



European Council

**Brussels, 19 March 2026  
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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: European Council meeting (19 March 2026)  
– Conclusions

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Delegations will find attached the conclusions adopted by the European Council at the above meeting.

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*Following the devastating extreme weather events in Portugal, the European Council expresses its deepest condolences and stands in solidarity with the people of Portugal.*

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*The European Council held an exchange of views with UN Secretary-General António Guterres on the geopolitical situation and multilateralism.*

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## **I. UKRAINE**

1. The European Council held an exchange of views with Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine.
2. The European Council discussed the latest developments as regards Ukraine. The text set out in document EUCO 2/26 was firmly supported by 25 Heads of State or Government.
3. The European Council will revert to this issue at its next meeting.

## **II. MIDDLE EAST**

### ***Iran***

4. Developments in Iran and the wider region threaten regional and global security. The European Council calls for de-escalation and maximum restraint, the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure and full respect of international law by all parties, including the principles of the United Nations Charter and international humanitarian law. In this regard, it calls for a moratorium on strikes against energy and water facilities. The European Council deplores the loss of civilian life and is closely monitoring the far-reaching impact of the hostilities, including on economic stability.

5. The European Council strongly condemns Iran's indiscriminate military strikes against countries in the region and expresses its solidarity with countries affected. It calls on Iran and its proxies to immediately cease these attacks and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries in the region, in line with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2817, which should be fully implemented. The European Council underlines the importance of concerted action to help partners strengthen counter-drone and air defence capabilities. In that context, it welcomes Ukraine's readiness to provide support and expertise in air defence and counter-drone systems to Gulf countries.
6. The European Union stands firmly and unequivocally in support of Member States close to the region. It welcomes the support provided by Member States in this regard, in particular through the deployment of military assets in the Eastern Mediterranean and in support of Cyprus. The European Council acknowledges the intention of Cyprus to initiate a discussion with the UK on the UK bases in Cyprus and stands ready to provide assistance as needed.
7. The European Council recalls the need to safeguard regional airspace and ensure maritime security and respect for the freedom of navigation, and condemns any acts that threaten navigation or prevent vessels from entering and exiting the Strait of Hormuz.
8. The European Council highlights the role of the EU maritime defensive operations EUNAVFOR ASPIDES and EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, and calls for their reinforcement with more assets, in line with their respective mandates.
9. The European Council also welcomes the increased efforts announced by Member States, including through strengthened coordination with partners in the region, to ensure freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, once the conditions are met.

10. The European Union will continue to protect its security and interests, working with regional and global partners to counter the impact of the ongoing hostilities.  
The European Union and its Member States are taking all necessary steps to ensure the safety of EU citizens in the region, including by providing conditions for their safe departure.
11. The European Council invites the Commission to continue to report to the Council on the potential impact of recent developments for the EU in terms of energy security and energy prices, supply chains and migration, and to propose measures as appropriate. It also calls for coordination at EU level, including on the possible impact on internal security.
12. While the conflict has not translated into immediate migratory flows towards the European Union, the European Council underlines the importance of maintaining a high level of vigilance and ensuring the necessary level of preparedness, based on the tools and policies that the EU developed over the past years. On the basis of the lessons learned from the 2015 migration crisis and to avoid a similar situation, the EU is ready to fully mobilise its diplomatic, legal, operational and financial tools to prevent uncontrolled migratory movements to the EU and preserve security in Europe. The security and the control of the European Union's external borders will continue to be strengthened. The European Council stresses the importance of working with partners in the region to ensure that they receive the necessary assistance and support.
13. The European Union will continue to engage with partners in the region to contribute to de-escalation and regional stability. It stands ready to contribute to all diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions and to bring about a lasting solution to end the hostilities, prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and put an end to its destabilising activities, including its ballistic missile programme.

14. The European Council reiterates that Iran must never be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon and that it must comply with its legally binding nuclear safeguard obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The European Council urges Iran to resume full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.
15. The European Council calls on the Iranian regime to cease the violence and repression against its own people. It calls for the respect of the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Iranian people, including the right to choose their own future.

