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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Antici Group
Subject:	Follow-up to the European Council meeting of 19 October 2017

Delegations will find herewith the document relating to the above-mentioned subject.

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FOLLOW-UP NOTE

TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING OF 19-20 OCTOBER 2017

This note reviews the guidance and specific tasks set out in the European Council *Conclusions of 19 October 2017.*

The text of the Conclusions is reproduced below from document EUCO 14/17*. Items highlighted* **in bold** *are addressed in the comments under each paragraph. The comments indicate the next steps in implementation and the various players involved. Elements of timing are* **highlighted**.

After the initial follow-up note, the progress in implementing the Conclusions is monitored in a separate document, issued ahead of each meeting of the European Council*. The latest such document is* WK 9534/2017*.*

I.   MIGRATION

1. The approach pursued by Member States and EU institutions to ensure full control of the external borders is yielding results and must be consolidated. Overall, migratory flows are being significantly reduced and the number of deaths at sea has decreased.

2. The European Council is determined to pursue its comprehensive, pragmatic and resolute approach, and to apply it wherever necessary. This entails:

   - vigilance on all migration routes and readiness to react to any new trends;

   - a pragmatic, flexible and coordinated use of all available EU and Member States' instruments;

   - support for Member States directly affected or involved, including through continued support from EU agencies;

   - strong cooperation with international partners as well as with countries of origin, transit and departure;

   - reduction of incentives for illegal migration through effective returns;

   - adequate financial and other resources.

   ➢ this paragraph summarises the various lines of action under the current approach. Follow-up by means of regular IPCR monitoring in round table meetings and debriefing in Coreper, including with the aim of identifying gaps/bottlenecks and possible solutions. Extraordinary IPCR round tables can be called at very short notice. Trends in migratory flows are also discussed in the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA) as and when the need arises.

3. To consolidate and deepen this approach on all migration routes, the European Council further calls for the following:

   - showing full **commitment to our cooperation with Turkey** on migration and to **support for the Western Balkans**;

- full and non-discriminatory **implementation of the EU-Turkey Readmission** Agreement with all Member States;

➢ follow-up by means of regular IPCR monitoring of the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement in round table meetings, followed by debriefing in Coreper and discussions on specific issues, if needed. The Commission also conducts fortnightly video-conferences with the countries on the Western Balkans route.

- ensuring **significantly enhanced returns through** actions at both EU and Member States level, such as effective readmission agreements and arrangements; the **European Border and Coast Guard Agency should be further strengthened and play an increased role in organising returns**;

➢ Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or sets of Good Practices on return and readmission are being negotiated with Ethiopia, The Gambia and Ghana, whereas discussions with Côte d'Ivoire and Mali have stalled. In all likelihood it will be possible to finalise those with Ethiopia and The Gambia by the **end of the year**. Other third countries might be selected for SOPs/Good Practices.

➢ the EU is currently trying to reactivate negotiations with Nigeria on the readmission agreement which have been put on hold by Nigeria.

➢ Member States' implementation of the recently agreed arrangements with Bangladesh and Guinea will be monitored, particularly in order to decide whether measures in the field of visa policy will be applied in the event of lack of cooperation.

➢ the EBCGA management board will continue work to make its new mandate on returns operational (around November).

- ensuring that **CSDP missions and operations are fully staffed** and that their **mandates are adapted** as required to assist in the fight against traffickers and smugglers networks and to help disrupting their business model; **supporting the action of our partners of the G5 Sahel**;

> - the EEAS is to report on staffing levels, review the existing mandates and, if required, propose to the Council/PSC a revision of mandates.

- applying **voluntary resettlement schemes and developing them together with international partners,** in particular the UNHCR;

> - the Council and its preparatory bodies will continue examining the Commission recommendation on enhancing the legal pathways for persons in need of international protection ("resettlement"). The recommendation follows up on the resettlement pledging exercise started on 4 July 2017, which is an ad-hoc scheme until the adoption of the Union Resettlement Framework Regulation, part of the CEAS package. This initiative will complement the ongoing implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement and the future Voluntary Humanitarian Admission Scheme.

