



Council of the
European Union

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Cameroon - Council conclusions (21 March 2022)

Delegations will find attached the Council conclusions on Cameroon as approved at the 3859th meeting of the Council on 21 March 2022.

Council Conclusions on Cameroon

1. Cameroon and the EU are longstanding partners with a shared interest in further enhancing their cooperation. The EU attaches great importance to its partnership with Cameroon and reaffirms its readiness to intensify engagement with the Government, local authorities and civil society on all areas of mutual interest.
2. The EU encourages the Government of Cameroon to ensure a peaceful and fully inclusive political environment where the opposition and civil society, including women and youth, can freely and meaningfully participate so as to promote dialogue, broader political participation, democratic governance and the rule of law.
3. The EU welcomes the commitments by the Government of Cameroon to strengthen local governance, including by granting a special status to the North-West and South-West regions, following the Major National Dialogue of 2019. The EU calls for their rapid and effective implementation in the framework of the ongoing decentralisation process. The EU offers its renewed assistance thereto in a spirit of partnership and respect of the territorial integrity of the country.
4. The EU remains extremely concerned by the ongoing crisis in the North-West and South-West regions and condemns in the strongest terms the violations and abuses of human rights and violations of humanitarian principles, stressing the need for accountability. The EU condemns violence against civilians, particularly sexual and gender-based violence, kidnappings as well as systematic attacks on schools that prevent access to education.

5. The EU appeals for an immediate end to violence, for respect of human rights and humanitarian principles, unimpeded humanitarian access and a safe environment for humanitarian work. The EU calls for effective confidence-building measures and the opening of constructive dialogue between all the parties in order to end the spiral of violence and find a long-term solution to the crisis. The role of the diaspora could be instrumental in that regard. There is no military solution to the crisis, and continued violence will further fuel polarisation and exacerbate the humanitarian emergency.
6. The EU reaffirms its readiness to support more actively any meaningful mediation initiative, which can lead to a peaceful and long-term settlement, including the Swiss-led process. The restart and progressive strengthening of basic services, including education, access to water, sanitation and hygiene, will be key to restore trust, stabilize the regions and trigger economic growth. The EU calls for the equal and meaningful participation of women in mediation and peace and security processes. The EU is ready to accompany the reconstruction of areas most affected by the violence as an integral part of a fully inclusive reconciliation and peace-building process, for which an immediate end to hostilities and the establishment of an effective dialogue between the parties are indispensable conditions.
7. The EU condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist actions by Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in the Far North, which amount to serious human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. The EU reaffirms its solidarity with Cameroon in this fight. The EU recognises Cameroon's efforts in combatting terrorism in the Lake Chad Basin and welcomes its active role in the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF). The EU is deeply alarmed by the recent surge of intercommunal violence and killings in the Far North. The EU calls on the Government of Cameroon and all relevant actors to work for the easing of these tensions and to enable the safe return of internally displaced persons and refugees. It stands ready, together with international partners, to continue its assistance in this effort.

8. The EU recognizes Cameroon's key contribution to regional stability, its efforts to ensure security at its borders and its role to ensure maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. The EU is committed to continue working with Cameroon in the framework of the Yaoundé Architecture and through the Coordinated Maritime Presences (CMP) in the Gulf of Guinea.
9. In light of Cameroon's commitments to the International Monetary Fund under the Extended Fund Facility, the EU encourages Cameroon to conduct financial and economic structural reforms to improve economic governance, public finance management and the overall business environment as well as strengthen its fight against corruption.
10. The EU notes with concern how climate change contributes to water scarcity, food insecurity and resource competition in the country, heightening levels of instability. The EU welcomes Cameroonian engagement to strengthen regional approaches to conservation and stands ready to accompany Cameroon to intensify action to improve management of natural resources and climate change resilience, as well as address other key environmental challenges such as deforestation and the loss of biodiversity including in the Congo Basin.
11. The EU will continue supporting Cameroon and Cameroonians in their efforts to build a stable and prosperous country for all, where democratic principles and human rights are fully respected.