***Gaza/West Bank***

16. The European Council discussed the deteriorating situation in Gaza and the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, which is of grave concern. It reaffirms the European Union's commitment to international law and a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution in accordance with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions where two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, live side-by-side in peace within secure and recognised borders.
17. The European Council reiterates its call for the full implementation by all parties of the ceasefire and all other provisions of UNSCR 2803, in line with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and international political and legal principles. In this context, it calls for the permanent disarmament of Hamas and other non-state armed groups, the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and the deployment of the temporary International Stabilisation Force (ISF), as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict.

18. The European Union stands ready to work on the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict in accordance with UNSCR 2803. Regarding the European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EU BAM Rafah), the European Council calls on all parties to reopen the Rafah crossing point, facilitate checks and increase the number of crossings. It also calls for accelerating preparations to scale up the European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS).
19. The European Council deplores the continuing catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza and calls on Israel to allow immediate, unimpeded access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale into and throughout Gaza, including via the Cyprus Maritime Corridor to supplement land routes, and to enable the UN and its agencies, and humanitarian organisations, to work independently and impartially to save lives and reduce suffering. It calls on Israel to reverse its decision regarding the NGO registration law, to reopen Gaza border crossings and to fully comply with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law. The European Council recalls the need to ensure the protection of civilians at all times.
20. The European Union will engage with international and regional stakeholders to contribute to the reconstruction and redevelopment of Gaza, in line with international law. It will also continue to support the Palestinian Authority, including in its reform agenda, so that it can securely and effectively take back control of Gaza. The European Council calls on Israel to urgently release withheld clearance revenues and extend the correspondent banking services between Israeli and Palestinian banks, both being necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the Palestinian Authority and the delivery of essential services to the population.

21. The European Council strongly condemns Israel's unilateral actions aiming to expand its presence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, which the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion of 19 July 2024 declared to be unlawful, and urges the Government of Israel to reverse these decisions, to abide by its obligations under international law and to protect the Palestinian population of the occupied territories. The European Council reiterates its call for the preservation of and respect for the Status Quo of Jerusalem's holy sites.
22. The European Council strongly condemns the continued and growing settler violence against Palestinian civilians, including violence against Christian communities, and reiterates its call on the Council to take work forward on further restrictive measures against extremist settlers and entities and organisations that support them.

### ***Lebanon***

23. The European Council is deeply concerned about the increase in hostilities in Lebanon and its severe impact on civilians, including large-scale displacement, suffering and loss of life. It calls for de-escalation, the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, as well as respect for international law, including international humanitarian law. The European Union will continue to stand by Lebanon, its authorities and its people and will draw on its emergency reserves to assist the affected civilian population. It will continue to support the Lebanese State's sovereignty, territorial integrity and State-building efforts.
24. The European Council strongly condemns Hezbollah's decision to attack Israel in support of Iran and urges it to stop immediately. It welcomes the decision by the Lebanese authorities to ban Hezbollah's military activities. The European Union supports the authorities' efforts to strengthen the Lebanese Armed Forces in view of gaining control of the whole Lebanese territory.

25. The European Council reiterates its call on all parties to respect and implement the terms of the 27 November 2024 ceasefire agreement and for the full implementation of UNSCR 1701. The European Council calls on Israel to refrain from further escalation through air or land operations and to respect Lebanon’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. It calls on all sides to ensure the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure and to refrain from actions resulting in further displacement.
26. The European Council reaffirms its unwavering support for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which plays a fundamental stabilisation role. The European Council condemns the unacceptable attacks targeting UNIFIL personnel and calls for a thorough investigation. Such attacks against UN peacekeepers constitute a grave violation of international law, are totally unacceptable and must stop immediately.

### **III. COMPETITIVENESS AND SINGLE MARKET**

#### ***One Europe, One Market***

27. In the current global context, the pursuit of the European Union’s objective of a ‘highly competitive social market economy’ requires a renewed determination to boost the Union’s competitiveness, increase its resilience and enhance its strategic autonomy and economic security, sustaining Europe’s prosperity and social model.
28. The European Council has therefore decided to launch a ‘One Europe, One Market’ agenda, to be implemented in 2026 where possible and by the end of 2027 at the latest.
29. The European Council calls on the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission to urgently implement this agenda, including in the light of the recent letter from the President of the Commission, and will regularly review progress on all strands, providing additional strategic guidance when needed.

