



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 25 November 2016  
(OR. en)

14422/16

LIMITE

PV/CONS 57  
RELEX 948

## DRAFT MINUTES

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Subject: **3498th** meeting of the Council of the European Union (**Foreign Affairs**),  
held in Brussels on 14 and 15 November 2016

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MEETING OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

14203/1/16 REV 1 OJ CONS 56 RELEX 930

The Council adopted the above agenda.

**NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES**

**2. Approval of the list of "A" items**

14204/16 PTS A 88  
+ ADD 1

The Council adopted the "A" items listed in:

1. 14204/16
2. 14204/16 ADD 1
  8. Draft Council conclusions on Iran  
14085/16 MOG 115 CFSP/PESC 892 CONOP 88 IRAN 1  
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 11.11.2016
  9. Draft Council Implementing Decision implementing Decision 2013/255/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria and  
Draft Council Implementing Regulation implementing Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria  
= Adoption  
14146/16 CORLX 440 CFSP/PESC 905 RELEX 928 COARM 199  
MAMA 229 FIN 779  
14118/16 CORLX 434 CFSP/PESC 897 COARM 195 MAMA 225 FIN 770  
14119/16 CORLX 435 CFSP/PESC 898 RELEX 922 COARM 196  
MAMA 226 FIN 771  
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 14.11.2016

Statements to these items are set out in the Annex.

**3. Turkey**

The Council had an exchange of views on EU-Turkey relations and the situation in Turkey.

**4. Eastern Partnership**

= Draft Council conclusions  
14243/16 COEST 291 CFSP/PESC 923

The Council had an exchange of views on the multilateral and bilateral aspects of the Eastern Partnership, in particular with a view to the 2017 Eastern Partnership summit, and concluded to revert to the item in spring 2017. The Council adopted conclusions on Eastern Partnership, as set out in 14243/16.

**5. Any other business**

**Western Balkans**

Some Member States informed about their recent impressions of the situation in the Western Balkans.

**JOINT MEETING OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL/DEFENCE MINISTERS**

**6 Global Strategy on the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy**

= Draft Council conclusions on implementing the EU Global Strategy in the area of Security and Defence  
14009/16 CFSP/PESC 889 CSDP/PSDC 629 COPS 321 POLMIL 122  
CIVCOM 214  
14392/16 COPS 339 CSDP/PSDC 651 CFSP/PESC 924 POLMIL 136  
CIVCOM 223 EUMC 132 JAI 940 COMPET 584

In a joint session, Foreign and Defence Ministers discussed the implementation of the security and defence aspects of the EU Global Strategy. The High Representative presented her Implementation Plan on Security and Defence and Ministers adopted Conclusions on implementing the EU Global Strategy in the area of Security and Defence.

MEETING OF THE DEFENCE MINISTERS

7. **EU-NATO cooperation**

High Representative Mogherini presented briefly to Ministers some of the main elements of the draft plan implementing the Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw by the leaders of the institutions of the EU and NATO. NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg joined the Ministers for the second part of the discussion.

8. **CSDP operations**

In the presence of NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg, the High Representative presented the state of play of CSDP engagement in Libya and the Mediterranean. Ministers had an exchange of views.

9. **Any other business**

Commissioner Bienkowska presented to Ministers the main elements of the draft European Defence Action Plan.

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**STATEMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL MINUTES****Ad "A" item 2:****Relations with Azerbaijan**

- **Draft Council Decision authorising the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to open negotiations on and negotiate, on behalf of the European Union, the provisions that fall within the competence of the Union of a Comprehensive Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part**
- **Draft Decision of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, authorising the European Commission to open negotiations on and negotiate, on behalf of the Member States, the provisions that fall within the competences of the Member States of a Comprehensive Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part**
- **Draft Directives for the negotiation of a Comprehensive Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part**
- = **Adoption**

**STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL**

"The Council underlines the importance it attaches to the full respect of the principles of territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, sovereignty and independence, and the need for the parties to refrain from any action which might prejudice these principles in the framework of EU-Azerbaijan relations, especially in the context of Azerbaijan's bilateral relations with all EU Member States, including the Republic of Cyprus."

**STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION**

"The Commission considers that the "Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of authorising the European Commission to open negotiations, on behalf of the Member States, on the provisions that fall within the competence of the Member States, of a Comprehensive Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part" is unwarranted because the Commission aims to conduct Comprehensive Agreement negotiations with Azerbaijan exclusively within the framework of the EU competencies as defined by the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union."

## **STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM**

"The United Kingdom makes the following statement on the adoption of the above referenced Council Decision.

This negotiating mandate is without prejudice to the special position of the United Kingdom as regards matters that fall within the scope of Part Three, Title V of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union."

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