



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



9130/09 (Presse 103)

PRESS RELEASE

2941st Council meeting

Education, Youth and Culture

Brussels, 11-12 May 2009

President

Mrs Miroslava KOPICOVÁ

Minister for Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic

Mr Václav RIEDLBAUCH

Minister for Culture of the Czech Republic

P R E S S

Rue de la Loi 175 B – 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 5389 / 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 281 8026
press.office@consilium.europa.eu <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/Newsroom>

9130/09 (Presse 103)

1
EN

Main results of the Council

The Council adopted a new **strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training to apply until 2020**.

The Council designated Guimarães and Maribor as **European Capitals of Culture** for 2012 and Marseille and Košice for 2013.

Without discussion, the Council adopted a directive on the **safety of toys**.

CONTENTS¹

PARTICIPANTS.....	5
--------------------------	----------

ITEMS DEBATED

YOUTH.....	7
European Cooperation in the Youth Field	7
EDUCATION	7
Partnerships between education and training institutions and employers.....	7
Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training until 2020.....	7
CULTURE	7
Culture as a catalyst for creativity and innovation.....	7
European Capital of Culture	8
AUDIOVISUAL	8
Creative Content Online.....	8
OTHER BUSINESS	10

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

EDUCATION

— Tools for mobility and quality in vocational education and training.....	12
--	----

¹ • 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.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

–	EU-Argentina - Political declaration	12
–	EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Council - Rules of Procedure	15
–	First EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Council	15
–	EU-Switzerland - Liberalisation of trade in processed agricultural products	15

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

–	European Economic Area Council meeting	15
–	Amendment to the EEA Agreement	15

INTERNAL MARKET

–	Safety of toys *	16
–	Updating of test methods laid down for the purposes of the REACH regulation	17
–	Amendment of the REACH regulation	17
–	Type-approval for two and three-wheel vehicles	17

TRADE POLICY

–	Anti-dumping - Candles, tapers - China	18
---	--	----

COMPANY LAW

–	Simplification of accounting rules for EU companies	18
---	---	----

COURT OF JUSTICE

–	Anti-dumping duty	18
---	-------------------------	----

AGRICULTURE

–	Participation in the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests	19
---	--	----

TRANSPARENCY

–	Public access to documents	25
---	----------------------------------	----

PARTICIPANTS

The governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Ms Isabelle WEYKMANS

Minister for Culture and the Media, the Protection of Monuments, Youth and Sport (German-speaking Community)

Bulgaria:

Mr Yavor Todorov MILUSHEV

Ms Mukaddes NALBANT

Deputy Minister for Culture

Deputy Minister for Education and Science

Czech Republic:

Ms Miroslava KOPICOVÁ

Mr Václav RIEDLBAUCH

Mr Jakub DÜRR

Minister for Education, Youth and Sport

Minister for Culture

Deputy Minister for Education

Denmark:

Ms Karoline Prien KJELDSEN

State Secretary for Culture

Germany:

Ms Ursula VON DER LEYEN

Mr Bernd NEUMANN

Ms Ute ERDSIEK-RAVE

Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

Minister of State in the Federal Chancellery and Federal

Government Representative for Culture and Media

Minister for Education of Schleswig-Holstein

Estonia:

Mr Gert ANTUS

Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Batt O'KEEFFE

Minister for Education and Science

Greece:

Mr Aris SPILIOTOPOULOS

Mr Antonis SAMARAS

Minister for Education and Religious Affairs

Minister for Culture

Spain:

Ms María Ángeles GARCÍA MORENO

Mr César Antón BELTRÁN

Ms María Soledad HERRERO

Minister for Education and Science of the Autonomous Community of the Castilla-La Mancha

Minister for Family and Equal Opportunities of the

Autonomous Community of Castille-Leon

Minister of Culture, Tourism and Handicraft of the

Autonomous Community of Castille-La Mancha

France:

Mr Martin HIRSCH

High Commissioner for active solidarity against poverty

Italy:

Mr Giuseppe PIZZA

Mr Francesco Maria GIRO

State Secretary for Education, Universities and Research

State Secretary for Cultural Assets and Activities

Cyprus:

Mr Andreas DEMETRIOU

Minister for Education and Culture

Latvia:

Mr Ints DÄLDERIS

Minister for Culture

Lithuania:

Mr Remigijus VILKAITIS

Minister for Culture

Luxembourg:

