



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 19 December 2018
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DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Foreign Affairs)
10 December 2018

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Non-legislative activities

3. Current affairs

The HR raised the Human Rights day of 10 December, in particular on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

4. Western Balkans

The Council held an exchange of views on recent developments in the Western Balkans region.

5. EU - African Union cooperation

The Council took stock of the implementation of Abidjan Summit commitments and had an exchange of views on the strategic areas for further EU-AU cooperation (politics, notably peace and security, economic cooperation, migration and multilateralism), in view of the upcoming EU-African Union ministerial meeting to be held in Brussels on 21-22 January 2019.

6. Ukraine

The Council discussed the latest developments in Ukraine. Foreign ministers recalled their utmost concern about the dangerous increase of tensions in the Azov Sea and Kerch Strait.

7. Iran



In a restricted session, the Council had an exchange of views on a range of issues concerning EU-Iran relations.

8. **Venezuela**

The Council discussed the ongoing work towards establishing an International Contact Group, as well as the EU position on the inauguration and new mandate of President Maduro.

9. **Any other business**

No items were raised under this heading.



Restricted item

STATEMENTS TO THE NON-LEGISLATIVE "A" ITEMS SET OUT IN DOC. 15135/18

Ad "A" item 5: **Council Declaration on the common funding of the deployment of EU Battlegroups**
Adoption

DECLARATION BY THE COUNCIL

- "1. Until the ongoing review of the Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/528¹ is completed and no later than 31 December 2020, the Council will accept, in accordance with Article 15(3)(b) of Council Decision 2015/528, that ATHENA will bear as operational common costs incremental transport costs for land, sea and air deployment of Battle Groups at short notice to the joint area of operations in accordance with the EU Battle Group Concept. Land and sea costs for deployment of EU Battle Groups will only be taken into account as common costs where this is the more cost-effective option and on condition that they allow the required deployment timelines for EU Battle Groups to be met.
 2. All Member States will be eligible for reimbursement on the basis of Act of the Special Committee of 29 May 2012 and according to the applicable Flat Rates of Reimbursement for the deployment of EU Battle Groups adopted by the Council on 3 October 2012 (doc. 11806/12).
 3. This Declaration will cease to apply on completion of the review of Council Decision 2015/528, or on 31 December 2020, unless the Council agrees to extend it."
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¹ Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/528 of 27 March 2015 establishing a mechanism to administer the financing of the common costs of European Union operations having military implications (Athena) and repealing Decision 2011/871/CFSP in OJ L84, 28.3.2015, p. 39.