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►**B**

COUNCIL DECISION

of 1 December 2009

laying down measures for the implementation of the European Council Decision on the exercise of the Presidency of the Council, and on the chairmanship of preparatory bodies of the Council

(2009/908/EU)

(OJ L 322, 9.12.2009, p. 28)

Amended by:

		Official Journal		
		No	page	date
►**M1**	Council Decision (EU) 2016/1316 of 26 July 2016	L 208	42	2.8.2016

Corrected by:

►**C1** Corrigendum, OJ L 344, 23.12.2009, p. 56 (2009/908/EU)

▼B

COUNCIL DECISION

of 1 December 2009

laying down measures for the implementation of the European Council Decision on the exercise of the Presidency of the Council, and on the chairmanship of preparatory bodies of the Council

(2009/908/EU)

▼M1

Article 1

The order in which the Member States shall hold the Presidency of the Council as from 1 July 2017 and until 31 December 2030, as well as the division of this order of Presidencies into groups of three Member States is set out in Annex I to this Decision.

▼B

Article 2

1. Each member of a group as referred to in Article 1, second subparagraph, shall in turn chair for a six-month period all configurations of the Council, with the exception of the Foreign Affairs configuration. The other members of the group shall assist the Chair in all its responsibilities on the basis of the Council's 18-month programme.

2. The members of a group as referred to in Article 1 may decide upon alternative arrangements among themselves.

3. In either of the situations provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2, the Member States within each group shall by common accord determine the practical arrangements for their collaboration.

▼M1

Article 3

The Council shall, before 31 December 2029, decide the order in which the Member States will hold the Presidency of the Council as from 1 January 2031.

▼B

Article 4

The preparatory bodies of the Foreign Affairs Council shall be chaired in accordance with the rules set out in Annex II.

Article 5

The Council preparatory bodies listed in Annex III shall be chaired by fixed chairs as set out in that Annex.

Article 6

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its adoption.

It shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

▼M1

ANNEX I

Draft Table of Presidencies of the Council (*)

Netherlands (**)	January-June	2016
Slovakia (**)	July-December	2016
Malta (**)	January-June	2017
Estonia	July-December	2017
Bulgaria	January-June	2018
Austria	July-December	2018
Romania	January-June	2019
Finland	July-December	2019
Croatia	January-June	2020
Germany	July-December	2020
Portugal	January-June	2021
Slovenia	July-December	2021
France	January-June	2022
Czech Republic	July-December	2022
Sweden	January-June	2023
Spain	July-December	2023
Belgium	January-June	2024
Hungary	July-December	2024
Poland	January-June	2025
Denmark	July-December	2025
Cyprus	January-June	2026
Ireland	July-December	2026
Lithuania	January-June	2027
Greece	July-December	2027
Italy	January-June	2028
Latvia	July-December	2028
Luxembourg	January-June	2029
Netherlands	July-December	2029
Slovakia	January-June	2030
Malta	July-December	2030

(*) Without prejudice to the United Kingdom's rights and obligations as a Member State.
(**) The current trio is inserted in this Annex for information purposes.

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ANNEX II

CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE PREPARATORY BODIES OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL [1]

The chairmanship of the preparatory bodies of the Foreign Affairs Council referred to in categories 1 to 4 in the table below shall be organised as follows:

1. Category 1 (preparatory bodies in the area of trade and development):

   The preparatory bodies shall be chaired by the six-monthly Presidency.

2. Category 2 (geographic preparatory bodies)

   The preparatory bodies shall be chaired by a representative of the High Representative.

3. Category 3 (horizontal preparatory bodies, mainly CFSP)

   The preparatory bodies shall be chaired by a representative of the High Representative, except the following preparatory bodies, which shall be chaired by the six-monthly Presidency:

   — Working Party of Foreign Relations Counsellors (RELEX),

   — Working Party on Terrorism (International Aspects) (COTER),

   — Working Party on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism (COCOP),

   — Working Party on Consular Affairs (COCON),

   — Working Party on Public International Law (COJUR), and

   — Working Party on the Law of the Sea (COMAR).

4. Category 4 (CSDP-related preparatory bodies)

   The CSDP-related preparatory bodies shall be chaired by a representative of the High Representative [2].

