



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 19 May 2022
(OR. en)

8231/22

LIMITE

CO EUR-PREP 8

NOTE

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

Subject: Special meeting of the European Council (30 and 31 May 2022)
– Draft conclusions

In accordance with Article 3(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Council, delegations will find attached the draft conclusions prepared by 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.

I. UKRAINE

1. The European Council resolutely condemns Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. It urges Russia to immediately stop its indiscriminate attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, and to withdraw all its troops and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine. The atrocities being committed by Russian forces and the suffering and destruction being inflicted are unspeakable. The European Union calls on Russia to allow immediate humanitarian access and the safe passage of all civilians concerned. It also calls on Russia to immediately allow the safe return of Ukrainian individuals forcibly removed to Russia.

2. The European Council hails the courage and determination of the Ukrainian people and its leadership in their fight to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and freedom of their country. Together with its international partners, the European Union is unwavering in its commitment to help Ukraine exercise its inherent right of self-defence against the Russian aggression and build a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future.

International justice

3. The European Council pays tribute to the actors helping to gather evidence and to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity, and supports the efforts of the International Criminal Court in this respect. It also salutes the work that Ukraine's Prosecutor General is doing in this regard, with financial and capacity-building support of the EU, including a joint Investigation Team coordinated by Eurojust and ongoing operational support provided by Europol. Russia and all those responsible, including their accomplices, will be held to account for their actions in accordance with international law.

Support to Ukraine

4. The European Union and its Member States will do everything they can to continue to provide humanitarian, financial, military, material, economic and political support to Ukraine.

Humanitarian and financial support

5. The European Union will continue to provide financial and technical support to Ukraine with a view to covering humanitarian, liquidity and reconstruction needs.

6. The European Union remains committed to supporting those in need. Since the beginning of the Russian aggression, the European Union has stepped up its support for Ukraine's overall economic, social and financial resilience, including through providing humanitarian aid. In that regard, the European Council commends the results of the High-Level International Donors' Conference co-hosted by Poland and Sweden.

7. The European Council reiterates the EU's continued commitment to support the Ukrainian government in its immediate liquidity needs and to support Ukraine's reconstruction. [The European Union is ready to grant Ukraine new exceptional macro-financial assistance in 2022, underlining the need to reinforce the Common Provisioning Fund].

8. The reconstruction of Ukraine will require comprehensive support to rebuild the country for the future. To this end, a Ukraine reconstruction platform should be set up, bringing together the Ukrainian government, Member States, the European Union as well as partners, financing institutions and organisations. The platform will be supported by a new EU solidarity instrument combining EU and Member States' contributions.

9. The European Council welcomes the efforts made with a view to providing for appropriate confiscation measures, including exploring options aimed at using frozen Russian assets to support Ukraine's reconstruction. [In this context, it calls on the Council to act swiftly on the recent Commission's proposal on criminal law measures in case of violation of EU sanctions.] The European Council supports further options being actively explored.

Military support

10. The European Union also remains committed to bolstering the ability of Ukraine to defend its territorial integrity and sovereignty. In this respect, the European Council welcomes the decision of the Council to increase military support to Ukraine under the European Peace Facility.

Economic support

11. The European Council welcomes the imminent adoption of the decision to suspend import duties on all Ukrainian exports to the European Union for one year.

Political support

12. The European Union and its Member States will step up their efforts to reach out to third countries in order to support Ukraine in all these dimensions and counter the false Russian narrative and manipulation of information.

Impact of the war on food security

13. The European Council condemns the destruction and illegal appropriation by Russia of agricultural production in Ukraine. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and its consequences are having a disruptive impact on global food security and affordability. The European Council calls on Russia to end the blockade of Ukrainian Black Sea ports and to allow food exports, in particular from Odesa. The European Union will step up its efforts to facilitate Ukraine's agricultural exports and to support Ukraine's agricultural sector in view of the 2022 season. In this regard, the European Council invites Member States to put into effect the measures put forward by the Commission on Solidarity Lanes, and to facilitate food exports from Ukraine through different land routes, notably to reach the Baltic Sea.

II. DEFENCE

14. The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has caused a major shift in the European Union's strategic environment and has shown the need for a stronger and more capable European Union in the field of security and defence. In this new context, the European Union will reinforce its partnerships, strengthen its resilience and increase its security and defence capacity through more and better investments, focusing on identified strategic shortfalls. In the light of the analysis of defence investment gaps prepared by the Commission and the High Representative, in coordination with the European Defence Agency, and the Commission's proposals for strengthening the European industrial and technological base, the European Council invites the Council to examine, in line with the respective competences conferred by the Treaties:

- measures to coordinate very short-term defence procurement needs to support joint procurement to replenish stocks, notably in the light of the support provided to Ukraine;

- a short-term instrument to reinforce European defence industrial capabilities through joint procurement;
- the development of a joint EU defence strategic programming and procurement function;
- further measures to map the current and necessary additional manufacturing capabilities and reinforce the capacity and resilience of the European defence technology and industrial sector;
- enhancing the role of the EIB in support of European defence, including industrial production capacity, if necessary by adapting its lending policy.

15. The European Council looks forward to the presentation of a possible set-up of a joint European Defence Investment Programme (EDIP), including a vehicle for Value Added Tax (VAT) exemption and for European defence projects of high common interest.

16. The European Council will revert to the matter.

III. ENERGY

17. The European Council reviewed progress in phasing out the European Union's dependency on Russian gas, oil and coal imports as soon as possible. Following earlier decisions on bans on imports from Russia and the presentation of the REPowerEU Plan to accelerate the energy transition and achieve a more resilient energy system and a well-interconnected Energy Union, it calls for:

- a) as a short-term priority, further diversifying supply sources and routes and securing energy supply at affordable prices;
 - The European Council encourages the prompt use, already ahead of next winter, of the EU Energy Purchase Platform, which is open also for Western Balkans countries and the three associated Eastern Partners.

- The European Council invites the Council to take work forward on the EU external energy engagement strategy.
- b) accelerating the deployment of renewables;
- The accelerated deployment of renewables will require speeding up permitting of renewable projects and needs to be underpinned by an industrial cluster aimed at improving innovation, capacity, skills and supply chains for hydrogen, solar, wind, heat pumps and raw materials.
- c) further improving energy efficiency and promoting energy savings;
- d) investing in infrastructure, interconnections and renewable production capacity.

18. The European Council invites Member States to rapidly prepare dedicated chapters adding to their recovery and resilience plans to deliver on the REPowerEU objectives by mobilising funding from the Recovery and Resilience Facility and other EU sources.

19. Preparedness to possible major supply disruptions and the resilience of the EU gas market should be improved, in particular through swiftly agreeing on bilateral solidarity agreements and a coordinated European contingency plan. Filling of storage before next winter should be accelerated. In this context, the European Council welcomes the agreement on gas storage and calls for its speedy implementation.

20. The ongoing efforts aimed at optimising the functioning of the European electricity market should be pursued so that it is better suited to withstand future price volatility and fully fit for a decarbonised energy system.

IV. FOOD SECURITY

21. The European Council calls for effective coordination to ensure a comprehensive global food security response. In this respect, it welcomes the Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM) - based on the three pillars: trade, solidarity and production - which aims to mitigate consequences for price levels, production and access to and supply of grain. It also supports the upcoming G7 initiative establishing a Global Alliance on food security (GAFS) and other EU and multilateral actions and initiatives. It reiterates its commitment to keep global trade in food commodities free of unjustified trade barriers, enhance solidarity towards the most vulnerable countries and increase local sustainable food production so as to reduce structural dependencies. The European Union welcomes the commitment and support of its partners and international organisations.

22. In view of the ongoing fertiliser shortages in the global market, the European Council invites for more concerted efforts to work with international partners to promote a more efficient use of, and alternatives to fertilisers.