Ms Michèle EISENBARTH

Deputy Permanent Representative

Hungary:

Mr Ferenc CSÁK

State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Culture

Malta:

Ms Theresa CUTAJAR

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr Peter W. KOK

Deputy Permanent Representative

Austria:

Ms Claudia SCHMIED

Mr Johannes HAHN

Ms Christine MAREK

Federal Minister for Education, the Arts and Culture

Federal Minister of Science and Research

State Secretary, Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth

Poland:

Ms Monika SMOLEŃ

Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of National Education

Mr Krzysztof Piotr STANOWSKI

Portugal:

Ms Maria de Lurdes RODRIGUES

Mr José António PINTO RIBEIRO

Minister for Education

Minister for Culture

Romania:

Mr Marius HIRTE

Deputy Permanent Representative

Slovenia:

Mr Igor LUKŠIČ

Minister for Education and Sport

Slovakia:

Mr Jozef HABÁNIK

Mr Ivan SEČÍK

State Secretary at the Ministry of Education

State Secretary at the Ministry of Culture

Finland:

Mr Carl HAGLUND

State Secretary of Culture and Sport, Ministry of Education

State Secretary of Education and Science, Ministry of Education

Ms Heljä MISUKKA

Sweden:

Ms Nyamko SABUNI

Mr Jan BJÖRKLUND

Ms Lena ADELSON LILJEROTH

Minister for Integration and Equal Opportunities

Minister for Education

Minister for Culture

United Kingdom:

Mr Jim KNIGHT

Ms Barbara FOLLETT

Minister of State for Schools and Learners

Minister of State for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism and Minister for the East of England

Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning (Scottish Government)

Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution (Scottish Government)

Ms Fiona HYSLOP

Mr Michael RUSSELL

Commission:

Mr Siim KALLAS

Ms Viviane REDING

Mr Ján FIGEL

Vice President

Member

Member

ITEMS DEBATED**YOUTH****European Cooperation in the Youth Field**

The Council held a public exchange of views on future perspectives for the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field. It adopted conclusions concerning both the evaluation of the current and perspectives for the future framework, see [9169/09](#).

EDUCATION**Partnerships between education and training institutions and employers**

The Council adopted conclusions on enhancing partnerships between education and training institutions and social partners, in particular employers, in the context of lifelong learning. The conclusions are set out in [9876/09](#).

Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training until 2020

After an exchange of views, the Council adopted a new strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training until 2020. The text can be found [9845/09](#).

CULTURE**Culture as a catalyst for creativity and innovation**

The Council adopted conclusions on culture as a catalyst for creativity and innovation, see [8749/1/09 REV 1](#).

European Capital of Culture

– Selection of two Member States

The Council held a draw to select the two member states which will each recommend an expert to sit on the selection panel and the monitoring and advisory panel for the European Capital of Culture for the period 2010-2012.

Luxembourg and Romania were selected, with the assistance of the Council Legal Service and in accordance with Decision 1622/2006/EC and Council Decision 2007/334/EC.

These two member states are expected to propose their candidates for Council experts before the end of June 2009 in order for the Council to officially nominate these experts at its November meeting.

– European Capital of Culture 2012

The Council adopted a decision designating the cities of Guimarães (Portugal) and Maribor (Slovenia) as European Capitals of Culture 2012 ([8790/09](#)).

– European Capital of Culture 2013

The Council also adopted a decision designating Košice (Slovakia) and Marseille (France) as European Capitals of Culture 2013 ([8794/09](#)).

AUDIOVISUAL

Creative Content Online

The Council held a public exchange of views on creative content online and media literacy. Ministers were asked to answer two questions:

Content Online

What steps have member states taken to help develop legal offers and tackle the problems of piracy? How effective have these steps been and are there any lessons that can be learned from the experience gained?

In particular:

- how far is it possible to take government action without risking the creation of new obstacles to the development of new innovative services ?*
- how far is it possible to develop solutions which promote greater variety and better accessibility of legal offer whilst protecting the interests of rightholders ?*

In response, ministers highlighted the need for balanced action that protects the interests of rightholders as well as promotes the creation of innovative services. Ministers underlined that rapid technological and market developments made solutions which balance the interests of rightholders with data protection, freedom of expression and encouragement for creativity and innovation particularly complex to achieve. Cooperation between rightholders, service providers and consumers was considered key. Some ministers gave examples of self-regulation on the basis of such stakeholder platforms while others had already adopted legal solutions, for example to establish sanctions against illegal downloading or to provide copyright holders with a right to information about those illegally accessing their content. Exchange of best practices at EU level was appreciated as a complement to national action.

