



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



15461/04 (Presse 344)

**PROVISIONAL VERSION**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

2631st Council Meeting

### **General Affairs and External Relations**

### **External Relations**

Brussels, 13-14 December 2004

President      **Mr Bernard BOT**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

\* Some external relations items were adopted without debate at the 2630th meeting on General Affairs (15460/04).

# **P R E S S**

---

Rue de la Loi 175 B – 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 285 / 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 285 8026  
[press.office@consilium.eu.int](mailto:press.office@consilium.eu.int) <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>

15461/04 (Presse 344)

1  
**EN**

## **Main Results of the Council**

*The Council gave its full support for the negotiating process, which started on 13 December, on a long term arrangement with **Iran** and, in light of the IAEA's confirmation of full suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities by Tehran, confirmed that the EU would resume negotiations with Iran on a draft Trade and Cooperation Agreement.*

*The Council welcomed the political agreement reached in **Ukraine** by parties in the Parliament on 8 December that paved the way for a free and fair rerun of the second round of presidential elections. The EU and its Member States will contribute substantially to the OSCE international election observation mission.*

*The Council welcomed the Commission's proposals for **European Neighbourhood Policy** action plans with a first set of partners: Israel, Jordan, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Tunisia and Ukraine.*

*A number of External Relations / European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) items were adopted at the General Affairs session (Press release doc 15460/04), notably concerning:*

- *restrictive measures against persons in **Belarus** responsible for electoral fraud and repression of peaceful demonstrations;*
- *restrictive measures against the **Ivory Coast** in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1572;*
- *a progress report on the **EU strategy against proliferation of WMD** and recommendations on export control systems for dual use goods;*
- *conclusions on **ESDP** including approval by the Council of proposals for a civilian/military cell.*

**CONTENTS**<sup>1</sup>

<b>PARTICIPANTS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ITEMS DEBATED</b>	
MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS .....	6
IRAN - <i>Council conclusions</i> .....	7
UKRAINE - <i>Council conclusions</i> .....	8
EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY - <i>Council conclusions</i> .....	9
AFRICAN GREAT LAKES - <i>Council conclusions</i> .....	11
SUDAN - <i>Council conclusions</i> .....	12
OTHER BUSINESS .....	14
– China/arms embargo .....	14
– EU-Africa dialogue.....	14
– Guinea-Bissau.....	14

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

*A number of External Relations items were approved at the Council's session on General Affairs. See press release 15460/04.*

<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.
- The documents whose references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site <http://ue.eu.int>.
- 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 the European Affairs

**Czech Republic:**

Mr Cyril SVOBODA

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Denmark:**

Mr Per Stig MØLLER

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Germany:**

Mr Joschka FISCHER

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Federal Chancellor

**Estonia:**

Ms Kristiina OJULAND

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Greece:**

Mr Petros MOLYVIATIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Spain:**

Mr Miguel Angel MORATINOS CUYAUBÉ

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**France:**

Mr Michel BARNIER  
Ms Claudie HAIGNERÉ

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Minister with responsibilities for European Affairs,  
attached to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Ireland:**

Mr Dermot AHERN T.D.

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Italy:**

Mr Gianfranco FINI

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Cyprus:**

Mr George IACOVOU

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Latvia:**

Mr Artis PABRIKS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Lithuania:**

Mr Antanas VALIONIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Luxembourg:**

Mr Jean ASSELBORN

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

**Hungary:**

Mr Ferenc SOMOGYI  
Mr Etele BARÁTH

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Minister without portfolio responsible for European Affairs

**Malta:**

Mr Michael FRENDO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Netherlands:**

Mr Bernard BOT  
Mr Atzo NICOLAÏ  
Ms Agnes van ARDENNE-van der HOEVEN

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Minister for European Affairs  
Minister for Development Cooperation

**Austria:**

Ms Ursula PLASSNIK

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Poland:**

Mr Włodzimierz CIMOSZEWICZ

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Portugal:**

Mr António MONTEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Portuguese Communities  
Abroad  
State Secretary for European Affairs

Mr Mário DAVID

**Slovenia:**

Mr Dimitrij RUPEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Slovakia:**

Mr Jozsef BERENYI

State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Finland:**

Mr Erkki TUOMIOJA

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Sweden:**

Ms Laila FREIVALDS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**United Kingdom:**

Mr Jack STRAW

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

.....

**Commission:**

Mr José Manuel BARROSO

President

Ms Margot WALLSTRÖM

Vice-President

Ms Benita FERRERO-WALDNER

Member

Mr Olli REHN

Member

.....

**General Secretariat of the Council:**

Mr Javier SOLANA

Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP

.....

**ITEMS DEBATED**

**MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS**

The Council held an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East, with particular reference to the Palestinian presidential election scheduled for 9 January 2005 and preparations for an EU observation mission. The Presidency noted that Ministers would return to the subject on the occasion of the 16-17 December European Council, which would adopt conclusions.

Note: the fifth meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council was held in the margins of the Council on 13 December.

**IRAN - Council conclusions**

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council discussed the EU's relations with Iran in the light of the agreement reached with Iran on 15 November 2004 following talks with France, Germany and the UK, supported by the High Representative, and the recent meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors (25-29 November 2004).
2. The Council welcomed the adoption, without a vote, on 29 November 2004 of the Board of Governors' resolution on Iran's nuclear programme and called on Iran to comply fully with its provisions.
3. The Council welcomed the confirmation by the IAEA that Iran had voluntarily suspended all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, thus paving the way for negotiations on a long term arrangement, as provided for in the agreement of 15 November 2004. The Council underlined that sustaining the full suspension of all enrichment related and reprocessing activities is essential for the continuation of the overall process.
4. The Council stressed that a long term arrangement resulting from negotiations, which started on 13 December, will have to provide objective guarantees that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes.
5. The Council underlined its full support for the negotiating process and recalled its commitment to contribute to a positive outcome. In light of the IAEA's confirmation of full suspension, it confirmed that the EU would resume negotiations with Iran on a draft EU-Iran Trade and Cooperation Agreement together with parallel negotiations on a political agreement. It confirmed the EU's readiness to explore ways to further develop political and economic co-operation with Iran, following action by Iran to also address the other concerns of the EU regarding the fight against terrorism, human rights and Iran's approach to the Middle East Peace Process."