

SUNY Model European Union



AGENDA ITEMS

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European Council
EXETER 2012***



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Simulation Topic:
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AGENDA TITLE

Opt-Out Membership:

The Eurozone and its relationship with opt-out members.

BACKGROUND

Due to the current financial situation plaguing many Eurozone member states, the priorities of the Heads of Government and Financial Committees have begun to revolve around 'crisis resolution'. The financial matters of EU states, be it Euro members or otherwise cannot be ignored and it will take the work of all member states to produce a united front in these difficult times.

Therefore, the presidency would like to draw attention to the involvement of the Eurozone opt-out states, in regards to aiding the financial recovery of the Eurozone. While many may view this as a pressing matter for the Financial Commission to discuss, it is also key that the Heads of Government express their nation's views from a more political standpoint as opposed to a purely numerical and financial viewpoint.

Provisions are going to be required to maintain the integrity and close relationship that EU member states have with one another at present. Too many times financial crisis rocked the boat of political friendship. It is now in 2012 that HOGs have the opportunity to ask for any and all opinions and expertise that non Eurozone members may be able to offer.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following should be considered for discussion:

- a. Creation of an emergency EU and Eurozone membership crisis forum, to enable all EU members to express constructive solutions to the financial situations of Eurozone members.
- b. The possible revision of the Maastricht Treaty to allow, on a case by case basis, ascending nations to maintain their own currency. In turn allowing for the strengthening of political ties throughout Europe.

AGENDA TITLE

EU Task Force:

Establishment of a European Union Military Task Force; a power dedicated to the safeguarding of the laws and policies of the Union, the protection of its citizens and the guaranteeing of the national sovereignty of its members.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, the European Union (EU) has made significant steps towards creating a unified approach to matters of national and international security. The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) initiative has spearheaded such attempts of delegating approaches to collective questions of security and defence to the EU. The CSDP is sadly limited by the guidelines of the Petersburg Tasks and is therefore in dire need of remodelling in order to allow it the flexibility to involve itself in missions beyond the peace-keeping roles it finds itself confined to.

The uncertainty in the international political theatre that has resulted from the global financial crisis and the unrest in the Middle East, combined with previous experiences of terrorist attacks, are clear indications that Europe needs to start taking its collective defence policy more seriously not simply to guard the Union's interests in the world but for the protection of its citizens and the continued assistance towards humanity to which the European Union is deeply committed to.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Current Policy: Taking into consideration the dynamics involved in a continent such as Europe and in a body such as that of the European Union, the Union should proceed with furthering its attempts at integrating its military forces into a single army. This should be considered in conjunction with the member-states' duties to other already existing foreign policy and military organisations such as NATO and the CSDP.
- Conference: Member states, through cooperation, are to pursue the organising of a conference no later than 2014 to further the aims of this proposal. The objective of this conference will be to analyse the possibility of the establishment of a United European Military Force, including logistical and legislative issues. This force should have a military personnel consisting of no less than 33,000 operational troops; 20,000 of which should be prepared to be deployed beyond the Union's borders. Each country member is to establish a European Battalion made up of approximately 2% of its national military personnel. These numbers are dynamic and based on the current military force of Europe's nations. It is obvious that these numbers will change accordingly.
- Details: All these Battalions together will form the United European Military Force which will be fielded in a European Headquarters and shall be under the direct jurisdiction of their home nation until a case of emergency. In such circumstances that the European Council sees fit, the European Council President will be able to call upon those troops which will be immediately mobilised and put under the jurisdiction of the EU, with the High Representative as their Commander-in-Chief. During these occasions of heightened alert and/or security threat, these troops will be able to deploy within war zone that the Union,

with the support of national and international law, will deem appropriate. They should have full right of entry into the nation states they will be deployed in (with the consent of the respective legitimate government) and thus assist in the management of crises of a national, international or terrorist nature.

AGENDA TITLE

The Tobin Tax:

To re-examine the introduction of a Pan-European financial transaction tax on bonds, derivatives, and equity.

BACKGROUND

While the debt crises of some Eurozone member are and have been the paramount concerns of the European Union and her HOGS, it is nonetheless important not to forget other pressing issues over it.