The High Representative and the six-monthly Presidency shall closely cooperate in order to ensure coherence among all the preparatory bodies for the Foreign Affairs Council.

For categories 3 and 4, the six-monthly Presidency shall continue to chair the preparatory bodies during a transitional period of up to six months after the adoption of the Council Decision on the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (EEAS). For category 2 this transitional period shall last up to 12 months.

Modalities for appointment of chairs

Where the European Council Decision or this Decision stipulates that a preparatory body (PSC and relevant working parties) shall be chaired by a representative of the High Representative, the responsibility for appointing the chair shall belong to the High Representative. These appointments shall be made on the basis of competence, while ensuring adequate geographical balance and transparency. The High Representative shall ensure that the person he or she intends to appoint as chairperson will enjoy the confidence of Member States. If that person is not yet a member of the EEAS, he or she shall become one in accordance with the EEAS recruitment procedures, at least for the time of the appointment. An evaluation of the functioning of this arrangement shall be made in the framework of the status report on the EEAS foreseen for 2012.

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[1] A review of the scope and organisation of the working structures in the area of foreign affairs should be conducted swiftly after 1 December 2009, in particular as concerns the area of development. The arrangements on the chairmanship of the working parties reviewed should, if needed, be adapted according to the general principles set out in this Annex.

[2] The Military Committee (EUMC) and the Military Committee Working Group (EUMCWG) shall continue to be chaired by an elected chair, as shown in Annex III, as was the case before the entry into force of this Decision.

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1. Preparatory bodies in the areas of trade and development	Article 207 Committee
	ACP Working Party
	Working Party on Development Cooperation (DEVGEN)
	Working Party on EFTA
	Working Party on Dual-Use Goods
	Working Party on Trade Questions
	Working Party on Commodities
	Working Party on the Generalised System of Preferences
	Working Party on Preparation for International Development Conferences/UNCCD Desertification/UNCTAD
	Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid
	Export Credits Group
2. Geographic preparatory bodies	Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party (COMAG/MaMa)
	Working Party on Eastern Europe and Central Asia (COEST)
	Working Party on the Western Balkans Region (COWEB)
	Middle East/Gulf Working Party (COMEM/MOG)
	Asia-Oceania Working Party (COASI)
	Working Party on Latin America (COLAT)
	Working Party on Transatlantic Relations (COTRA)
	Africa Working Party (COAFR)
3. Horizontal preparatory bodies (mostly CFSP)	Working Party of Foreign Relations Counsellors (RELEX)
	Nicolaidis Group
	Working Party on Global Disarmament and Arms Control (CODUN)
	Working Party on Non-Proliferation (CONOP)
	Working Party on Conventional Arms Export (COARM)
	Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM)
	Working Party on Terrorism (International Aspects) (COTER) [1]
	Working Party on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism (COCOP) [1]
	Working Party on OSCE and the Council of Europe (COSCE)
	United Nations Working Party (CONUN)
	Ad hoc Working Party on the Middle East Peace Process (COMEP)
	Working Party on Public International Law (COJUR, COJUR-ICC)
	Working Party on the Law of the Sea (COMAR)
	Working Party on Consular Affairs (COCON)
	Working Party on CFSP Administrative Affairs and Protocol (COADM)

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4. CSDP-related preparatory bodies	Military Committee (EUMC)
	Military Committee Working Group (EUMCWG)
	Politico-Military Working Party (PMG)
	Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM)
	Working Party on European Arms Policy

([1]) The question of the Working Party on Terrorism (International Aspects) (COTER) and of the Working Party on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism (COCOP) will also be dealt with in the framework of the discussion on the JHA working structures.

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ANNEX III

CHAIRPERSONS OF COUNCIL PREPARATORY BODIES WITH A FIXED CHAIR

Elected chairs

Economic and Financial Committee

Employment Committee

Social Protection Committee

Military Committee ([1])

Economic Policy Committee

Financial Services Committee

Military Committee Working Group ([1])

Code of Conduct Group (Business Taxation)

Chaired by the General Secretariat of the Council

Security Committee

Working Party on Information

Working Party on Legal Data Processing

Working Party on Electronic Communications

Working Party on Codification of Legislation

Working Party of Legal-Linguistic Experts

Working Party on New Buildings

([1]) See also Annex II.