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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council  
Subject: European Council meeting (17 and 18 October 2024)  
– Draft conclusions

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*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 addressed Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in all its dimensions and the Union's comprehensive support to Ukraine and its people as Ukraine exercises its inherent right to self-defence.
2. The European Council reaffirms its continued support to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. It also reconfirms the European Union's unwavering commitment to providing continued political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes and as intensely as needed. Russia must not prevail.
3. The European Council reiterates its support for Ukraine's Peace Formula, based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law. In follow-up to the Summit on Peace in Ukraine, the European Council took stock of efforts to build the broadest international support and identify steps forward. The European Council also stresses that no initiative about Ukraine can be taken without Ukraine.
4. The European Council reviewed work done on the delivery of military support to Ukraine. It calls on the Council to swiftly finalise work on the European Peace Facility assistance measures that will further incentivise the delivery of military support to Ukraine. The European Council calls for rapidly stepping up military support and accelerating its delivery, in particular air defence systems, ammunition and missiles which are urgently needed to protect Ukraine's population and critical energy infrastructure, and underlines the importance of increasing support to Ukraine's defence industry. The European Council also welcomes the progress reached on the extension of the mandate of the EU Military Assistance Mission and takes note of ongoing work on its strategic review.

5. Living up to the commitment taken with partners at the G7 Apulia Summit to provide approximately EUR 45 billion<sup>1</sup> as support to Ukraine by the end of the year, the European Council [welcomes agreement on the use of extraordinary revenues stemming from Russia's immobilised assets to that effect, while addressing all relevant legal and financial aspects.]
6. Military support will be provided in full respect of the security and defence policy of certain Member States and taking into account the security and defence interests of all Member States.
7. In view of the persistent shelling by Russia of Ukraine's critical energy and civilian infrastructure, the European Council supports all efforts, both public and private, to urgently increase Ukraine's energy security ahead of winter and address the immediate humanitarian and civil protection needs of the Ukrainian population while making Ukraine's energy system more resilient in the long-term. In this context, it calls for the further integration of Ukraine's energy system with the Union's unified energy network, and acknowledges the important role played by Member States in the neighbouring region.
8. The European Council reiterates its call for the full and effective enforcement of sanctions and for further measures to counter their circumvention, including through third countries.
9. The European Council condemns the continued material and other support to Russia's war of aggression by third countries.
10. The European Council also [welcomes the adoption] of EU restrictive measures in view of Russia's destabilising activities.

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<sup>1</sup> The commitment at the G7 Apulia Summit was to make available approximately USD 50 billion, which equates to approximately EUR 45 billion.

## II. MIDDLE EAST

11. The European Council is deeply alarmed about the dramatic military escalation in the Middle East and the risk this represents for the entire region. It calls on all parties to exercise the utmost restraint, put an end to all hostilities, and to fully abide by international law, including international humanitarian law. The European Union is fully committed to helping de-escalate the situation and reduce tensions.
12. The European Council condemns in the strongest terms the Iranian attacks on Israel on 1 October. It reiterates Israel's right to defend itself and the European Union's commitment to Israel's security and to regional stability. International humanitarian law must be respected and the dangerous cycle of attacks and retaliations must end.
13. The European Council expresses its utmost concern regarding the military escalation in Lebanon, the loss of civilian life and the forced displacement as a result of the escalating violence. The European Council calls for an immediate ceasefire across the Blue Line and for full and symmetrical implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. The European Union calls on all partners to respond to the growing humanitarian crisis in Lebanon and will continue to provide support to the people affected. It reiterates the Union's strong support for the state institutions of Lebanon, including the Lebanese Armed Forces. It calls on all partners of Lebanon to contribute to strengthening the Lebanese Armed Forces and reaffirms the Union's readiness to facilitate international coordination of such efforts as appropriate. The European Council supports the fundamental stabilisation role of the UN mission (UNIFIL) in Southern Lebanon.
14. In the wake of the tragic anniversary of Hamas' attacks on Israel on 7 October 2023, we condemn once again in the strongest possible terms such unjustified acts of deliberate violence and stand with the families of the victims and the hostages taken by Hamas.

15. The European Council reiterates its call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the unconditional release of all hostages, the urgent improvement of access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale throughout Gaza, and an enduring end to hostilities. The European Council deplores the unacceptable number of civilian casualties, especially children. It also recalls the need to fully implement International Court of Justice (ICJ) orders. The European Council stresses the essential role of the UN, its Secretary General and its agencies, notably UNRWA which provides support to the civilian population, both in Gaza and the wider region.
16. The European Council recalls its June 2024 conclusions and strongly condemns the further escalation in the West Bank following increasing settler violence, the expansion of illegal settlements and Israel's military operation.
17. It reiterates the European Union's unwavering commitment to a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on the two-state solution and the Union's support to the Palestinian Authority to help address its most pressing needs and support its reform agenda.
18. The European Council also discussed the situation in the Red Sea and called on the Houthis to stop immediately all attacks and to restore maritime security.

