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## OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3551st Council meeting

### Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg, 19 June 2017

President **Federica Mogherini**  
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security  
Policy

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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

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## **ITEMS DEBATED**

### **EU Global Strategy**

The Council had a discussion on the implementation of the EU Global Strategy, on the basis of a report presented by the High Representative on the first year of implementation.

Foreign ministers welcomed the report and highlighted the important work achieved over the year, not only in the area of **security and defence cooperation**, but also in building **the resilience** of states and societies in the East and South, and on advancing an **integrated approach to conflicts and crises**.

They welcomed the ongoing work on updating existing or preparing new regional and thematic strategies. In this context, the Council adopted conclusions on **global maritime security**.

[One-year report Global Strategy implementation report](#)

[Council adopts conclusions on global maritime security](#)

### **EU-NATO Cooperation**

Foreign ministers discussed EU-NATO cooperation with NATO Deputy Secretary General Rose Gottemoeller. The discussion was based on a joint **progress report** by the EU High Representative and the Secretary General of NATO. The Council adopted conclusions on the report, welcoming progress in the implementation of the common set of proposals and calling for further steps in the same direction.

[EU-NATO cooperation: Council welcomes progress made](#)

[EU cooperation on security and defence \(background information\)](#)

## **Counter-terrorism**

Foreign ministers debated the **external aspects of counter-terrorism**, a timely discussion in view of the recent attacks in the EU and beyond. They underlined that counter-terrorism is the **highest security priority for the EU**. Many encouraged to further work on enhancing the linkages between internal and external security and for greater cooperation between Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) actions. The Council adopted conclusions on counter-terrorism.

[EU external action on counter-terrorism: Council adopts conclusions](#)

[EU fight against terrorism \(background information\)](#)

## **Migration**

Foreign ministers discussed the external aspects of migration in preparation for the European Council of 22-23 June. They took stock of the progress made on the **Partnership Framework**.

Ministers expressed their continued support for the current approach, which they considered should be strengthened in order to produce more results, given the number of lives being lost on the **Central Mediterranean Route**. Cooperation with partner countries should be reinforced with a view to further fighting traffickers, reducing the number of arrivals of irregular migrants to the EU and ensuring returns and readmission. Supporting improved migration management in **Libya** with a view to helping **protect migrants and refugees** also continues to be a key objective for the EU.

[Partnership Framework on Migration: Commission reports on results and lessons learnt one year on, press release of 13 June 2017](#)

[A new migration partnership framework \(background information\)](#)

## **Iraq**

The Council discussed Iraq, focussing on the latest developments, in particular in **Mosul** and Nineveh province, and on the **future stabilisation** of the country. The Council adopted conclusions.

[Iraq: Council adopts conclusions](#)

## **Gulf Crisis**

Over lunch, EU foreign ministers discussed the **current crisis in the Gulf region**.

EU ministers urged **de-escalation** of the crisis through dialogue and negotiation. They expressed their full support for the **mediation efforts of Kuwait**.

Ministers highlighted that the crisis requires **urgent resolution** and that Gulf unity is important to the EU as well as vital for the stability of the region.

The High Representative recalled that the EU values its bilateral relations with all parties concerned, as well as its relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council.

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED****FOREIGN AFFAIRS****Climate Change: United States Administration's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement**

The Council adopted conclusions on **climate change** following the United States Administration's decision to leave the Paris Agreement:

- "1. The Council deeply regrets the unilateral decision by the United States Administration to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. The Council also welcomes the numerous strong statements of commitment to the Paris Agreement from countries ranging from major economies to small island states.
2. The Paris Agreement brought us together in very challenging times. It is an unprecedented multilateral agreement between nearly 200 parties, supported by regions, cities, communities, companies as well as other non-state actors across the world, to address a problem that threatens us all. It demonstrates, along with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our collective responsibility towards the entire planet, for this and future generations, and our commitment to act accordingly.
3. The Council reaffirms that the Paris Agreement is fit for purpose and cannot be renegotiated. The Agreement is ambitious yet not prescriptive and allows each Party to forge its own path, in contributing to the goals that serve to combat climate change, which threatens development, peace and stability around the world.
4. The Council reiterates the European Union's steadfast support for the United Nations as the core of a rules-based multilateral system. The European Union and its Member States remain united and absolutely committed to full and swift implementation of the Paris Agreement, recall the particular responsibility of major economies, accounting for some 80% of global emissions, and call on all partners to keep up the momentum created in 2015 towards successful results at COP 23 and COP 24.

