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CFSP/PESC 1480	POLCOM 299
RELEX 1302	DIGIT 197
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DEVGEN 176	MIGR 348
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RECH 445	GLOBAL GATEWAY 33
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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council

On: 20 October 2025

To: Delegations

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Subject: Implementation of the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific
– Council Conclusions (20 October 2025)

Delegations will find in the annex the Council Conclusions on the Implementation of the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, as approved by the Council at its 4125th meeting held on 20 October 2025.

**Council Conclusions on the Implementation of the EU Strategy for
Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific**

1. The Council considers that the EU should continue and further intensify its strategic focus, presence, visibility and actions in the Indo-Pacific with the aim of contributing to our joint stability, security, prosperity and sustainable development, underpinned by the promotion of democracy, rule of law, human rights and international law. The EU will reinforce its role as a reliable actor bringing added value to long-standing relations with all partners in the region. This is especially relevant as the EU has a geographic presence in the Indo-Pacific through its outermost regions and overseas countries and territories. The Council underlines its commitment to a closely coordinated political presence of the EU and Member States in the region.
2. The Council reaffirms that the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific continues to provide a sound framework for EU engagement in a region spanning from the east coast of Africa to the Pacific islands. It takes note of the important steps that have been taken to implement the Strategy in the seven key priority areas, at both EU and Member State level, with a particular focus on three core areas of engagement: security and defence challenges, the green and digital transition, and trade and economic security. The Council recalls that its commitment to the region is inclusive of all partners wishing to cooperate with the EU. There are also important synergies between the strategies and frameworks of several EU Member States and the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

3. The Council recalls that EU strategic engagement in the Indo-Pacific, including with regional organisations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the Indian Ocean Commission, aims to uphold the multilateral system and rules-based international order. The Council reaffirms the EU's willingness to continue cooperating with Indo-Pacific partners in protecting and promoting human rights and democracy, while noting that the participation of civil society is critical in building inclusive, safe and prosperous societies.
4. In addition, the EU will continue to work with its partners towards the transition to green and circular economies, an open and fair environment for trade and investment, securing supply chains, and supporting connectivity with the EU. The Global Gateway plays an essential role in boosting smart, clean and secure connections, with a focus on high-quality and resilient infrastructure in partnership with the European Investment Bank, EU Member States' development finance institutions and export credit agencies, as well as the private sector.
5. The Council underlines the fact that the EU and the Indo-Pacific partners are facing increasingly complex security challenges, and that the security of the Indo-Pacific and of Europe are more interlinked than ever. Security and prosperity in Europe and the Indo-Pacific are directly impacted by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, with the support of third countries – including DPRK – actively enabling the war efforts. The Council urges all countries to immediately cease any direct or indirect assistance to Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine. Ongoing tensions in the South and East China Seas and across the Taiwan Strait, amongst others, can also have a profound impact on European and Indo-Pacific security, stability and prosperity. The Council reiterates its opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion. The Council welcomes cooperation with Indo-Pacific partners to tackle the risks posed by shadow fleet vessels which violate international maritime rules, endangering the marine environment in the EU and the Indo-Pacific while posing possible risks to critical maritime infrastructure. The Council reiterates its serious concerns about the current situation in both Afghanistan and Myanmar. The Council reaffirms its unwavering commitment to achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the two-State solution.

6. The Council underlines the importance for the EU and its Member States of continuing to further develop cooperation in key domains such as maritime security, Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference, cyber, counter-terrorism and space security among others, and to strengthen synergies with key partners and relevant organisations in the region, with full respect for the UN Charter, including through EU-funded projects such as CRIMARIO¹, ESIWA+² and GPS³. The Council recalls the Security and Defence Partnerships with Japan and the Republic of Korea, which allow for further cooperation in jointly agreed areas, and looks forward to the possible conclusion of further such partnerships, subject to approval by the Council. The Council also recalls the value of a comprehensive approach to security, building on Member States' experiences with the whole-of-society preparedness model.

¹ Critical Maritime Routes Indo-Pacific.

² Enhancing security cooperation in and with Asia.

³ Global Ports Safety.

7. The Council reiterates its support for international law, in particular as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and for the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law, including under UNCLOS dispute settlement mechanisms. The Council stresses the contribution of Operation ASPIDES to strengthening maritime security and protecting international sea lanes from Europe through the Red Sea to the Indo-Pacific. The Council welcomes the contribution made by the naval forces of Indo-Pacific partner countries to upholding freedom of navigation, the fight against piracy and other threats to maritime security, such as organised crime, the illicit trafficking of drugs and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, including through their cooperation with Operation ATALANTA. The Council supports the further reinforcement of maritime situational awareness, with a view to promoting shared assessment, coordination and interoperability. The Council underlines the fact that the resilience of critical maritime infrastructure is essential for the security and prosperity of the EU and of its partners in the Indo-Pacific, and that its protection requires a concerted and coordinated effort. The Council welcomes the upcoming side-event dedicated to critical maritime infrastructure to be held in the margins of the next EU Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum. The EU continues to promote a common understanding of the existing threats and challenges to the largely interconnected critical infrastructure, and encourages the sharing of best practices and responses.

8. The Council reaffirms the EU's commitment to the Paris Agreement, to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as to advancing the green transition worldwide, in particular with Indo-Pacific partners. The EU shares the common goal of achieving a zero-carbon and resilient economy by 2050 with Indo-Pacific countries. The Council underlines the existential and security threat posed by climate change in the Indo-Pacific region. In that perspective, the EU supports inclusive, equitable and gender-responsive mitigation of and adaptation and resilience to climate change, particularly for those areas that are most affected, including Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. The EU remains committed to the protection of the ocean and supports the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. Moreover, the Council considers that the Global Gateway and the EU's strategic partnerships in the region, such as the Green Alliances, Green Partnerships and Just Energy Transition Partnerships, as well as the Green-Blue Alliance, are also advancing climate action.
9. In the light of the ever-growing economic interdependence between the EU and the Indo-Pacific and the threats to the global trading system and to supply chain resilience, the Council stresses how important it is for the EU to further strengthen its trade partnerships throughout the Indo-Pacific. The EU also intends to cooperate and strengthen trade ties with the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, promoting an open and rules-based multilateral trading system. The Council underlines the importance of the efforts to conclude the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Indonesia, to be examined by the Council, and to pursue the ongoing negotiations of trade agreements with India, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Australia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as sustaining the momentum in exploring opportunities for negotiations on additional trade agreements that are ambitious and balanced and which reflect the EU's priorities and values. The Council welcomes the close cooperation on global digital governance with Indo-Pacific partners in multilateral fora, and in particular the progress achieved in implementing the Digital Partnerships agreed with Indo-Pacific partners. The Council also welcomes the Samoa Agreement as a key framework for strengthening political and economic ties with ACP countries.

10. Building on three successful EU-Indo Pacific Ministerial Fora (Paris 2022, Stockholm 2023 and Brussels 2024), the Council looks forward to the Fourth EU-Indo Pacific Ministerial Forum, to be convened by the High Representative in Brussels on 20-21 November 2025. Those EU-Indo Pacific Ministerial Fora constitute a unique platform for strategically interacting with audiences in both regions. They reflect the strong and shared interest of the EU and the Indo-Pacific partners in fostering concrete cooperation, including on a region-to-region basis, enhancing mutual security, prosperity and resilience and laying the foundations for an ever-more ambitious partnership.
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