***Single Market***

30. The European Council underlines that further deepening and integrating the Single Market, in all its four freedoms, and making it simpler for people and businesses, is an urgent shared responsibility of all Member States and EU institutions. Companies of all sizes should be free to operate seamlessly across the Single Market, and to scale up to reach their full potential. A ‘One Market’ approach, with harmonised EU-wide rules that replace 27 sets of national rules, in itself brings simplification, as does the well-functioning application of the mutual recognition principle. This approach will strengthen the Single Market’s integrity while ensuring a level playing field, both internally and globally, and improve connectivity and living standards for citizens.
31. To this end, the European Council calls on the Member States and the EU institutions to prevent and remove barriers to the four freedoms, notably the barriers identified in the Commission’s Single Market Strategy of May 2025, with a view to achieving concrete and tangible progress by March 2027 at the latest.
32. In particular, the European Council calls for the following measures to be addressed as a high priority:
  - a) a 28th regime for company law, to help European companies, in particular innovative companies, SMEs and start-ups, to operate and scale up across the Single Market, on a simple and digital-by-default basis. This optional harmonised regime for companies should be agreed by the co-legislators by the end of 2026, on the basis of the Commission proposal of 18 March 2026;
  - b) a simple, unified and voluntary e-declaration system for the cross-border provision of services, to reduce administrative burdens when temporarily posting workers to other Member States and ensure the rights of these workers, which should be agreed by the co-legislators by June 2026;

- c) enhancing free movement of workers by improving mutual recognition of professional qualifications and strengthening the portability of qualifications and skills across national borders, including through digitalisation and interoperability, on the basis of a Commission proposal to be presented by autumn 2026;
  - d) implementing the ‘once-only’ principle, including through a European Business Wallet, leveraging existing solutions and aiming to digitalise business interactions and simplify administrative procedures across the EU, to be agreed by the co-legislators before the end of 2026;
  - e) enhancing consumer protection and enforcement of EU standards, by strengthening, on the basis of a Commission proposal to be presented by the end of 2026, safeguards for placing products on the market, especially for the surveillance of non-compliant products from third countries;
  - f) facilitating free movement of goods by addressing, on the basis of a Commission proposal to be presented by the end of 2026, fragmented product labelling and packaging requirements, including through digital solutions. This should also address the negative impact of territorial supply constraints which fragment the Single Market.
33. The European Council calls on the Member States and the Commission to improve the conditions throughout the Union for businesses to achieve the scale needed to invest, innovate and compete at global level. This includes the ongoing review of the merger guidelines, which should continue to ensure effective competition.
34. The European Council calls on the Commission to ensure timely and robust enforcement of Single Market rules, thus preserving the Single Market’s integrity.

***Simplification and reducing administrative burdens***

35. The European Council calls on the Commission, the co-legislators and the Member States to continue to ambitiously simplify rules and reduce administrative burdens at EU, national and regional level to ensure a regulatory framework that is both innovation- and SME-friendly, including by applying the ‘Think small first’ principle, and without undermining predictability, EU policy goals, high standards or the integrity of the Single Market.
36. In this context, the European Council:
- a) urgently calls on the co-legislators to keep up the momentum to simplify and reduce burdens arising from existing legislation, notably by agreeing, before the end of 2026, all pending omnibus packages, including an ambitious AI omnibus by July 2026;
  - b) calls on the Commission to put forward further omnibus and other simplification initiatives, including to further speed up and streamline planning and permitting procedures;
  - c) calls on the Commission to undertake an in-depth regulatory review of the EU acquis to eliminate outdated provisions, overlaps, inconsistencies and redundancies, which may include withdrawing legislative proposals;
  - d) calls on the Commission to:
    - i) ensure that new EU initiatives are in line with the ‘simplicity-by-design’ and better regulation principles, are accompanied by high-quality impact assessments, contribute to the Union’s competitiveness goals, including the better functioning of the Single Market, and reduce regulatory, administrative and compliance costs and avoid burdens;

