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Delegations will find attached Council conclusions on a homogeneous extended internal market and EU relations with non-EU Western European countries and with the Faroe Islands as adopted by the Council (General Affairs) on 25 June 2024.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON A HOMOGENEOUS EXTENDED INTERNAL MARKET AND EU RELATIONS WITH NON-EU WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND WITH THE FAROE ISLANDS

1. In accordance with its conclusions of 21 June 2022, the Council has assessed the overall state of EU relations with the following Western European countries that are not members of the EU: Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Kingdom of Norway, the Principality of Andorra, the Republic of San Marino, and the Principality of Monaco. The Council has also assessed the state of EU relations with the Faroe Islands as a self-governing country within the Kingdom of Denmark and to which EU treaties do not apply.
2. The Council will reassess the state of these relations in two years, as appropriate, in the context of the broadening of the internal market. In this regard, the Council takes note of the ongoing work on the future enlargement of the European Union. It also takes note of the relationship with the Swiss Confederation, for which the Council adopted a decision authorising negotiations on a broad package on 12 March 2024.

THE WESTERN EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

3. The non-EU Western European countries are the EU's closest partners in building a stronger, safer, greener, more competitive and prosperous Europe, based on peaceful cooperation, democracy, the rule of law and human rights. The Council recalls the weight and importance the EU attaches to relations with all these close, like-minded partners that are highly integrated with the EU. Our long-standing cooperation is based on shared fundamental values and interests and underpinned by our common heritage and history, as well as strong cultural and geographical ties.
4. The Council underlines the importance of unity regarding Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. It commends the high rate of alignment of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway with EU statements and restrictive measures. The Council welcomes the decisions taken by Andorra, San Marino and Monaco, as well as the Faroe Islands, to implement equivalent restrictive measures. It also expresses appreciation for other actions in line with those by the EU and its Member States to counter Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, including in multilateral fora, demonstrating the excellent and close partnership between the EU and its Western European neighbours also in this domain.
5. Economic integration within the framework of the extended EU internal market brings the European Union and its Western European neighbours together even more and highlights the inter-dependency of our future prosperity and economic security. In the last two years, close relations have been further enhanced by a number of initiatives across a wide range of strategic areas.
6. The Council reiterates that the strength of our economic integration depends on full respect for the four freedoms of the internal market, in a relationship that should be based on a balance of rights and obligations, ensuring a level playing field. It is therefore the responsibility of all the states which already participate or wish to increase their level of participation in the extended internal market to ensure its integrity and homogeneity, as well as full respect for equal rights and obligations for both citizens and businesses. Non-members of the Union that do not live up to the same obligations as members cannot have the same rights and enjoy the same benefits as members.

7. The Council is fully committed to stepping up collective global efforts to tackle climate change, pursuing sustainable energy transition, energy efficiency and sustainable mobility, accelerating digital transition and protecting and restoring biodiversity and the environment as a whole. Continued close cooperation between the EU and our closest non-EU Western European partners on these issues is of key importance.
8. The Council notes the excellent cooperation in areas of EU external action such as the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), development and humanitarian aid, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and stresses the importance of close and systematic political dialogue on foreign policy matters of mutual interest. The Council expresses its strong appreciation for the high level of alignment of its closest non-EU Western European partners to the EU's common foreign and security policy instruments and positions, the strong support of EU positions at multilateral level, and the restrictive measures imposed following the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The Council looks forward to the continuation of this strong alignment with CSFP declarations and restrictive measures which is key for European unity and global security. The Council highlights the importance of close cooperation to avoid sanctions circumvention.
9. The Council highlights the need to continue and enhance cooperation in international fora between the EU and its non-EU Western European partners to further strengthen a multilateral rules-based world order and work jointly on shared priority issues, including human rights, peace and security, and the fight against climate change.
10. By virtue of their geographical and political proximity, the EU and its non-EU Western European neighbours face common security challenges and are interdependent when it comes to ensuring national and regional stability. In this context, we underline the importance of cooperation and mutual support in the field of security of energy supplies and infrastructure, including the issues of ensuring affordable energy prices in the energy transition.

