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From: General Secretariat of the Council
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Subject: Council conclusions on migration

At its meeting on 20 July 2015, the Council adopted the conclusions on migration set out in the annex to this note.

Council conclusions on migration

1. The Council supports an active, comprehensive and geographically balanced EU external migration policy in accordance with the European Agenda on Migration and European Council conclusions of 25 and 26 June. A broader foreign and security policy approach is essential to strengthen cooperation with countries of origin and transit aiming at addressing root causes of and preventing irregular migration, including smuggling and trafficking, protecting persons in need of international protection, respecting the right to seek asylum, ensuring effective return and readmission, and maximising the development impact of well-managed migration and mobility. This requires working more closely with partners to stabilize fragile countries, tackling conflict, political violence, human rights violations, dire socio-economic situation and lack of good governance which fuel irregular migration and forced displacement. Such cooperation must be based on dialogue, ownership and shared responsibility.

2. Accordingly, the Council welcomes preparations for the Valletta Summit on 11 and 12 November, in close cooperation with African partners, and the high level conference addressing the pressing challenges of the Western Balkans route, taking note of the Hungarian offer to host this conference in Budapest. It will further contribute to the ongoing preparation of these meetings at its next session, following an update from the High Representative. The Council welcomes ongoing contacts and high-level dialogues with key partners on migration issues, including the recent meeting of the High Representative with the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the G5 Sahel. The Council also recalls its decision to step up cooperation with key countries and regional and international partners, including the UN, along the major migratory routes. It underlines the role EU delegations and Member States' missions play in presenting EU migration policy and enhancing cooperation on these matters.

3. The Council reiterates that migration priorities should be further mainstreamed into relevant European Union instruments and policies, including in the framework of the development and European neighbourhood policies. Coherence and synergies between different policy fields, such as Common Foreign and Security Policy/Common Security and Defence Policy, justice and home affairs, human rights, development cooperation, trade and employment, is key. It also stresses the importance of adequate funding with a view to ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of the implementation of relevant policies. The impact that migration has on the EU and countries of origin, transit and destination needs to be adequately reflected and addressed in the implementation of the European external policy.
4. The Council notes that the implementation of a comprehensive migration policy is a joint undertaking and shared responsibility for EU institutions and Member States. The Council is ready to work together with the High Representative and the Commission in their efforts to carry forward a more active, comprehensive and effective external migration policy of the European Union.
5. It calls on the High Representative and the Commission to report back to the October Foreign Affairs Council with concrete proposals to support the implementation of the external dimension of the European Agenda on Migration, taking into account the European Council statement of 23 April and its conclusions of 25 and 26 June, and ensuring coherence between internal and external policies to best effect.
