



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



10657/07 (Presse 138)

PRESS RELEASE

2809th Council meeting

General Affairs and External Relations

External Relations

Luxembourg, 18 June 2007

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

* Some external relations items were adopted without debate at the 2808th meeting on General Affairs (10654/07).

P R E S S

Main results of the Council

*On the **Middle East**, the Council expressed its deep concern regarding the extremely serious events in Gaza and condemned in the strongest possible terms the violent coup perpetrated by Hamas militias. It called for the restoration of Palestinian national unity and the unity of Palestinian territory. It expressed its full support for President Abbas and his decisions to declare a state of emergency and to install an emergency government for the Palestinian Territories under Prime Minister Fayyad. The EU will do its utmost to ensure the provision of emergency and humanitarian assistance to the population of Gaza.*

The Council decided that the EU will resume normal relations with the Palestinian Authority immediately. With this objective, the EU will develop the conditions for urgent practical and financial assistance including direct financial support to the government; support for the Palestinian Civilian Police through the resumption of the EUPOL COPPS mission; the resumption of the activities of the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) Rafah; and intensive efforts to build the institutions of the future Palestinian state.

*On **Kosovo**, the Council confirmed its support for UN Special Envoy Ahtisaari and reiterated its view that his comprehensive proposal submitted by the UN Secretary General to the Security Council on 26 March 2007 provides the basis for the settlement of the Kosovo issue by a new Resolution of the UN Security Council. It expressed its support for intensified efforts to ensure that the Security Council can adopt such a resolution in a timely manner, also as a basis for a future EU and international presence.*

*The Council decided that while equally maintaining its intensive dialogue with **Cuba's** civil society and the peaceful opposition, the EU would be ready to resume a comprehensive and open political dialogue with the Cuban authorities on all topics of mutual interest. In the context of this dialogue, the EU will outline to the Cuban government its views on democracy, universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. For sounding out on this, a Cuban delegation will be invited to Brussels.*

*The Council welcomed **Sudan's** acceptance on 12 June of the AU/UN hybrid operation in Sudan/Darfur, called for a speedy transition to this operation and reiterated its readiness to consider further measures, notably in the UN framework, against any party which obstructs its implementation. The Council will continue to look at how best to reinforce and develop its engagement in pursuit of its objectives regarding Sudan/Darfur.*

*The Council approved a strategy for a new partnership for the EU with **Central Asia**, with a view to its submission to the 21-22 June European Council.*

*The Council decided that the EU will introduce, in the framework of a cross-regional alliance, an **anti-death penalty** resolution at the 62nd United Nations General Assembly.*

*The Council appointed Miroslav Lajcak as the new EU Special Representative in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** as of 1 July.*

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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

See press release 10654/07.

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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.
- 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.

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
Mr Todor CHUROV
Ms Evgenia Marinova KOLDANOVA

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Czech Republic:

Mr Alexandr VONDRA

Deputy Prime Minister with responsibility for European
Affairs

Mr Karel SCHWARZENBERG

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 Dirk ROCHE

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local
Government

Greece:

Ms Dora BAKOYANNI
Mr Ioannis VALINAKIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Miguel Ángel MORATINOS
Mr Alberto NAVARRO GONZÁLEZ

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
State Secretary for the European Union

France:

Mr Bernard KOUCHNER
Mr Jean-Pierre JOUYET

Minister of Foreign and European Affairs
Minister of State for European Affairs

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 Petras VAITIEKŪNAS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean ASSELBORN

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

Mr Nicolas SCHMIT

Minister with responsibility for Foreign Affairs and
Immigration

Hungary:

Ms Kinga GÖNCZ

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Malta:

Mr Michael FRENDU

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr Maxime VERHAGEN
Mr Franciscus TIMMERMANS

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for European Affairs

Austria:

Ms Ursula PLASSNIK

Federal Minister for European and International Affairs

Poland:

Ms Anna Elzbieta FOTYGA
Ms Ewa OŚNIECKA-TAMECKA

Minister for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary, Office of the Committee for European
Integration

Portugal:

Mr Luís AMADO
Mr Manuel LOBO ANTUNES

Ministro de Estado, Minister for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary for European Affairs, attached to the
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Romania:

Mr Adrian CIOROIANU

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Slovenia:

Mr Dimitrij RUPEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Slovakia:

Mr Ján KUBIŠ
Ms Oľga ALGAYEROVÁ

Minister for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Finland:

Mr Ilkka KANERVA
Mr Paavo VÄRYNEN
Ms Astrid THORS

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Foreign Trade and Development
Minister for Migration and European Affairs

Sweden:

Mr Carl BILDT
Ms Cecilia MALMSTRÖM

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Minister for European Affairs

United Kingdom:

Ms Margaret BECKETT

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Commission:

Mr Olli REHN
Ms Benita FERRERO-WALDNER
Mr Peter MANDELSON

Member
Member
Member

General Secretariat of the Council:

Mr Javier SOLANA

Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP

IRAN - Council conclusions

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council deplores the fact that Iran has still not complied with its international obligations as reiterated in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1747. Iran has instead continued to drive forward its nuclear programme as well as further restricting its cooperation with the IAEA, thus creating further doubts as to the exclusively peaceful nature of its programme. Whilst reaffirming its commitment to finding a diplomatic solution that addresses the international community's concerns, the Council also reasserts its full support for the UNSC and its resolve, as expressed in Resolution 1747, to adopt further appropriate measures under Article 41 Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter should Iran continue not to comply with its international obligations.

The Council again urges Iran to respond positively to the proposals put forward by the Foreign Ministers of China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, with the support of the High Representative of the European Union, in their Statement of 24 March 2007. The Council also reaffirms its support for the exploratory efforts of the High Representative of the EU, Javier Solana with Dr. Ali Larijani and strongly urges Iran to engage constructively in these consultations and to create the necessary conditions for negotiations to resume."