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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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Subject:	Council conclusions on Yemen

Delegations will find attached in the annex the conclusions on Yemen as adopted by the Council on 9 February 2015.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON YEMEN**Foreign Affairs Council, 9 February 2015**

1. The EU is following recent developments in Yemen with grave concern. The violence witnessed in Sana'a, in Mareb and in several other provinces, which led to the announcement of the resignations of President Hadi and of Prime Minister Bahah and his Cabinet on 22 January, as well as subsequent developments over the last two weeks have put the promises of the Yemeni transition in jeopardy. These developments are hindering prospects for a prosperous, stable, democratic and united Yemen, and threaten the territorial integrity of the country and the stability of the region, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation.
2. The EU calls on all political forces, particularly the Houthis, to take clear responsibility for their actions, starting by unequivocally rejecting violence and coercion as political tools. Disrespect for State institutions, as well as attacks on and restriction to movements of officials are unacceptable. The EU calls for the immediate release of President Hadi, Prime Minister Bahah and members of the Cabinet from house arrest.
3. In this context, the EU is gravely concerned by the unilateral so-called Constitutional declaration issued by Ansar Allah on 6 February, which it considers to have no legitimacy. The EU recalls that only a broad political consensus amongst the main political groups, setting a clear path towards a Constitutional referendum and elections, can provide a sustainable solution to the current crisis and urges all parties to return to genuine dialogue and inclusive negotiations, in particular those conducted by the UN. In this regard, the EU welcomes and supports the announcement of the resumption of inclusive negotiations today under UN auspices. The framework provided by the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative, the National Dialogue Conference's (NDC) outcomes and the Peace and National Partnership Agreement should remain the reference points for the Yemeni transition. All regional actors should contribute positively to this process.

4. The EU urges all actors to work constructively towards the swift finalization of a new Constitution which meets the legitimate aspirations of the Yemeni people, reflects the NDC Outcomes, and preserves the unity and territorial integrity of Yemen to which the EU is strongly attached.
5. The EU recalls the urgency for a stable and legitimate political framework to enact much needed economic reforms, including by taking decisive actions to improve fiscal sustainability and fighting corruption in the public administration, in support of those most in need. The severe humanitarian crisis may further deepen if political stability is not restored. The EU urges all parties to safeguard humanitarian principles and ensure humanitarian access on the ground.
6. The EU expresses its deep concern about intensified terrorist attacks, including by Al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) within Yemen. It condemns such terrorist attacks in the strongest terms and reiterates its firm commitment and enduring determination to tackle terrorist violence, in Yemen and the broader region.
7. The EU continues to closely follow the situation in Yemen and stands by the Yemeni people at this critical juncture and reaffirms its commitment to continue supporting Yemen in its transition.