Media literacy

How can member states achieve greater awareness on the importance of media literacy, and where do they see added value in possible initiatives at EU level?

Ministers stressed that media literacy is a key skill in the knowledge economy and of vital importance. It must not only cover technical abilities, but also an awareness of copyright issues and an informed judgment on contents.

The Commission undertook to take full account of delegations' comments in preparing further initiatives on these questions.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Council took note of information concerning the following points:

Conference on the mobility of young volunteers across Europe

The Presidency informed the Council of the results of the European conference on youth, which was held in Prague on 12 and 13 March 2009 and focused on the mobility of young volunteers across Europe.

Fall of the Iron Curtain

The Presidency informed the Council on its priorities for commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain ([9284/09](#)).

European Schools

The Council was informed by the Swedish delegation on developments concerning the reform of the European Schools ([9292/09](#)). Inter alia, the following decisions were adopted by the Board of Governors during its meeting in April:

- the system will become more flexible and be opened up to Type II and Type III schools;
- the schools will be given greater independence through the delegation of responsibility;
- the cost-sharing system will become fairer, through reference figures for the number of posts which each country will be expected to contribute.

Forum for Creative Europe

The Council was briefed by the Presidency on the outcomes of the ministerial conference organised in collaboration with the European Commission in March 2009 in Prague, within the framework of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009. The conference highlighted the important role of creativity in creating social and economic prosperity. More information: www.forumforcreativeeurope.cz

Work Plan for Culture 2008-2010

The Presidency informed the Member States in a note ([9447/09](#)) on the progress of work in the working groups set up in the framework of the open method of coordination in the field of culture set up by the Council Work Plan for Culture 2008-2010¹. It also indicated that the Presidency had drafted a reply to the request from Iceland and Norway to participate in the open method of coordination in the field of culture, as a result of relevant discussions among member states.

Inauguration of the New Acropolis Museum

The Council was informed by the Greek delegation about the inauguration of the New Acropolis Museum, which will be officially opened in June 2009 in Athens, Greece.

Media Mundus

The Presidency informed the delegations on the proposal for an audiovisual cooperation programme with professionals from third countries ("Media Mundus", [5237/09](#)). The programme is intended to increase the competitiveness of the European audiovisual industry on international markets and to improve circulation of audiovisual works worldwide. An agreement between the European Parliament and the Council has been reached in informal negotiations and has subsequently been confirmed by the European Parliament's first reading vote.

Responsibilities of content providers and users

The Council was briefed by the Presidency on a conference on the subject of responsibilities of content providers and users, held in March 2009 in Prague. More information can be found on: www.media-conference.cz

Google Books

The German delegation drew the attention of ministers to the digital database "Google book search". In its note ([9285/09](#)), it underlines the significance of this development and the need to ensure that European interests, including those of copyright holders, are properly considered and discussed. Several ministers supported the German intervention.

¹ Council Conclusions on the Work Plan for Culture 2008-2010. OJ C 143, 10.6.2008, p. 9

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

EDUCATION

Tools for mobility and quality in vocational education and training

The Council adopted two new European legal acts to facilitate mobility and improve quality in vocational education and training. The first legal act, the recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of the European credit system for vocational education and training ([3747/08](#)), is aimed at eliminating obstacles hindering identification, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired during a stay in another country. This instrument will thus make it easier for people to move from one country or region to another because they can be sure that their learning achievements are adequately appreciated. The second legal act, the recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a European quality assurance reference framework for vocational education and training ([3746/08](#)), is aimed at helping member states to promote and monitor continuous improvement of their vocational education and training systems, based on common European references. This instrument thus constitutes a quality assurance tool that can be used as a systematic approach to modernising education systems by improving the effectiveness of training.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

EU-Argentina - Political declaration

EUROPEAN UNION - ARGENTINA POLITICAL DECLARATION

"INTRODUCTION

Argentina was the first Latin American country to sign, with the European Union, an agreement of the so called "third generation": the Framework Agreement for trade and economic cooperation signed in 1990, which created the institutional framework for the bilateral relationship. The other agreements in force are the Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, which entered into force in October 1997 and the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation. That agreement was signed in September 1999 and on that basis Argentina is considered an EU Associated State in science and technology.

