



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



13325/10  
(OR. en)

**PROVISIONAL VERSION**

PRESSE 235  
PR CO 17

## **PRESS RELEASE**

3031st Council meeting

### **Foreign Affairs**

Brussels, 10 September 2010

President

**Steven VANACKERE**  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and  
Institutional Reforms

# **P R E S S**

---

Rue de la Loi 175 B - 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 6083 / 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 281 8026  
[press.office@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:press.office@consilium.europa.eu) <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/Newsroom>

13325/10  
(OR. en)

1  
**EN**

## **Main results of the Council**

*The Council gave the go-ahead for the launch of negotiations:*

- *with **China** on an agreement on the protection of geographical indications for wines, spirits, agricultural products and foodstuffs;*
- *with **Malaysia** on an agreement on free trade.*

*It also held a first discussion on the development of an EU policy on **international investments**.*

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

**PARTICIPANTS** .....4

**ITEMS DEBATED**

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS .....6

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH KOREA .....7

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POLICY .....8

OTHER BUSINESS .....9

Pakistan .....9

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

*TRADE POLICY*

– EU/Malaysia - Launch of negotiations for a free trade agreement ..... 10

*AGRICULTURE*

– Negotiations with China on the protection of geographical indications ..... 10

<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. 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**

**Belgium:**

Mr Steven VANACKERE

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs  
and Institutional Reforms  
Ambassador

Ms Liliane BLOEM

**Bulgaria:**

Mr Traycho TRAYKOV

Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism

**Czech Republic:**

Mr Karl SCHWARZENBERG

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Denmark:**

Ms Lene ESPERSEN

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Germany:**

Mr Bernd PFAFFENBACH

State Secretary for Economic Affairs and Technology

**Estonia:**

Mr Raul MÄLK

Permanent Representative

**Ireland:**

Mr Dick ROCHE

Minister for European Union Affairs

**Greece:**

Mr Konstantinos PAPADOPOULOS

General Secretary

**Spain:**

Mr Alfredo BONET

State Secretary for Trade

**France:**

Ms Anne-Marie IDRAC

State Secretary for Foreign Trade

**Italy:**

Mr Adolfo URSO

Deputy Minister for Economic Development

**Cyprus:**

Mr Andreas MAVROYIANNIS

Permanent Representative

**Latvia:**

Mr Artis KAMPARS

Minister for Economic Affairs

**Lithuania:**

Mr Audronius AŽUBALIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Luxembourg:**

Mr Christian BRAUN

Permanent Representative

**Hungary:**

Mr János MARTONYI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Malta:**

Mr Tonio BORG

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Netherlands:**

Ms Maria VAN DER HOEVEN

Minister for Economic Affairs

**Austria:**

Mr Hans-Dietmar SCHWEISGUT

Permanent Representative

**Poland:**

Mr Marcin KOROLEC

Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

**Portugal:**

Mr Luis AMADO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

**Romania:**

Mr Mihnea MOTOC

Permanent Representative

**Slovenia:**

Mr Viljem PŠENIČNY

State Secretary for Economic Affairs

**Slovakia:**

Mr Stanislav KUBINEC

Director

**Finland:**

Mr Paavo VÄYRYNEN

Minister for Foreign Trade and Development

**Sweden:**

Mr Gunnar WIESLANDER

State Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

**United Kingdom:**

Mr Edward DAVEY

Under-Secretary of State at the Department for  
Business, Innovation and Skills

.....

**Commission:**

Mr. Karel DE GUCHT

Member

**ITEMS DEBATED**

**ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS**

The Council held an exchange of views on the situation and the way forward as regards the negotiation of economic partnership agreements (EPAs) with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and regions.

It took note of suggestions by the Commission for adjusting the EU's negotiation strategy so as to reinvigorate the negotiation process.

**FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH KOREA**

The Council discussed a draft decision on the signature and provisional application of an agreement with South Korea on free trade.

It agreed to return to the issue as soon as possible, with a view to enabling the agreement to be signed and a proposal for a decision on conclusion of the agreement to be sent to the European Parliament for its consent.

The agreement, initialled on 15 October 2009, provides for the progressive and reciprocal liberalisation of trade in goods and services, as well as rules on trade-related issues.

**INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT POLICY**

The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission of a communication on the development of an EU policy on international investments (*doc. 11952/10*).

It held an exchange of views.

Globalisation has seen a dramatic increase of capital movements in recent years; in 2007, FDI flows reached a record high of almost EUR 1.5 billion.

Under article 207 of the Treaty of Lisbon, which entered into force in December 2009, foreign direct investment (FDI) is a policy area of exclusive EU competence as part of its common commercial policy. Until now, the member states have negotiated bilateral investment treaties with third countries.

As a first step in addressing the effects of this new EU competence, the Commission presented in July a policy package comprising the communication and a proposal for a regulation aimed at establishing transitional arrangements for the member states bilateral investment treaties.

The communication addresses issues such as the definition of FDI, the criteria for selecting prospective negotiating partners, standards for future investment agreements at EU level and the settlement of disputes.

During the course of the Council's discussion, delegations highlighted the need to put into place as soon as possible a comprehensive and efficient framework for investment agreements at EU level. They underscored the need, in doing so, to ensure legal certainty for operators, as well as predictability and maximum protection for EU investors abroad, and to maintain the EU as an attractive destination for investment.



**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Pakistan**

The Council was informed by the Commission of possible initiatives under EU trade policy to support economic reconstruction in Pakistan, following the widespread recent flooding.

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

**TRADE POLICY**

**EU/Malaysia - Launch of negotiations for a free trade agreement**

The Council approved the launch of negotiations for a free trade agreement with Malaysia.

**AGRICULTURE**

**Negotiations with China on the protection of geographical indications**

The Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with China with a view to an agreement on the protection of geographical indications for wines, spirits, agricultural products and foodstuffs.

---