



Mr Javier SOLANA
Secretary-General/High Representative
Council of the European Union

Helsinki 12 December 2006

Dear Javier

I have great pleasure in inviting you to the European Council, which will take place on 14 and 15 December 2006 in Brussels.

The order of proceedings will be as follows:

Our discussions will start at 17.45 on Thursday evening with the customary exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament, Josep Borrell Fontelles.

This will be followed by the first working session from 18.15 to 19.45, devoted to area of Freedom, Security and Justice. The June European Council gave the Presidency a clear mandate to explore the possibilities for improving decision-making and action in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice. The aim of the discussion at the European Council will be to confirm our commitment to strengthening decision-making in the field of justice and home affairs.

During the first working session we will also have an exchange of views on migration. The importance of this issue was already confirmed at our informal meeting in Lahti. Then, on 30 November, the Commission issued two important communications. I hope that the debate will confirm our commitment to enhancing the global approach to migration and agreeing on the follow-up measures for 2007, outlined already in the draft conclusions.

After the traditional family photo, the Heads of State or Government will have two issues to discuss over dinner: the outcome of the consultations on the Constitutional Treaty and enlargement. I will start by presenting an analysis of the findings of the consultations carried out over the past months. I do not expect us to have a substantial discussion on this matter.

This will be followed by a debate on enlargement. As a follow-up to the June European Council, and on the basis of the Commission communication on the enlargement strategy and its special report on the EU's capacity to integrate new members, we will have a debate covering all aspects of future enlargements. The aim is to confirm a common understanding on the future of the enlargement process.

Over dinner, Foreign Ministers will discuss Middle East, including Iran as well as Africa, in particular Sudan/Darfur.

Press conferences will follow.

The working session on Friday, starting at 10.00, will be given over to discussion and adoption of the conclusions of the European Council. Press conferences will be held immediately afterwards.

The Presidency will inform the candidate countries of the outcome of the discussions.

With my best regards and looking forward to seeing you on 14 December.

Yours sincerely,

Matti Vanhanen
President of the European Council