



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 19 December 2016
(OR. en)

15542/16

LIMITE

PV/CONS 69
RELEX 1070

DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3510th** meeting of the Council of the European Union (**Foreign Affairs**),
held in Brussels on 12 December 2016

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1. **Adoption of the agenda**
15318/16 OJ CONS 68 RELEX 1049

The Council adopted the above agenda.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

2. **Approval of the list of "A" items**
15319/16 PTS A 104

The Council adopted the "A" items listed in 15319/16.

A statement on item 10 is set out in the Annex.

3. **EU-Africa**

The Council held a debate on EU-Africa relations, discussing priorities in the EU's relations with Africa, as well as how those relations should evolve in the light of emerging challenges. Ministers noted also the importance of reaching out to African youth, in particular given that youth will be the theme of the next Africa-EU Summit to take place in autumn 2017.

4. **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

The Council addressed the situation in the country, calling for a continued dialogue and peaceful resolution of the conflict. Ministers adopted restrictive measures in respect of seven individuals occupying positions of authority in the chain of command over perpetrators of violence.

5. **Migration**

The Council discussed the external aspects of migration ahead of the European Council of 15 December and took note of progress made in the partnership framework approach. Ministers held also an exchange of views on the implementation of the Valletta commitments ahead of the senior officials meeting that will take place next February in Malta.

6. **Any other business**

One Delegation raised the need for the EU not only to fully implement UNSC Resolution 2270 (2016) on the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** but also to adopt further EU autonomous restrictive measures.

STATEMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL MINUTES

Ad "A" item 10: **Draft Council Declaration on the common funding of the deployment of EU Battlegroups**

DECLARATION BY THE COUNCIL

- "1. Until 31 December 2018, the Council will accept, in accordance with Article 15(3)(b) of Council Decision 2015/528, that ATHENA will bear as operational common costs incremental transport costs for land, sea and air deployment of Battle Groups at short notice to the joint area of operations in accordance with the EU Battle Group Concept. Land and sea costs for deployment of EU Battle Groups will only be taken into account as common costs where this is the more cost-effective option and on condition that they allow the required deployment timelines for EU Battle Groups to be met.
 2. All Member States will be eligible for reimbursement according to the applicable Flat Rates of Reimbursement for the deployment of EU battle groups adopted by the Council on 3 October 2012 (document 11806/12).
 3. The present Declaration will cease to apply on 31 December 2018, unless the Council agrees to extend it."
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