**Council of the European Union**

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**DRAFT MINUTES**

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Foreign Affairs)

12 October 2020

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## Non-legislative activities

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## Non-legislative activities

**3.  Current Affairs**

The Council briefly discussed the situation in Nagorno-Karabach, Kyrgyzstan, Venezuela, Mozambique, Mali as well as the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024.

High Representative Borrell gave a short debrief of the EU-Ukraine Summit on 6 October and proposed a Council discussion on the geopolitics of climate change.

Germany called on the EU to develop a strategic approach for the Indo-Pacific and Finland announced a ministerial pledging conference for Afghanistan on 23 and 24 November in Geneva.

**4.  Belgrade-Pristina dialogue**
*Exchange of views*

EUSR Lajčák briefed the Council on the state of play of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue and ministers had an exchange of views during which they underlined the importance of the dialogue and a successful conclusion thereof.

**5.  Belarus**
*Exchange of views*
**Conclusions**                                                                    **11660/20**
*Approval*

The Council had an exchange of views on Belarus and adopted conclusions on Belarus, in which it restated the united EU's support for the country's sovereignty and independence and for the democratic freedoms and rights of Belarusian citizens. The Council gave their political green light to the preparation of the next set of sanctions.

6. **Russia**
*Exchange of views*

The Council had a discussion on EU relations with Russia, during which it reaffirmed the continued relevance of the five guiding principles agreed in 2016. The Council reached political agreement on restrictive measures against those linked to the attempt to assassinate Alexei Navalny.

7. **Latin America and the Caribbean**
*Exchange of views*

This item was not discussed.

8. **Any other business**

Ministers were informed about the Fourth Review Conference of the Treaty on Open Skies (Vienna, 7-9 October).

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