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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3742nd Council meeting

Foreign Affairs

Brussels, 10 January 2020

President **Josep Borrell**
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security
Policy

P R E S S

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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none

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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

Current affairs

The Council discussed recent developments in Libya, including the military escalation around Tripoli and, in the margins of the meeting, were briefed by the UN Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Ghassan Salamé.

Ministers expressed their agreement on the need for the EU to take concerted action to prevent the current crisis from spiralling out of control, and gave a mandate to the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Josep Borrell, to engage with all parties with a view to finding a political solution in the framework of the Berlin process and the UN-led mediated efforts.

Recent developments in Iraq

The Council was briefed on the latest developments in Iraq. The briefing also entailed an informal exchange with the Secretary General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg.

Ministers were invited to assess the consequences of the recent escalation of tension and major security incidents in Iraq and in the region, and discussed the impact of these developments on the international coalition involved in the fight against Da'esh.

The Council called for urgent de-escalation and maximum restraint. It also condemned any attack on coalition forces Da'esh and restated that defeating Da'esh remains a EU priority.

Foreign affairs ministers stressed their continued support for Iraq's stability and reconstruction, as well as for the preservation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA). They stated that this was a key element of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture. In addition, they called on Iran to with the JCPoA without delay.

Finally, the Council gave the EU's High Representative a mandate to carry out diplomatic efforts with all parties in order to help secure a de-escalation of tensions in the region, to support political dialogue and to promote a political regional solution.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none
