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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3722nd Council meeting

General Affairs

Luxembourg, 15 October 2019

President **Tytti Tuppurainen**
Finnish minister for European affairs

P R E S S

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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

Enlargement

The Council discussed enlargement and the stabilisation and association process as regards Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia.

Following the discussion, the presidency issued procedural conclusions, noting that the Council would revert to the issue after the [European Council](#).

[Presidency conclusions on enlargement and stabilisation and association process](#)

October European Council

Ministers continued preparations for the [European Council](#) meeting on 17-18 October by examining draft conclusions.

At their meeting leaders are expected to have a substantive discussion on the next multiannual financial framework on the basis of the work of the presidency.

They will exchange views with Commission President-elect Ursula von der Leyen on the priorities for the EU in the next five years.

Leaders will also discuss international aspects of climate change and Turkey. In the light of events, the [European Council](#) may address specific foreign policy issues.

[European Council, 17-18/10/2019](#)

Any other business

– *Transparency*

Under 'any other business', the presidency briefed ministers on the main takeaways from the seminar on the future of EU transparency held on 24 September in Brussels.

[Presidency report on the seminar on the future of EU transparency](#)

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

GENERAL AFFAIRS

'Our Ocean' Conference - list of commitments

The Council adopted a list of commitments to be presented by the European Union at the 'Our Ocean' Conference to be held in Oslo on 23-24 October 2019.

'Our Ocean' Conferences have been held every year since 2014. As at the previous conferences, the high-level 2019 'Our Ocean' Conference aims to identify solutions and commit to actions in order to address some of the most important challenges the oceans are faced with. These include marine protection, marine pollution, climate change impact and sustainable fisheries, as well as the blue economy and maritime security.

CFSP Report 2019 - Our priorities in 2019

The Council approved the CFSP Report 2019. The document summarises the main European Union Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) priorities for 2019.

In an international environment increasingly characterised by geopolitical and geo-economic competition and contestation, the EU will intensify efforts to protect its interests and values, while also acting as a reliable international partner aiming to enhance the rule-based multilateral order and address global challenges.

[Common Foreign and Security Policy, EEAS](#)

INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Appointment of the president of the European Central Bank

The Council paved the way for the adoption of a decision by the European Council on the appointment of Christine Lagarde as President of the European Central Bank for a term of office of eight years with effect from 1 November 2019.

Christine Lagarde will replace the outgoing President, Mario Draghi.

The European Council gave support to Lagarde's candidacy on 2 July 2019. The Economic and Financial Affairs Council then issued a formal recommendation on 9 July 2019. The European Parliament delivered its recommendation on the appointment on 17 September 2019 and the Governing Council of the European Central Bank on 25 July 2019. The European Council is expected to adopt the final decision on the appointment at its meeting on 17-18 October 2019. ([12622/19](#), [27/19](#))

BUDGET

Draft budget for 2020 - Non-approval of EP's amendments

The Council decided not to approve the amendments of the European Parliament to the Council's position on the draft budget for 2020, should they be adopted by the Parliament, and approved a letter to the European Parliament to that effect ([12712/19](#)).

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

European market infrastructure regulation

The Council adopted revised rules for clearing houses in the single market.

The new framework sets out how EU and third country clearing houses should be supervised in future, taking particular account of the effects of Brexit on the European financial system. It will be implemented through a revision of the European market infrastructure regulation (EMIR).

Clearing houses or central counterparties (CCPs) facilitate securities and derivatives transactions by centralising and standardising all the steps leading up to the payment. They also take on counterparty risk by stepping in between the seller and the buyer, thereby providing guarantees that the transaction can be completed.

For more information, see the [press release](#)

