Preparation for the European Council meeting (24-25 March 2011)

2010/2710(RSP) - 21/03/2011

The Council examined draft conclusions for the European Council meeting to be held on 24 and 25 March 2011. The European Council is due to focus on the following:

Economic policy: adoption of a comprehensive package of measures to strengthen EU economic governance and ensure the stability of the euro area.

Developments in Libya and elsewhere in the EU's southern neighbourhood: follow-up to UN Security Council resolution 1973 and latest developments as regards Libya; implementation of measures agreed by the European Council on 11 March.

Crisis in Japan: assessment of the humanitarian aid effort, the situation in the energy sector and the broader economic implications.

As regards **economic policy**, the European Council will deal with:

- conclusion of the first phase of the European Semester (annual monitoring of budgetary policies and structural reforms);
- the strengthening of economic governance provisions;
- measures to restore the health of the banking sector;
- endorsement of the pact for the euro (economic policy coordination.