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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3561st Council meeting

General Affairs

Article 50

Brussels, 25 September 2017

President **Matti Maasikas**
Deputy Minister for EU Affairs of Estonia

P R E S S

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none

¹ • Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
• Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
• Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

Negotiations with the UK

The Council, in an EU 27 format, took stock of progress in the Brexit negotiations, with the fourth round of talks with the UK being launched the same day. The Commission's chief negotiator Michel Barnier updated the Council on developments, and the EU 27 ministers had an opportunity to exchange views on the ongoing talks.

Ministers expressed their full support to the chief negotiator and his team and stressed the importance of maintaining the unity of the EU 27. While the speech that UK Prime Minister Theresa May had given in Florence the previous week was positively received, delegations said that they were waiting for the political statements to be translated into concrete negotiating positions of the UK.

Ministers also highlighted that many open questions remained on the three key issues that need to be addressed during the first phase of the talks: citizens' rights, the financial settlement and the situation on the island of Ireland. Further clarification was also deemed necessary regarding the UK's request for a transition period. Some ministers reminded that any transition period to be agreed would need to comply with the principles and conditions set out in the European Council (Article 50) guidelines of 29 April 2017.

Preparations for the October European Council (Article 50)

Ministers also began preparations for the European Council (Article 50) of October 2017 by examining an annotated draft agenda for the summit.

[European Council \(Article 50\) of 19 or 20 October 2017 - Annotated draft agenda \(XT 21065/17\)](#)

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED
