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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: European Council meeting (20 and 21 March 2025)
– Annotated draft agenda

In accordance with Article 3(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the European Council, 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, is to submit an annotated draft agenda to the General Affairs Council.

Delegations will find attached the annotated draft agenda submitted by the President of the European Council, setting out the main items the European Council is expected to address at the above meeting.

In the light of the final discussion to be held by the General Affairs Council within the five days preceding the European Council meeting, the President of the European Council is to draw up the provisional agenda.

I. UKRAINE

The European Council will address Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in all its dimensions and the Union's continued support to Ukraine and its people.

II. MIDDLE EAST

The European Council will address the latest developments in the Middle East.

III. COMPETITIVENESS

Following up on its conclusions of April 2024 and the Budapest Declaration on the New European Competitiveness Deal, and in the light of the Commission 'Competitiveness Compass' communication of 29 January 2025 and in support of innovation, investment, convergence, growth, connectivity and economic resilience, the European Council will in particular:

- call for efforts at all levels, without delay, to ensure a clear, simple and smart regulatory framework and to deliver quickly on reducing administrative, regulatory and reporting burdens for businesses in light of the Commission communication on implementation and simplification of 11 February 2025;
- call for all efforts at EU and Member States level to be stepped up, in order to secure the supply of abundant, affordable and clean energy and to build a genuine Energy Union, in particular by fully integrating and interconnecting the EU energy market;
- reiterate the sense of urgency for fast and decisive progress on developing a Savings and Investments Union, with a particular focus on the Capital Markets Union, to mobilise savings, unlock the necessary investments and accelerate financial integration, with a view to supporting EU competitiveness;

- provide input and guidance towards an EU horizontal strategy expected by June 2025, to harness the full potential of the Single Market;
- call for work to be taken forward on securing Europe’s industrial renewal and decarbonisation and ensuring the growth of tomorrow’s key technologies, while paying particular attention to traditional industries in transition;
- encourage further efforts to enhance the creation, retention and recognition of skills across the EU;
- address priorities for the 2025 European Semester, and be invited to endorse the Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area.

IV. NEXT MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK AND NEW OWN RESOURCES

The European Council will have a first exchange of views on the next Multiannual Financial Framework and new Own Resources.

V. MIGRATION

The European Council will take stock of progress in the implementation of its conclusions on migration.

VI. OCEANS

Ahead of the upcoming UN Ocean Conference, the European Council will address the subject of oceans in its different dimensions, also in view of the forthcoming initiative by the Commission on a European Ocean Pact.

VII. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

In the light of events, the European Council may address specific foreign policy issues.
