



Council of the
European Union

124696/EU XXVII. GP
Eingelangt am 13/12/22

Brussels, 13 December 2022
(OR. en)

15935/22
ADD 2

ELARG 106
COWEB 190
COEST 914

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Council conclusions on Enlargement and Stabilisation and Association Process
	– Statements by Member States

Delegations will find in Annex Statements by Bulgaria, Hungary, and Slovenia, to be added to the Council minutes.

Statement by Bulgaria to the minutes of the General Affairs Council as regards the Council conclusions on enlargement and stabilization and association process

Bulgaria is deeply concerned by the increasing number of incidents and attacks against organizations of citizens of North Macedonia with Bulgarian self-identification, and the fact that investigations are not properly pursued and no effective convictions are enforced.

In this context and with regard to para 59 of the Council conclusions it is our understanding that the reference to the need North Macedonia to continue its efforts to further strengthen fundamental rights includes, inter alia, the need for active pursuit of investigations and convictions for hate motivated crimes.

Bulgaria will closely follow this issue in the context of rule of law and fundamental rights, which are the key benchmarks against which progress towards EU membership is assessed.

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Statement by Hungary on the interpretation of migration management

Taking into account that illegal migratory flows are closely related to various forms of organized crime, which pose a threat to all countries and require a comprehensive approach in addressing migratory flows, Hungary maintains that migration management is to be understood as curbing mixed migration flows in the context of Article 79(1) TFEU, i.e. only in full respect of the objective, enshrined thereof, for the prevention of, and enhanced measures to combat illegal immigration, as well as the right of Member States as set out in Article 79(5) TFEU, according to which the Member States right to determine volumes of admission of third-country nationals shall not be affected. This is without prejudice to the general policy of Hungary aimed at stemming illegal migration instead of managing the phenomenon.

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Statement of the Republic of Slovenia to the Conclusions on the Enlargement and Stabilisation and Association process

Slovenia stresses its full support for the European Commission recommendation of 12 October 2022, to grant Bosnia and Hercegovina the candidate status and would like to recall the European Council Conclusions of 23-24 June 2022 on this matter. In this regard, Slovenia can agree to the paragraph 78 of the Conclusions on the Enlargement and Stabilisation and Association process upon understanding that the status of candidate country to Bosnia and Herzegovina will be granted at the December 2022 European Council.
