


Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2009/2613(RSP)	Procedure completed
Outcome of the European Council on 29-30 October 2009, including the mandate and attributions of the President of the European Council and of the High Representative of the Union for the Foreign and Security Policy, as well as the structure of the new Commission		
See also 2009/2610(RSP)		
Subject 6.10 Common foreign and security policy (CFSP) 8.40.02 Council of the Union 8.40.03 European Commission 8.40.14 European Council		

Key players			
European Parliament			
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2972	10/11/2009
	General Affairs	2970	26/10/2009
European Commission	Commission DG Secretariat-General	Commissioner BARROSO José Manuel	

Key events			
26/10/2009	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
30/10/2009	Additional information		Summary
10/11/2009	Debate in Council	2972	
11/11/2009	Debate in Parliament		Summary
11/11/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2009/2613(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
	See also 2009/2610(RSP)
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 132-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Outcome of the European Council on 29-30 October 2009, including the mandate and attributions of the President of the European Council and of the High Representative of the Union for the Foreign and Security Policy, as well as the structure of the new Commission

The Council reached a broad agreement on guidelines for the establishment of a European External Action Service (EEAS), as presented in a report by the presidency, and took note of progress in preparatory work on implementation with a view to entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon.

The EEAS guidelines will be submitted to the European Council for approval at its October meeting.

The main elements of the Presidency report to the European Council on the European External Action Service are as follows:

Scope: the scope of the EEAS should allow the High Representative (HR) to fully carry out his/her mandate as defined in the Treaty. To ensure the consistency and better coordination of the Union's external action, the EEAS should also assist the President of the European Council and the President as well as the Members of the Commission in their respective functions in the area of external relations as well as closely cooperate with the Member States.

Single desks: the EEAS should:

- be composed of single geographical (covering all regions and countries) and thematic desks which would continue to perform, under the authority of the HR, the tasks currently executed by the relevant parts of the Commission and the Council Secretariat;
- have geographical desks dealing with the candidate countries from the overall foreign policy perspective, enlargement will remain the responsibility of the Commission.

Trade and the development policy as defined by the Treaty, should remain the responsibility of relevant Commissioners and DGs of the Commission.

European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and crisis management structures:

- the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD), the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) and the Military Staff (EUMS) should be part of the EEAS;
- the Situation Centre (SitCen) should be part of the EEAS, while putting in place the necessary arrangements to continue to provide other relevant services to the European Council, Council and the Commission.

These structures will form an entity placed under the direct authority and responsibility of the High Representative in his/her capacity of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Crisis management: to enable the HR to fulfil his/her tasks in the crisis management area, preparations of actions related to the CFSP budget and the Instrument for Stability should be handled by the EEAS. The decision-making process will remain as it is, with decisions taken by the Council (CFSP) and the Commission (Instrument for Stability). The technical implementation of these instruments should be managed by the Commission.

Programming and implementation of financial instruments:

- the EEAS (single geographic desks) should play a leading role in the strategic decision-making. It will thus be involved in the whole programming chain. The specific division of labour for programming the geographical and thematic instruments between the EEAS and the Commission services will be determined before the end of 2009 taking account of the nature of the instruments concerned;
- throughout the whole programming and implementation cycle, there should be very close cooperation and consultation between the High Representative and the EEAS and the relevant Commissioners and their services;
- the decisions concerning programming will be prepared jointly by the High Representative and the Commissioner responsible. The final proposals in this respect will continue to be adopted by the College of Commissioners.

Support functions: the EEAS should include a limited number of core support functions such as in particular security, IT, management of human resources.

Once in office, the High Representative should regularly consult the European Parliament on the main aspects and the basic choices of the CFSP/CSDP. Close contacts with the Parliament will take place at working level. The EEAS should therefore contain functions responsible for relations with the European Parliament.

Legal status: the EEAS should be a service of a sui generis nature separate from the Commission and the Council Secretariat. It should have autonomy in terms of administrative budget and management of staff.