11. The Council strongly welcomes the EU's cooperation with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in the area of justice and home affairs and looks forward to developing closer ties with Andorra and San Marino in this respect.
12. The Council takes note of the unilateral actions taken by some parties and the consequent challenges for the joint management of fish stocks in the North-East Atlantic. Maintaining the important economic benefits these stocks provide, and avoiding overexploitation and subsequent stock declines, urgently requires comprehensive responsible and sustainable management regimes to be agreed, involving all Parties having a management responsibility for these stocks, including Norway, Iceland and the Faroe Islands.

ICELAND

13. Iceland is an important and reliable partner. The Council appreciates the close cooperation with Iceland in areas such as research, innovation, education, energy, trade, environment and climate change, foreign and security policy, human rights and gender equality, including in international fora, and justice and home affairs. The EU appreciates Iceland's continued high rate of alignment with the EU in the field of CFSP.
14. The EEA Agreement remains the cornerstone of our relations. In this regard, the Council wishes to commend Iceland for its efforts to increase emphasis on the good functioning of the EEA as well as its efforts in recent years with a view to reducing the EEA transposition deficit.
15. The Council welcomes the good cooperation with Iceland on the governance of the Schengen area and appreciates Iceland's reliable commitment to the effective application of the Schengen acquis and on the implementation of the forthcoming Entry/Exit System (EES) and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS).
16. The Council commends Iceland for its successful chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe from November 2022 to May 2023, and for its role in the establishment of the Register of Damage Caused by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine through an Enlarged Partial Agreement. The Council praises the close cooperation between Iceland and the EU in the Council of Europe, and the importance both Iceland and the EU attach to strengthening the rule of law and protecting human rights.

17. The EU Arctic Policy focusing on climate change, environmental issues, sustainable development and international cooperation demonstrates the Union's strong interest in building on, and further developing, its existing cross-sectoral engagement in the Arctic. Iceland is a close and reliable partner on Arctic issues and the Council looks forward to intensifying this special partnership particularly in the areas of research and science, security, action to enhance climate change resilience and pollution prevention. It welcomes Iceland's continued strong support for the EU to be granted observer status in the Arctic Council and for EU participation in relevant fora.
18. The Council welcomes the good cooperation with Iceland on fisheries and maritime affairs, including in the context of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), and looks forward to the continuation of this positive engagement. The Council recognises that it is in our mutual interest to reinforce our bilateral fisheries relations and establish a cooperative framework to promote a coordinated approach and facilitate a level playing field which will support the sustainable management of shared stocks.
19. The Council reaffirms its strong support for the maintenance of the internationally agreed moratorium on commercial whaling established under the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and for the listing of cetaceans and other marine species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The Council reiterates its call on Iceland to withdraw its reservation on the internationally agreed moratorium on commercial whaling established under the IWC and its reservations under CITES for these and other marine species.
20. The Council welcomes Iceland's pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reach carbon-neutrality by 2040 and encourages progress towards meeting the Paris Agreement commitments. In view of the green transition, the EU looks forward to strengthening cooperation with Iceland and to exchanging know-how on renewable energy and safe and sustainable low carbon technologies, including hydrogen and carbon capture and storage. The Council welcomes that Iceland joined the EU-led Global Pledge to double annual energy efficiency improvements and tripling renewables deployments by 2030 at COP 28.

PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

21. Relations between the EU and Liechtenstein as an important and reliable partner continue to be very good, dynamic, and have further deepened and diversified since 2022. The Council appreciates the continued excellent cooperation with Liechtenstein in the areas covered by the EEA Agreement and Schengen and Dublin systems, as well as in other sectors. The Council welcomes Liechtenstein's high and reliable transposition rates within the EEA and appreciates in particular the efforts aimed at jointly addressing common challenges, including digital transition and climate change. It considers worthwhile to further discuss best practices with Liechtenstein in areas of mutual interest, such as block chain regulatory regimes.
22. The Council appreciates Liechtenstein's continued high rate of alignment with the EU in the field of CFSP.
23. The continued engagement of Liechtenstein in international fora, notably within the framework of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the OSCE, in fields such as the rule of law, human rights and international criminal justice, makes Liechtenstein a reliable and committed partner for the EU. The Council also commends Liechtenstein's successful chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe from November 2023 to May 2024.
24. The Council welcomes the increasing cooperation between the EU and Liechtenstein in justice and home affairs since 2011, when Liechtenstein joined the Schengen area and started to participate in the Dublin system. The Council welcomes the good cooperation with Liechtenstein on the governance of the Schengen area and appreciates Liechtenstein's reliable commitment to the effective application of the Schengen *acquis*. The Council also looks forward to Liechtenstein's close cooperation in implementing EES and ETIAS. The Council further encourages Liechtenstein to continue its participation in the relocation process of asylum seekers.