5. The world can continue to count on the EU for leadership in the global fight against climate change, holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The EU will lead through its ambitious climate policies and through continued support to those who are particularly vulnerable, to build strong and sustainable economies on the path towards achieving greenhouse gas emissions neutrality in the second half of the century, and societies resilient to climate change. The EU and its Member States are the largest contributors of climate financing and remain committed to mobilise their share of the developed countries' goal to jointly mobilise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 for climate action in developing countries, from a variety of sources.
6. The EU is strengthening its existing global partnerships to this end and will continue to seek new alliances, from the world's largest economies to the most vulnerable island states. Our partnerships will include the many businesses, regions, cities, citizens and communities that have voiced their support for the Paris Agreement both worldwide and in the US and are taking ambitious climate action.
7. Together, we will implement the Paris Agreement because it is our common interest and responsibility. We see the Paris Agreement and the low greenhouse gas emission and climate resilient transition for what it is, the driver of an irreversible process of sustainable growth for our economies and the key to protecting our planet. The EU stands ready to cooperate with all parties to this end."

Ministers for Environment gathering on the same day welcomed these conclusions and held a debate specifically on the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement was adopted by 195 countries in Paris on 12 December 2015, during the UN climate change conference known as COP 21. The agreement sets out the framework for global action on climate change. The EU ratified it on 5 October 2016. The Agreement itself entered into force on 4 November 2016.

[Paris Agreement - full text](#)

[Timeline - A new global climate change agreement](#)

[UNFCCC website - information about Paris Agreement and COP23 Bonn](#)



**Framework for a joint EU diplomatic response to malicious cyber activities ('cyber diplomacy toolbox')**

The Council agreed to develop a framework for a joint EU diplomatic response to malicious cyber activities, the cyber diplomacy toolbox.

The EU recognises that cyberspace offers significant opportunities, but also poses continuously evolving challenges for EU external action. The EU is concerned by the increased ability and willingness of state and non-state actors to pursue their objectives through malicious cyber activities. Such activities may constitute wrongful acts under international law and could give rise to a joint EU response. The EU reiterated that states should not knowingly allow their territory to be used for internationally wrongful acts using Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

The framework for a joint EU diplomatic response is part of the EU's approach to cyber diplomacy, which contributes to conflict prevention, the mitigation of cybersecurity threats and greater stability in international relations. The framework is expected to encourage cooperation, facilitate mitigation of immediate and long-term threats, and influence the behaviour of potential aggressors in the long term.

The EU diplomatic response to malicious cyber activities would make full use of measures within the Common Foreign and Security Policy, including, if necessary, restrictive measures. A joint EU response to malicious cyber activities would be proportionate to the scope, scale, duration, intensity, complexity, sophistication and impact of the cyber activity.

The EU reaffirmed its commitment to the settlement of international disputes in cyberspace by peaceful means. In this context, all of the EU's diplomatic efforts should as a priority aim to promote security and stability in cyberspace through increased international cooperation, and at reducing the risk of misperception, escalation and conflict that may stem from ICT incidents.

[Read the council conclusions](#)

## Council conclusions on a renewed impetus for the Africa-EU partnership

The Council adopted conclusions on a renewed impetus for the Africa-EU partnership. The conclusions state that the EU has a **genuine strategic interest in deepening and strengthening its longstanding partnership with Africa**. The Council welcomes the adoption of the joint communication by the High Representative and the Commission for a renewed impetus of the Africa-EU partnership.

The conclusions are in preparation for the Africa-EU Summit to take place in November, the theme of which is "Investing in youth". This has become a key priority for Europe as well as for Africa, in a context of African demographic trends creating major challenges in terms of economic development and job creation, security, political participation and migration.

[Read the full text of the Council conclusions](#)

## Council conclusions on Mali and the Sahel

Today, the Council adopted conclusions on Mali and the Sahel recalling its **strong integrated approach towards achieving stabilisation of the region**. This approach includes the full range of relevant instruments in the field of diplomacy, long-term development cooperation, support to human rights, stabilisation efforts, resilience building, humanitarian assistance, migration management and security, including CSDP missions.

The Council strongly condemned yesterday's **terrorist attack**.

The Council reiterated its full support for the implementation of the **Malian Peace and Reconciliation Agreement**, with full involvement of civil society, women and youth as the only way to restore peace and security in the country. The High Representative's participation on 5 June 2017 in the *Comité de suivi de l'accord de paix* (CSA) in Bamako confirms the strong commitment of the EU to the agreement.

The EU reiterated the importance of ensuring close coordination between all security actors, including the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and welcomed the initiative of the Heads of State of the G5 Sahel on **the establishment of the G5 Sahel Joint Force**. The EU has been the first to announce a financial contribution, with EUR 50 million as planned support to this initiative.

[Read the full text of the Council conclusions](#)

## **Council conclusions on the EU strategy for Central Asia**

Ten years after the adoption of the first Central Asia strategy, the Council adopted conclusions on the EU strategy for the region. The Council emphasised that Central Asian countries have become **significant partners of the EU** and welcomed the **progress achieved** under partnerships with the EU. The Council reaffirmed the EU's commitment to develop stronger relations and highlighted the need to **strengthen dialogue and cooperation on human rights, education, sustainability** as well as to tackle emerging **security challenges** faced by the Central Asian countries.

