

RELEASE IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL

October 27, 2009

For: Hillary
From: Sid
Re: Latest on EU presidency

The political timing on the EU presidency is accelerating. Sarkozy and Merkel are meeting tonight (October 18) to discuss it. The Czech constitutional court will issue its verdict on the legality of the Lisbon treaty on November 3. Shortly after, perhaps that week, before you meet with Merkel on November 8-9, there may be an EU Council meeting to decide the matter. So you may want to weigh in before then.

Tony is somewhat downcast on his chances. (He met with Jim Hoagland of the Washington Post yesterday; his mood was described to me.) The Tories have ramped up their campaign against him—not only do they not want him but they also do not want an effective EU president. Cameron has come down on the side of the anti-EU wing of his party on this, an easy move. In an intriguing complication, there's talk now of David Miliband becoming EU foreign secretary if Tony does not become EU president. Miliband denied he was interested and endorsed Tony. This is part of the anti-Blair campaign ginned up by the Tories, extended to hurt Miliband if they can. Jonathan Powell is less gloomy than Tony, thinks everything is still in play, which is why your part in this may yet be important.