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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Council Conclusions on Civilian CSDP

Delegations will find in annex the Council Conclusions on Civilian CSDP, as approved by the Council at its meeting held on 11 December 2023.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON CIVILIAN CSDP

1. The growing sources of instability and conflicts in the EU's neighbourhood, in particular Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as the rising geopolitical competition, revisionist actions and escalating crises, require increased efforts to ensure international peace, security and stability. In this context, the Council reiterates its commitment to strengthen the EU's role and capacity to act as an assertive and decisive security and defence provider, recalling the Strategic Compass for Security and Defence and the new Civilian CSDP Compact of May 2023.
2. The Council stresses the importance of civilian approaches to crisis management. The Council underlines the significant added value of civilian CSDP missions, and expresses its gratitude to the women and men serving in missions deployed across theatres in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The missions are a unique political and operational tool for the EU to support host countries in its neighbourhood and beyond, in addressing threats to their security, while also contributing to the internal security of the EU.
3. The Council underlines the EU's unwavering and long-term support for Ukraine. The Council stresses the importance of strengthening civilian CSDP support and rapidly responding to Ukraine's growing needs as part of the EU's wider efforts towards enhancing Ukraine's security. The Council commends all of the work done by the EU Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform Ukraine (EUAM), including the support to the reform of the Ukrainian security sector, integrated border management, as well as, in response to Russia's war of aggression, the efforts made in the field of investigation and prosecution of international crimes and in re-establishing the rule of law in the Liberated and Adjacent Territories.

4. The Council welcomes the swift establishment and launch of three new missions in 2023.
5. The Council commends the essential work by the EU Partnership Mission (EUPM) in the Republic of Moldova to strengthen crisis management structures and to build resilience to hybrid threats, including cyber threats and Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI), in addressing the challenges Moldova faces as a consequence of the Russian aggression against Ukraine, and underlines the importance of continued support according to Moldova's needs.
6. The Council reiterates the importance of the EU Mission in Armenia (EUMA), which observes and reports on the security situation in border areas in Armenia, contributes to human security in conflict-affected areas and aims to support confidence-building between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Council supports the reinforcement of the Mission to conduct more daily patrols, including in sensitive areas.
7. The Council welcomes the EU Security and Defence Initiative (EUSDI) in support of West African countries of the Gulf of Guinea through close civilian-military cooperation aimed at strengthening dialogue with local authorities, and reinforcing security and defence forces to contain and respond to the pressure exercised by terrorist armed groups.
8. The Council calls for continuous efforts to ensure the coherence of civilian CSDP with other instruments, including in the field of Justice and Home Affairs, as part of the EU's Integrated Approach to External Conflicts and Crises, throughout planning, implementation and transition. The Council underlines the need for reinforced cooperation between civilian CSDP missions and Commission services and instruments in all theatres and notably in candidate countries.

9. The Council welcomes Member States' ongoing efforts to develop and subsequently implement National Implementation Plans, with a view to deliver on the new Civilian CSDP Compact, and to increase contributions, including secondments, to civilian CSDP, while striving for gender parity and wide representation of Member States.
10. The Council welcomes the first steps in enhancing the effectiveness and adaptability of civilian CSDP, as outlined in the new Civilian CSDP Compact. In this context, the Council welcomes strengthening the capacity of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) as the headquarters at operational level. The Council underlines the importance of ongoing efforts to strengthen the EU's ability to react swiftly and efficiently to evolving crises.
11. The Council urges the EEAS, in line with the commitment under the new Civilian CSDP Compact, to present a proposal for the revision of the Code of Conduct without any further delay, and no later than the first quarter of 2024, with a strong and coordinating role for the independent entity.
12. The Council welcomes the first step in setting up a Civilian Capability Development Process (CCDP) that includes an Annual Civilian Capabilities Conference, the first of which will take place in 2024, as well as a capacity generation process, in order for Member States and EU institutions to develop the necessary civilian CSDP capabilities, including in terms of human resources, technology, logistics and equipment, in a more structured and long-term manner for different scenarios for future engagement. The Council stresses the importance of training as a key element of capability development. The Council welcomes the civilian-military approach taken in this area, as well as the forthcoming review of the EU Policy on Training for CSDP and the ESDC Council Decision.

13. The Council welcomes the progress made towards the establishment of the independent evaluation of the impact of civilian CSDP missions, with the aim of increasing their effectiveness. The Council looks forward to the development of a methodology and to a pilot evaluation in 2024, reiterating that evaluation findings should be reflected in strategic reviews and the overall planning and implementation.
14. The Council stresses the importance of ensuring compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law. Furthermore, the Council underlines the importance of the adoption and implementation of the EU Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on Security Support to third parties.
15. The Council reiterates the need to provide the missions with the necessary capabilities to strengthen resilience against, and response to, hybrid threats, including cyber threats, as well as FIMI.
16. The Council stresses the importance of developing tailored and robust strategic communication, including as part of the strategic planning for CSDP missions, to support the implementation of the missions' mandates, and to enhance the visibility of civilian CSDP.

17. The Council calls on the EEAS to improve the modularity and scalability of civilian CSDP missions and to use plug-in deployments as necessary, such as specialised teams and visiting experts, as an option to strengthen the effectiveness of civilian CSDP missions.
18. The Council also calls on the EEAS, in consultation with relevant Commission services, to develop options for a train and equip concept, to be agreed by the Council, which would enhance the delivery of operational support to host countries within the framework of civilian CSDP missions' mandates and embedded in the EU's broader country-specific reform efforts, in line with the Integrated Approach.
19. The Council reiterates its call for strengthening partnerships with like-minded third states that share EU values and objectives, including by promoting their contributions to civilian CSDP missions in accordance with agreed modalities, and partnerships with international and regional organisations, with full respect to the EU's institutional framework, agreed principles and procedures, while also enhancing regular and inclusive cooperation and dialogue with civil society at all levels.
20. The Council calls upon all stakeholders to continue increasing the civilian CSDP missions' effectiveness and efficiency and to develop the related capabilities further, while ensuring a balanced and sustainable CFSP budget. The Council invites the High Representative to hold an annual discussion on civilian CSDP at the Foreign Affairs Council.
