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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3417th Council meeting

General Affairs

Luxembourg, 13 October 2015

President **Jean Asselborn**
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Luxembourg

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- 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

Preparation for the October European Council

The Council examined draft conclusions for the European Council meeting to be held on 15 and 16 October, prepared by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, in cooperation with the Luxembourg presidency and the Commission.

The European Council is expected to focus on:

- Migration: leaders will address the challenges of migration in its various aspects; they will assess the implementation of their orientations agreed on 23 September and talk about actions to be taken under the European agenda for migration. They will also take stock of the high level conference on the Eastern Mediterranean – Western Balkans Route to be held on 8 October and prepare the Valletta Summit on 11 and 12 November;
- Other items: the European Council will inter alia take stock of the discussions on the Presidents' report on completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union. It might discuss specific foreign policy issues in the light of current events.

An [annotated draft agenda](#) was discussed by the Council on 14 September.

Commission's priorities for its Work Programme for 2016

The Council took stock of the views exposed in the Council's preparatory bodies on the Commission's priorities for its Work Programme for 2016. The Commission is expected to adopt its Work Programme on 27 October.

Other items

The presidency informed ministers on the state of play of the negotiations on an agreement between the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council on better regulation. The Commission's proposal is aimed at securing a common commitment of the three institutions to improve the way the EU legislates.

The Council took note of information provided by the Netherlands delegation on a report by the Dutch safety board on the downing of flight MH 17.

The Council took note of remarks made by several delegations on the informal meeting of ministers for employment and social affairs of the euro zone countries on 5 October 2015.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Risk concentration and intra-group transactions

The Council decided not to object to the adoption by the Commission of a regulation supplementing directive 2002/87/EC (on the supplementary supervision of credit institutions, insurance undertakings and investment firms in a financial conglomerate) with regard to regulatory technical standards defining and coordinating the supplementary supervision of risk concentration and intra-group transactions.

The regulation is a delegated act pursuant to article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. It can now enter into force, unless the European Parliament objects.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

EU-Armenia visa facilitation

The Council adopted a decision ([11770/15](#)) establishing the EU position on a decision of the Joint Committee set up under the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Armenia on the facilitation of the issuance of visas, with regard to the adoption of the rules of procedure of the Joint Committee.

TRADE POLICY

Pharmaceutical products - Request from least-developed countries

The Council adopted a decision establishing the EU's position regarding a request from least-developed country members of the WTO for:

- an extension to a transition period granted under the agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) concerning certain obligations related to pharmaceutical products;
- a waiver of certain obligations under the TRIPS agreement ([11916/15](#) + [11939/15](#)).