- **enhancing information and data sharing** within the EU, between Member States, JHA agencies, and CSDP missions and operations, as well as with international partners; in this context, the European Council calls for the **operational joint investigation teams to be extended** to relevant countries;

> - following up on the conclusions of the COSI-PSC meeting of 26 September, the EEAS, COM, Council Presidency, together with relevant agencies, are, among other things, to develop the concept of crime information cells to be embedded in the CSDP missions and operations. A first report will be provided to the PSC and COSI in **November/December**. Europol has already set up an information clearing house. Other actors such as the EBCGA, Eurojust and INTERPOL are to be associated.

- creating and applying the necessary leverage, by **using all relevant EU policies, instruments and tools, including development, trade and visa, to achieve measurable results** in terms of preventing illegal migration and returning irregular migrants.

> - this point is addressed to all relevant EU players - institutions, Member States and the EEAS - who should take this guidance into account in their future

action. The coordinated use of leverage at Member State and EU level is key to the effectiveness of the approach.

➢ visa leverage is regularly discussed, inter alia, in the Working Party on Integration, Migration and Expulsion, the High Level Working Group on Migration and SCIFA. Bangladesh has been the first test case for the use of the visa lever through the Partnership Framework approach.

4. As concerns the Central Mediterranean route, the European Council:

- recognises the significant contribution made by Italy on the Central Mediterranean route;

- **calls for continued efforts by the EU and support for Member States to stem the flows and increase returns, as well as to build strong cooperation with countries of origin, transit and departure**;

➢ In November, Coreper will follow-up on the updated implementation plan "Central Mediterranean - alleviating the pressure" and on the implementation of the Partnership Framework, in particular regarding returns. Building on the discussion on resettlement at the JHA Council in October, Coreper will follow-up on the Commission Recommendation of 3 October 2017, which calls on Member States to offer at least 50 000 resettlement places to persons in need of international protection.

- reiterates the importance of working with the Libyan authorities and all neighbours of Libya to enhance border management capacity and underscores the urgency of supporting the development of the local communities in Libya along the migratory routes;

- encourages and **calls to support, also financially, UNHCR and IOM efforts in Libya, the Sahel and the region, including to further facilitate voluntary returns and resettlement and to improve reception conditions** in cooperation with Libyan authorities so as to ensure the humane treatment of migrants;

➢ In November, Coreper will review the efforts by UNHCR and IOM to improve the conditions of migrants in Libya and increase voluntary returns. It will also examine the Union's support to these efforts.

- commits to **ensuring sufficient and targeted funding**, including through the **North Africa window of the EU Trust Fund for Africa**, to underpin the necessary migration-related actions in North Africa and **finance all relevant projects in 2017 and beyond, with timely disbursements**. It tasks the Council, with the assistance of the Commission, to undertake **immediate operational follow-up** to ensure delivery on this commitment before the December European Council;

- ➢ Coreper, on the basis of input from the Commission, to ensure that funding committed to the North Africa window of the EU Trust Fund for Africa will be targeted, underpinning the necessary migration related actions, and can be timely disbursed.

- ➢ Member States, in the margins of Coreper, to pledge the necessary additional funding, ensure sufficient funding to finance all relevant projects in 2017 and beyond.

- ➢ The General Affairs Council is to check that the Council has delivered on the commitment before the December European Council.

- calls for increased efforts to rapidly establish a **permanent EU presence in Libya**, taking account of the conditions on the ground.

- ➢ the EEAS is to continue working to progressively establish, through EUBAM, a light footprint in Tripoli as soon as security conditions allow (possibly by end October/November). The stated intention is that EUDEL follows in due time. Until then, EUBAM and EUDEL are to continue with regular one-day trips to Tripoli.

5. The European Council calls for **close monitoring of the situation along the Eastern and Western Mediterranean routes** in light of recent increases in migration flows.

- ➢ see references to IPCR.

6. The European Council recalls that addressing the root causes of migration and providing economic and social opportunities in the countries of transit and origin

are part of its long-term approach to migration. In this context, the European Council welcomes the recent launch of the European Fund for Sustainable Development, which supports investment in African and Neighbourhood countries. It also welcomes the implementation of the Economic Resilience Initiative of the European Investment Bank (EIB), mobilising investments in the Neighbourhood countries. It **looks forward to discussing cooperation with African partners at the upcoming African Union-European Union Summit**.

➢ EU-AU summit preparations are to be examined in Coreper on **25 October**.

