



European Council

Brussels, 23 April 2024
(OR. en)

EUCO 11/24

CO EUR 9
PV/CO EUR 5

MINUTES

Subject: European Council meeting (21 and 22 March 2024)

At its meeting on 17 and 18 April 2024, the European Council approved the minutes of its meeting on 21 and 22 March 2024, as set out in this document, and decided to make them public.

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1. Exchange of views with the Secretary-General of the United Nations

The European Council held an exchange of views with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres.

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

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

3. Adoption of the agenda

The European Council adopted its agenda on the basis of document EUCO 8/24, to which it decided to add preparedness and crisis response.

4. Ukraine

The European Council held an informal exchange of views with the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr ZELENSKYY, via videolink.

The European Council renewed the EU's unwavering commitment to continue to provide strong political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes and as intensely as needed.

The European Council reviewed work on military support for Ukraine and provided additional guidance.

The statement for the minutes presented by the Hungarian delegation is reproduced in the Annex.

5. Security and defence

The European Council returned to the issue of increasing overall defence readiness and further strengthening the defence technological and industrial base across the Union and provided further guidance.

The European Council invited the Council and the Commission to explore all options for mobilising funding for the European defence industry and to report back by June.

6. Middle East

The European Council discussed the latest developments in the Middle East.

7. Enlargement and reforms

The European Council took stock of preparations for enlargement and internal reforms.

The European Council decided to open accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina and invited the Commission to prepare the negotiating framework with a view to its adoption by the Council the moment all relevant steps set out in the Commission's recommendation of 12 October 2022 are taken.

It also invited the Council to swiftly adopt the negotiating framework for Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova and to take work forward without delay. Moreover, the European Council took note of Georgia's ongoing efforts and encouraged it to advance on the outstanding priority reforms.

The European Council will address internal reforms at an upcoming meeting with a view to adopting by summer 2024 conclusions on a roadmap for future work.

8. External relations

The European Council welcomed the joint declaration on the strategic and comprehensive partnership between the EU and Egypt, as well as the partnership with Mauritania.

The European Council discussed Haiti and the situation, in particular as regards human rights, in Russia and Belarus.

9. Migration

The European Council reviewed the state of play on migration and reaffirmed the EU's comprehensive approach to migration.

10. Agriculture

The European Council took stock of the ongoing work at EU level to address the concerns and challenges in the agricultural sector and gave guidance for further work, and will keep the situation under review.

11. Preparedness and crisis response

The European Council discussed the need for enhanced and coordinated military and civilian preparedness and strategic crisis management in the context of the evolving threat landscape.

12. European Semester

The European Council discussed the policy priorities of the Annual Growth Survey and the draft Council recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area.

13. Adoption of the conclusions

The European Council adopted the conclusions, reflecting the outcome of its discussions, as set out in document EUCO 7/24.

14. Approval of the minutes of the Special meeting of the European Council on 1 February 2024 and decision to make them public

The European Council approved the minutes of its special meeting held on 1 February 2024 as set out in document EUCO 5/24 and decided to make them public.

Statement by the Hungarian delegation

“Hungary has reservations regarding the strategic direction of certain EU policies towards the ongoing war in Ukraine.”
