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(OR. en)**

EUCO 11/19

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MINUTES

Subject: **European Council meeting (21 and 22 March 2019)**

At its meeting on 20 June 2019, the **European Council** approved the minutes of its meeting on 21-22 March 2019, as set out in this document, and decided to make them public.

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1. Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament

The President of the European Parliament was heard by the European Council.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The European Council adopted its agenda as set out in document EUCO 2/19.

3. Jobs, growth and competitiveness

The European Council held a discussion on economic matters in the presence of the President of the European Central Bank. It discussed the policy priority areas of the Annual Growth Survey and the draft Council recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area.

The European Council provided guidance on the development of an integrated approach to strengthen the EU's economic base and decided to return to the issue in March 2020 on the basis of a comprehensive contribution by the Commission.

4. Climate change

The European Council provided guidance on the overall direction and political priorities ahead of the submission by the European Union of a long term strategy in line with the Paris Agreement, and decided to return to the issue in June 2019.

5. External relations

The European Council discussed overall relations with China in the global context, ahead of the EU-China summit to be held on 9 April 2019. It also addressed Crimea five years after its illegal annexation, and the humanitarian situation in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

6. Securing free and fair elections and fighting disinformation

The European Council reviewed progress in tackling disinformation and protecting the integrity of elections across the EU. It will return to the issue in June 2019 on the basis of a report on the lessons learnt.

7. Adoption of the conclusions

The European Council adopted the conclusions, reflecting the outcome of its discussions, as set out in document EUCO 1/19.

8. Appointment of a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank

The European Council decided to appoint Mr Philip R. LANE member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank for a term of office of eight years as from 1 June 2019 (EUCO 6/19).

9. Approval of the minutes of the European Council on 13-14 December 2018 and decision to make them public

The European Council approved the minutes of its meeting held on 13-14 December 2018 as set out in document EUCO 20/18 and decided to make them public.
