



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representative Committee 2

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Subject: Draft Council Conclusions on Strengthening the European financial  
architecture for development  
- Discussion on the way forward

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Delegations will find attached a short Presidency note for the discussion.

15.11.2019

Following the release on 9 October of the Report of the High-Level Group of Wise Persons on the European Financial Architecture for Development, the ECOFIN Council had a first exchange of views on 10 October. Following the discussion, the Finnish presidency conducted bilateral discussions with all EU Member States to take stock of their views and positions. The institutions considered in the report (the European Commission, the EIB and the EBRD) have been further consulted, as have external stakeholders to the extent possible. On 22 October, the Presidency held a seminar in Brussels with the participation of Member State delegates from the Ad hoc Working Party on the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, the Financial Counsellors Working Party and the Working Party on Development Cooperation as well as other key actors. These deliberations have been helpful in preparing a common position on the way forward.

On that basis, the Presidency has prepared draft Council Conclusions on Strengthening the European financial architecture for development and put them for consideration by the relevant Council preparatory bodies. The draft council conclusions have been discussed at two joint meetings of the Financial Counsellors and Development Cooperation working parties.

The Foreign Affairs Council in its development configuration is expected to discuss the findings of the Wise Persons Group's report on November 25.

Coreper is invited to take stock of the preparatory discussions with a view of adopting the council conclusions at the ECOFIN meeting on 5 December. At this stage, delegations are invited to address notably the following questions.

***Do the presented short-term measures cover all major issues to be addressed?***

***Do you support the proposed way forward on the institutional follow-up, with the process being overseen by the relevant council preparatory bodies?***