

Brussels, 9 December 2024
(OR. en)

14802/24

LIMITE

CO EUR-PREP 27

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: European Council meeting (19 and 20 December 2024)
– Draft conclusions

In accordance with Article 3(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Council, 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.

The members of the European Council marked the 50th anniversary of the first meeting of the European Council.

The European Council held an exchange of views with the President of Ukraine.

I. UKRAINE

1. Today, more than 1000 days since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion, the European Council reiterates its resolute condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a manifest violation of the UN Charter, and reaffirms its continued support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. It also reconfirms the European Union's unwavering commitment to providing continued political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes and as intensely as needed. Russia must not prevail.
2. The European Council reaffirms its support for the key principles and objectives of Ukraine's Peace Formula and underlines the principle that no initiative regarding Ukraine be taken without Ukraine. The European Union and its Member States will maintain their intensive global outreach efforts towards a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law, and will remain closely involved in any discussions affecting Europe's security.

3. The European Council reviewed work done on the delivery of military support to Ukraine. To allow Ukraine to defend itself effectively against Russia's aggression, the European Council calls for the urgent stepping up of efforts, in particular on the delivery of air defence systems, ammunition and missiles, as well as on the provision of necessary training and equipment for Ukrainian soldiers. The European Council underlines the importance of intensifying work to further support and develop Ukraine's defence industry and to deepen its cooperation with the EU defence industry. It calls for decisions under the European Peace Facility to be operationalised. It also calls on the Council to advance work to strengthen the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine.
4. The European Council welcomes the steadfast implementation of the Ukraine Facility. Total payments to Ukraine under the Facility in 2024 will amount to EUR 16.2 billion. In 2025, disbursements from the Facility are expected to reach EUR 12.5 billion. In addition, the European Council looks forward to the rapid implementation of the G7 'Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration Loans for Ukraine' initiative amounting to EUR 45 billion. Under this initiative, the European Union plans to disburse EUR 1.5 billion per month beginning next January, for a total of EUR 18.1 billion in 2025.
5. Military support will be provided in full respect of the security and defence policy of certain Member States and taking into account the security and defence interests of all Member States.

6. The European Council strongly condemns Russia's intensified and deliberate campaign against Ukraine's energy and other civilian infrastructure which aims to weaponise the onset of winter. It calls for material support to be increased and its delivery accelerated in order to help Ukraine keep its electricity infrastructure running. In this context, the European Council commends Member States, notably neighbours, for their exports of electricity to Ukraine and stresses the need to continue increasing them. It also calls for further integration of the energy systems of Ukraine and of the Republic of Moldova with the Union's energy network.
7. Efforts to further limit Russia's ability to wage war must continue. In this context, the European Council [welcomes the adoption of the] 15th package of sanctions against Russia, including measures against the 'shadow fleet'. It also reiterates its call for the full and effective enforcement of sanctions and for further measures to counter their circumvention, including through third countries. The European Union remains ready to step up pressure on Russia, including by adopting further sanctions.
8. The European Council strongly condemns third countries' support which is enabling Russia to sustain its war of aggression against Ukraine. The deepening military cooperation and arms transfers between Russia and the DPRK and Iran, as well as the deployment of the DPRK's military forces to Russia and their use on the battlefield against Ukraine represent an international escalation of the war, with serious consequences for international peace and security. The European Council urges all countries to immediately cease any direct or indirect assistance to Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine.
9. The European Union remains committed to supporting Ukraine's repair, recovery and reconstruction, in coordination with international partners. It will also continue to work closely with Ukraine and support its reform efforts on its European path.

