



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 28 January 2013

5639/13

CO EUR-PREP 5

NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Committee of Permanent Representatives / General Affairs Council
Subject:	European Council (14-15 March 2013) - Annotated draft agenda

In accordance with Article 3(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Council, the President of the European Council, in close cooperation with the member of the European Council representing the Member State holding the six-monthly Presidency of the Council and with the President of the Commission, shall submit an annotated draft agenda to the General Affairs Council.

Delegations will find attached the annotated draft agenda submitted by the President of the European Council, setting out the main items the European Council is expected to address on 14-15 March 2013.

In the light of the final discussion to be held by the General Affairs Council within the five days preceding the European Council meeting, the President of the European Council shall draw up the provisional agenda.

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I. ECONOMIC POLICY

The European Council will conclude the first phase of the European Semester by:

- assessing overall progress made in implementing the 2012 country-specific recommendations and commitments under the Euro Plus Pact and, as required, calling for urgent action to address any remaining gaps;
- providing guidance to Member States on the 2013 Stability and Convergence Programmes and National Reform Programmes, based on the Commission's Annual Growth Survey and in the light of the Presidency's synthesis report on Council discussions on the AGS;
- providing guidance for the implementation of Europe 2020 "flagship initiatives", in particular as regards the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs and the preparations of its upcoming thematic discussions on industrial and innovation policies and the digital agenda.

In this context, the European Council will discuss the state of implementation of the Compact for Growth and Jobs, in particular as regards the Single Market and "smart regulation" as agreed last December.

If required, the European Council will also take stock of progress of work on the legislative proposals relating to the integrated financial framework as well as on the operational framework for the European Stability Mechanism to recapitalise banks directly.

II. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The European Council will hold an open exchange views on relations with strategic partners. It is not expected to adopt written conclusions on this topic.

In the light of events, the European Council may address specific foreign policy issues where this adds value to the EU's foreign policy.