25. The Council recalls the commitment to the Paris Agreement and the goals for climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest. The Council welcomes that Liechtenstein joined the EU-led Global Pledge to triple renewables deployments and to double annual energy efficiency improvements by 2030 at COP 28. Liechtenstein's across-the-board approach to sustainability is well in line with the EU Green Deal.
26. The Council welcomes Liechtenstein's constructive, transparent and open cooperation with the European Union, which aims at ensuring that all the principles and the criteria of the EU Code of Conduct on Business Taxation are applied. In this regard, the Council welcomes the legal framework put in place on transparency and the exchange of information for tax purposes. More recently, Liechtenstein's application for membership in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and participation in the global level-playing field in corporate taxes (GloBE rules) are welcome developments.

KINGDOM OF NORWAY

27. Norway is a close, reliable and longstanding partner of the EU. The Council appreciates the close cooperation with Norway in areas such as research, innovation and education. The EU and Norway cooperate in addressing many common challenges, such as climate change, green transition, migration and the protection of our citizens. Over the course of the last two years, the overall relationship has remained excellent.
28. The Council welcomes the continued strong cooperation with Norway in the areas of CFSP and CSDP and appreciates Norway's continued high rate of alignment with the EU in the field of CFSP. The recently concluded Security and Defence Partnership with Norway will allow for an even closer cooperation.
29. Norway pursues close and very active collaboration with the EU in numerous joint work strands and initiatives as well as a regular dialogue at different levels on key foreign policy issues, including through long-standing support of the CSDP missions and operations, participation in PESCO projects and the European Defence Fund (EDF). EU-Norway cooperation on security and defence has further intensified following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, with Norway notably participating in the European Defence Industry Reinforcement through the Common Procurement Act (EDIRPA) and the Act in Support of Ammunition Production (ASAP). The Council welcomes the close coordination between the EU and Norway on Ukraine, and recognizes the significant financial support provided by Norway through the dedicated Nansen Programme for Ukraine. Cooperation between the EU and Norway is based on shared values, notably respect for human rights and democratic principles, and extends to mediation, peacebuilding and the international agenda for development.

30. The EU and Norway share a strong sense of responsibility towards our citizens, our natural environment and our future generations. The Council welcomes Norway's clear willingness to contribute to the implementation of the European Green Deal, to continue to be a driving force for international climate cooperation, and to work to fulfil the Paris Agreement commitments, together with the EU. The Council welcomes that Norway joined the EU-led Global Pledge to double annual energy efficiency improvements and tripling renewables deployments by 2030 at COP 28. The Council looks forward to strengthening, through the EU-Norway Green Alliance, signed in April 2023, the joint efforts with Norway to combat climate change and to accelerate the transition towards climate neutrality as well as the green industrial transition, namely on carbon capture and storage and through strategic partnerships such as the Partnership on Sustainable Raw Materials and Batteries Value Chains. However, the Council notes with concern the Norwegian Parliament's decision of 9 January 2024 on seabed mining in the Arctic, and recalls international commitments emphasising a thorough assessment process of the environmental impact of potential mining activities.
31. Norway remains a reliable key supplier of oil and gas for the EU, but it is also a close partner in developing other sources of energy. In this context, the Council encourages Norway to develop further its potential in offshore wind, and to participate fully in renewable energy projects in the North Sea. Our close cooperation remains crucial for the EU's energy security and for the objectives of the Energy Union and is a corner stone for the mutually beneficial relationship between the EU and Norway.
32. The EU Arctic Policy focusing on climate change, environmental issues, sustainable development and international cooperation demonstrates the Union's strong interest in building on, and further developing, its existing cross-sectoral engagement in the Arctic. It welcomes Norway's continued strong support for the EU's engagement in the Arctic. Norway is a close and reliable partner on Arctic issues and the Council looks forward to continue to intensify this special partnership particularly in the areas of research and science, security, action to enhance climate change resilience and pollution prevention.

