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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: Council Conclusions on Civilian CSDP Compact

Delegations will find in the Annex the Council Conclusions on Civilian CSDP Compact, as adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 7 December 2020.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON CIVILIAN CSDP COMPACT

1. The Council highlights the key contribution of all civilian CSDP missions to international peace and security and expresses its gratitude to the men and women serving in these missions.
2. The Council recalls its adoption of the Civilian CSDP Compact, along with the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, in November 2018, and reaffirms its commitment to make civilian CSDP more capable, more effective, flexible and responsive, as well as more joined up.
3. The Council commends the positive overall progress in implementing the Civilian CSDP Compact over the course of the last year, both at national level by the Member States, including through the creation of the European Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management, and at EU level by the EEAS and Commission services. The Council highlights the importance of ensuring full and coherent implementation of all commitments in the Compact and reiterates that it is an overarching priority.
4. The Council stresses the important role of civilian CSDP in the EU's integrated approach to external conflicts and crises and to take into account the need to enhance synergies between internal and external security, between security and development, including through linking human rights, rule of law, good governance, respect for international law and Security Sector Reform (SSR) support, as well as between the civilian and military dimensions of CSDP. Efforts should also contribute to the fulfilment of the EU level of ambition and its three strategic priorities as agreed by the Council in November 2016, while also taking into account all key lessons identified from the COVID-19 crisis.

5. The Council recalls that, building on the threat analysis and other possible thematic input, the Strategic Compass will define policy orientations and specific goals and objectives in the area of security and defence, including on civilian CSDP and building on the Civilian CSDP Compact. In this regard it underlines that the contribution that civilian CSDP can deliver in responding to new and emerging threats and challenges will be addressed in the ongoing work on the Strategic Compass.
6. The Council welcomes the strong commitment by all stakeholders during the Annual Review Conference of the Civilian CSDP Compact (ARC), which took place on 23 November 2020, to fully deliver on the Compact as soon as possible, and by early summer 2023 at the latest.
7. The Council welcomes the outcomes of the ARC, including the suggested waypoints for 2021. These waypoints recognise the cross-connections between the different areas of the Compact and guide the way forward for the coming year. The Council reiterates the need for increased responsiveness, effectiveness and resilience while continuing to ensure a rapid, flexible and efficient use of the CFSP budget and increasing the visibility of civilian CSDP as well as intensifying efforts to enhance mutually beneficial partnerships with relevant international organisations and partner countries that share EU values and objectives in full respect of the EU institutional framework.
8. The Council stresses the need to mainstream human rights and gender into all activities taking fully into account the UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and subsequent resolutions. The Council also supports the development of relevant concepts on identified security challenges, as well as addressing those, inter alia through technological innovations in cooperation with relevant actors in the field of Research, Development and Innovation (RDI). It calls for the promotion of an integrated approach and further close cooperation and synergies between civilian CSDP, and JHA actors as well as Commission services in line with their respective legal mandates.

9. In line with the Compact, and in order to guide its implementation in 2021 by Member States, EEAS and Commission services, the Council endorses the waypoints identified at the ARC, including in particular but not exhaustively the following actions:

- Member States continue actively with the implementation of their National Implementation Plans including through informal exchange of experiences and lessons learned, with a view to increase further their contributions to civilian CSDP and to collectively increase the number of seconded experts in the missions. National or multinational structures and facilities, including the European Centre of Excellence for Civilian Crisis Management as appropriate, may provide support where agreed and in an inclusive manner in full complementarity with and in support of existing EU structures;
- EEAS and Commission services, will support where appropriate Member States in their further work to develop and provide the capabilities, capacities and competences required for the Union to undertake the full range of civilian crisis management missions;
- National experts receive pre and in-mission training in accordance with the CSDP Training Policy and the guidance also given by the EU Civilian Training Group to enhance cooperation and synergies in training at EU level, including mission-relevant language training and using relevant mini-concepts to help identify specific training needs in new security challenges, in cooperation with relevant training providers as appropriate and supported by the EEAS and Commission services;
- Human resources management will be enhanced and making processes more transparent and efficient, including allowing for a more strategic development of civilian competences, by inter alia reviewing EEAS recruitment policy and procedures for the missions, in close cooperation with Member States, and reviewing the employment status of international contracted staff;
- A conducive working environment in civilian CSDP missions is promoted, including efforts to strengthen leadership, training and preventive measures as well as reviewing the Code of Conduct and Discipline;

- Member States, EEAS and Commission services promote and encourage swifter operational decision-making for civilian missions and streamline where possible planning and decision-making steps and will further enhance responsiveness, in line with the multi-layered approach and the Core Responsiveness Capacity;
- Possible modalities of evaluating the operational impact of missions will be proposed, taking into account relevant previous efforts;
- Member States, EEAS and Commission services aim to provide a more in-depth and systematic mainstreaming of human rights and gender aspects and continue to actively promote increasing the representation of women in CSDP missions at all levels, and to this end calls on the EEAS to develop a dedicated strategy and action plan;
- According to the integrated approach of the EU, efforts continue to strengthen synergies and complementarity between the civilian and the military dimension of CSDP, while respecting their distinctive roles and lines of command, including through working towards implementing all key lessons identified from the COVID-19 crisis;
- In the same vein, Member States, EEAS and Commission services foster closer mutually reinforcing cooperation and synergies between civilian CSDP, JHA actors (including relevant ministries, agencies and Council working parties), as well as with Commission services, in line with their respective legal mandates, including by strengthening the JHA related expertise within relevant CSDP structures, having the possibility of using the specialised teams and visiting experts concepts and exploring the possible modalities for involving Commission services and JHA actors in consultations. Mini-concepts form the basis for wider response to tackle security challenges as stipulated in the Civilian CSDP Compact via new lines of operations or pilot projects and are also used as input for strategic and operational planning, where relevant and appropriate;

- Member States and the EEAS will through strategic communication further enhance the visibility of civilian CSDP to create awareness and gain support both at EU and national levels including among relevant national authorities, such as parliaments and line ministries and agencies.

10. The Council requests periodical updates on progress to take stock of progress made.
