



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 1 February 2024
(OR. en)

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DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Foreign Affairs)
22 January 2024

Non-legislative activities

3. Current affairs

The Council discussed the situation in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

4. Russian aggression against Ukraine

Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views on the EU's response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

5. Situation in the Middle East

Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views.

6. Any other business

The Council took note of the information provided by the Netherlands, also on behalf of Belgium, on the need to reinstate the position of EU Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region (document 5577/24), by Malta on the priorities of its OSCE Chair-in-office for 2024 (document 5549/24) and by Italy on the strategic importance of stabilisation in the Western Balkans (document 5433/24).

Statements to the non-legislative "A" items set out in doc. 5278/24

Ad "A" item 5:

Conclusions on EU priorities in UN Human Rights Fora in 2024

Approval

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY

“(Paragraphs 11, 12, 17, 27, 28)

Paragraph 11, 12, 17

Hungary appreciates and highly values the unity of the EU in the UN Human Rights Fora and supports the elaboration of common EU positions on international human rights matters, including on the issues reflected in the Council Conclusions on the EU Priorities in UN Human Rights Fora 2024. Hungary’s commitment in this regard is demonstrated by our decision to join the consensus on the above-mentioned Council Conclusions, however, we would like to emphasise that Hungary joined the consensus on paragraphs 11, 12, 17 only for the sake of maintaining the unity of the EU and that we continue to consider elements of these paragraphs unbalanced and not serving the strategic interests of the EU and its Member States. Therefore, Hungary does not consider these paragraphs and their specific elements as agreed language for future negotiations.

Paragraph 27

Hungary recognizes and promotes equality between women and men in accordance with the Fundamental Law of Hungary, and the primary law, principles and values of the European Union, as well as commitments and principles stemming from the international law. Furthermore, equality between women and men is enshrined as a fundamental value in the Treaties of the European Union, in particular in Article 2 of the TEU and Article 8 of the TFEU. In line with these and its national legislation, Hungary interprets the concept of “gender” as reference to “sex” and the concept of “gender equality” as reference to the “equality between men and women”.

Paragraph 28

The adoption of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Beijing Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women marked a remarkable consensus. They placed the enjoyment of human rights at the heart of development and important gains in the fields of health, equality between men and women and education have been achieved since their adoption. These fields are at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development incorporating as founding principles the universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination.

Hungary remains dedicated to its human rights commitments, including the protection and promotion of women’s rights and equality between women and men. Hungary is deeply committed to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and Beijing Platform for Action as well as the 2030 Agenda, serving also as basic references in the fields of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

Hungary notes, that the term of “sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)” and related issues, like “sexual rights”, “comprehensive sexuality education”, “modern methods of contraception”, “emergency contraception”, are lacking consensual definition at international level, including within the European Union. These issues are interpreted and promoted by Hungary in the context of the 2030 Agenda, the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in line with its national legislation.”
