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## OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3765th Council meeting

### Foreign Affairs

Brussels, 13 July 2020

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

# 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.

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## **ITEMS DEBATED**

### **TURKEY**

#### **The Council held a debate on Turkey.**

There was consensus among member states that EU-Turkey relations were currently under strain because of worrying developments affecting the EU's interests, in particular in the Eastern Mediterranean and Libya. Ministers agreed that several serious issues had to be addressed by Turkey in order to change the current confrontational dynamic, and create an environment of trust.

In line with the Council Conclusions on illegal Turkish drilling activities in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Cyprus of 15 July 2019 and the statement on the Eastern Mediterranean of 15 May 2020, it was stressed that Turkey's unilateral actions – in particular in the Eastern Mediterranean, which run counter to EU interests, to the sovereign rights of EU member states and to international law – must come to an end.

Ministers also called on Turkey to contribute actively to a political solution in Libya and to respect the commitments it had made within the framework of the Berlin process, including the UN arms embargo. Member states underlined the importance of Operation IRINI to ensure respect for the arms embargo by all actors and undertook to consider how to ensure its full effectiveness, with the aim of preventing any escalation on the ground.

Ministers also condemned Turkey's decision to convert Hagia Sophia back into a mosque as this decision will inevitably fuel mistrust, promote renewed divisions between religious communities and undermine efforts to engage in dialogue and cooperation. There was broad support for appealing to the Turkish authorities to urgently reconsider and reverse their decision.

Finally, there was broad support for tasking the High Representative with exploring further paths that could contribute to lowering tensions and reach an understanding on issues which are placing the EU-Turkey relationship under increasing strain.

## **Latin America and the Caribbean (COVID-19)**

The Council discussed relations between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean in the light of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ministers discussed in particular how the EU can support the region with a view to revitalising the EU's political engagement with it at this critical moment.

## **Current affairs**

Ministers discussed the entry into force of the national security legislation in Hong Kong. In this context, ministers reiterated the EU's support for the autonomy and fundamental freedoms of the people of Hong Kong, and stressed that such a decision may have an impact on the EU's relations with China.

The Foreign Affairs Council was then informed about Libya, where the situation on the ground remains bad, and blatant violations of the arms embargo continue to be recorded.

Ministers were also briefed about developments in the Belgrade Pristina Dialogue, which had been recently resumed, and its next meeting scheduled for Thursday 16 July in Brussels.

Finally, the High Representative also touched on the subject of Venezuela, for which he had proposed to convene a ministerial meeting of the International Contact Group, followed by meetings with the Lima Group and other key actors.

## **Council conclusions**

The Council adopted conclusions on:

- [EU priorities at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly \(UNGA 75\)](#) and
- EU priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe 2020-2022 ([9283/20](#))

**ITEMS APPROVED****FOREIGN AFFAIRS****HR SatCen Report 2014-2019**

The Council endorsed a report by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on the functioning of the European Satellite Centre 2014-2019 - ([13699/19](#)).

**Force Catalogue 2020**

The Council noted the Force Catalogue 2020 agreed by the European Union Military Committee.

**ASEAN Regional Forum: Maintaining Security in the Digital Economy**

The Council approved the launch of negotiations by the European External Action Service on the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Statement on Maintaining Security in the Digital Economy.

**EU-India Joint declaration on Resource Efficiency and the Circular Economy**

The Council approved the EU-India joint declaration on Resource Efficiency and the Circular Economy.

The declaration reiterates the EU's and India's commitment to cooperate and exchange best practices regarding resource efficiency and the circular economy, and to contribute to the implementation of the external dimension of the European Green Deal. The joint declaration will also build on existing dialogue and cooperation initiatives with India in the area of resource efficiency and the circular economy, and will be one of the deliverables of the EU-India Summit scheduled for 13 March 2020.

## **EU proposal for an EU-India Roadmap 2025 - Approval**

The Council approved the text of the ‘EU-India Roadmap 2025’, and agreed that if further adjustments of the text are required in order to ensure agreement by the time of the EU-India summit on 15 July 2020, the text may be adapted accordingly provided that the changes do not affect the substance and intent of the EU’s positions.

The ‘Roadmap 2025’ was to be agreed between the EU and India as one of the main deliverables of the EU-India Summit scheduled for 13 March 2020. The EU-India Summit had been postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and is due to take place in virtual format on 15 July 2020.

## **Conclusions on EU priorities at the UN and UNGA75**

The Council adopted conclusions setting out the EU’s priorities at the 75th General Assembly of the United Nations (September 2020 – September 2021), under the theme ‘Championing multilateralism and a strong and effective UN that delivers for all’. [\(9401/20\)](#)

## **Conclusions on EU priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe 2020-2022**

The Council adopted conclusions on EU priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe in 2020-2022 [\(9283/20\)](#).

## **EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa: extension of the mandate**

The Council adopted a decision extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative for the Horn of Africa. The Council also endorsed the related budgetary impact statement and decided to publish the aforementioned Council Decision in the Official Journal.

Mr Alexander Rondos was appointed as European Union Special Representative for the Horn of Africa on 8 December 2011. His mandate, which had been due to expire on 31 August 2020, was extended for a further six months.

## **TRADE**

### **Trade and sustainable development with the Pacific States**

The Council approved the launch of discussions by the Commission on a joint declaration between the EU and the Pacific States.

The aim of the joint declaration will be to further clarify and promote the principles of trade and sustainable development within the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the Pacific States (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands). (9312/20)

### **Switzerland's WTO concessions on seasoned meat**

The Council adopted a decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the EU and the Swiss Confederation in the context of negotiations under Article XXVIII of GATT 1994 on the modification of Switzerland's WTO concessions with regard to seasoned meat. The agreement will be concluded in the form of an exchange of letters. ([12482/19](#), [12483/20](#), [9196/20](#))

## **JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

### **Migration - Afghanistan**

The Council authorised the Commission, on behalf of the EU, to enter into negotiations on the prolongation of the Joint Way Forward on Migration Issues between Afghanistan and the EU beyond October 2020.

As part of the EU's cooperation with Afghanistan in the area of migration, both sides committed to a joint way forward on migration issues, which had been signed in 2016 and which expires in October 2020. The Joint Way Forward is not a legally binding instrument. It has paved the way for a structural dialogue and cooperation on migration issues, based on a commitment to identify effective ways to address the needs of both sides.



## **TRANSPORT**

### **Authorisation to open negotiations with Georgia**

The Council authorised the opening of negotiations with Georgia on a revised high-level agreement between the EU and Georgia on transport infrastructure networks.

The negotiations concern the adaptation of the existing indicative maps of Georgia within the meaning of Article 49(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 (the TEN-T Regulation). These indicative maps are intended to provide a reference point for cooperation on planning transport infrastructure development in Georgia as a neighbouring country, with a view to fostering transport connectivity with the EU.

At the end of the negotiations, the Commission will turn to the Council to seek its authorisation for the signing of the revised high-level agreement on behalf of the EU. [\(9306/20\)](#)

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