



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



10191/04 (Presse 196)

**PRESS RELEASE**

2591st Council Meeting

**General Affairs and External Relations**

**- EXTERNAL RELATIONS -**

Luxembourg, 14 June 2004

President      **Mr Brian COWEN**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland

\* Some external relations items were adopted without debate at the 2590th meeting on General Affairs (10189/04).

**P R E S S**

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**EN**

## **Main Results of the Council**

The Council reached political agreement on a Joint Action establishing the **European Defence Agency**. This timely agreement should enable the Agency to begin functioning by the end of the year. The Agency is ascribed four functions, relating to: defence capabilities development; armaments co-operation; the European defence technological and industrial base and defence equipment market; research and technology (10450/04).

Also in the context of the European Security and Defence Policy, the Council announced the EU's readiness to launch, by mid-July, an **EU Rule of Law Mission in Georgia**. The first Rule of Law Mission launched in the context of ESDP, it is intended to support the Georgian authorities in addressing urgent challenges in the criminal justice system.

The Council also welcomed the unanimous approval of UN Security Council Resolution 1546 on **Iraq** and welcomed a medium-term strategy for the EU's relations with Iraq.

Finally, the Council welcomed progress made on the implementation of the **EU Strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction** since its adoption last December.

In the margins of the Council meeting, the first meeting of the EU-Egypt Association Council was held on 14 June.

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**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

*Please see "General Affairs" press release 10189/04*

<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 Jan DE BOCK

Permanent Representative

**Czech Republic:**

Mr Cyril SVOBODA

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Denmark:**

Mr Claus GRUBE

Permanent Representative

**Germany:**

Mr Wilhelm SCHÖNFELDER

Permanent Representative

**Estonia:**

Mr Väino REINART

Permanent Representative

**Greece:**

Mr Petros MOLYVIATIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Spain:**

Mr Miguel Angel MORATINOS

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

**France:**

Ms Claudie HAIGNERÉ

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

**Ireland:**

Mr Brian COWEN

Mr Dick ROCHE

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and at the Department of Foreign Affairs with responsibility for European Affairs

**Italy:**

Mr Roberto ANTONIONE

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

**Cyprus:**

Mr George IACOVOU

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Latvia:**

Mr Rihards PĪKS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Lithuania:**

Mr Antanas VALIONIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Luxembourg:**

Mr Nicolas SCHMIT

Permanent Representative

**Hungary:**

Mr András BÁRSONY

Political State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Malta:**

Mr John DALLI

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion

**Netherlands:**

Mr Bernard BOT

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Austria:**

Ms Benita FERRERO-WALDNER

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Poland:**

Mr Jarosław PIETRAS

State Secretary, Office of the Committee for European Integration

**Portugal:**

Ms Teresa GOUVEIA

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Portuguese Communities Abroad

**Slovenia:**

Mr Dimitrij RUPEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Slovakia:**

Mr Eduard KUKAN

Minister for 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 Chris PATTEN

Member

**Other participants:**

Mr Javier SOLANA

Secretary-General/High Representative for the CFSP

**IRAN**

The Council noted the report of the IAEA Director General and the ongoing discussion at the IAEA Board of Governors on the Iranian nuclear programme. It recalled that the EU calls on Iran to cooperate proactively with the IAEA in a spirit of full transparency, with a view to resolving all outstanding concerns in relation to its nuclear programme.

EU delegations in Vienna will continue to coordinate closely on this issue. The Council reiterated its full support for the work of the IAEA and for the efforts of its Director General, Dr El Baradei.