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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	European Council meeting (21 and 22 March 2024) – Annotated draft agenda

In accordance with Article 3(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Council, the President of the European Council, in close cooperation with the member of the European Council representing the Member State holding the six-monthly Presidency of the Council and with the President of the Commission, is to submit an annotated draft agenda to the General Affairs Council.

Delegations will find attached the annotated draft agenda submitted by the President of the European Council, setting out the main items the European Council is expected to address at the above meeting.

In the light of the final discussion to be held by the General Affairs Council within the five days preceding the European Council meeting, the President of the European Council is to draw up the provisional agenda.

I. UKRAINE

The European Council will address Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in all its dimensions and the Union's continued support to Ukraine and its people.

II. SECURITY AND DEFENCE

The European Council will revert to the matter of security and defence, including Europe's need to increase its overall defence readiness and further strengthen its defence technological and industrial base, with a view to agreeing on further steps to make the European defence industry more resilient, innovative and competitive.

III. MIDDLE EAST

The European Council will address the situation in the Middle East.

IV. OTHER ITEMS

The European Council will address priorities for the 2024 European Semester and will be invited to endorse the Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area.

The European Council will take stock of preparations for the new Strategic Agenda.

In the light of events, the European Council may address specific foreign policy issues.