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7. The European Council reiterates its commitment to the Schengen system and expresses the intention **to get "Back to Schengen"** as soon as possible while taking proportionate security interests of Member States fully into account.

➢ a technical examination of the proposal to amend the Schengen Borders Code regarding temporary internal border controls is to **start on 26 October**, after a first exchange of views at the JHA Council on 13 October.

➢ a range of other measures are relevant in the wider context of strengthening the Schengen area:

- ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System): provided the EP confirms its mandate, as adopted by LIBE, the first trilogue could be held on **25 October**. In line with European Council conclusions, the Presidency aims to finalise negotiations by **the end of 2017**.

- EES (Entry Exit System): EP adoption is expected at the October II plenary. Council adoption will follow. Entry into force envisaged by **January 2018** and entry into operation by **end 2020**.

- three legislative proposals on SIS (Schengen Information System): the Presidency is aiming to have a Council negotiating mandate in **October/November**.

- European Border and Coast Guard Regulation: continued implementation of the enhanced provisions by Frontex and the Member States.

- Evaluation of implementation of the Schengen acquis under the Sch-eval mechanism and the EBCG Regulation, including the proper

implementation of the recent Regulation amending the Schengen Borders Code regarding systematic checks at external borders.

8. The European Council welcomes the progress achieved so far on the reform of the Common European Asylum System and **calls for further convergence towards an agreement** which strikes the right balance between responsibility and solidarity and ensures resilience to future crises, in line with its June 2017 conclusions. The European Council will return to this matter at its meeting in December, and will seek to reach a consensus during the first half of 2018.

> ➢ a partial agreement has been reached between the Council and EP on the EU Asylum Agency Regulation; trilogues continue on the Eurodac and Qualification Regulations; mandates are being finalised for negotiations with the EP on the Reception Conditions Directive and Resettlement Framework Regulation; discussions are continuing in the Asylum Working Party on the Asylum Procedures Regulation; while a discussion on **solidarity and responsibility** will take place in Coreper in November.

II. DIGITAL EUROPE

9. The Tallinn Digital Summit on 29 September 2017 sent a strong message on the need for a stronger and more coherent Digital Europe. Prime Minister Ratas' conclusions after the Summit provide an excellent basis for further work at all levels.

10. Digitalisation offers immense opportunities for innovation, growth and jobs, will contribute to our global competitiveness, and enhance creative and cultural diversity. Seizing these opportunities requires collectively tackling some of the challenges posed by the digital transformation and reviewing policies affected by digitalisation. The European Council is ready to do what it takes for Europe to go digital.

11. To successfully build a Digital Europe, **the EU needs in particular**

- governments and public sectors that are fully brought into the digital age and lead by example: e-government and the deployment of new technologies,

accessibility, one-stop government and the once-only principle, and a digitalised public sector are key to transforming our societies and supporting the EU's four freedoms. The European Council calls for implementing the Tallinn Ministerial Declaration on e-Government

➢ on **24 October**, debriefing to Ministers about the e-Government conference held in Tallinn on 5-6 October, which highlighted the following areas in need of particular attention: i) implementation of the eIDAS regulation (on the electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market); ii) the digital-by-default principle; iii) digital skills; iv) cybersecurity. No working parties have been planned on this issue.

➢ a Commission expert group composed of Member States' experts, called the eGovernment Steering Group, is discussing implementation of the eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020.

- a future-oriented regulatory framework: completing the Digital Single Market Strategy in all its elements by the end of 2018 remains an essential task. Despite considerable progress, work in this area needs to be accelerated in order to meet this deadline. To that end, **the additional TTE/Telecom Council on 24 October should discuss how to speed up and prioritise the work on the Digital Single Market. Agreement between the co-legislators on geo-blocking, audio-visual media services and parcel delivery should be reached by the end of 2017**. By June 2018, co-legislators should also agree on the **free flow of non-personal data proposal** and the **electronic communications code**. The European Council highlights the importance of ensuring adequate rules on **data flows with third countries in trade agreements**, without prejudice to EU legislation. Furthermore, negotiations on **copyright** and on the **Digital Content Directive** should be pursued as a matter of priority. The European Council also underlines the necessity of increased **transparency in platforms' practices and uses**;

➢ **The TTE Council meeting on 24 October** is to hold a policy debate on the implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy - discussing how to accelerate work and identifying the priorities and milestones for the DSM-

related telecom files. It will also hold a policy debate on the cybersecurity package.