33. The Council commends Norway for its chairship of the Arctic Council (May 2023 - May 2025) and fully supports its objectives to keep the Arctic Council relevant in the current context of geopolitical tensions. It welcomes Norway's continued strong support for the EU to be granted observer status in the Arctic Council and for EU participation in relevant fora. The EU and Norway are also key partners in addressing ocean-related issues, at both global and regional level.
34. The Council acknowledges the importance of Norway as one of the EU's main trade partners, and recalls the expected regular review of the Agreement between Norway and the EU aiming at the exchange of additional trade preferences in basic agricultural products. The Council regrets the lack of progress and firmly reiterates its invitation to Norway to engage actively, as a priority and without delay, in a constructive negotiation process on the liberalisation of trade in processed agricultural products within the framework of Article 2(2) and Article 6 of Protocol 3 to the EEA Agreement. The Council reiterates its call to resume the negotiations on the protection of geographical indications, which is an important element of international trade in agricultural products and foodstuffs.
35. The Council welcomes the cooperation with Norway on the governance of the Schengen area and appreciates its reliable commitment to the effective application of the Schengen acquis and on the implementation of the forthcoming EES and ETIAS. Nevertheless, the Council regrets that Norwegian authorities carry out arbitrary identity checks on passengers arriving from border crossing points of Member States on certain EU airlines without specific risk analysis nor prior notification to the Commission, the European Parliament and the other Member States in accordance with Article 25 of the Schengen Borders Code (Regulation (EU) 2016/399), which is not in conformity with Article 2 of the Schengen protocol of 1985. The Council continues to appreciate the strong integration of Norway into the Schengen and Dublin systems, based on cooperation, solidarity and effective external border controls.

36. The Council welcomes the positive outcomes and the good cooperation under the Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway on administrative cooperation, combating fraud and recovery of claims in the field of value added tax as well as under Chapter IIa of Protocol 10 EEA on customs security measures.
37. The Council deplores the lack of progress in recent years on the joint management of fish stocks in the North-East Atlantic and Norway's lack of cooperation in the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission, notably on the long-standing issues related to Spitzbergen (including the respect of the EU's historic share of Arctic cod). The Council further deplores the setting by Norway of unilateral and excessive quotas for mackerel, and the lack of constructive co-operation with the EU in relation to ongoing negotiations on new sharing arrangements for Coastal State stocks, for instance by tabling proposals deliberately leaving the EU outside sharing arrangements. The Council also deplores the imposed cuts on access of the EU's fleet to Norwegian waters for North Sea stocks, including of Atlanto-Scandian herring and the lack of scientific substantiation behind the generic ban of beam trawl fisheries, as well as the discontinuation of cross border fishing in the Skagerrak. The Council reaffirms its willingness to reach bilateral and multilateral arrangements that ensure responsible, stable and sustainable management of the fisheries on key resources and calls on Norway's cooperation and support in that regard.
38. The Council reaffirms its strong support for the maintenance of the internationally agreed moratorium on commercial whaling established under the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and for the listing of cetaceans and other marine species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The Council urges Norway to lift its objection to the internationally agreed moratorium on commercial whaling established under the IWC and to withdraw its reservations under CITES for these and other marine species.
39. The Council looks forward to further strengthening the ties between the EU and Norway, also beyond the EEA cooperation. The Council will continue to pay close attention to the necessary overall balance in our bilateral relations.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

40. 2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the EEA Agreement, a unique moment to reflect on the contribution of EEA cooperation to continuous development, prosperity, stability and peace. The EEA is a model of cooperation between close partners and a legacy for future generations. The Council notes with satisfaction the efforts made to increase the awareness of the importance and the support of the EEA Agreement in advancing economic integration between the EEA states, building a more resilient and dynamic internal market and in safeguarding our common values in an increasingly complex global environment.

41. The Council welcomes the incorporation of some very important pieces of legislation into the EEA Agreement during the last two years, such as the Ship Inspection legislation, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) Regulation, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Regulation and related legislation, Cybersecurity Package, Market Surveillance and Compliance of Products Regulation, European Labour Authority (ELA) Regulation and extension of revised EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) for aviation and maritime and stationary installation to the whole EEA. The Council calls for increased efforts with a view to the swift implementation of pending legislation, such as GM Food and Feed Package, Helicopter Offshore Operations (HOFO) Regulation, and EEA-relevant EU acquis in the areas of energy, financial services and statistics.

