



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 4 February 2025
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DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Foreign Affairs)

27 January 2025

Non-legislative activities

3. Current affairs

The Council addressed the situation in Georgia, Moldova and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

4. Russian aggression against Ukraine¹

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 on the situation in the Middle East, including Syria, Lebanon and Gaza.

6. EU-US relations

Exchange of views



The Council held an exchange of views on EU-US relations.

7. Any other business

The Council took note of the information provided by France on Iran (document 5660/25) and by the Netherlands on the International Criminal Court (document 5657/25).



Restricted item

¹ In the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (via videoconference)

Statements to the non-legislative "A" items set out in doc. 5512/25 + COR 1**Ad "A" item 6:****Council Decision concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine***Adoption***STATEMENT BY THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE AND THE COMMISSION**

“1. The integrity of the energy infrastructure supplying EU Member States is a matter of EU security. The Commission expects all third countries to respect this and is ready to take measures to protect critical energy infrastructure such as electricity cables and oil and gas pipeline or facilities.

2. The Commission and EU Member States remain fully committed to the continued support for Ukraine and, in that context, will help repair, connect and stabilise Ukraine's energy infrastructure in which Member States including Hungary and Slovakia have played a crucial role. The Commission is ready to continue discussions with Ukraine on the supply to Europe through the gas pipeline system in Ukraine in line with Ukraine's international obligations. In that context, the Commission is ready to associate Hungary in the process (along with Slovakia). The Commission recalls the importance of regional cooperation and welcomes the engagement in the Central and South-Eastern Europe Energy Connectivity regional cooperation (CESEC) to strengthen the energy system and interconnections in the region.

3. The Commission will approach Ukraine to request assurances regarding the maintenance of oil pipeline transfers to the EU.

4. The COM recalls RepowerEU and intends to present a roadmap to achieve its agreed objectives. In that context the Commission stands ready to support Member States' diversification projects.”

Ad "A" item 12:**Conclusions on EU priorities in UN human rights fora in 2025***Approval***STATEMENT BY HUNGARY**

“Paragraphs 8, 9

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 14

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 2025.

At the same time, we would like to stress that in the light of recent events and developments, the wording of the paragraph on Israel/occupied Palestinian territories, which largely uses language developed for previous circumstances, should be revised for future negotiations. We would like to emphasise the need to formulate new, forward-looking language on the issues covered here, we consider current elements outdated in light of the recent events. Therefore, the text of the above mentioned paragraph should not be a reference for any future statement or document on this matter.

Paragraph 40

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."

STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA, BULGARIA, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, IRELAND, THE NETHERLANDS AND SPAIN

“Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain highly welcome and support the EU’s intention to sign a Joint Declaration on the EU-Jordan Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership, as Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain consider it pressing to reaffirm and deepen the partnership with Jordan during these particularly volatile times.

However, on a procedural level, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain strongly disapprove of the repeated violations of procedure. With reference to the letter sent in December 2024 (doc. 16795/24), we call upon the Commission to respect the arrangements on non-binding instruments. As in other instances previously, the five-weeks period (duly justified cases of urgency excepted) laid down in those arrangements for the Council to review the draft document, has not been adhered to. Moreover, the Council did not receive sufficient time to assess the final draft in advance to being asked to authorize it being signed during the RAG MaMa session of 20.01.2025.

Additionally, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain request that Member States are being kept closely informed on the development of an implementation roadmap for this Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership as well as any and all financial aspects deriving from it.

In conclusion, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain, emphasize that in any and all future cases procedural rules and regulations must be abided by to their full extent, while being willing to condone the above listed procedural violations in this singular instance one last time.”