



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



6039/07 (Presse 18)

PROVISIONAL VERSION

PRESS RELEASE

2780th Council Meeting

General Affairs and External Relations

External relations

Brussels, 12 February 2007

President **Mr Frank-Walter Steinmeier**
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany

* Some external relations items were adopted without debate at the 2779th meeting on General Affairs (6033/07).

P R E S S

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Main Results of the Council

*The Council called upon political leaders in **Serbia** to form quickly a government committed to reform and a European future. It underlined that it remained fully committed to Serbia's EU perspective and was ready to work with such a new government towards this goal. It welcomed the Commission's readiness to resume negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with a new government in Belgrade provided it showed clear commitment and took concrete and effective action for full cooperation with the ICTY.*

*The Council expressed its full support for UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and his efforts in conducting the political process to determine **Kosovo's** future status. It welcomed Mr Ahtisaari's intention to engage the parties in a period of intensive consultations with a view to achieving further progress in a spirit of compromise on the basis of his proposals. It strongly urged Belgrade and Pristina to participate actively and constructively in these consultations. Underlining that the EU stood ready to play a significant role in the implementation of the status settlement, the Council decided to intensify preparations for a future EU and international presence in Kosovo in coordination with other international actors.*

*The Council, confirming the EU's strong long-term commitment to **Afghanistan**, agreed on the principle of a mission to Afghanistan in the field of policing with linkages to the wider rule of law under European Security and Defence Policy and approved the crisis management concept for such a mission.*

*The Council reached political agreement on a draft common position concerning restrictive measures against **Iran**, with a view to implementing UN Security Council resolution 1737. The common position is aimed at imposing at EU level restrictive measures against Iran, namely a ban on the supply of goods and technology related to Iran's nuclear and missile programmes; a visa ban against persons and a freeze of assets against persons and entities listed in resolution 1737 and other persons or entities associated with these programmes; and steps to prevent specialised teaching or training of Iranian nationals in disciplines related to these fields.*

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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

See General Affairs press release 6033/07.

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- 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.
- The documents whose 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 abovementioned Council Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

PARTICIPANTS

The Governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Karel DE GUCHT
Mr Didier DONFUT

Minister for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary for European Affairs, attached to the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Bulgaria:

Mr Ivailo KALFIN

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

Czech Republic:

Mr Tomáš POJAR

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Per Stig MØLLER

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Frank-Walter STEINMEIER
Mr Günter GLOSER

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Estonia:

Mr Urmas PAET

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Dermot AHERN
Mr Michael AHERN

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade
and Employment (with special responsibility for Trade
and Commerce)

Greece:

Mr Ioannis VALINAKIS

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Alberto NAVARRO GONZÁLEZ

State Secretary for the European Union

France:

Mr Philippe DOUSTE-BLAZY
Ms Catherine COLONNA
Ms Christine LAGARDE

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister with responsibility for European Affairs
Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade

Italy:

Mr Massimo D'ALEMA

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Cyprus:

Mr Yiorgos LILLIKAS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Latvia:

Mr Artis PABRIKS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Lithuania:

Mr Zygimantas PAVILIONIS

Under-Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean ASSELBORN

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister with responsibility for
Foreign Affairs and Immigration
Minister with responsibility for Foreign Affairs and
Immigration

Mr Nicolas SCHMIT

Hungary:

Ms Kinga GÖNCZ

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Malta:

Mr Michael FRENDU

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr Bernard BOT

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Austria:

Ms Ursula PLASSNIK

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Poland:

Ms Anna Elżbieta FOTYGA

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Luís AMADO

Ministro de Estado, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Manuel LOBO ANTUNES

Secretary of State for European Affairs

Romania:

Mr Mihai-Răzvan UNGUREANU

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Slovenia:

Mr Dimitrij RUPEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Slovakia:

Mr Ján KUBIŠ

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Finland:

Mr Erkki TUOMIOJA

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ms Paula LEHTOMÄKI

Minister for Foreign Trade and Development

Sweden:

Mr Carl BILDT

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ms Cecilia MALMSTRÖM

Minister for European Affairs

Mr Sten TOLGFORS

Minister for Trade

United Kingdom:

Ms Margaret BECKETT

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

.....

Commission:

Mr Olli REHN

Member

Ms Benita FERRERO-WALDNER

Member

Mr Peter MANDELSON

Member

.....

General Secretariat of the Council:

Mr Javier SOLANA

Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP

IRAN

Over lunch, ministers held an exchange of views on the EU's Iran policy and registered continued support for the two-track approach as outlined in the Council's conclusions on 22 January. The EU implements the measures in UN Security Council Resolution 1737, which are targeted against the most sensitive parts of the Iranian nuclear and missile programmes (see below). At the same time, it continues to support efforts to find a negotiated long-term solution, which would open the way for a new relationship with Iran based on mutual respect and expanded cooperation. In this context the President of the Council and the High Representative briefed partners on their informal contacts with Iran's national security adviser, Ali Larijani, in Munich on 11 February. The Council will return to the issue of relations with Iran at a forthcoming meeting.

* * *

The Council reached political agreement on a draft common position concerning restrictive measures against Iran, with a view to implementing UN Security Council resolution 1737. The common position is aimed at imposing at EU level restrictive measures against Iran, namely a ban on the supply of goods and technology related to Iran's nuclear and missile programmes; a visa ban against persons and a freeze of assets against persons and entities listed in resolution 1737 and other persons or entities associated with these programmes; and steps to prevent specialised teaching or training of Iranian nationals in disciplines related to these fields. (see details in General Affairs press release, 6033/07).