



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
MAIN TOPICS FOR THE COMING FORTNIGHT*

21 September - 4 October 2009

Monday 21 September 2009

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- <http://video.consilium.europa.eu> (live webcast of public deliberations, public debates and press conferences)

and

- <http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu> (audiovisual material available for download in broadcast quality)

Monday 21 September 2009

JHA Council - overview of the agenda

The work of the Justice and Home Affairs Council will be almost exclusively devoted to immigration and asylum matters. The Council will have a first exchange of views regarding two documents presented by the Commission on the external aspects of migration:

- *a communication on the establishment of a joint EU resettlement programme for refugees in third countries (see more details on the next page);*
- *the proposal for a decision establishing the European Refugee Fund for the period 2008 to 2013, as part of the General programme "Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows."*

The Council will also take note of a report by the Commission on the implementation of the European Council conclusions of 18-19 June 2009 relating to internal reallocation of beneficiaries of international protection concerning in particular member states exposed to disproportionate migratory pressures. In this context, the Council will also discuss the reallocation pilot project for Malta and the role and development of Frontex operations in the Mediterranean region.

The Council will also have an exchange of views on the problem of unaccompanied minors, as well as on the Commission communication on guidance for better transposition and application of directive 2004/38/EC on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the member states.

In the margins of the Council, there will be a meeting of the Mixed Committee at 10.00, which will examine the state of play concerning the Visa Information System (VIS).

Further information

- Commission proposal on the European Refugee Fund ([12985/09](#))
- European Council conclusions of 18-19 June 2009 ([11225/09](#))
- <http://www.frontex.europa.eu/>
- Commission communication on transposition and application of directive 2004/38/EC ([11815/09](#))
- VIS regulation (OJ L 218, 13.8.2008)

Event

Meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels (10.00).

A press conference will take place at the end of the proceedings.

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/currentcouncilsessions>

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Monday 21 September 2009

Joint EU Resettlement Programme

The Justice and Home Affairs Council will have a first exchange of views regarding a communication on the establishment of a joint EU resettlement programme which will be presented by the Commission. Resettlement is the transfer of refugees who have provisional protection, from the first country of asylum to another country where they can find permanent protection. The programme concerns only the resettlement of refugees from third countries to an EU member state and will be applied on a strictly voluntary basis. It aims at closer political and practical cooperation among the member states, so as to improve the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of their resettlement practices, as well as its humanitarian and strategic impact. The programme foresees to set common annual priorities on resettlement which could apply both to geographic regions and nationalities, as well as to specific categories of refugees.

Background

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that for 2010 alone, out of approximately 10 million refugees worldwide, 203.000 refugees are in need of resettlement. The large majority of the refugees worldwide find themselves outside of the EU, in developing countries in Asia and Africa. Return to their country of origin is generally the preferred option but resettlement is often the only solution. In 2008, countries around the world offered to resettle some 65,000 refugees. Of these, 6,7 %, were resettled to one of the EU countries. There are currently 10 member states which have established annual resettlement programmes, while others have provided resettlement on an *ad-hoc* basis.

Further information

- Communication on the establishment of a joint EU resettlement programme ([12986/09](#))
- Decision establishing the European Refugee Fund (OJ L 144, 6.6.2007, p. 1)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: <http://www.unhcr.org>

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Thursday 24 and Friday 25 September 2009

Competitiveness Council - overview of the agenda

Under the internal market and industry part on Thursday, the Competitiveness Council is expected to

- *adopt conclusions on improving the **functioning of the internal market**, with a focus on three priority areas: practical information, administrative cooperation and enforcement, including problem-solving. In this context, the state of implementation of the **Services directive** will be discussed by ministers over lunch;*
- *hold a debate on a proposal to simplify the financial reporting requirements for **micro-entities** by amending directive 78/660/EEC on the annual accounts of certain types of companies (Commission proposal: [7229/09](#)).*

*Furthermore, it will have a public debate on the Community's **innovation** policy, which will also be discussed under the research part of the agenda on Friday (see separate sheet on the topic of innovation policy).*

Event

Meeting of the Competitiveness Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels (starting on Thursday at 10.00, on Friday at 9.30).

The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room on Monday, 21 September, at 9.30.

A press conference will take place at the end of the proceedings.

For additional information concerning this meeting, please see:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/currentcouncilsessions>

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Thursday 24 and Friday 25 September 2009

European innovation policy

The Competitiveness Council will hold a public debate on the Community's innovation policy, based on a communication from the Commission. While on the first day of this Council meeting, the issue will be discussed from the point of view of internal market and industry policy, on the second day ministers responsible for research will focus on the aspects linked to the development of the European Research Area.

Background

Innovation is not only a core issue of research policy, but also enhances competitiveness and opens up new opportunities for job creation. Investment in and improved framework conditions for innovation can therefore contribute to tackling the current economic crisis.

In December 2008, the European Council called "for the launching of a European plan for innovation, combined with the development of the European Research Area and with reflection on the future of the Lisbon Strategy beyond 2010, encompassing all the conditions for sustainable development and the main technologies of the future".

The recent Commission communication on Community innovation policy takes stock of the progress achieved this far and contains policy orientations on how to remedy shortcomings and to further foster innovation in the EU, with a view to presenting a European Innovation Act later on in response to the European Council's request.

Further information

- Commission communication: Reviewing Community innovation policy in a changing world ([12905/09](#))
- Questions drawn up by the presidency for structuring the debates on 24 and 25 September (13079/09 and 13047/09 respectively)
- European Council of 11/12 December 2008, presidency conclusions ([17271/08](#), para. 18)

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OTHER EVENTS

21 - 25 September 2009 (New York):

- UN General Assembly ministerial week, including presidency's address on behalf of the EU and political dialogue contacts by the EU and the EU High Representative in the margins of UNGA
([http://www.se2009.eu/the Swedish EU presidency at the United Nations General Assembly](http://www.se2009.eu/the_Swedish_EU_presidency_at_the_United_Nations_General_Assembly))

23 - 24 September 2009 (Göteborg, Sweden):

- Informal meeting of Education ministers
([www.se2009.eu/informal meeting of education ministers](http://www.se2009.eu/informal_meeting_of_education_ministers))

28 - 29 September 2009 (Göteborg, Sweden):

- Informal meeting of ministers of Defence
([http://www.se2009.eu/informal meeting of defence ministers](http://www.se2009.eu/informal_meeting_of_defence_ministers))

1 - 2 October 2009 (Göteborg, Sweden):

- Informal meeting of Ecofin ministers
([http://www.se2009.eu/informal meeting of finance ministers](http://www.se2009.eu/informal_meeting_of_finance_ministers))

1 October 2009 (The Hague, Netherlands):

- Informal meeting of ministers for the Interior
([http://www.se2009.eu/informal meeting of ministers for the interior at europol](http://www.se2009.eu/informal_meeting_of_ministers_for_the_interior_at_europol))
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