EU-Central Asia relations are developed under the EU strategy for Central Asia signed in 2007 and reviewed in 2015. The Council invites the High Representative and the Commission to come forward with a proposal for a new Strategy by the end of 2019 in accordance with the EU Global Strategy.

[Read the full text of the Council conclusions](#)

## **Restrictive measures in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by Russia**

The Council extended the restrictive measures in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by Russia until 23 June 2018. The measures apply to EU persons and EU-based companies. They are limited to the territory of Crimea and Sevastopol. The sanctions include prohibitions on:

- **imports of products** originating in Crimea or Sevastopol into the EU;
- **investment** in Crimea or Sevastopol, meaning that neither European nationals nor EU-based companies can buy real estate or entities in Crimea, finance Crimean companies or supply related services;
- **tourism services** in Crimea or Sevastopol, in particular, European cruise ships cannot call at ports in the Crimean peninsula, except in the case of emergency;
- **exports of certain goods and technologies** to Crimean companies or for use in Crimea in the **transport, telecommunications and energy sectors** and related to the prospection, exploration and production of **oil, gas and mineral resources**. Technical assistance, brokering, construction or engineering services related to infrastructure in these sectors must not be provided either.

As stated in the declaration by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on behalf of the EU on 17 March 2017, the EU continues to condemn the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and remains committed to fully implement its non-recognition policy.

[Council decision: 9631/17](#)

[Council decision \(CFSP\) 2017/1087](#)

### **Sanctions on Guinea-Bissau**

The Council reviewed the list of certain persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures in view of the situation in Guinea-Bissau. The Council extended the restrictive measures for a further 12 months. The sanctions were introduced by the Council in May 2012. They are targeted against those who seek to prevent or block a peaceful political process or who take action that undermines stability in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. The sanction list is reviewed on a regular basis at least every 12 months.

### **Council conclusions on the Court of Auditors' Special Report on 'EU Assistance to Tunisia'**

The Council adopted conclusions welcoming the Court of Auditors' Special Report on 'EU Assistance to Tunisia'. Fully aware of the socioeconomic and democratic expectations of the Tunisian people for the pursuit and completion of the democratic transition, the Council underlined the importance of developing EU assistance to Tunisia as outlined by the Court's recommendations ([10189/17](#)).

## **COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY**

### **European defence cooperation: political commitment on security of supply**

Member states participating in the European Defence Agency (EDA) adopted a declaration reaffirming their commitment to **strengthen European defence cooperation by improving security of supply**. They committed to respond in a timely manner to requests for security of supply support from another member state and to facilitate transfers and/or transits of supplies and services needed by other member states. Security of supply is a critical feature for the effectiveness of armed forces.

Both the 2013 December European Council conclusions and the EU Global Strategy highlight the importance of a comprehensive EU-wide security of supply regime, which takes account of the globalised nature of critical supply chains.

[Read the declaration](#)

[EU cooperation on security and defence](#)

## **DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

### **EU engagement with civil society**

The Council adopted Council conclusions on EU engagement with civil society.

The Council recognised the **many different roles** that Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play as promoters of democracy and as defenders of rights holders, the rule of law, social justice and human rights.

The conclusions underline the crucial importance of CSOs for the successful implementation of the EU Global Strategy and the 2030 Agenda, including in the realisation of the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs).

At a time when the space for civil society is shrinking in an increasing number of countries, the Council reaffirmed the EU's opposition to any unjustified restrictions to freedom of association, expression and peaceful assembly that hinder the work of CSOs. The conclusions underline the EU's commitment to play an important role **in promoting stronger positions on civic freedoms and against any reduction in the space for civil society to act..**

The Council welcomed the progress achieved in the EU's engagement with civil society in external relations since its most recent related conclusions of 2012. It also welcomed the increase of EU financial resources since 2012 in support of CSOs, noting that the **EU has become the leading donor for local CSOs**, including those active in humanitarian assistance and in protecting and promoting human rights and democracy.

The Council called on the Commission to continue and to strengthen its engagement with civil society and invited it to reflect further and report on the **challenges encountered in partner countries** and countries where engagement with civil society is or has been difficult.

Read the council conclusions ([10279/17](#)).

## **Cooperation in the field of sustainable energy between the EU, several member states and Vietnam**

The Council endorsed a Joint Declaration between the EU, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Spain, the UK and Vietnam on reinforced cooperation in the field of sustainable energy. The Joint Declaration will allow increased cooperation in the energy sector, in particular in support of Vietnam's commitments to increase access to sustainable and affordable energy for its population, taking into account the promotion of renewable energy sources.

[Joint Declaration](#)

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