



European Council

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## MINUTES

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Subject: European Council meeting (23 October 2025)

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*Extract from the Minutes of the European Council, which will be inserted under the item on Competitiveness and twin transition:*

(...)

The statement for the minutes presented by the Republic of Malta is reproduced in the Annex.

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**Statement by the Republic of Malta**

“Malta appreciates the recognition of ‘taking into account different national circumstances’ as reflected in paragraph 40 of the European Council conclusions. It is vital that EU climate policy reflects the unique structural, geographical, economic realities of island Member States.

Islands face many challenges, including import dependence, insularity, limited abatement potential, and limited connectivity, resulting in lack of cost-effectiveness for climate action. The obligations on island Member States are, however, significantly more onerous as they must meet these demands without the support of a larger parent state. This increases their struggle to further decarbonise their economies.

The recognition of island Member States together with ensuring enhanced flexibility in climate legal framework is essential to ensure that no Member State is disproportionately affected by climate obligations.”

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