42. Despite all efforts, the number of EU acts pending incorporation into the EEA Agreement and subsequent transposition in the EEA EFTA States, the so-called backlog, still remains high, especially for the energy acquis and in the areas of financial services and statistics. In this regard, the Council reiterates that the principles of homogeneity and legal certainty guarantee the efficiency, sustainability and ultimately the credibility of the internal market and therefore must continue to guide all parties in relation to the functioning of the EEA Agreement. The Council calls on the EEA EFTA States to maintain efforts to reduce the backlog, including those pieces of legislation that have been awaiting incorporation into the EEA Agreement for several years, and to avoid its re-emergence in the near future. In this regard, the Council also underlines that the development of the social dimension and improved working conditions are key principles of the EEA Agreement.
43. The Council welcomes the wish by the EEA EFTA States to foster closer cooperation with the EU on health emergency preparedness and response, and looks forward to further discussing their participation in common action to protect the health of citizens, building on our existing close relationship, both within and beyond the EEA Agreement.
44. The Council welcomes that an agreement could be found on the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms for the period May 2021 - April 2028.
45. The Council points out that Article 19 of the EEA Agreement provides that the Contracting Parties should continue their efforts to achieve progressive liberalisation of trade in agricultural products and, to this end, should carry out, at two-yearly intervals, reviews of the conditions of trade in agricultural products, with a view to exploring possible concessions and further reductions of barriers.

PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA AND REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

46. The Council takes note that an agreement has been reached at the level of negotiators, on 12 December 2023, on an Association Agreement with Andorra and San Marino. Once all procedures have been finalised, the Agreement shall provide for the participation of Andorra and San Marino in the internal market. It will establish a framework to develop and promote dialogue and cooperation in areas of common interest, such as research and development, education, social policy, the environment, consumer protection, culture or regional cooperation. For the Council, this unique far-reaching agreement will open a new chapter in the relations between the EU and Andorra and San Marino, that takes into account the specificities of each country and their particular situation, in line with the Declaration on Article 8 of the Treaty on European Union. The Council is having an in-depth analysis of the legal texts with a view to a timely examination, signing and conclusion of the Agreement.
47. The Council expresses its appreciation for the strengthening of the administrative capacities in Andorra and San Marino to ensure a swift alignment on the EU acquis, as well as robust supervision and enforcement in line with EU standards. It stands ready to offer administrative and technical assistance to this goal.
48. The Council welcomes the communication efforts made by Andorra and San Marino on the Association Agreement to inform and consult the public on the outcome of the negotiations. The Council stands ready to assist in additional communication efforts to familiarise citizens and stakeholders with the advantages and obligations of the Association Agreement. The Council encourages all stakeholders to continue their public outreach in order to increase the awareness of the mutually beneficial consequences of this Agreement and of achieving a greater convergence of positions in international organizations.

49. The Council calls once again on Andorra to join the International Labour Organization.
50. On foreign policy, the Council welcomes the continued cooperation with Andorra and San Marino in multilateral fora in particular in the UN framework, including through close contacts and alignment with EU CFSP positions, declarations and restrictive measures, and acknowledges the response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The Council recalls its support for a further reinforcement of the cooperation through the setting up of a framework for bilateral political dialogues on foreign policy with each of the countries and a structured and systematic process for their alignment with the EU on CFSP matters, notably by including Andorra and San Marino in the group of countries that are systematically invited to formally align with CFSP Declarations by the High Representative on behalf of the EU and EU restrictive measures. The Council welcomes the participation of Andorra and San Marino in the European Political Community meetings in June and October 2023 and supports their future participation to these meetings.
51. The Council welcomes the constructive, transparent and open cooperation with Andorra and San Marino aimed at ensuring that the international principles on tax good governance and all the criteria of the EU Code of Conduct on Business Taxation are applied. The Council also welcomes the ongoing efforts made by Andorra and San Marino to adapt their tax legislation and practices to EU and international standards. It underlines the need for a complete alignment with EU standards to avoid creating loopholes within the internal market.
52. The Council recognises the challenges posed by the implementation of the forthcoming EES and ETIAS when it comes to third country citizens residing in Andorra and San Marino, and hopes for a solution on this issue.
53. The Council notes with satisfaction that the European Investment Bank (EIB) and Andorra signed a Framework Agreement in December 2022, which allows Andorra to receive support for projects in different sectors. The cooperation with the EIB is expected to have a strong impact in terms of social, economic and geographical cohesion

54. The Council also welcomes the European Commission's positive conclusion of the review of the adequacy decision regarding data protection safeguards on 15 January 2024, allowing data to continue flowing freely to Andorra.
55. The Council also considers it worthwhile for the cooperation to be strengthened in the field of digital and green transitions, as these are common priorities with Andorra and San Marino.

PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO

56. The Council takes note of the decision to suspend negotiations on an Association Agreement on 14 September 2023. The Council acknowledges that the right conditions were not present for the successful conclusion of the negotiations. Nevertheless, the EU remains a privileged partner of Monaco and the latter remains welcome to join the Association Agreement with Andorra and San Marino.
57. On foreign policy, the Council welcomes the continued cooperation with Monaco in multilateral fora, in particular in the UN framework, including through close contacts and alignment with EU CFSP positions, declarations and restrictive measures, and acknowledges the response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The Council recalls its support for a further reinforcement of the cooperation through the setting up of a framework for bilateral political dialogues on foreign policy with Monaco, and a structured and systematic process for its alignment with the EU on CFSP matters, notably by including Monaco in the group of countries that are systematically invited to formally align with CFSP Declarations by the High Representative on behalf of the EU and EU restrictive measures. The Council welcomes Monaco's participation in the European Political Community meetings in June and October 2023 and supports its future participation to these meetings.
58. The Council welcomes Monaco's dedication to environmental protection as well as the fight against climate change. It appreciates that Monaco joined the EU-led Global Pledge to double annual energy efficiency improvements and tripling renewables deployments by 2030 at COP 28. The Council welcomes the ratification by Monaco of the Treaty of the High Seas, the 'BBNJ Agreement'. The Council also acknowledges Monaco's opposition to deep seabed mining as reiterated at the 28th session of the International Seabed Authority in July 2023.

59. The Council welcomes the developments in Monaco regarding the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework against Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS IF), more specifically the adequate implementation of the minimum standard on country-by-country reporting. The Council also recalls the January 2023 Moneyval report and looks with concern upon the implementation of the 4th and 5th Anti-money laundering (AML) directives in Monaco. It will further closely monitor whether legislative developments in Monaco are sufficient to fulfill the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and EU requirements. It looks forward to the conclusions of the FATF Plenary meeting of 23-28 June 2024, which will assess the progress made by Monaco in order to make its anti-money laundering / combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) framework more robust and consequently whether Monaco should be added to the FATF list of Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring (i.e. “the grey list”).
60. The Council calls once again on Monaco to join the International Labour Organization. The Council further calls upon Monaco to ratify and implement the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court.

THE FAROE ISLANDS

47. The Council considers that the strategic location of the Faroe Islands in the North Atlantic makes the Faroe Islands an important partner of the EU with regard to several of the EU’s policies, including the EU Arctic Policy. The Council values the existing cooperation with the Faroe Islands in areas such as trade, aquaculture, research, innovation and Arctic and North Atlantic issues within the Parties’ fields of competences.
48. The Council welcomes the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on enhanced cooperation between the European Union and the Government of the Faroe Islands on 14 March 2024. It notes the key priorities listed in this Memorandum of Understanding, in particular the focus on green and digital transition, climate change and scientific cooperation. The Council also notes the focus on the importance of balanced trade relations and sustainable fisheries management.

49. The Council underlines its concerns regarding the risk to the sustainability of important fish stocks such as mackerel, and Atlanto-Scandian herring due to the setting of high and excessive unilateral quotas and deplors the lack of constructive collaboration with the EU in coastal states negotiations on these stocks. The Council calls upon the Faroe Islands to intensify its cooperation with the EU through the coastal states framework to secure equitable sharing arrangements which will support the sustainable conservation and management of shared stocks in the North East Atlantic (mackerel, Atlanto-Scandian herring and blue whiting).
50. The Council welcomes the condemnation by the Faroe Islands of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine as well as the decision of the Faroe Islands to align with EU's restrictive measures. The Council encourages the Faroe Islands to work towards further implementation of the restrictive measures in order to ensure continued alignment.
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