



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 3 September 2024
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ADD 1
LIMITE
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DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Foreign Affairs)
22 July 2024

Non-legislative activities

3. Current affairs

The Council addressed digital diplomacy

4. Russian aggression against Ukraine¹

Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views on the EU's response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

5. Situation in the Middle East

The Council held an exchange of views on the EU's response to the situation in the Middle East.

6. Any other business

The Council took note of the information provided by Czechia (document 12387/24) regarding its decision to stop recognising non-biometric travel documents issued by the Russian federation as from 15 July 2024, by Italy (document 12480/24) on behalf of AT, CY, CZ, EL, HR, SI, and SK on the importance to review EU policy on Syria and reconsider the conditions for the return of the refugees, by Poland (document 12405/24) on its initiative to strengthen the transatlantic relations through boosting the EU's strategic communication towards the U.S in the context of the upcoming elections and by Cyprus (document 12477/24) regarding the recent summit of the Organisation of Turkic States.

¹ Including an informal exchange of views with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (via videoconference)

Statements to the non-legislative "A" items set out in doc. 11443/1/24 REV 1**Ad "A" item 29:****Bridge to Busan: Declaration on Primary Plastic Polymers**
*Authorisation to sign an NBI***STATEMENT BY CZECHIA**

“While Czechia fully supports conclusion of an ambitious international instrument on plastic pollution, any legally binding provisions have to be practicable and implementable and, preferably, be based on existing Union initiatives.

In this context, we would like to express our concerns regarding the wording of the Bridge to Busan Declaration which in its last paragraph refers to freezing or restricting of primary plastic polymer production. Such measures could without thorough assessment have profound legal and practical implications. We would like to call upon the Presidency and the Commission to consider this in the upcoming negotiations.”

Ad "A" item 31:**Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) - letter on behalf of the EU and its Member States in response to China's application for accession to OTIF as an Associate Member**
*Approval of a letter***STATEMENT BY SLOVAKIA**

“The Slovak Republic appreciates the efforts made by the Presidency and the Commission in the search for a consensus within the Council on the EU's reaction to the Depositary Notification by the Secretary General of OTIF concerning the application of the People's Republic of China for accession to OTIF as an Associate Member.

It is for the purpose of maintaining unity and in a constructive spirit that we support the common EU approach and the proposed letter expressing an objection aimed at obtaining more time to consult, assess and reflect on the merits of the application.

We appreciate that the letter includes a reference that it is without prejudice to the future position of the EU and its Member States on the decision to be taken by the General Assembly of OTIF. The Slovak Republic sees a significant potential in the membership of the People's Republic of China in OTIF, which is also in line with the long-term strategy of OTIF. Based on the information currently available to us, we do not intend to object to the application of the People's Republic of China to become an Associate Member of OTIF.”