In Buenos Aires on 19 December 2008, in the context of the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Argentina and the European Union, inseparable in their pursuit of the objective of bringing about greater international consciousness so that universal progress can be made on human rights, signed the Joint Declaration by the Argentine Republic and the European Union on Human Rights.

The Argentine Republic and the European Union have noted that since the aforementioned agreements were signed the bilateral relationship has developed considerably so that, in the light of these new circumstances, they have decided to relaunch the bilateral relationship in order to strengthen it and expand it to take in new sectors of common interest.

I. SHARED VALUES

Between the Argentine Republic and the European Union there are fundamentally shared principles on the basis of which it is possible to strengthen a link that has grown naturally throughout history as a consequence of the close historical and cultural ties and the body of common values that unite them.

The Argentine Republic and the European Union reaffirm human dignity as the cornerstone of society and the need for the constant promotion and protection of human rights at world level.

The Argentine Republic and the European Union recognise that Rule of Law and the strengthening of democratic institutions are closely linked and essential values for political and social development.

The Argentine Republic and the European Union share the view that the economic development of their societies must include among its objectives social cohesion, equal opportunities and access to education and health.

II. OBJECTIVES

Through projects and programmes developed jointly the Argentine Republic and the European Union have accumulated great experience in very many fields such as the protection and promotion of human rights, sustainable development, social cohesion, regional integration and university and scientific cooperation. The most obvious result of the efforts made is a common vision of how to deal with today's challenges.

Argentina and the European Union recognise that the development of new technologies, innovations, climate change, enhancing effective multilateralism, fight against terrorism, organized crime and drug traffic, migration, globalisation and the uncertainty caused by the present financial crisis, among other things, are matters that must be given priority on the bilateral agenda and on those of multilateral bodies.

With the objective of ensuring the prosperity and wellbeing of both peoples, both parties solemnly reaffirm their commitment to strengthening the bilateral relationship and, with that objective, establishing a political dialogue. That dialogue will be carried on by means of regular consultations on matters of common interest.

III. COMMON PROGRAMME – DIALOGUE MECHANISM

Both parties undertake to:

- give momentum to annual bilateral consultations between Argentina and the European Union on the basis of the strengthened and regular consultations at local level, particularly at HOM's level;
- initiate meetings between High Ranking Government Officials and at other levels deemed appropriate, with the objective of assessing the progress of the bilateral relationship and proposing measures to enhance and expand bilateral links, as well as exchanging views on matters on the international agenda. The meetings of senior officials could preferably take place within the framework of international meetings in which both parties are taking part;
- hold extraordinary meetings if both parties so decide by common agreement;
- determine the dates, the agendas and the places of the aforementioned consultations by common agreement through diplomatic channels;
- organise meetings of experts and special working parties, where appropriate with involvement of civil society, to consider matters of common interest previously agreed upon;
- suggest to establish a regular and structured dialogue between the European Parliament and the Honourable National Congress, in particular at the level of the committees that deal with matters of common interest."

EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Council - Rules of Procedure

The Council adopted a Council and Commission decision on a Community position concerning a decision of the EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Council adopting its rules of procedure, including the rules of procedure of the Stabilisation and Association Committee ([8583/09](#)).

The Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Albania entered into force on 1 April 2009.

First EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Council

The Council approved the EU's common position with a view to the first meeting of the Stabilisation and Association Council between the EU and Albania, which will take place in Brussels on 18 May 2009.

EU-Switzerland - Liberalisation of trade in processed agricultural products

The Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to enter into negotiations with Switzerland on the liberalisation of trade in processed agricultural products with a view to the full liberalisation of bilateral trade in the agri-food sector.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

European Economic Area Council meeting

The Council approved the EU's common position for the 31st meeting of the European Economic Area Council, which will be held in Brussels on 19 May 2009.

Amendment to the EEA Agreement

The Council approved a draft decision to be adopted by the EEA Joint Committee amending Annex II (technical regulations, standards, testing and certification) to the EEA agreement ([8622/09](#)).

INTERNAL MARKET**Safety of toys ***

The Council adopted a directive aimed at reinforcing the safety of toys in the internal market ([3744/08](#) and [8923/09 ADD1](#)).

