Basic information	
2010/2900(RSP) RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	Procedure completed
Preparation for the European Council meeting of 4 February 2011 **Subject** 8.40.14 European Council	

Key players			
Council of the European Union	**Council configuration**	**Meetings**	**Date**
	General Affairs	3060	2010-12-14
	General Affairs	3064	2011-01-31
European Commission	**Commission DG**	**Commissioner**	
	Secretariat-General	BARROSO José Manuel	

Key events			
Date	**Event**	**Reference**	**Summary**
14/12/2010	Debate in Council		
31/01/2011	Debate in Council		Summary
02/02/2011	Debate in Parliament		Summary
02/02/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/02/2011	Additional information		Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2010/2900(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Preparation for the European Council meeting of 4 February 2011

2010/2900(RSP) - 31/01/2011

The Council examined draft conclusions for the European Council meeting to be held in Brussels on 4 February 2011. The European Council will focus on energy and innovation. An annotated draft agenda was discussed by the Council on 22 November 2010.

The President of the European Council restricted the agenda to the items which will actually be examined by the European Council.

1. **Energy**: the European Council will discuss energy policy, including how it can best support the shift towards an efficient low-carbon economy and greater security of supply, including through a better integrated and interconnected energy market. It is expected to set orientations on improving the functioning of the European energy market, especially as regards key missing links, on promoting innovative solutions for sustainable energy and on ensuring effective coordination and coherence of the Union's external energy action.
2. **Innovation**: the European Council will discuss how to boost Europe's innovation potential to tackle the most critical societal challenges Europe is facing. It is expected to set orientations in particular as regards completing the European Research Area, improving framework conditions for innovation, facilitating access to finance, and simplifying and rationalising EU programmes.

The conclusions of the meeting will be brief and will focus on decisions and general policies approved by the European Council. The draft European Council conclusions emphasize the need for further action at the EU level aimed at integrating the **internal energy market, achieving energy efficiency targets and promoting investments in renewable energies, as well as improving the coherence of the EU's external action in the field of energy**. The draft conclusions further call for implementation of a strategic and integrated approach to boosting innovation and for the completion of the European Research Area by 2014 to create a genuine single market for knowledge, research and innovation.