### **III. COMPETITIVENESS**

19. Following its conclusions of April 2024, and in line with the 2024-2029 Strategic Agenda, the European Council reviewed progress on efforts to enhance the Union's competitiveness, secure its economic resilience and achieve the full potential of the Single Market.

20. The European Council discussed how the Council and the Commission will take work forward, including to respond to the challenges identified in the reports by Enrico Letta 'Much more than a market' and by Mario Draghi on 'The future of European competitiveness'.
21. This issue will be addressed at the informal meeting in Budapest in November and the European Council will continue to monitor progress regularly.
22. The European Council endorses the integrated country-specific recommendations as discussed by the Council, thus allowing the conclusion of the 2024 European Semester.

#### **IV. MIGRATION**

23. [The European Council held an in-depth strategic discussion on migration in all its dimensions. It recalls that migration is a European challenge that requires a European response.
24. The European Council calls for work to be stepped up on the implementation of its comprehensive approach to migration as outlined in February 2023, in all aspects.
25. In that light, the European Council calls for intensifying cooperation with countries of origin and countries of transit, through mutually beneficial partnerships, to address root causes and to fight trafficking and smuggling with a view to preventing irregular departures and loss of life.
26. The European Council calls for determined action at all levels to increase and speed up returns from the European Union. It invites the Commission and the Council to swiftly put forward a new common approach on returns.

27. The European Council recalls its determination to ensure effective control of the Union's external land and sea borders through various available means.
28. Furthermore, it reaffirms its commitment to countering the instrumentalisation of migrants for political purposes. In addition, new ways to prevent and counter irregular migration should be considered, in line with international law.
29. Safe and legal pathways are key for regular and orderly migration.
30. The European Council will revert to the matter.]

## V. **OTHER ITEMS**

### ***Republic of Moldova***

31. The European Council reaffirms its strong support for the Republic of Moldova's accession path and underlines the European Union's continued support to Moldova, to pursue its reforms and to strengthen its resilience and stability. The European Council reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Republic of Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
32. The European Council condemns Russia's persistent attempts to use foreign information manipulation and interference to undermine democratic elections and the choice of the Moldovan people for a prosperous, stable and peaceful European future.

### ***Georgia***

33. The European Council reiterates its serious concern regarding the course of action in Georgia which runs contrary to the values and principles upon which the European Union is founded.

34. The European Council recalls that not reversing the current course of action jeopardises Georgia's EU path, de facto leading to a halt. It calls on Georgia to adopt democratic, comprehensive and sustainable reforms, in line with the core principles of European integration.
35. The European Council expects the Georgian authorities to ensure that the upcoming parliamentary elections are free and fair, as the Georgian people have the right to choose their own political future. The European Council reiterates its solidarity with the Georgian people and the Union's readiness to support a European path for Georgia.
36. The European Council reaffirms the European Union's unwavering support for Georgia's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. It underlines the Union's continued commitment to peaceful conflict resolution and its policy of non-recognition and engagement.

### *Sudan*

37. The European Council expresses its deepest concern about the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Sudan and strongly condemns the indiscriminate and direct targeting of civilians which are worsening the humanitarian catastrophe. It reiterates its urgent call to all parties to the conflict to seek an immediate cessation of hostilities, leading to a sustainable resolution of the conflict, through dialogue. The European Union will continue to provide humanitarian support and calls on the international community to swiftly disburse the pledges made at the International Humanitarian Conference for Sudan.

## ***Venezuela***

38. The European Council remains extremely concerned about the situation in Venezuela and the human rights violations reported following the 28 July 2024 presidential election. It urges the Venezuelan authorities to respect the democratic will of the Venezuelan people and to end excessive violence, repression and harassment of the opposition and civil society. Political prisoners must be released. Only complete and independently verifiable results will be accepted and recognised. The European Union will continue to work with regional partners to support the Venezuelan people in their democratic aspirations. The European Union stands ready to support a constructive and inclusive transition with guarantees for both sides to resolve the country's political impasse and restore democratic institutions peacefully.

## ***COP29 and COP16***

39. The European Council took stock of preparations for the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan (COP29), and for the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Cali, Colombia (COP16), and calls for ambitious action in the context of increasing damage and disruption due to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. In a demonstration of global solidarity, the European Council reiterates the Union's commitment to deliver on financing goals.

## ***Fight against all forms of discrimination***

40. The European Council reiterates its serious concern about recent alarming incidents and condemns in the strongest possible terms all forms of discrimination, including antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred, intolerance, racism and xenophobia.