➢ The **TTE Council on 24 October** may specifically address the following files:

- agreements on **geo-blocking, audio-visual media services (AVMS) and parcel delivery** are expected by the **end of 2017**:

    o a new mandate for geo-blocking will be presented to Coreper on 27 October; fourth, and potentially last trilogue, planned for early November;

    o on parcel delivery two trilogues are planned before the end of the EE Presidency;

    o on AVMS, in view of the difficulties faced, the Presidency will seek a revised mandate on 27 October for the next trilogue on **7 November**.

- agreement on the **free flow of non-personal data** (FFoD) and on the **Electronic Communications Code** is expected by **June 2018**:

    o on FFoD, the Estonian Presidency is planning a policy debate at the December TTE and the plan of the BG Presidency is to reach a general approach; the planning of working parties under both EE and BG Presidency is being adapted to match that objective;

    o on the Electronic Communications Code, the first trilogue after the European Council took place on 25 October and the plan is to close negotiations by the **end of April**;

    o on the second part of the Telecoms Reform Package, the BEREC Regulation, the Estonian Presidency is planning to reach a general approach at the December TTE.

- **Cybersecurity Act** (ENISA and Certification framework): was examined at working party level on **20 October.** Agreement is expected by December 2018.

- **Copyright:** the EE Presidency aims to reach a general approach on both legislative proposals (Directive and Regulation).

- **Contract Law - Digital Content Directive:** the Council reached a general approach in June 2017. The EP vote has been postponed to 21 November 2017. As a result, political agreement cannot realistically be expected before **spring/June 2018**. On the proposal on **distance sales of goods**, the Commission is presenting an amended proposal by the end of October. As a result, trilogue negotiations can realistically only start under the Bulgarian Presidency.

- On **platforms,** a legislative proposal to promote a fair, predictable, sustainable and trusted business environment in the online economy is expected for **January/early February 2018**, following a Communication which the Commission still intends to adopt by 20 December 2017.

➤ Within the DSM strategy, the Commission is expected to deliver **about half a dozen further initiatives before June 2018**: enforcement of Intellectual Property rights; publicly funded data and access to data; the procurement framework for supercomputing; the revision of guidelines on market analysis and the assessment of significant market power in the electronic communications sector; the modernisation of the company law framework, and unfair practices in platform-to-businesses relations due to be adopted on 20 December 2017.

- a first rate infrastructure and communications network: this requires cooperation at the EU level, inter alia with the aim of achieving world-class very high-speed fixed and mobile networks (5G) all across the EU and increased coordinated availabilities of spectrum by 2020 under consistent regulatory and economic conditions; this in turn requires dedicating all necessary legislative resources, including a sufficient number of trilogues, to **reaching an agreement on the electronic communications code**, including the necessary provisions on spectrum;

➤ **5G:** in June 2017 Ministers discussed the relationship between effective coordination and investment for the roll-out of next generation networks. On 18 July, Ministers signed a 5G declaration confirming their willingness to position Europe as the global lead market for 5G. **On 24 October**, Ministers will address the practical steps to take in order to achieve next generation

connectivity, and informally discuss the harmonisation and release of spectrum bands, as well as the tools needed for the 5G roll-out. The outcome of this discussion will then be fed into the negotiations on the Electronic Communications Code.

- • a common approach to cybersecurity: the digital world requires trust, and trust can only be achieved if we ensure more proactive security by design in all digital policies, provide adequate security certification of products and services, and increase our capacity to prevent, deter, detect and respond to cyberattacks. To that end, the Commission's cybersecurity proposals should be developed in a holistic way, delivered timely and examined without delay, on the basis of an action plan to be set up by the Council;

- ➤ the TTE Council on **24 October** will follow-up on this issue and discuss ways to i) prioritise the initiatives of the recent cybersecurity package in an action plan; ii) accelerate the implementation of the Network Information Security (NIS) Directive and improve cyber resilience and preparedness; and iii) promote investment in cybersecurity.

