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European Union

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YEMEN 2

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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Subject: Council conclusions on Yemen

Delegations will find attached the Council conclusions on Yemen, as adopted by the Council on 20 October 2014.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON YEMEN
(Foreign Affairs Council, 20 October 2014)

1. The EU welcomes the appointment of Mr. Khaled Bahah as Yemen's new Prime Minister, and positively notes that his appointment was unanimously approved by the panel of presidential advisors. The EU urges the swift formation of a new inclusive government, and calls upon all political actors to engage constructively and support President Hadi in his efforts.
2. The EU reaffirms its commitment to continue supporting Yemen in its transition, and calls on all regional actors to contribute positively to this process. The EU welcomes the signature of the Peace and National Partnership Agreement on 21 September and of its security annex, which offer a way out of the current crisis. State institutions, political parties and social groups must work together to ensure the swift implementation of all parts of the Agreement, in line with the National Dialogue Conference's (NDC) outcomes and the GCC Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism. The EU is concerned that slow progress in the implementation of NDC recommendations has significantly hampered Yemen's ability to tackle its pressing security, economic, and humanitarian challenges.
3. Security is an essential prerequisite for the success of the transition. The EU therefore unreservedly condemns the recent violence that has taken place in Sana'a, Saada, Al-Jawf, Amran, Mareb, and Hadramawt. Those engaged in armed confrontation must lay down their weapons and act in keeping with the law and with state authority. The EU also renews its firm commitment to support Yemen in its fight against terrorism.
4. The EU calls on the Constitutional Drafting Committee to quickly deliver a draft Constitution, which preserves the unity, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Yemen. Preparatory steps for the constitutional referendum and for transparent and credible elections must urgently be taken forward, including a transparent voter registration process.

5. The EU continues to be concerned by the actions of spoilers and recalls that UN Security Council Resolution 2140 includes provisions on targeted sanctions measures against individuals or entities engaging in or providing support for acts that threaten the peace, security, or stability in Yemen. It is a clear signal to those who aim at undermining state institutions and the transition process.
6. The EU congratulates Yemen for concluding an ambitious agreement with the International Monetary Fund and calls on the Government to maintain its course on the necessary economic reforms, including by taking action to improve fiscal sustainability and fighting corruption in the public administration. More resolve is still needed urgently to alleviate the implications of these reforms on the most vulnerable part of the population.
7. The EU remains deeply concerned that more than half of the population of Yemen is affected by the humanitarian crisis. It urges all parties in Yemen to cooperate to protect civilians and to ensure immediate and unimpeded humanitarian access. The magnitude of the humanitarian crisis calls for immediate short-term assistance; in the longer term, it can only be addressed by tackling its structural root causes through economic reforms. The EU urges all donors to contribute to addressing humanitarian needs.
