



COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Council conclusions on The Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

*3016th COMPETITIVENESS Council meeting
Brussels, 25 May 2010*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. "The Council welcomes the upcoming first Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which will take place May 31-June 11 2010 in Kampala, Uganda. The Council expresses its hope that this conference will be a success and will serve as a reaffirmation of global commitment to the ICC and international criminal justice. The Council considers that the Review Conference equally presents an exceptional opportunity to advance the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern and support the rule of law.
2. The Council considers that the Review Conference is an important step in the consolidation of the ICC as an effective tool of the international community for bringing to justice those individuals bearing criminal responsibility for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute them. Moreover, the Court brings real hope to the victims of these crimes that justice will be done, including through the right to participate in Court proceedings, for the first time in the history of international criminal justice.
3. The Council reiterates the European Union's unwavering support to the Court and its commitment to promote the universality and preserve the integrity of the Rome Statute, recalling the 2003 Common Position and the 2004 Action plan as effective instruments to achieve these objectives.

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4. The Council takes note of the amendment proposals to the Rome Statute, included in Resolution ICC-ASP/8/Res.6 adopted on 26 November 2009, as well as the work carried out by the Assembly of States Parties to elaborate these proposals. The Council encourages all States parties to work in a spirit of consensus during the Conference, keeping in mind the mission that the Court is meant to accomplish in the international community.
 5. The Council takes note of the broad agenda of the Review Conference and considers that the stocktaking exercise is an unique opportunity for the international community to deepen support to international criminal justice. The Council underlines the importance of debates at the conference on issues of vital importance for the Court, such as universal adherence to the Rome Statute, enhancement of cooperation including improvement of its mechanisms, complementarity between national jurisdictions and the Court, the essential link between peace and justice and the core importance of ensuring impact of the Rome Statute system on victims and in affected communities. The Council actively supports the efforts to address the situation of the victims of the most serious crimes, whose plight should always remain as the main concern for those working in international criminal justice.
 6. The Council reaffirms its commitment to lend constant diplomatic support to the Court to ensure that it can effectively carry out its mandate."
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