



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 1 February 2005

**16238/1/04
REV 1**

CONCL 4

COVER NOTE

from : Presidency
to : Delegations

Subject : **BRUSSELS EUROPEAN COUNCIL
16/17 DECEMBER 2004**

PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

Delegations will find attached the revised version of the Presidency Conclusions of the Brussels European Council (16/17 December 2004).

Croatia

14. The European Council noted with satisfaction the progress made by Croatia in preparation for the opening of accession negotiations.
15. Reaffirming its conclusions of June 2004, it urged Croatia to take the necessary steps for full cooperation with ICTY and reiterated that the remaining indictee must be located and transferred to the Hague as soon as possible.
16. It invited the Commission to present to the Council a proposal for a framework for negotiations with Croatia, taking full account of the experience of the fifth enlargement. It requested the Council to agree on that framework with a view to opening the accession negotiations on 17 March 2005 provided that there is full cooperation with ICTY.