- ➤ the GAC on **20 November** will adopt Conclusions on the cybersecurity package. To implement them, the Trio Presidencies will present an action plan covering the key initiatives identified in the European Council and GAC conclusions as well as the High Representative/Commission Joint Communication on Resilience, Deterrence and Defence. The action plan will be elaborated within the HWP on Cyber issues, with regular updates on progress and challenges at Council level.

- • combating terrorism and online crime: efforts to this effect should be intensified as set out by the European Council in its June 2017 conclusions. The European Council welcomes the Commission's communication on Tackling Illegal Content Online and reiterates its readiness to support appropriate measures at EU level, if necessary;

➢ the JHA Council in **December** will examine the report of the EU Internet Forum with a view to assessing whether further measures at EU level are required.

- labour markets, training and education systems fit for the digital age: there is a need to invest in digital skills, to empower and enable all Europeans;

➢ the EPSCO Council in **December** is expected to adopt Council Conclusions on the Future of Work, focusing on three topics in particular – employment and working conditions, social protection and skills. The Conclusions aim to call upon ensuring decent working conditions and safeguarding the protection of workers, while embracing the changes of the digital age and investing in workers' skills throughout their working life.

➢ the EYCS Council on **20 November** is also expected to adopt conclusions on smart youth work, on school development and excellent teaching and on a renewed EU agenda for higher education.

➢ the Action Plan on Cyber will also address improving digital skills, particularly in the context of the upcoming proposal for a cybersecurity competence and research centre, with a network of national ones, expected **in 2018**. The network of competence centres is also expected to develop a defence dimension in its second phase.

- a determined R&D and investment effort: to support new forms of entrepreneurship, and stimulate and assist the digital transformation of industries and services. EU instruments such as the EU Framework Programmes, including Horizon 2020, the European Structural and Investment Funds and the European Fund for Strategic Investments can help achieve this objective. The EU should also explore ways to set up the appropriate structures and funding to support breakthrough innovation;

➢ Support for digital is spread across a wide range of programmes:

  o EUR 13 billion under the Framework Programme for Research & Innovation (Horizon 2020),

  o EUR 1 billion under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF);

  o EUR 1 billion under the Creative Europe Programme;

- o approximately EUR 17 billion were invested in digital in the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), and

- o EUR 2.3 billion are planned to be invested in digital skills under the European Social Fund (ESF) until 2020.

➢ Under the Work Programme of Horizon 2020 for 2018 to 2020, the Commission intends (adoption of the WP on **27 October**) to spend around EUR 6.3 billion on Information and Communication Technologies over the 3 years. EUR 1.7 billion is dedicated to digitalising and transforming European industry and services, including investments in Digital Innovation Hubs. The latter will be implanted locally in every Member State and will help companies, especially SMES, to test and adopt digital technologies. Approximately EUR 100 million per year will be spent on the hubs.

➢ Digital projects account for around 10% of investments under the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) plan so far. Thanks to EFSI support around EUR 24 billion in investments are expected to be triggered in the digital sector.

- • a sense of urgency to address emerging trends: this includes issues such as artificial intelligence and block chain technologies, while at the same time ensuring a high level of data protection, digital rights and ethical standards. The European Council invites the Commission to put forward a European approach to artificial intelligence by early 2018, and calls on the Commission to put forward the necessary initiatives for strengthening the framework conditions with a view to enable the EU to explore new markets through risk-based radical innovations and to reaffirm the leading role of its industry;

➢ the Commission is expected to launch public consultations and an impact assessment with a view to presenting a legislative proposal on artificial intelligence and block chain technologies **by early 2018**.

- • an effective and fair taxation system fit for the digital era: it is important to ensure that all companies pay their fair share of taxes and to ensure a global level-playing field in line with the work currently underway at the OECD. **The European Council invites the Council to pursue its examination of the**

> **Commission communication on this issue and looks forward to appropriate Commission proposals by early 2018**.

> ➢ a Commission proposal is expected by **early 2018**. An OECD interim report is expected by **April 2018**. After the presentation of the Commission's Communication at the October ECOFIN, the aim is to prepare Council Conclusions to give political guidance, also in view of the interim report of the OECD task force. The discussion on the draft conclusions will begin in the High Level Working Party on Taxation on **27 October**, with a view to reaching agreement in ECOFIN on **5 December**.

