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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: European Council meeting (18 and 19 June 2026)
—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 held an exchange of views with Volodymyr Zelenskyy, President of Ukraine.]
2. The European Council reaffirms its continued firm and unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. The European Union will continue to provide, in coordination with like-minded partners and allies, comprehensive political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine and its people.
3. *p.m.: enlargement*
4. The European Union supports a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law and underpinned by robust and credible security guarantees for Ukraine. Only a solution that respects Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity can bring about a just and lasting peace. Borders must not be changed by force, the aggressor cannot be rewarded and Ukraine's long-term security and ability to defend itself must be guaranteed. The path to peace in Ukraine cannot be decided without Ukraine. The European Union will decide on matters of its competence or affecting its security.
5. The European Council supports diplomatic efforts to bring the war to an end and underlines the European Union's readiness to step up its engagement in peace negotiations. However, Russia has not shown any genuine willingness regarding a fair and sustainable peace. The European Council urges Russia to agree to a full, unconditional and immediate ceasefire and engage in meaningful negotiations towards a just and lasting peace.

6. The European Council strongly condemns the recent escalation by Russia including large-scale missile and drone attacks against civilians in Ukraine, increasingly aggressive and reckless behaviour towards EU Member States and hostile rhetoric against EU diplomats. The recent incident in which a Russian drone carrying explosives crashed into a residential building in Romania as well as other similar incidents in other Member States are a result of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and threaten the security of EU citizens and regional stability.
7. The European Union and Member States are prepared to contribute to robust and credible security guarantees for Ukraine, notably through the Coalition of the Willing and in cooperation with the United States. This will include supporting Ukraine's ability to deter aggression and defend itself effectively, also in the long term, including through the European Union Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine) and the European Union Advisory Mission in Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine), as well as support for ceasefire monitoring through the EU Satellite Centre. The contribution of the European Union and Member States will be based on their respective competences and capabilities and in line with international law.
8. The European Council strongly condemns Russia for systematically and deliberately targeting Ukraine's civilian and energy infrastructure. It calls for further intensified EU efforts, coordinated with international partners' efforts, to support Ukraine in urgently repairing, rebuilding and strengthening the resilience of its critical infrastructure and energy system in view of next winter.
9. The European Union remains committed, including as part of Ukraine's path to EU accession, to supporting its repair, recovery and reconstruction, in coordination with international partners. In this context, the European Council looks forward to the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Gdansk on 25 and 26 June 2026.

10. The European Council welcomes [the first disbursement] to Ukraine from the EUR 90 billion loan for 2026 and 2027. The European Union will continue its outreach to third countries to ensure further international support to help close the remaining gap in Ukraine's finances.
11. The European Council underlines the importance of further sustained efforts to provide military support to Ukraine, in particular with support from the Ukraine Support Loan, and urgently accelerate the production and delivery of priority equipment, in particular air defence systems, ammunition, drones and missiles, including to help Ukraine protect its civilian population, and energy and critical infrastructure. In this context, further enhancing EU-Ukraine defence industrial cooperation remains crucial.
12. All military support as well as security guarantees for Ukraine 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.
13. The European Union remains determined to further increase pressure on Russia so that it stops its brutal war of aggression and engages in meaningful negotiations towards peace. The European Council reiterates the importance of further reducing Russia's energy revenues and curbing its shadow fleet operations. [*p.m.: further sanctions*] The European Council welcomes the adoption of the 20th sanctions package and looks forward to the swift adoption of the 21st sanctions package. Undermining the Russian shadow fleet's business model requires a 'whole of route' approach and coordination among Member States and with partners. The European Council also stresses the importance of continued coordination with G7 and other like-minded partners on sanctions, of strengthening the enforcement of existing measures and closing loopholes, and of further reinforcing the anti-circumvention measures.

14. The European Council urges all countries to immediately cease any assistance to Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine, whether direct or indirect, and notably through the provision of dual-use goods and components. In particular, it strongly condemns the deployment of the DPRK's military forces in the war against Ukraine as well as the continued military support provided by Iran, Belarus and the DPRK, among others.
15. The European Council reiterates its urgent call on Russia and Belarus to immediately ensure the safe and unconditional return to Ukraine of all unlawfully deported and transferred Ukrainian children and other civilians. In this respect, it welcomes the commitment made at the high-level meeting of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children to step up action to secure their return. Other humanitarian relief efforts and confidence-building measures, notably the exchange of prisoners of war and the return of civilian detainees, must continue as part of the pathway to peace.
16. The European Council also reaffirms the EU's commitment to ensuring full accountability for war crimes and the other most serious crimes committed in connection with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. In this context, the European Council welcomes the ratification on behalf of the European Union of the Convention establishing the International Claims Commission for Ukraine as well as progress regarding the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine. It encourages further sustained efforts within the framework of the Council of Europe towards the operationalisation of these two international bodies.
17. In light of the potential threat posed to the EU's internal security by Russian ex-combatants having participated in the aggression against Ukraine[and taking note of the Commission's assessment], the European Council encourages further work on possible ways to address this issue, without prejudice to Member States' competences in this domain.
18. The European Council will revert to this issue at its next meeting.

II. MIDDLE EAST

p.m.: Iran

Gaza/West Bank

19. The European Council expresses its grave concern over the persistent and devastating humanitarian crisis in Gaza and calls on Israel to allow immediate, unimpeded access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale into and throughout Gaza, including via the Cyprus Maritime Corridor to supplement land routes, and to enable the UN and its agencies, and humanitarian organisations, to work independently and impartially to save lives and reduce suffering. It also calls on Israel to reopen Gaza border crossings and reverse its decision regarding the NGO registration law. The European Union firmly rejects Israel's announcement that it will seize 70% of Gaza's territory.
20. The European Council reiterates the need for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution in accordance with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions where two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, live side-by-side in peace within secure and recognised borders. It recognises the important role played by civil society in peacebuilding efforts and in building the foundation necessary for a negotiated and lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace.
21. Recalling its previous conclusions, the European Council expresses concern about the lack of progress by all actors in the implementation of the ceasefire and all other provisions of UNSCR 2803, in line with relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and international political and legal principles, and calls on all actors to fully implement them. It recalls the need to ensure the protection of civilians at all times and to fully comply with international law, including international humanitarian law.

22. The European Council condemns the mistreatment of detainees following the interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla in international waters. It invites the Council to take work forward on restrictive measures against extremist ministers inciting and promoting such human rights abuses.
23. The European Union will continue to work on the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict in accordance with UNSCR 2803, including through the European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EU BAM Rafah) and the European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS), as well as on the reconstruction and redevelopment of Gaza, in line with international law. The European Union will continue to support the Palestinian Authority, including in its reform agenda. The European Council calls again on Israel to urgently release withheld clearance revenues and extend the correspondent banking services between Israeli and Palestinian banks, both being necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the Palestinian Authority and the delivery of essential services to the population.

24. The European Council reiterates its condemnation of Israel's unlawful unilateral actions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. It urges the Government of Israel to reverse the expansion of settlements, including in the E1 area, which are illegal under international law, to abide by its obligations under international law and to protect the Palestinian population of the occupied territories, including Christian communities and other minorities, as well as to ensure the preservation of and respect for the Status Quo of Jerusalem's holy sites. The European Council underlines the legal and reputational consequences for businesses participating in settlement construction, including the risk of serious breaches of international law. The European Council condemns the continued and growing settler violence against Palestinian civilians, calls for accountability and welcomes the adoption of restrictive measures against extremist settlers and entities and organisations that support settler violence against Palestinian civilians. It also welcomes the adoption of the further restrictive measures against Hamas. The European Council condemns Israel's adoption of the death penalty law, which is discriminatory, and calls for its immediate repeal.

Lebanon

25. The European Council expresses its serious concern about continued ceasefire violations and urges all actors to respect the ceasefire and to engage constructively in peace talks. It calls for a permanent end to hostilities, the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, and full respect of international law, including international humanitarian law.
26. The European Council reaffirms the EU's support for the Lebanese people, the Lebanese State's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the authorities' state-building efforts. The European Union remains committed to providing emergency aid to the [1.3 million] displaced. It will also continue to support the Lebanese Armed Forces, including through a possible CSDP mission and through continued and reinforced support under the European Peace Facility.

27. The European Council reiterates its call on all parties to fully implement UNSCR 1701. It reiterates its condemnation of the unacceptable and unlawful attacks on UNIFIL personnel and calls for a thorough investigation. The European Council reaffirms the EU's readiness to contribute to a post-UNIFIL UN presence in Lebanon in 2027.

III. NEXT MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

28. Following the work by the Cyprus Presidency and the presentation of the Negotiating Box with figures, the European Council held an exchange of views on the new Multiannual Financial Framework.
29. The European Council calls on the Irish Presidency to take the work forward on the Negotiating Box by the October European Council, with a view to reaching an agreement by the end of the year.

IV. COMPETITIVENESS AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

30. The European Council discussed ongoing efforts to strengthen EU competitiveness and strategic autonomy in the challenging geoeconomic context.
31. The European Council took stock of the 'One Europe, One Market' agenda and its delivery through the interinstitutional Roadmap, and calls for decisive progress on all strands in the course of 2026, in line with the objectives set out by the European Council in March 2026.
32. The European Council held a strategic debate on the issue of global macroeconomic imbalances.
33. The European Council remains seized of the competitiveness agenda and will return to it at its meeting in October 2026.

V. EUROPEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY

34. In the face of serious security threats and challenges and with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine remaining an existential challenge for the European Union, Europe's defence readiness must be decisively ramped up by 2030. Building on recent progress, the European Council calls for renewed urgency to deliver at pace and at scale on this objective, with a 360° approach, including the reduction of strategic dependencies.
35. The European Council strongly condemns the violation of the airspace of Member States and stresses the importance of ensuring the defence of EU land, air and maritime borders. It also condemns all recent hybrid attacks against the European Union and its Member States. In light of persistent hybrid campaigns by hostile actors, notably Russia and Belarus, the European Council calls for continued efforts to strengthen resilience, enhance preparedness, protect critical infrastructure, and prevent, deter and respond to hybrid attacks. It welcomes in this context the work conducted in the Council on the Action Plan on Drone and Counter-Drone Security, that contributes to these objectives.
36. Recalling its previous conclusions, the European Council:
- a) welcomes the ongoing increase in defence expenditure in Member States, that needs to be further continued and accompanied by reinforced efforts to invest better and faster together;
 - b) welcomes progress in all priority capability areas, which have been identified at EU level in full coherence with NATO, and in particular regarding projects in the area of drone and counter-drone systems; early-warning, air defence, and deep precision strike capabilities; and space assets and services. It also highlights the continued advancement of initiatives aimed at protecting Europe's Eastern flank. It invites the European Defence Agency (EDA) to continue supporting Member States in coordinating the various work strands on capabilities;

- c) reiterates the urgent need to strengthen the European defence technological and industrial base so that it can supply the required equipment at scale, including the priority equipment in support of Ukraine, and stresses that further efforts are needed at all levels, to adapt and strengthen production capacities and deliver, through innovation, the defence industrial transformation necessary to meet the defence readiness objective. The European Council calls on the Member States to maintain continuous engagement with the defence industry to that end and, in particular, to ensure close alignment between the capability and industrial dimensions in the work of capability coalitions, with the support of the EDA and the Commission;
- d) reiterates the importance of the proper functioning and further integration of the European defence market across the Union, including intra-EU cross-border access to defence supply chains, especially for SMEs and mid-caps;
- e) underlines that Europe must continue to draw lessons from Ukraine's experience with new technologies, apply them in the EU's innovation and capability development processes, and work with the Ukrainian industry. It welcomes the initiatives recently undertaken in that regard;
- f) calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States to make full use of available instruments regarding capability development as well as industrial reinforcement, and to take the further steps needed in the implementation of the SAFE and European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP) instruments as a matter of urgency;
- g) calls on the co-legislators to swiftly agree on:
 - i) the Defence Readiness Omnibus. It looks forward to the further proposals announced by the Commission to simplify defence and sensitive security procurement;

and by the end of 2026:

- ii) the Programme for agile and rapid defence innovation; and
 - iii) the military mobility proposal;
- h) welcomes the first steps taken in the framework of the EDA to strengthen its support for Member States in the fields of innovation, capability development, including through harmonisation of requirements and aggregation of demand, and common procurement and invites the EDA to swiftly continue its work in this regard.
37. The European Council recalls that a stronger and more capable European Union in the field of security and defence will contribute positively to global and transatlantic security and is complementary to NATO, which remains, for those States that are members of it, the foundation of their collective defence. The European Council underlines the importance of working together with like-minded non-EU partners.
38. The above is without prejudice to the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States, and takes into account the security and defence interests of all Member States, in accordance with the Treaties.
39. The European Council will return to these issues in October 2026, including on the basis of the annual defence readiness report, to be prepared by the EDA with the support of the Commission and the High Representative.

VI. MIGRATION

40. The European Council took stock of progress in the implementation of its previous conclusions, including on returns. [In the light of the recent letter from the President of the Commission], the European Council calls for the intensified work to continue on all strands.

VII. ILLICIT DRUGS

41. To respond to the growing health, social and security challenges linked to the use and trafficking of illicit drugs, the European Council underlines the importance of addressing all aspects of the drugs phenomenon in a comprehensive, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach based on evidence, with a coordinated effort across local, regional, national, EU and international levels. This includes enhancing preparedness, protecting public health, strengthening security, preventing drug-related harm, and fostering European and international partnerships and cooperation initiatives. In this regard, the European Council stresses the importance of a globally harmonised and effectively enforced framework for maritime and port security and calls for coherent action towards third countries that harbour drug traffickers and fail to comply with their international obligations.
42. The European Council calls for effective implementation of the EU Drugs Strategy, in line with the implementation framework [agreed by the Council]. To this end, the European Council urges the Council, the Commission and Member States to strengthen coordination across all relevant policy fields.
43. The European Council will return to this issue as appropriate to assess progress.

VIII. REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

44. *p.m.: enlargement*

IX. OTHER ITEMS

European Semester

45. The European Council discussed the integrated country-specific recommendations on the basis of a horizontal note, thus allowing the conclusion of the 2026 European Semester.

Ebola

46. The European Council expresses its concern regarding the spread of the Ebola Virus Disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. It welcomes the swift release of funds by the World Health Organization (WHO) enabling an immediate response, including epidemiological surveillance, contact tracing, and the strengthening of laboratory capacity. The European Union stands ready, as in previous outbreaks, to support the work of WHO and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in the coordination and delivery of urgent containment and response measures.
 47. The European Council calls on the Council and the Commission to monitor the situation and its evolution, and as appropriate define and coordinate the related operational priorities.
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