plan on energy efficiency

IV. Economic, Social, Health and Environmental issues

- The European Council welcomes the Commission's proposal that Slovakia should adopt the Euro on 1 January 2009
- Remains committed to leadership in the areas of climate change and energy
- Takes a favorable position on the establishment of the EIT in Budapest

V. Western Balkans

- The European Council gives perspective to FYROM to advance in the accession to the European Union by the end of the year
- Calls for Albania and Montenegro to establish a record of successful SAA implementation
- recalls the possibility for Serbia to soon obtain candidate status

VI. External Relations

- With a view to the Millennium Development Goals to double the annual EU Official Development Assistance (ODA) to over EUR 66 billion
- Announces radical reforms to increase aid effectiveness
- Welcomes in the light of the French Presidency to adopt a joint declaration on 13 July 2008 on the Union for the Mediterranean

Upcoming Commission proposals addressed:

- Proposal on entry/exit and registered traveler system for the external border management electronic system for travel authorization and on the creation of a European Border Surveillance System (*)

- long-term management of large-scale IT systems in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice (*)
- fund to support agriculture in developing countries (proposal announced by Commission)
- short term measures targeted to underpin the long term process of restructuring the fisheries sector (*)
- Revision of energy taxation (proposal announced by Commission)
- Eurovignette directive (proposal announced by Commission)
- comprehensive strategy for scaling up finance and investment flows for both mitigation and adaptation in response to the Bali Action Plan (*)
- mechanism to incentivise Member State and private sector investment to ensure the construction and operation by 2015 of up to 12 demonstration plants of commercial power generation with carbon capture and storage (*)
- Global financing mechanism to combat climate change (*)
- Eastern partnership (*)

(*) proposal requested

Declaration on the Western Balkans

The European Council annexed a declaration on the extension of Community policies to the Western Balkans, people-to-people contacts and good governance,

The full text of the Council Conclusions is available at

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/101346.pdf.