



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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ENV 182  
ENER 86  
MI 157  
RECH 83  
COMPET 138  
IND 52  
ECOFIN 228  
SOC 176  
EDUC 58  
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**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat  
to: Delegations

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Subject: European Semester / Annual Growth Survey - the way forward after the  
March European Council  
- Information from the Presidency

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Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Presidency on the above mentioned subject, which will be dealt with under "other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 9 March 2012.

## **European Semester / Annual Growth Survey - the way forward after the March European Council**

### **- Information from the Presidency**

At its meeting on 1-2 March 2012, the European Council discussed the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy. This strategy pursues both continued fiscal consolidation and determined action to boost sustainable growth and jobs. The discussion of the economic and political guidelines at the European Council was based on the Commission's Annual Growth Survey, a synthesis report from the Presidency and Council conclusions from relevant Council formations.

The European Council endorsed the five priorities for 2012 set out in the Commission's Annual Growth Survey. In addition, the European Council specified the action that has to be taken at national level and concluded that Member States must make faster progress to reach the targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

In relation to green growth, the European Council stated that "Promoting a more resource-efficient, greener and more competitive economy is crucial. The European Council calls for agreement to be reached on the Energy Efficiency Directive by June. Recalling its conclusions of December 2011, it also calls for rapid progress on the low-carbon 2050 strategy and on the implementation of the roadmap towards a resource-efficient Europe." According to the roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe, the Commission and Member States should "integrate resource efficiency considerations in the European Semester from 2012, focusing on prioritising sustainable growth friendly measures." The discussions on resource efficiency in the relevant Council formations are reflected in detail in the European Semester Synthesis Report by the Presidency.

Based on the guidance of the European Council, the Member States are to present their medium-term budgetary strategies in their stability and convergence programmes. At the same time, they are to draw up national reform programmes setting out the actions to be undertaken to strengthen their policies. These programmes will be submitted to the Commission in April for assessment.

Based on the national reform programmes and the stability and convergence programmes, the Commission will propose country-specific recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Council with a view to endorsement by the European Council in June. These recommendations provide policy advice to be taken into account by Member States when they finalise their national policies and budgets for the following year.

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