

Brussels, 20 June 2016 (OR. en)

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	European Council (28-29 June 2016)
	- Draft conclusions

In accordance with Article 2(3)(a) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, delegations will find attached the draft conclusions prepared by the President of the European Council, in close cooperation with the member of the European Council representing the Member State holding the six-monthly Presidency of the Council and with the President of the Commission.

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I. MIGRATION

- 1. Further to the closure of the Western Balkans route and the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement, crossings from Turkey into Greek islands have now almost come to a halt. It is important to continue working actively to ensure a sustainable solution. The legislation recently adopted by Turkey on the treatment of both Syrians and other nationalities allows for the return of migrants to Turkey in full respect of Article 38 of the asylum procedures directive. Considerable progress has been made by both sides to implement the full range of commitments contained in the EU-Turkey statement and the European Council looks forward to further determined action. It recalls the need to provide continued support to Western Balkans countries and to remain vigilant about potential developments regarding other routes so as to be able to take rapid and concerted action.
- 2. In the Central Mediterranean, flows of migrants most of whom are not in need of international protection remain at the same level as last year and have to be reduced, thus saving lives and breaking the business model of smugglers. To deliver rapid results in preventing illegal migration and returning irregular migrants, the European Council calls for a new framework of cooperation with individual countries of origin or transit, in line with the Valletta Action Plan. Building on the Commission communication, the EU will put into place and swiftly implement a new Partnership Framework based on effective incentives and adequate conditionality, starting with a limited number of priority countries of origin and transit, with the following objectives:
 - to pursue specific and measurable results in terms of fast and operational returns of irregular migrants, including by applying temporary arrangements, pending the conclusion of full-fledged readmission agreements;
 - to create and apply the necessary leverage, by using all relevant EU policies, instruments and tools, including development and trade;

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to also mobilise elements falling within Member States' competence and to seek synergies with Member States in relations with the specific countries.

To remain partners of the EU, third countries must also cooperate on readmission and return.

- The High Representative will lead the implementation of this new approach and ensure 3. appropriate coordination between the EU institutions and services and the Member States. The Council and the Commission will regularly monitor the process, assess its results and report to the European Council.
- The European Council reiterates its readiness to support the Government of National Accord 4. (GNA), and calls on all groups in Libya to work with the GNA as the sole legitimate government in Libya to restore stability, fight terrorism and tackle migration across the Central Mediterranean. In this context, the European Council welcomes the adoption of UNSC Resolution 2292 and the expanded role for Operation Sophia in enforcing the arms embargo on Libya and training the Libyan Coast Guard.
- All relevant instruments and sources of funding should be mobilised in support of the 5. approach set out above.
- The Commission will present by September 2016 a proposal for an External Investment Plan, 6. which should be examined as a matter of priority by the European Parliament and the Council.
- The European Investment Bank's initiative in the Southern Neighbourhood and Western 7. Balkan countries will further help foster investment in partner countries.
- The EU and its Members States will continue to address the root causes of illegal migration, 8. in close cooperation and a spirit of mutual ownership with the countries of origin.
- Ahead of the upcoming G20 Summit and the UN General Assembly High Level meeting on 9. large movements of refugees and migrants, the European Council recalls that migration is a global challenge that requires a response from the international community.

The European Council will continue to address and monitor all aspects of the EU's 10. comprehensive approach to the migration challenge. [Following the political agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on the European Border Guard proposal, the European Council asks for its swift adoption and rapid implementation.]

II. JOBS, GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

European Semester

The European Council discussed the country-specific recommendations and concluded the 11. 2016 European Semester.

