



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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<b>ENV</b>	<b>456</b>
<b>DEVGEN</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>RELEX</b>	<b>503</b>
<b>ONU</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>ECOFIN</b>	<b>492</b>

**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat  
to: Delegations

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Subject: Preparation of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable  
Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012)  
- Information from the Presidency and the Commission on the state of play

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Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Presidency and the Commission on the above-mentioned subject, which will be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 11 June 2012.

**Preparation of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development  
(Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012)**

**- Information from the Presidency and the Commission on the state of play -**

The third round of "informal" consultations on the draft outcome document for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD or Rio+20) took place from 29 May to 2 June 2012 at UN Headquarters in New York. This 3rd round of negotiations was decided by the Conference Bureau because at the previous round delegates only managed to agree *ad referendum* on 21 out of 420 paragraphs, with several issues, including green economy and the institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD), still outstanding.

The basis for discussions was an 80-page revised draft text produced by the Co-Chairs in two working groups and over 20 issue-specific "breakout groups". In the end, 70 paragraphs out of 329 were agreed *ad referendum*, with the other 259 containing bracketed text. The EU and its Member States proposed clear operational goals, targets and concrete actions that have largely been taken on board in the latest negotiated text in New York. However, with less than three weeks to go before Rio+20, key areas of divergence remain, including several issues within the framework for action, section V.A (such as climate change, oceans and food and agriculture), the process for the establishment of sustainable development goals (SDGs), means of implementation (especially finance and technology transfer), IFSD reform and the concept of green economy (section 3), thus leaving the central and difficult issues for the third and last preparatory meeting (PrepCom 3) which will take place in Rio on 13-15 June 2012.

Although some progress was achieved, the lack of progress made during the additional third negotiation period in New York is regrettable and the number of unsettled issues constitutes a significant challenge still, success is within reach and the EU and its Member States must maintain the call for an ambitious result in Rio. The EU and its Member States have been fully engaged in this process and should remain so. Nevertheless, it is clear that the latest New York discussions have not delivered as we hoped and huge efforts from all stakeholders will be needed in Rio. The forthcoming PrepCom 3 that starts on Wednesday 13 June will be a key momentum to achieve compromise on the key issues in these negotiations with a view to presenting to the Heads of State and Government a substantial and reasonably ambitious document for adoption on 22 June 2012.

The EU and its Member States have a clearly defined position on almost all negotiation issues and we are now updating our position on the basis of the document resulting from the last negotiations round that ended up on 2 June. Work in this regard has been carried out in New York in close cooperation with Brussels and the capitals, and we hope to finalise it at the first EU coordination in Rio de Janeiro. Also, two EU coordination meetings at Ministerial level are scheduled on Sunday 17 and Tuesday 19 June 2012.

The third preparatory (PrepCom 3) will take place in Rio from 13 to 15 June 2012 whereas the informal "the Brazilian dialogues" will take place from 16 to 19 June 2012. The Conference itself will take place from 20 to 22 June 2012. More than 130 heads of state or government are expected to participate.

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