A mere four years ago, the markets all over the globe were near to collapse; the succeeding bank crisis eventually affected the real economy as well as banks were either reluctant or unwilling to lend any money. Consequentially, most countries within the European Union resorted to massive interventionist economic and financial policies. Thus trying to help banks recover from their toxic assets, and either directly generating demand or stimulating it indirectly. This however has had massive impacts on the budgets of all member states. Even those member states not currently struggling with plummeting trust in their bonds face national debts long exceeding the Maastricht cap of 60% of the national GDP. The financial crisis has therefore, in short, not alleviated the current debt problems, but rather paved the way for them.

What is more, substantial efforts have to be made—and it is important not to forget this despite of the current events—to prevent such a crisis from ever happening again. Not only have the impacts on the world economy been most devastating, but the crises have likewise fundamentally weakened people’s trust in democracy.

It thus seems like the introduction of some kind of financial transaction tax that, while hardly influencing the real economy at all, will yield considerable revenue for all member states, is an idea to be reconsidered in the light of the current events.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Council should reconsider the Commission’s proposal made on 28/09/2011 (COM (2011) 594) for a financial transaction tax. And if necessary, amend the Commission’s proposal.
- b. The Council should adopt a Directive, in accordance with Art. 113 TFEU, to harmonise European financial transaction taxes, thus effectively introducing a new Pan-European tax.
- c. The Council should consider passing appropriate legislation to ensure that the thus levied taxes can be used to consolidate the member states’ budgets.
- d. The Council is urged to explore all possible means to find a compromise. If it is clear that certain member states feel strong opposition towards the herein outlined plans, the Council should consider if it is suitable, in order to enhance and maintain the effectiveness of the Eurozone, to only introduce the tax within the EU-17 countries.

Cross Border Drug Trafficking:

BACKGROUND

Drug use, drug-related crime, and the social and health problems that go with them are a serious threat to our societies. Every year around 8,500 individuals die in the EU because of drug overdose, 2,100 die of HIV/AIDS attributable to drug use and 3,000 people become infected with HIV because of drugs. Around 12 million people in the European Union are taking - or have at some time taken - cocaine. For ecstasy, the figure is nearly 10 million, and for cannabis a staggering 70 million.

Drugs policy is largely the responsibility of the EU national authorities, which are best placed to make those choices that best suit the local culture and socio-economic conditions. But on their own EU countries are unable to tackle the drugs problem effectively. In response, EU countries are working together to reduce the use of illicit drugs and the trafficking of drugs to the EU.

Tackling illicit drugs requires a long-term, integrated and multidisciplinary approach, which joins together public health, social and education policies, law enforcement and external action in a coherent policy.

In September 2008 the EU Drugs Action Plan (2005-2008) was evaluated by the European Commission, in cooperation with the European Monitoring Centre for Drug and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), Europol and with input from government and non-government bodies in EU countries. The evaluation concluded that

- Drug use at EU level has remained high
- The EU had been relatively successful in reducing drug-related harm such as HIV/ AIDS infections and drug-related deaths.
- Trafficking of cocaine to the EU has increased sharply.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The EU Drugs Action Plan (2009-2012) has been introduced following the EU Drugs Action Plan (2005-2008). The two plans together form the EU Drugs Strategy (2005-2012). An external independent evaluation of the EU Drugs Strategy (2005-2012) is on-going. Based on the outcome of this assessment, due by the end of 2011, the European Commission will propose a new EU drug policy framework.

Following the report on the EU Drugs Strategy, the focus should be on improvements in five priority areas:

- a. Improving coordination and cooperation among all those involved in EU drugs policy: EU institutions - EU governments, European Commission, European Parliament - EU agencies, civil society, international organisations and countries outside the EU;
- b. Actions that increase the accessibility, coverage and effectiveness of drug prevention,

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- treatment, harm reduction and reintegration of drug users;
- c. Actions to strengthen cooperation and increase the effectiveness of police and customs officials across the EU to respond rapidly to changes in illicit drug markets and trafficking routes;
 - d. Improving international cooperation through greater coordination between programmes and policies of the EU and those of EU countries and pursuing a balanced approach in drugs policy to countries worldwide;
 - e. Improving our understanding of the drugs problem through better data and information, strengthening the EU's research capacity in the field of illicit drugs, further developing statistical indicators on how drug markets work, on drug-related crime and on the effectiveness of law enforcement.
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