Staffing: EEAS staff will come from three sources: relevant departments of the General Secretariat of the Council and of the Commission as well as staff from Member States. All three categories of personnel should be equally treated, including as concerns eligibility to assume all positions under equivalent conditions. Balanced representation between the different categories must be ensured.

When the EEAS has reached its full capacity, staff from Member States should represent at least one third of EEAS staff (AD level), including diplomatic staff in delegations. In addition, some supporting staff should also come from Member States.

Staff from Member States should be present in the EEAS from the outset, including in senior positions in Brussels and EU delegations.

Financing: the establishment of the EEAS should be guided by the principle of cost-efficiency aiming towards budget neutrality. To this end, transitional arrangements and gradual build-up of capacity will have to be used. Unnecessary duplication of tasks, functions and resources with other structures should be avoided. All opportunities for rationalisation should be used.

EU Delegations: with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, the Commission's delegations will become Union delegations under the authority of the HR, and be part of the EEAS structure. Delegations should take instructions from and report to the HR/EEAS and the relevant Commission services as appropriate.

The Delegations should work in close cooperation with the diplomatic services of the Member States. The EEAS/EU Delegations and Member States should, on a mutual basis, share information.

The HR should, as a matter of priority, establish a road map and timeframe for the upgrading of EU delegations in close coordination with incoming presidencies. EU delegations should play a supporting role as regards diplomatic and consular protection of Union citizens in third countries.

Perspectives: there will be several stages before reaching the final shape of the EEAS. The Council will be fully involved throughout the whole process:

- a first stage from the entry into force of the Treaty to the adoption of the Council decision on the organisation and functioning of the EEAS. The HR should submit his/her proposal with a view to it being adopted at the latest by the end of April 2010. Close contacts with the European Parliament should be continued during this stage;
- a second stage for setting up the EEAS, from the adoption of the Council decision to full cruising speed. A first status report should be made in 2012;
- lastly, when the EEAS has been functioning for some time at full speed, a review should take place in 2014.

Outcome of the European Council on 29-30 October 2009, including the mandate and attributions of the President of the European Council and of the High Representative of the Union for the Foreign and Security Policy, as well as the structure of the new Commission

See the [conclusions](#) of the European Council.

Outcome of the European Council on 29-30 October 2009, including the mandate and attributions of the President of the European Council and of the High Representative of the Union for the Foreign and Security Policy, as well as the structure of the new Commission

In the presence of the Swedish Presidency of the Council and the President of the European Commission, MEPs debated the issues concerning the prominent figures for the positions of President of the Council, High Representative for Common Foreign policy and European Commissioners.

Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union, announced that a meeting of Heads of State and Government would be held on November 19, 2009 to appoint the President of the European Council, the High Representative and the Secretary General of the Council.

Fredrik Reinfeldt expressed that he did not wish to speculate over the people who will fill the posts. The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, stated that he wanted a new Commission composed of competent and committed Europeans, with a strong democratic mandate and with the capacity to act in accordance with the Lisbon Treaty.

The positions of the different political groups may be summarised as follows:

- The leader of the European Peoples Party (EPP) invited Mr Barroso to move as quickly as possible to establish the portfolios of the designated candidates, so that they can be heard by the European Parliament in the context of in-depth hearings.
- The Socialists and Democrats (S&D) requested that the new Commission respects a gender and a geographical balance.
- The leader of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) stressed that the position as President of council should be filled by someone who believes in EU integration and in the community method.
- The Green representative highlighted the need to have strong men and women in the EU's top positions. She deplored the fact that there was no evidence of any coming forward.
- Some Members criticised the way in which the debate was conducted at European level. The ECR Group deplored that the discussions focused primarily on the distribution of posts.
- The representative of the GUE/NGL Group would have liked the debate to have been more focused on concrete politics. The EFD Group said that the issue of unemployment was far more important than the weaknesses of European diplomatic missions.