- ii) favour regulations over directives;
  - iii) limit the use of delegated and implementing acts, which should focus on technical elements;
  - e) calls on the European Parliament and the Council to avoid introducing additional administrative burdens in EU legal acts throughout the legislative procedure;
  - f) calls on Member States to avoid gold-plating and disproportionate national requirements when transposing and implementing EU rules.
37. The European Council welcomes the commitment by the President of the European Commission to report annually to the European Council on progress achieved in the field of simplification.

***Affordable energy prices and Energy Union 2030***

38. The recent spikes in the prices of imported fossil fuels demonstrate that the energy transition remains the most effective strategy for achieving Europe's strategic autonomy, strengthening resilience, structurally lowering energy prices, and delivering the clean, abundant and homegrown energy needed to power the economy of the future. Accelerating the deployment and integration of renewable and low-carbon energy sources and energy storage is essential to reduce dependence on volatile fossil fuel markets and enhance security of supply.
39. At the same time, targeted solutions are needed in the short term to ensure affordable energy, taking into account technological neutrality and the specific situations of Member States, the particular exposure of certain industrial sectors to the risk of relocation, and the need to improve the conditions for energy-intensive innovative sectors, without undermining predictability and the level playing field.

40. As the conflict in the Middle East has an immediate impact on energy prices for European citizens and businesses, the European Council underlines the need for a coordinated response.
41. To this end, the European Council:
  - a) calls on the Commission to present without delay a toolbox of targeted temporary measures to address the recent spikes in the prices of imported fossil fuels arising from the crisis in the Middle East;
  - b) calls on the Commission, in the light of the recent letter by its President, including regarding the intention to increase the market stability reserve, to urgently present targeted measures – across all components of electricity prices – for concrete actions to lower electricity prices and to address excessive volatility in the short term, including for energy-intensive sectors, taking into account the different situations across Member States. In this context, the Commission is also invited to work closely with Member States to design national temporary and targeted measures to mitigate significant impacts of fuels and related cost components on electricity generation costs, as well as the impact of all other cost components as outlined in the letter, while preserving long-term investment signals and supporting the acceleration of renewable and low-carbon energy production, and ensuring a level playing field in the internal market;
  - c) invites the Commission to present a review of the emissions trading system (ETS) by July 2026 at the latest, to reduce the volatility of the carbon price and mitigate its impact on electricity prices, including related supply chain costs, and on diversion of activities, while preserving the essential role of the ETS in the climate and energy transition through a market-based price signal for carbon emissions that drives investment and innovation;

- d) calls on the co-legislators to agree, in 2026, an ambitious grids package to quickly build the necessary infrastructure, ensure its protection and resilience, and enhance interconnections, at national and trans-European level, including by streamlining and accelerating permitting procedures, thus contributing to an integrated and more robust energy market, while defining a flexible approach to domestic congestion income arising from internal bidding zones that takes into account national circumstances;
- e) calls on the Member States and the Commission to accelerate the implementation of the Energy Union 2030 agenda, to rapidly allow increased and affordable electrification.

The European Council will return to the issues above in June 2026 to review progress.

***Fostering Europe’s industrial renewal and innovation, and reducing dependencies***

- 42. The European Council underlines that to drive growth in Europe it is critical to channel investment towards the technologies of tomorrow, accelerate innovation, advance on digital technology and the necessary infrastructure, and improve the conditions for a sustainable and productive industrial base. This should be undertaken in a technologically neutral manner and take into account the needs of SMEs. Reducing strategic dependencies and strengthening Europe’s geopolitical and commercial weight has become a precondition for resilience, growth and job creation.
- 43. To this end, the European Council:
  - a) calls on the Commission, in cooperation with Member States, to map dependencies in strategic sectors by the end of 2026 at the latest;

- b) highlights the importance of establishing a targeted and proportionate ‘European preference’ in strategic sectors and technologies and, in this regard, calls on the co-legislators to agree by the end of 2026 an Industrial Accelerator Act, based on the Commission’s proposal of 4 March 2026, in line with the EU’s relevant international obligations. The European Council invites the Commission to submit further proposals in this regard;
- c) calls on the Commission to take action to protect key sectors from unfair competition, including through the timely use of the Union’s trade defence measures, and to proactively tackle economic coercion;
- d) calls on the Commission and the Council to continue diversifying trade and investment ties, including to secure access to essential resources, supply chains, markets and technologies;
- e) invites the Commission to come forward with a technological sovereignty package.