The new directive, which replaces directive 88/378/EEC, updates and completes current Community rules to take account of technological developments of toys and new scientific knowledge, in particular as concerns safety issues that were unknown when the original Toys Safety Directive was adopted.

In particular, stricter rules, responding to consumer concerns, will apply as regards hazards caused by certain chemical substances and fragrances used in toys, as well as noise from toys. The directive also complements and reinforces existing provisions on clearly legible warnings for toys in order to reduce inherent risks when they are used.

In accordance with the existing legislation on marketing of products, economic operators placing toys on the EU market will have responsibility of ensuring that these toys comply with Community legislation in order to ensure a high level of protection of consumers and of the environment. The new legislation reinforces market surveillance and essential safety requirements for toys, in order to ensure that toys sold to consumers in the EU are safe.

This directive is the first specific directive following the principles of the new legislative framework¹ for market surveillance and CE marking agreed last year. The provisions on chemicals are adapted to meet the requirements of the regulation on the classification, labelling and packaging of chemical substances and mixtures².

¹ Regulation 765/2008 and decision 768/2008/EC.

² OJ L 353 of 31.12.2008.

Updating of test methods laid down for the purposes of the REACH regulation

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption by the Commission of a regulation intended to adapt in the light of scientific and technical progress a Commission regulation from 2008 which lays down test methods pursuant to regulation 1907/2006 on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH).

Those methods apply to tests required to generate information on intrinsic properties of substances. The update provides for changes to certain test methods and introduces several new test methods adopted by the OECD.

The amending regulation is subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny, which allows the Council to oppose the adoption of legal acts by the Commission for defined reasons. As the Council has given its green light, the Commission may adopt the regulation, unless the European Parliament objects.

Amendment of the REACH regulation

The Council decided not to oppose a decision of the Commission to amend Annex XVII of regulation 1907/2006 on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH). Annex XVII contains restrictions for certain dangerous substances, mixtures and articles.

Type-approval for two and three-wheel vehicles

The Council confirmed that it would not oppose to the adoption by the Commission of a directive amending directive 97/24/EC on certain components and characteristics of two or three-wheel motor vehicles, for the purposes of adapting it in the light of technical progress.

Under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny, the Council may oppose the Commission's adoption of a legal act on the grounds that the measures presented by the Commission exceed the implementing powers provided for in the basic instrument, are not compatible with the aim or the content of the basic instrument, or do not respect the principles of subsidiarity or proportionality.

TRADE POLICY

Anti-dumping - Candles, tapers - China

The Council adopted a regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed on imports of certain candles, tapers and the like originating in China ([8983/09](#)).

COMPANY LAW

Simplification of accounting rules for EU companies

The Council adopted a directive aimed at simplifying rules as regards certain disclosure requirements for medium-sized companies and the obligation to draw up consolidated accounts ([3748/08](#)).

The directive amends directive 78/660/EEC ("Fourth company law directive") on the annual accounts of certain types of companies¹ and directive 83/349/EEC ("Seventh company law directive") on consolidated accounts², with a view to relieving the reporting burden imposed on small and medium-sized companies (SMEs).

The Commission's communication of 10 July 2007 on a simplified business environment for EU companies in the areas of accounting and auditing identified amendments to be made to these directives, which form the basis for SMEs' accounting in the Community.

COURT OF JUSTICE

Anti-dumping duty

The Council decided to appeal to the Court of Justice against the judgment of the Court of First Instance in Case T-249/06 on anti-dumping duty on imports of certain seamless pipes and tubes originating in Croatia, Romania, Russia and Ukraine.

¹ OJ L 222, 14.8.1978, p. 11.

² OJ L 193, 18.7.1983, p. 1.

AGRICULTURE**Participation in the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING:

- (I) Its earlier conclusions on the international forest policy dialogue, especially the conclusions on the follow-up to the seventh session of the UNFF held in 2007 (UNFF-7)¹, underlining in particular the EU's commitment to contribute actively to the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (NLBI) agreed at UNFF-7 and adopted by the UN General Assembly on 17 December 2007, as well as to the implementation of the Forum's multi-year programme of work,
- (II) The conclusions of the Environment Council of 4 December 2008 on addressing the challenges of deforestation and forest degradation to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss², as well as the conclusions of the Environment Council of 20 October 2008 on preparations for the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 4th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 4) (Poznan, 1 to 12 December 2008)³,
- (III) The forest-related decisions of the ninth Conference of the Parties (COP9) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), especially Decision IX/5 on forest biodiversity concerning inter alia the promotion and implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) to maintain forest biodiversity and ecosystem functions, as well as Decision IX/16 on biodiversity and climate change, Decision IX/17 on biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands and Decision IX/18 on protected areas,
- (IV) The UNFF-7 decision to address at UNFF-8 the theme of "forests in a changing environment", including (i) forests and climate change, (ii) reversing the loss of forest cover, preventing forest degradation in all types of forests and combating desertification, including low forest cover countries, and (iii) forest and biodiversity conservation, including protected areas,

