



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 28 April 2023
(OR. en)

6499/11
EXT 1

NIS 14
COEST 57

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

of document: 6499/11

dated: 14 February 2011

new status: Public

Subject: Preparation of the second Eastern Partnership Summit

Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 14 February 2011

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NOTE

From : General Secretariat of the Council
To : Permanent Representatives' Committee

Subject : Preparation of the second Eastern Partnership Summit

Delegations will find attached a note issued under the responsibility of the Cabinet of the President of the European Council, in close cooperation with the HR/VP, the EEAS and the European Commission

PREPARATION OF THE SECOND EASTERN PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT**Budapest, 24-25 May 2011**

The Eastern Partnership, launched at the Prague Summit in May 2009, aims to strengthen relations between the European Union and the six partner countries through the development of a specific Eastern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy. It seeks in particular to create the necessary conditions to accelerate political association and economic integration between the European Union and partner countries.

NOT DECLASSIFIED

The second Eastern Partnership summit is planned to take place in Budapest on 24-25 May, 2011. The Summit will be hosted by the Hungarian Presidency, in close cooperation with the next Presidency. The President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, who will chair the summit, and the President of the European Commission will participate. The High Representative/Vice President and the Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy are also expected to attend. Heads of State and Government of Member States and partner countries will be invited to attend (level of participation for Belarus subject to developments). Possible participation from other EU institutions as well as by members of the “Eastern Partnership Information and Coordination Group” of countries remains to be discussed.

The Budapest summit will start with a restricted working dinner among leaders on 24 May and end by midday on 25 May. In the margins of the summit, a business forum and civil society event is planned.

Significance of the Budapest Summit

A summit of Heads of State or Government is an important event in its own right, underlining the political commitment of all member States and partner countries. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

The Budapest Summit will also be an important occasion to renew the joint commitment to the values and principles upon which the Eastern Partnership is founded, in particular respect for democratic principles and practices, fundamental rights, good governance and the rule of law. **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

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The Summit will approve a Joint Declaration, which will provide the main political steer for the next two years of implementation of the Eastern Partnership. The draft Joint Declaration will be submitted to the Council for discussion in the coming days, and to partner countries. It will be based on the outcomes of the 2nd Eastern Partnership Ministerial Meeting that took place on 13th December 2010.

It should be noted that the Budapest Summit will take place in parallel with the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy. This review process and the preparation of the Joint Declaration are fully coordinated.

Next Steps

COREPER is invited to discuss preparations for the summit, and to give input on what should be the EU priorities in terms of agenda and outcomes. COEST remains responsible for providing support to summit preparations, as required, at the working level. Other committees may be invited to discuss specific issues on the agenda, if necessary.

COREPER will revert to the preparations of the Budapest Summit in May.