### ***Mobilising investment***

- 44. The European Council recalls that a fundamental precondition for sustainable growth is a true Savings and Investments Union with a fully integrated and efficient capital market that effectively channels savings into productive investments in the EU. This is key to providing European businesses, including in strategic sectors, with the equity capital they need to innovate and grow, and to create quality jobs in the EU.
- 45. To this end, the European Council calls:
  - a) on the co-legislators to conclude, by the end of 2026, negotiations on the legislative proposals on securitisation, supplementary pensions and the market integration and supervision package;

- b) on the co-legislators to conclude, by the end of 2026, negotiations on the legislative proposal on the digital euro;
- c) on the Commission to propose targeted amendments to the prudential framework in order to enhance the capacity of the banking sector to finance the European economy, while safeguarding financial stability, and with a view to fully preserving a global level playing field. In this regard, it welcomes the Commission's intention to present by summer 2026 a report on the competitiveness of the banking sector;
- d) on the Commission and the co-legislators to deepen the integration of the EU banking market by progressing towards completing the Banking Union.

### ***European Semester***

46. Moreover, the European Council addressed priorities for the 2026 European Semester and endorses the Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area. The European Council also considered the employment and social situation in the European Union.

## **IV. EUROPEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY**

47. Given the further deteriorating geopolitical environment, and with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine remaining an existential challenge for the European Union, the European Council reaffirms its determination to decisively ramp up Europe's defence readiness by 2030, reduce strategic dependencies and address critical capability gaps, with a 360° approach.

48. In this context, the European Council calls for an acceleration of efforts to swiftly achieve defence readiness. The European Council:
- a) stresses the importance of intensifying work on the priority capability areas identified at EU level, in full coherence with NATO. It welcomes the progress already achieved, with all capability coalitions in place and working, and notes that Member States are already working on joint development and procurement as regards drone and counter-drone systems. The European Council acknowledges the continued progress being made in the implementation of initiatives aiming to protect Europe's Eastern flank. It also stresses the importance of early-warning, air defence and deep precision strike capabilities, as well as space assets and services that serve security and defence purposes. The European Council calls on Member States to ensure that concrete projects can be launched in the next months, including by making full use of the SAFE and European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP) instruments. It invites the Commission, the Council and the Member States to take the further steps needed in the implementation of both instruments as a matter of urgency;
  - b) calls for a step change in strengthening the European defence technological and industrial base so that it can supply equipment at the increased scale and accelerated pace needed, including the priority equipment in support of Ukraine, also in light of possible global supply shortages. The European Council invites Member States, in the framework of the capability coalitions, and with the support of the European Defence Agency and the Commission, to encourage the European defence industry to ramp up production to this effect;

- c) reiterates in particular the importance of the proper functioning and further integration of the European defence market across the Union, including intra-EU cross-border access to defence supply chains, especially for SMEs and mid-caps. This will also contribute to boosting European competitiveness. The European Council invites the co-legislators to finalise work on the Defence Readiness Omnibus as a matter of urgency;
  - d) calls on the European Defence Agency to finalise, by June 2026, the work to strengthen its support for Member States in the fields of innovation, capability development, including through harmonisation of requirements and aggregation of demand, and common procurement;
  - e) welcomes the continued efforts made by the European Investment Bank to strengthen the European defence industry, including by crowding in private investment;
  - f) recalls the importance of innovation in the field of defence and the need to draw lessons from Ukraine's experience;
  - g) recalling the importance of military mobility, invites the co-legislators to take work forward on the relevant proposal.
49. The European Council highlights the situation at the EU's eastern border, considering the threats posed by Russia and Belarus, as well as the risks faced by the Member States most directly affected by the situation in Iran and the Middle East. It reiterates that the defence of all EU land, air and maritime borders contributes to the security of Europe as a whole.