¹ Set out in 5553/08
² Set out in 16852/08
³ Set out in 14562/08

- (V) The UNFF-7 decision to "develop and consider, with a view for adoption, at UNFF-8, a voluntary global financing mechanism/portfolio approach/forest financing framework, aiming at mobilising significantly increased, new and additional resources from all sources, based on existing and emerging innovative approaches, also taking into account assessments and reviews of current financial mechanisms, to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests",

WHEREAS:

- (VI) SFM covers the multiple functions of forests and, at the same time, contributes in an integrated way to sustainable development and to reaching internationally agreed goals, especially mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, combating deforestation, forest degradation and desertification, biodiversity conservation and poverty eradication,
- (VII) Financial resources for SFM need to be enhanced and used more efficiently if the capacity of forests to deliver multiple products and services is to be maintained and increased,
- (VIII) Newly emerging sources of finance recognising the environmental services provided by forests in, inter alia, mitigating and adapting to climate change and in conserving biodiversity (e.g. emerging financial instruments for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and payments for ecosystem services) provide new opportunities for financing related to the implementation of SFM, the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests and the implementation of the NLBI,
- (IX) There is need to further improve cooperation and coordination in addressing forest-related issues, including through targeted joint activities by the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF),

THE COUNCIL:

- (1) STRESSES the importance of UNFF-8 for strengthening the integration of environmental aspects into forest policy dialogue and sustainable forest management at all levels;
- (2) UNDERLINES that UNFF-8 should give policy guidance by clarifying and communicating the specific contributions which SFM can make to internationally agreed goals, so that it is fully taken into account in the policies and decisions of multilateral agreements and processes in particular directed towards mitigation of and adaptation to climate change (including REDD¹), combating deforestation, forest degradation and desertification, biodiversity conservation and poverty eradication and EMPHASISES that the NLBI and national forest programmes are appropriate means for actions aimed at reaching these goals;
- (3) NOTES WITH APPRECIATION the activities of the CPF Joint Initiative on Science and Technology and its Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP), in particular the work of the Panel on Adaptation of Forests to Climate Change, as well as the establishment of the CPF Strategic Framework for Forests and Climate Change and INVITES CPF members to continue and further strengthen their cooperation and coordination on forests and climate change;
- (4) STRESSES that, in the context of the climate change negotiations, especially as regards LULUCF², adequate attention should be given to the conclusions of the IPCC³ fourth assessment report, which underlines that SFM aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stock, while at the same time sustainably producing an annual yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation effects;
- (5) RECOGNIZES the important role that SFM plays in combating desertification, soil conservation and water resources management, and REQUESTS that UNFF-8 give proper consideration to soil and water as crucial components of forest ecosystems;

¹ Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

² Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry.

³ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

- (6) HIGHLIGHTS the need to encourage CPF members and UNFF member states to actively share information on issues related to forests and SFM, climate change, biodiversity, desertification and poverty eradication, and CONSIDERS that UNFF should invite relevant CPF members, UNFF member states and regional entities to:
- further develop indicators and methods for monitoring forest resources and progress towards the achievement of the four Global Objectives on Forests, with a view to assessing progress at UNFF-9 and UNFF-11;
 - promote periodic national forest inventories (nfi), with a view to covering all aspects of SFM (especially to introduce or further develop parameters concerning forest health, biodiversity, carbon storage, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and socio-economic and cultural aspects), increasing the coherence of nfi data and ensuring valuable and timely information on forest resources worldwide;
 - strengthen efforts towards further clarification and harmonisation of concepts, definitions and approaches between various forest-related processes (e.g. SFM, forest degradation, bioenergy, biodiversity);
 - promote the application and development of methods of economic valuation of multiple forest products and services;
- (7) UNDERLINES that UNFF-8 should decide on the future financing arrangement for SFM in order to promote the implementation of the NLBI and the achievement of the four Global Objectives on Forests, as a contribution to SFM;
- (8) STRESSES that both donor and recipient countries have committed themselves to mobilising domestic resources and attracting international financial flows for sustainable development as stated in the Monterey Consensus and URGES that this be properly reflected in the decisions of UNFF-8;
- (9) UNDERLINES that the future financing arrangement should remain voluntary in nature and should build on and complement, where appropriate, existing funding mechanisms and sources in order to avoid fragmentation of resources and increasing administrative costs, RECOGNISES the important role to be played by the private sector and therefore CONSIDERS the portfolio of existing sources of finance an appropriate basis for the future financing arrangement;

