



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 27 August 2014
(OR. en)

11844/14

LIMITE

CO EUR-PREP 27

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Special meeting of the European Council (30 August 2014)
- Draft Conclusions

Delegations will find attached the draft conclusions prepared by the President of the European Council.

THE NEXT INSTITUTIONAL CYCLE

1. In light of the consultations conducted by the President of the European Council, the European Council, in accordance with the Treaties, adopted the following decisions today:
2. The European Council elected as President of the European Council for the period from 1 December 2014 to 31 May 2017¹. It requested the Secretary General of the Council to assist the elected President of the European Council in the transition period.
3. The European Council appointed, with the agreement of the President-elect of the Commission, as High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for the period from the end of the current term of office of the Commission until 31 October 2019².
4. The European Council invited the Council to adopt without delay, by common accord with the President-elect of the Commission, the list of other persons whom it will propose for appointment as members of the Commission.
5. The new Commission will be appointed by the European Council following a vote of consent by the European Parliament on the President, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the other members of the Commission as a body.
6. The European Council welcomed the decision of the Heads of State or Government of the Contracting Parties to the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union whose currency is the euro to appoint as President of the Euro Summit for the period from 1 December 2014 to 31 May 2017³.

¹ European Council Decision electing the President of the European Council (EUCO xxx/14)

² European Council Decision appointing the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (EUCO xxx/14)

³ Decision of the Heads of State or Government of the Contracting Parties to the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union whose currency is the euro to appointing the President of the Euro Summit (doc. xxx/14)

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

UKRAINE

7. Recalling the statements of the Heads of State or Government on Ukraine of 6 March and 27 May and its conclusions of 21 March, 27 June and 16 July, the European Council condemns the ongoing and increasingly intense conflict in Eastern Ukraine. It is very concerned by the reported increasing inflows of fighters and weapons from the territory of the Russian Federation into Eastern Ukraine and the reported participation of Russian armed forces in operations on Ukrainian soil. The European Union reiterates the urgent need for a sustainable political solution based on respect for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and independence.
8. The meetings in Minsk of 26 August with the European Union's participation as well as the bilateral meeting between the presidents of Ukraine and the Russian Federation are a positive step. The European Council underlines the importance of implementing President Poroshenko's peace plan. The first steps should be a mutually agreed and viable cease-fire, the re-establishment of Ukrainian control over its border and an immediate halt to the flow of arms, material and military personnel from the Russian Federation into Ukraine. Moreover, the European Council reiterates its call for immediate, safe and unrestricted access to the MH17 crash site as part of a cease-fire.
9. The European Council calls on all parties to support and facilitate without delay the work of international humanitarian organisations, in accordance with international humanitarian law and principles. The humanitarian impact of the conflict on the civilian population should not be exploited for political or military ends. The European Council calls on all contributors, including the Russian Federation, to support the international relief effort led by the United Nations, in full recognition of the Ukrainian Government's role as a first responder.
10. The European Council remains engaged in the monitoring and assessment of the restrictive measures adopted by the European Union and stands ready to consider further steps, in light of the evolution of the situation on the ground.

IRAQ/SYRIA

11. The European Council is extremely dismayed by the deterioration of the security and humanitarian situation in Iraq and in Syria as a result of the occupation of parts of their territory by the "Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)". The European Council firmly condemns the indiscriminate killings and human rights violations perpetrated by this and other terrorist organisations, in particular against religious and ethnic minorities and the most vulnerable groups.
12. The European Council underlines the importance of coordinated action by countries from the region to counter these threats. It urges all Iraqi leaders to form a truly inclusive government as a first political response to the present crisis, and stands ready to support the Government of Iraq in the pursuit of the necessary reforms.
13. The European Union is determined to contribute to countering the threat posed by ISIL and other terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria. In this context, the European Union welcomes the efforts made by the US and other partners. The European Council supports the decision by individual Member States to provide military material to Iraq. It requests the Council to consider a more effective use of the existing sanctions regimes, in particular to deny ISIL the benefits of illicit oil sales or sales of other resources on international markets. It also remains committed to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected populations.

*

*

*

14. The European Council strongly believes that determined action is required to stem the flow of foreign fighters. It calls for the accelerated implementation of the package of EU measures in support of Member States efforts, as agreed by the Council since June 2013, in particular to prevent radicalisation, share information more effectively - including with relevant third countries, detect suspicious travel and investigate and prosecute foreign fighters. In this context, the European Council calls on the Council and the European Parliament to finalise work on the EU Passenger Name Record proposal before the end of the year.

The European Council also underlines the need for close cooperation with third countries to develop a coherent approach, including external counter-terrorism capacity building in the region.

The European Council requests the Council to review the effectiveness of the measures and to propose additional action, as required.

GAZA

15. The European Council welcomes the cease-fire agreement reached under the auspices of the Egyptian authorities. It remains deeply concerned about the disastrous humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. It calls for immediate and unimpeded humanitarian access in accordance with international law. It urges both parties to continue negotiations leading to a fundamental improvement of the living conditions for the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip through the lifting of the Gaza closure regime, and to ending the threat to Israel posed by Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza. All terrorist groups in Gaza must disarm.

It is therefore urgent that the Palestinian consensus government exercise its full responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip including in the field of security and civil administration.

16. The European Council reiterates the readiness of the European Union to contribute to a comprehensive and sustainable solution enhancing the security, welfare and prosperity of Palestinians and Israelis alike.

17. Only a final agreement based on the two State solution will bring durable peace and stability. The European Council therefore encourages both parties to re-engage in negotiations to this end. The Gaza strip shall be part of a future State of Palestine.

LIBYA

18. The European Council strongly condemns the escalation of fighting in Libya, including attacks on residential areas involving air strikes. The European Council rejects unilateral outside interference in Libya, which exacerbates current divisions and undermines Libya's democratic transition. The European Council will support all efforts to reinforce the arms embargo.
19. The European Council recognises the democratic legitimacy of the House of Representatives. It calls on Libya's interim Government and House of Representatives to urgently establish a truly inclusive government capable of addressing the Libyan people's needs. The European Council cautions against rival executive and legislative bodies, which do not have democratic legitimacy and may threaten the unity of the country. It encourages the Constitutional Drafting Assembly to immediately pursue its work on a text that will enshrine and protect the rights of all Libyans.

EBOLA

20. The European Council expressed concern about the crisis caused by the Ebola virus in West Africa, and stresses the importance of the international community as a whole providing substantial support to the countries of the region to help them tackle the disease as swiftly and efficiently as possible. The European Council welcomes the additional funds provided by the European Union and its Member States and will seek to provide further financial and human resources to meet the increased demand for experts on the ground. It urges all countries to follow the WHO guidelines and allow continued, if controlled, travel to and from the countries concerned so as to enable support efforts to be effective and to allow their economies to continue functioning.