50. In light of persistent hybrid campaigns by hostile actors against the European Union and its Member States, notably by Russia and Belarus, the European Council expects continued efforts to strengthen resilience, enhance preparedness, protect critical infrastructure, and prevent, deter and respond to hybrid attacks, with particular attention to drone and counter-drone security.
51. The European Council invites the Council to update the common understanding of the threats and challenges that the EU is facing, agreed in the Strategic Compass in 2022, on the basis of a comprehensive 360° threat analysis at EU level to be prepared by the High Representative in close cooperation with and building on input from Member States.
52. The European Council recalls the importance of working together with like-minded partners, who share the EU's foreign and security policy goals.
53. The above is without prejudice to the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States, and takes into account the security and defence interests of all Member States, in accordance with the Treaties.

## **V. MIGRATION**

54. The European Council took stock of progress in the implementation of its previous conclusions, including in the light of the recent letter from the President of the Commission. It calls for intensified work on all strands to continue as a matter of priority, including on the external dimension and comprehensive partnerships, in line with EU and international law.

## **VI. MULTILATERALISM**

55. With multilateralism and international law being challenged, the European Union is firmly committed to upholding the UN Charter and the rules and principles it enshrines, in particular those of sovereignty and territorial integrity, political independence and self-determination.

56. The European Council reaffirms the Union's steadfast commitment to effective multilateralism and to the rules-based international order with the United Nations at its core, as well as its support for the institutions upholding international law, including by effectively protecting international courts and their officials from any threats or sanctions. The European Union will remain a predictable, reliable and credible partner, and reiterates its commitment to working together with all its partners to maintain international peace and security, and promote multilateral solutions to common challenges. The European Council underlines the need to respect the freedom and security of navigation in accordance with international law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
57. The European Union will work together with all its partners, as well as with the United Nations and its agencies, in driving forward the internal reform process – the UN80 initiative – to ensure the United Nations remains effective, cost-efficient and responsive.

## **VII. OTHER ITEMS**

### ***Strengthening Europe's democratic resilience***

58. Recalling the importance of strengthening Europe's democratic resilience and the legal responsibility of online platforms in fighting the dissemination of disinformation and illegal content, the European Council stresses the responsibility of online platforms to mitigate the systemic risks associated with the use of these platforms and the need to safeguard the integrity and the accountability of the information space. It calls on the Commission to make full use of the instruments provided for in the Digital Services Act (DSA) to that end. The European Council invites Member States and the Commission, working with the support of the High Representative, to enhance their resilience to hybrid activities, notably foreign information manipulation and interference and attempts to undermine democracy, also taking into account the interference by foreign private actors in democratic electoral processes in Member States. It underlines the importance of deepening citizen engagement, strengthening democratic discourse and protecting free and pluralistic media and civil society.

***Protecting children online***

59. The European Council stresses the importance of protecting minors in the digital sphere, notably through:
- a) implementing the Digital Services Act and its guidelines on the protection of minors;
  - b) promoting a digital age of majority for accessing social media, while preserving the privacy of users and respecting national competences;
  - c) labelling AI-generated content and prohibiting AI systems that allow the creation of non-consensual intimate images and child sexual abuse material.

***EU's eastern regions bordering Russia, Belarus and Ukraine***

60. The European Council takes note of the Commission Communication on the EU's eastern regions bordering Russia, Belarus and Ukraine 'Strong regions for a safe Europe'.

***Dniester river***

61. The European Council strongly condemns Russia's attacks against Ukrainian civil infrastructure which have contaminated the Dniester river, the Republic of Moldova's primary source of fresh water. The European Union stands ready to provide assistance to the Republic of Moldova in mitigating the environmental effects, including through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. In this context, the European Council welcomes the immediate support provided by Member States.
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