- (10) RECOGNISES that further work is needed to increase synergies, cooperation and coordination and consistency in financing SFM at all levels (global, regional and national) and therefore CONSIDERS that the future financing arrangement should facilitate and improve access to and use of various existing and emerging financial instruments, building upon the collaborative work of the CPF members, with a view to developing a dedicated service that improves coordination and coherence between those instruments;
- (11) EMPHASISES, in this respect, the need to increase the role of the CPF, inter alia through continuing the activities of the advisory group on finance and further developing the CPF Sourcebook on Funding for SFM, as well as the need to increase the role of the National Forest Programme (NFP) Facility and other international and regional entities in encouraging and assisting countries to strengthen their capacity to develop national forest financing strategies within the framework of national forest programmes;
- (12) NOTES that various existing and emerging financial instruments, such as the World Bank's Forest Investment Programme (FIP), as well as possible financial arrangements that may be part of the post-2012 climate agreement, may provide new and additional resources to support efforts towards the implementation of the NLBI and SFM;
- (13) UNDERLINES that Official Development Assistance (ODA) is most effective when delivered in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness in support of the objectives set in recipient countries' Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS) and other national development strategies, RECOGNISES self-determination as a core element of PRS and ENCOURAGES recipient countries to foster the development and implementation of national forest financing strategies;
- (14) TAKES THE VIEW that public policies, including financing, should contribute to improving the enabling environment for private sector investments in SFM by addressing, inter alia, market, policy and governance failures, forest law enforcement and deficits in information, training and institutional capacity;
- (15) REITERATES ITS VIEW that good governance and forest law enforcement, including secure land tenure rights, are prerequisites for the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests as well as for the effective use of financial resources and therefore URGES that this issue be properly addressed in UNFF-8 discussions and decisions both on the theme of forests in a changing environment and on the future financing arrangement for SFM;

- (16) UNDERLINES the need for addressing forest law enforcement, governance and trade at global level , WELCOMES the progress made at national and regional (FLEG and FLEGT) levels, NOTES the need to continue and intensify efforts to increase the effectiveness of these and related processes, and CONSIDERS that UNFF should invite CPF members, UNFF member states and regional entities to improve their cooperation and coordination to that end, including work on the development of a common understanding of legally harvested timber;
- (17) STRESSES the positive role of public procurement policies and market-based certification schemes to promote environmentally sound consumption and ENCOURAGES the UNFF to actively promote public procurement policies of wood and wood products from legal and sustainable sources;
- (18) RECOGNIZES the contributions from major groups and forest-related regional organizations and processes to themes addressed at UNFF-8, CALLS FOR enhanced cooperation and coordination within and between these forest-related regional entities as well as processes and sectors regarding SFM at all levels and URGES continuous involvement of all relevant stakeholders in planning and decision-making concerning forests in order to:
- further strengthen the implementation of forest-related commitments;
 - deal more effectively with the challenges presented by the changing environment, building on the successful achievements already made by the various bodies;
 - make more efficient use of existing financial resources for support of SFM and mobilise new ones;
- (19) CALLS UPON the UNFF secretariat to use the inter-sessional period following UNFF-8 to develop targeted joint activities, especially with the secretariats of UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD, taking into account the valuable work of the CPF members, and to report on these activities at the next session of UNFF in 2011."

TRANSPARENCY

Public access to documents

The Council adopted:

- the reply to confirmatory application 08/c/01/09 made by Ms Kalliopi STATHOPOULOU ([8315/09](#));
 - the reply to confirmatory application 09/c/03/09 made by Ms Eva MORAGA GUERRERO, the Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Slovenian and Swedish delegations voting against ([8465/09](#) + *REV I (sv)*).
-