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**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

3107th Council meeting

### **General Affairs**

Brussels, 18 July 2011

President

**Mr Mikołaj Dowgielewicz**  
Secretary of State for European Affairs of Poland.

# **P R E S S**

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## **Main results of the Council**

*The Council approved a draft decision extending the EU's guarantee for the **European Investment Bank's** operations outside the EU. The changes include a EUR 1 billion increase in the ceiling for EIB operations in Mediterranean countries undertaking political reform.*

*It also examined the Polish presidency's **work programme** for the duration of its term of office (July to December 2011).*

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<sup>1</sup>

- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

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Mr Janusz LEWANDOWSKI

Member

**ITEMS DEBATED****REFORM OF THE STATUTE OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE**

The Council held an exchange of views on proposed amendments to the statute of the Court of Justice of the EU ([8787/11](#)).

It asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to oversee technical work on the proposed reform in the light of the discussion, with a view to enabling it to reach agreement rapidly.

The draft amendments, requested by the Court, are aimed at improving the efficiency of the three courts that compose the Court of Justice and reducing the duration of their proceedings. They relate in particular to the composition of the Grand Chamber and establishment of the office of vice-president of the Court of Justice, an increase in the number of judges at the General Court from 27 to 39, and the possibility of attaching temporary judges to the Civil Service Tribunal.

## **MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK**

The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission of its proposals for the EU's multiannual financial framework (MFF) for the 2014-20 period ([12474/11](#) + [12475/11](#)).

The presidency intends to hold an initial exchange of views on the new MFF at an informal meeting of ministers in Sopot (Poland) on 28 and 29 July. Technical work on the proposals will proceed subsequently.

The MFF limits EU expenditure over a fixed period by laying down annual maximum amounts for each heading (i.e. category) of expenditure in commitments and for total annual expenditure in commitments and payments. It thus imposes budgetary discipline on the EU by making sure that the annual EU budget does not exceed agreed ceilings and thereby facilitates adoption of the budget each year. At the same, it translates the EU's policy priorities into figures.

## **EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

The Council took stock of the follow-up to the European Council meeting held on 23-24 June ([12842/11](#)).

The meeting focused on economic issues, migration and developments in the EU's southern neighbourhood.



## **PRESIDENCY PROGRAMME**

The Council took note of the presentation by the Polish presidency of its programme for the duration of its term of office, which runs from July to December 2011. It held a brief exchange of views.

The Polish presidency intends to concentrate on three priorities:

- European integration as a source of growth,
- Secure Europe,
- Europe benefiting from openness.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The Council:

- was informed by the United Kingdom delegation of an international conference on the use and control of cyberspace to be held on London on 1 and 2 November;
- was informed by the Cypriot delegation of an accident on 11 July at the **Mari naval base**;
- took note of concerns expressed by the Lithuanian delegation on the non-execution of a **European Arrest Warrant**.

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED****ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS****EU guarantee for EIB external operations**

The Council approved an agreement reached with the European Parliament on a decision that extends an EU budgetary guarantee for the European Investment Bank's external operations to cover the remainder of the 2007-2013 financial framework.

For details see [12747/11](#).

**TRADE POLICY****Australia and New Zealand - Agreements on mutual recognition - Conformity assessment**

The Council authorised the signing of two agreements:

- amending the EU/Australia agreement on mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment, certificates and markings; and
- amending the EU/New Zealand agreement on mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment.

The amending agreements, intended to improve and simplify the current agreements, will be concluded at a later stage, after the European Parliament's consent.

**Anti-dumping - Iron or steel fasteners - China and Malaysia**

The Council adopted a regulation extending the anti-dumping duty imposed by regulation 91/2009 on imports of certain iron or steel fasteners originating in China to imports of certain iron or steel fasteners consigned from Malaysia, whether declared as originating in Malaysia or not ([12110/11](#)).

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Austria**

The Council adopted two decisions mobilising a total amount of EUR 9.51 million under the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF), providing support for workers made redundant in Austria.

An amount of EUR 8.28 million is allocated for workers in the metal producing sector of Steiermark and Niederösterreich who have been dismissed because of a decline in demand for basic metals as a consequence of the global economic crisis. A further EUR 1.22 million will be spent on support for dismissed workers of the Austrian company Austria Technologie & Systemtechnik who lost their jobs because the production of printed circuit boards has been relocated to third countries in the context of major structural changes in world trade patterns.

The Council also adopted a decision mobilising an additional EUR 610 000 under the EGF to finance technical assistance, notably information and monitoring activities, support for meetings of member states' experts and seminars on the implementation of the EGF.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **EU Civil Service Tribunal**

The Council appointed three judges to the European Union Civil Service Tribunal for the period from 1 October 2011 to 30 September 2017 ([9003/1/11](#)):

- Mr René BARENTS
- Mr Kieran BRADLEY
- Mr Ezio PERILLO

The European Union Civil Service Tribunal is composed of seven judges appointed by the Council for a period of six years which may be renewed, following a call for applications and after receiving the opinion of a panel of seven persons chosen from among former members of the Court of Justice and the General Court and lawyers of recognised competence.

**WRITTEN PROCEDURE****Budgets: Solidarity fund for the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Croatia**

The Council approved, by written procedure ending on 14 July, the European Parliament's amendments on the financing of EUR 19.5 million out of the EU solidarity fund for the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Croatia which were victims of heavy flooding in August and September 2010.<sup>1</sup>

In line with the European Parliament's position on the draft amending budget No.2 for 2011, the Council agreed to use this year's surplus for energy projects under the European Economic Recovery Plan (EERP) in order to cover the payments for these three countries. A further EUR 182.4 million of unused EERP funds are used to draw up the negative reserve established by the budgetary authority with the adoption of draft amending budget No.1 for 2011. Moreover, payments for the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund are increased by EUR 50 million.

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<sup>1</sup> The Austrian, Dutch and Swedish delegations voted against.