12. Our objective must be to create a more integrated Single Market and to deliver practical benefits for European citizens and businesses. The European Council will closely follow developments in this area and provide the necessary guidance. It calls on the institutions to step up the legislative work, and on the Member States to implement the relevant EU legislation and to take all the measures required within their sphere of competence so as to shape the new digital era. **The European Council will at its level address issues that cannot be solved at the level of the Council.**

> ➢ the Leaders' Agenda provides for a European Council discussion in **March 2018** on digital issues which will require decision by the Leaders.

III. <u>SECURITY AND DEFENCE</u>

13. The European Council recalls its June 2017 conclusions. It welcomes the significant progress made by Member States in preparing a Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) notification with a common list of commitments, and on PESCO governance. It encourages those Member States in a position to do so **to swiftly notify the Council and the High Representative of their intentions to participate in PESCO.** This would allow for the launching of PESCO before the end of the year, with a view to swiftly implementing the commitments, including the launching of first projects. The European Council welcomes the work done so far by the co-legislators on the Commission's

proposal for a European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP). It calls for an **agreement within the Council by the end of the year**, with a view to concluding negotiations with the European Parliament as soon as possible so as to have the first capability projects identified by the Member States financed in 2019.

> ➢ on PESCO, work is advancing on the draft common notification by FR-DE-ES-IT. Various other MS have announced a forthcoming national decision to join. A PESCO workshop on **23 October** looked further into the draft joint notification and discussed possible projects. The aim is for the interested Member States to sign the joint notification in the margins of the lunch of Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers on **13 November**, and for the PESCO to be officially launched at the **11 December** Foreign Affairs Council through the adoption of a Council Decision.

> ➢ on the EDIDP, work continues in the dedicated Friends of the Presidency group with a view to reaching a Council general approach in **December**. A committee vote in the EP is foreseen for **March 2018**.

14. The European Council **encourages Member States to develop flexible and sound financing mechanisms within the European Defence Fund**, to allow for joint procurement of capabilities and/or their joint maintenance and as a way of improving access to cutting-edge capabilities. The objective is to deliver capabilities, ensure a competitive, innovative and balanced basis for Europe's defence industry across the EU, including by cross border cooperation and participation of SMEs, and to contribute to greater European defence cooperation, by exploiting synergies and mobilising EU support in addition to Member States' financing. European defence industrial development will also require EU support for SME and intermediate (mid-cap) investments in the area of security and defence. It encourages the EIB to examine further steps with a view to supporting investments in defence research and development activities. It welcomes the launch of the trial run of the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) which should contribute to spur enhanced defence cooperation among Member States.

15. The European Council highlights the need for PESCO, the European Defence Fund and CARD **to be mutually reinforcing** so as to enhance defence cooperation among Member States.

> ➢ Concrete synergies still to be identified as the three initiatives are being established and further develop. In principle, CARD should, among other things, identify synergies between national defence spending plans, which then should feed into selecting PESCO (capability) projects to be implemented, that can then be potentially funded by the EDIDP.

> ➢ Further synergies can be tentatively found at the reporting level, i.e. information compiled under the CARD process could be reused for relevant parts of the envisioned yearly PESCO national assessment.

16. The European Council **will revert to the issue in December 2017** and assess the progress achieved with regard to all aspects of the external security and defence agenda as set out in December 2016.

> ➢ The EEAS and the Commission continue to ensure close coordination of the ongoing work streams, including through the Project Team on the Defence Action Plan. Close contacts are also maintained between the Commission and the European Defence Agency.

IV.   EXTERNAL RELATIONS

17. The European Council held a debate on relations with Turkey.

18. The European Council calls on DPRK to fully and unconditionally comply without delay with its obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions and to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner. The recent behaviour of the DPRK is unacceptable and poses a significant threat to the Korean peninsula and beyond. The European Council stresses that lasting peace and denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula must be achieved through peaceful means, through credible and meaningful dialogue. The EU sanctions' regime towards DPRK was further reinforced by the EU autonomous sanctions adopted by the Foreign Affairs Council on 16 October 2017. The European Council will consider further responses in close consultation

with partners and the EU will continue to reach out to third countries urging the full implementation of UN sanctions.

19. The European Council reaffirms its full commitment to the Iran nuclear deal and endorses the statement by the Foreign Affairs Council of 16 October 2017.