II. MIDDLE EAST

10. The European Council addressed the situation and the latest developments in the Middle East. It recalls its previous conclusions on the Middle East.
11. The European Council welcomes the ceasefire agreement of 27 November 2024 between Israel and Lebanon, urges the parties to implement the ceasefire as agreed, and calls for the full and symmetrical implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. The European Union will continue to support the Lebanese State's sovereignty and State-building efforts, including by assisting the Lebanese Armed Forces. The European Council calls on Lebanese political leaders to find a way out of the political and economic impasse, including through the election of a President.
12. The European Council expresses its deep concern over the possible consequences of the Israeli legislation adopted on 28 October 2024 on UNRWA's capacity to operate its mandate, as it provides crucial support to the civilian population.
13. The European Council reiterates its call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the unconditional release of all hostages, the urgent improvement of access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale throughout Gaza, and an enduring end to hostilities, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2735.
14. The European Council reiterates the European Union's commitment to international law and to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution where two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, live side-by-side in peace within secure and recognised borders. The European Union will continue supporting the Palestinian Authority to help it address its most pressing needs and implement its reform agenda.
15. *p.m.: Syria*

III. EU IN THE WORLD

16. The European Council held a strategic discussion on the EU's global engagement and priorities in the current geopolitical context.

IV. RESILIENCE, PREPAREDNESS, CRISIS PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

17. Following the report 'Safer together: strengthening Europe's civil and military preparedness and readiness', presented by Sauli Niinistö, the European Council reaffirms the importance and urgency of strengthening EU resilience, preparedness, crisis prevention and response capacities in the context of the evolving threat landscape and of the increasing number of natural disasters due to climate change. Building on the Strategic Agenda and the European Council conclusions of June 2023 and March 2024, the European Council considers that enhanced and coordinated military and civil preparedness and strategic crisis management is required, in an all-hazards and whole-of-society approach, respecting Member States' responsibilities and competences, and in synergy with NATO, without prejudice to the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States and taking into account the security and defence interests of all Member States. This new preparedness mindset is necessary to reinforce the EU's resilience, protect its values and to safeguard its economic success and competitiveness.
18. The European Council encourages further work to enhance the EU's ability to anticipate, prevent and respond to major threats in a comprehensive and coherent manner. To that end, the European Council invites the Commission, the High Representative and the Council to pursue work on the different work strands, including with a view to a future preparedness strategy.

V. MIGRATION

19. The European Council took stock of progress in the implementation of its conclusions on migration. It took note of the letter from the President of the Commission, paying particular attention to important ongoing work on the external dimension, the implementation of adopted EU legislation and the application of existing legislation, the prevention and countering of irregular migration, urgent efforts to increase and accelerate returns, and the fight against instrumentalisation, human trafficking and smuggling.

VI. OTHER ITEMS

Enlargement

20. Recalling its previous conclusions and the Granada Declaration of 6 October 2023, and in line with its Strategic Agenda, the European Council stresses the continued importance of enlargement as a geostrategic investment in peace, security, stability and prosperity. Building on the new dynamism in the enlargement process, and in line with the merit-based approach, both the Union and aspiring members have a responsibility to make the most of this opportunity.
21. [The European Council endorses the conclusions on enlargement approved by the Council on 17 December 2024.]

Republic of Moldova

22. The European Council commends the authorities of the Republic of Moldova for the successful conduct of the presidential elections and of the referendum on enshrining EU accession in the Constitution, despite hybrid attempts to undermine the country's democratic institutions. It welcomes the commitment of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova to European integration.

23. The European Union will continue to work closely with the Republic of Moldova to enhance the country's resilience and stability and to support its reform efforts on its European path, including through the implementation of the Growth Plan for Moldova and the swift adoption of the Reform and Growth Facility.

Georgia

24. The European Council expresses its serious concerns regarding recent developments in Georgia and regrets the Georgian government's decision to suspend the country's EU accession process until 2028.
25. The European Council strongly condemns the violence against peaceful protesters. The Georgian authorities must respect the right to freedom of assembly and of expression, and refrain from using force. All acts of violence must be investigated and those responsible held accountable.
26. The European Council underlines the Union's readiness to support the Georgian people's European aspirations.

Freedom, security and justice

27. [The European Council endorses the strategic guidelines for legislative and operational planning within the area of freedom, security and justice adopted by the Council on 12 December 2024.]
-