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#### 'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Council conclusions on the Pact for the Mediterranean – Approval

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1. On 16 October 2025, the Commission and High Representative issued a Joint Communication “the Pact for the Mediterranean One Sea, One Pact, One Future” (14203/25).
2. On 18 November 2025, the Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party (MaMa) reached an agreement on the draft Council conclusions on the Pact for the Mediterranean, as set out in the Annex.
3. On 19 November 2025, the Political and Security Committee endorsed the agreement reached in MaMa.
4. COREPER is therefore invited to confirm the agreement on the draft Council conclusions on the Pact for the Mediterranean and to agree to forward them to the Council for approval.

## **COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON THE PACT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN**

### **ONE SEA, ONE PACT, ONE FUTURE**

1. Strengthening the Euro-Mediterranean partnership is a strategic priority for the European Union. Southern Mediterranean partners have also expressed their strong interest in reinforced ties with the European Union at a moment when the global and regional geopolitical situation calls for even closer political relations and a reinforced partnership. In this context, the Council welcomes the Joint Communication of the Commission and the High Representative on the Pact for the Mediterranean “One Sea, One Pact, One Future”. The Pact is an opportunity to reshape the EU’s relationship with the Southern Mediterranean countries fostering the Common Mediterranean Space.
2. At this time, when we mark thirty years since the 1995 Barcelona Declaration, it is only through a strong mutual commitment to shared principles, common actions in a spirit of co-creation, co-ownership, mutual interest and joint responsibility that the objectives set three decades ago – to bring peace, stability, sustainable, shared prosperity and competitiveness to the people of the Mediterranean – can be achieved. This is an excellent occasion to address common regional challenges and opportunities, through political dialogue and cooperation.
3. Recalling the Council Conclusions on the renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood – A New Agenda for the Mediterranean, adopted on 16 April 2021, the Council reaffirms the importance of the outlined priorities and principles. Building upon the Agenda, its Economic and Investment Plan, Strategic and Comprehensive Partnerships as well as other regional cooperation frameworks, the Pact aims to create synergies and to redefine, update and reinvigorate our common agenda by setting a new joint approach to address the evolving challenges of the region. Full use will also be made of established channels, notably Association Agreements and Partnership Priorities, which remain the fundamental legal, institutional and political framework of engagement and which should be taken into account in the implementation of the Pact. Efforts should also concentrate over time on developing joint initiatives with countries in neighbouring regions, including through triangular cooperation.
4. The Council underlines the importance of mutual commitment to peace, security and the multilateral rules-based international order, human rights, as well as international law including inter alia the United Nations Charter. The Council reiterates its call for the full respect of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in accordance with which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.
5. The Council underlines that the central objective of the Pact is to enhance the Common Mediterranean Space. The Council supports the thematic areas of the Pact, which are structured around the following three pillars: 1) people: driving force for change, connections

and innovation, 2) stronger, more sustainable and integrated economies, and 3) security, preparedness, and migration management.

6. The Council emphasises the importance of creating bridges among people and countries that foster mutual understanding and provide opportunities for sustainable growth and development. There is enormous potential to further increase economic integration and promote sustainable trade and investments, diversification of economies and value chains, development of the blue economy, energy cooperation as well as connectivity between the EU and the Southern Mediterranean countries to create job opportunities and ensure stability and economic resilience in order to address existing social inequalities and contribute to social cohesion. The Council also underlines that tackling climate change, environmental degradation and water scarcity in the Mediterranean, notably through the implementation of the Barcelona Convention, as well as maintaining focus on education and youth employment, protecting and valorising cultural heritage and addressing demographic challenges remain a shared priority.
7. The Council emphasises the need to increase political engagement with southern Mediterranean partners and to enhance political and policy dialogues. That will include strengthening peace, security and defence cooperation, including on conflict prevention, mediation, organised crime, and maritime safety and security to face common challenges, strengthening the capabilities of Mediterranean partners and facilitating cross-regional exchanges. Cooperation in the field of security and defence shall take place in accordance with the Common Security and Defence Policy and existing EU frameworks.
8. The Council supports managing migration jointly in a comprehensive, whole-of-government, whole-of-route and rights-based approach, with a view to prevent irregular migration and break smugglers' business with enhanced border control, improve the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations, asylum seekers and refugees, pursue an effective return and readmission policy including safe and dignified returns as well as sustainable reintegration, address root causes of migration and forced displacement, structure legal pathways, in conformity with EU and national competences, in line with the external dimension of the asylum and migration policies and legislation of the EU.
9. The Council emphasises the need for working jointly with the southern Mediterranean partners towards upholding and promoting human rights, good governance, democracy, rule of law and fundamental freedoms in the implementation of the Pact for the Mediterranean.
10. The Council calls for the swift and efficient implementation of the Pact for the Mediterranean, backed by a monitoring and governance system, in which it will provide political guidance. In particular, the Council calls on the Commission services and the European External Action Service to provide a yearly written update in a timely manner to the Council on the implementation of the Pact, as input for the abovementioned role of the Council at all relevant levels, including the Foreign Affairs Council as required. The Council calls on the Commission services and the European External Action Service to build upon its guidance to

transpose the Joint Communication into a dedicated Action Plan to start operationalising initiatives and actions.

11. The Council acknowledges the Union for the Mediterranean as a unique regional cooperation organisation. With its convening power and experience in building regional networks and fostering cooperation, the Union for the Mediterranean will be considered as a partner in the roll-out of the Pact in relevant fields.
12. In the rollout of the Pact, a special attention should be paid to empowering and constructively engaging with youth, including through the Youth Parliamentary Assembly for the Mediterranean. Engaging with social partners and civil society also remains paramount. Dialogues with civil society organisations should contribute to the implementation of the Pact.
13. The Pact's effective implementation should be supported by the mobilisation of relevant EU policy tools, including existing financial ones. The Council reiterates the need to ensure adequate financial resources. The Council recognises the need to use relevant EU financing instruments and underlines the importance of ensuring coherence and synergies between these instruments, to mobilise additional resources from the private sector and the European and International Financial institutions to amplify transformative efforts in line with the priorities of the Global Gateway strategy and in coordination with Member States initiatives in a Team Europe approach.
14. To enhance awareness and understanding of the political engagement under the Pact, the Council stresses the need for robust outreach and strategic communication. Promoting freedom of expression and access to pluralistic information and countering misinformation and disinformation are essential to fostering constructive dialogue.