Single Market

- Delivering a deeper and fairer Single Market is a prerequisite for creating new jobs, 12. promoting productivity and ensuring an attractive climate for investment and innovation. This requires a renewed focus across Europe. The European Council calls for completing and implementing by 2018 the different Single Market strategies and action plans proposed by the Commission.
- 13. The European Council adopts today an agenda calling for swift and determined progress:
 - to bring the full benefits of the Digital Single Market to consumers, businesses, employees and administrations through:
 - cross-border portability, which will allow EU residents to travel with the digital content they have purchased or subscribed to at home;
 - removing barriers to e-commerce, including unjustified geo-blocking which prevents online customers from accessing and purchasing a product or a service from a website based in another Member State. Reducing the costs of parcel delivery and modernising VAT systems will further ease cross-border selling of goods and services;

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- the upcoming wholesale roaming review in view of abolishing roaming surcharges by
 June 2017;
- the invitation to governments to meet the targets of the eGovernment Action Plan;
- reforms of the copyright and audiovisual frameworks;
- to create the right conditions for stimulating new business opportunities through:
 - ensuring very high capacity fixed and wireless broadband connectivity across Europe,
 which is a precondition for future competitiveness. The review of the telecoms
 regulatory framework should aim to incentivise major network investments while
 promoting effective competition and consumer rights;
 - better coordinating the timing and conditions of spectrum assignment together with the timely release of the 700 MHz band so as to help ensure Europe's leadership in the rollout of 5G networks;
 - coordinating EU efforts on high performance computing. In this context the European
 Council looks forward to the launch of an Important Project of Common European
 Interest in this field;
- to support service providers seeking to expand across borders. A services passport,
 harmonised standards and the removal of specific regulatory barriers will enable
 entrepreneurs in key sectors to offer their services in other Member States without going
 through unnecessary administrative procedures and will contribute to promoting
 innovation;
- to ensure easier access to finance for businesses and support investment in the real economy by moving forward the Capital Markets Union's agenda. In particular swift progress should be made on the proposal on the simplification of prospectus requirements and the proposals for simple, standardised and transparent securitisation, to be agreed by the end of 2016;

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to vigorously pursue efforts towards better regulation.

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The Council will report annually to the June European Council on progress in deepening the 14. Single Market in all its aspects. Better implementing and strictly enforcing existing legislation will further help to reap the benefits of Europe's Single Market ambitions.

Investment Plan (including EFSI)

- The Investment Plan for Europe, in particular the European Fund for Strategic Investments 15. (EFSI), has already delivered concrete results and is a major step to help mobilise private investment while making smart use of scarce budgetary resources.
- 16. The Commission intends to soon put forward proposals on the future of EFSI, which should be examined as a matter of urgency by the European Parliament and the Council.

Economic and Monetary Union

The European Council took stock of the progress achieved in the work towards completing 17. the Economic and Monetary Union. The European Council welcomes the agreement reached in the Council on a roadmap to complete the Banking Union and calls for work to be taken forward accordingly. It endorses the recommendation on National Productivity Boards.

Taxation

The fight against tax fraud, evasion, avoidance, and money laundering remains a priority, both 18. within the EU and internationally. This is illustrated by the recent adoption of relevant EU legislation to take up this challenge, in particular in the area of exchange of information on tax rulings and country-by-country reporting[, as well as the agreement reached on the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive]. The publication by the Commission of an Action Plan aiming at the creation of a modernised and fraud-proof single VAT area is also an important element of the overall approach.

Agriculture

19. Recalling its March 2016 conclusions, the European Council took stock of the developments in the dairy and pig meat sectors. It invites the Commission to urgently implement all necessary support measures including, where appropriate, financial support to assist farmers, and calls on all actors in the supply chain to help reduce market imbalances.

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III. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- 20. The European Council welcomes the presentation of the European Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy by the High Representative and invites the High Representative and the Council to take the work forward.
- 21. EU-NATO cooperation was discussed in the presence of the NATO Secretary General. The European Council called for further enhancement of the relationship, in light of our common aims and values and given unprecedented challenges from the South and East. This new ambition should take the form of accelerated practical cooperation in selected areas. The new impetus in EU-NATO cooperation should take place in full respect of the decision-making autonomy and procedures of both organisations, be based on the principle of inclusiveness and without prejudice to the security and defence policy of any of our members. The President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission will issue a declaration together with the NATO Secretary General in Warsaw in July.

IV. OUTCOME OF THE UK REFERENDUM

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