

Brussels, 6 January 2026
(OR. en)

16563/1/25
REV 1
PV CONS 67
RELEX 1646
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Foreign Affairs)
20 November 2025

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 15435/25.

2. Approval of "A" items

a) Non-legislative list

15436/25

The Council adopted all A items listed in the document above, including all linguistic COR and REV documents presented for adoption. Statements to these items are set out in the Addendum.

Non-legislative activities

3. Current affairs

4. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine^{1*}

Exchange of views

5. Situation in the Middle East

Exchange of views

6. Sudan

Exchange of views

7. Sahel

Exchange of views

8. Any other business

a) Regional Forum of the Union for the Mediterranean
2025

15290/25

Information from Spain

b) Belarusian hybrid attacks against Lithuania

15390/25

Information from Lithuania

c) Chips and export controls

15529/25

Information from the Netherlands

d) Creation of a sanctions regime against organised crime

15469/25 + COR 1

Information from France

¹ In the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

* Electronic devices were kept outside.

Statements to the non-legislative "A" item set out in doc. 15436/25

Ad "A" item 17:

Council Decision on the conclusion of the Amending Protocol to the EU-Switzerland Agreement on the automatic exchange of financial account information

Adoption

STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL

“The European Union welcomes the establishment of a framework for mutual assistance in the recovery of VAT claims between Member States and Switzerland. This is an important step in continuing and deepening the long-standing administrative cooperation between the parties in the field of taxation. The European Union expects Switzerland to take all necessary measures in good faith to ensure that this agreement is extended to cover mutual assistance for the recovery of other tax claims. If this objective is not achieved within four years from January 1 following the signing of this amending protocol, the European Union will reconsider the overall balance of this agreement.”

STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION

“The agreement between the European Union and Switzerland regarding the establishment of a framework for mutual assistance in the recovery of VAT claims is an important achievement and a continuation of the existing administrative cooperation between the parties in the field of taxation. The European Commission welcomes the Council statement and is committed to taking further steps to deepen the cooperation with Switzerland, to cover mutual assistance for recovery of other tax claims.”
