



Brussels, 7 March 2006
PRE 013/06 (Presse)

The 2716th session of the Council of the European Union - **ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** - will take place on 14 March 2006 (10.00), in the Justus Lipsius Building, Brussels, under the Presidency of **Mr Karl-Heinz Grasser**, Federal Minister for Finance of Austria.

The following points will be discussed at this session :

- **Preparation of the European Council on 23-24 March**
 - a) Key Issues Paper - Contribution to the Spring European Council
= *Adoption*
 - b) Report on the EIB Contribution to promoting Growth and Employment
= *Adoption*
 - c) Better Regulation
= *Progress Report*
= *Administrative Costs of EU Programmes (Presidency Paper)*
 - d) Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion

- **Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact**
 - a) Stability Programmes: Third series of Member States
= *Adoption of Council Opinions*
 - b) Convergence Programmes: Third series of Member States
= *Adoption of Council Opinions*
 - c) Implementation of the excessive deficit procedure
 - Germany
 - Italy

- **General Budget of the European Union**
 - a) Discharge procedure in respect of implementation of the 2004 budget
= *Council recommendation*
 - b) Council priorities for the 2007 budget
= *Council conclusions*

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Internet: <http://ue.eu.int/Newsroom>
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The President of the Council will hold a press conference at the end of the session.

To listen to the press conference on our website (MP3 format) go to:

http://ue.eu.int/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=997&lang=fr&mode=g

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In the margins of the Council:

Monday, 13 March

- 14.30: Macroeconomic dialogue
- 16.00: Troika meeting with the EP on BEPG's update (video-conference)
- 19.00: Eurogroup

Tuesday, 14 March

- 09.00: Working Breakfast (Discussion with BRUEGEL on Economic Policy Challenges of the Lisbon Process)
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