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To: Delegations

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Subject: Council conclusions on EU energy and climate diplomacy

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Delegations will find in the annex the Council Conclusions on EU Energy and Climate Diplomacy as approved by the Council at its meeting held on 21 April 2026.

Council conclusions on EU Energy and Climate Diplomacy

*“EU energy and climate diplomacy – strengthening sovereignty and advancing the global clean transition”*

1. In a world marked by geopolitical fragmentation and the rules-based international order under strain, the EU’s sovereignty, competitiveness and economic security are increasingly at risk. The perils of critical dependencies and vulnerable energy, technology and industrial supply chains are compounded by the existential threats of accelerating climate change and environmental degradation.
2. The Council calls for EU foreign and security policy to respond resolutely and with urgency, increase the EU’s resilience and preparedness against climate, environmental and energy security threats, and support efforts to reinforce the EU’s strategic autonomy. The EU needs to secure critical supply chains and infrastructure, adapt defence policies, support the competitiveness of EU economies and increase its ability to anticipate, deter and respond to economic or political coercion.
3. Building on the EU’s experience of decoupling economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions, the EU will continue to advance the energy transition, lead and advocate for global climate action and environmental protection, and promote resource efficient and circular economies.
4. The Council recalls the critical importance of the clean transition towards climate neutrality as a driver of innovation, economic growth and competitiveness, and the key response to the climate and environmental crises. Driven by investments into clean energy that have globally overtaken those into fossil fuels, the clean transition is also the source of strengthened energy and economic sovereignty reinforcing energy security, reducing exposure to energy market shocks and fundamentally reshaping global power relations and partnerships.

5. The Council reaffirms the EU's steadfast commitment to effective multilateralism and the rules-based international order, including in tackling the climate crisis via the Paris Agreement and in responding to global environmental degradation.
6. The EU and its Member States stand ready to deepen and forge mutually beneficial partnerships and issue-based coalitions, prioritising engagement with partners willing to accelerate the clean transition and take action on strengthening global resilience. The EU will remain a predictable and reliable partner and uphold its commitments, while pursuing its strategic interests and advance, manage and respond to the global clean transition as an essential task of EU foreign, security and defence policy.
7. The Council welcomes the Joint Communication on the *EU global climate and energy vision*. The Council invites the High Representative and the Commission to drive its swift implementation and steer EU diplomacy in line with the priorities set out in these Conclusions, strengthening coherence with relevant policies and reinforcing strategic planning and joint action with Member States in a Team Europe approach.
8. The hostilities in Iran and the wider region threaten regional and global security and prosperity. Acknowledging the EU's geopolitical and economic exposure due to a significant reliance on imported fossil fuels, the Council confirms that the energy transition based on clean, abundant and homegrown energy remains the most effective strategy towards achieving Europe's strategic autonomy. Accelerating the deployment and integration of renewable and low-carbon energy sources and energy storage, strengthens resilience, enhances security of supply and contributes to structurally lowering energy prices and reducing dependence on volatile fossil fuel markets. The Council calls on all parties to comply with international humanitarian law and protect civilians and civilian infrastructure and reaffirms the importance of safeguarding the freedom of navigation through maritime routes, as well as the safety and security of supply chains ensuring the stability of global energy markets. The Council welcomes the important work and guidance of the International Energy Agency and supports dialogue among producer and consumer countries aimed to limit excessive price rises in the energy and related economic sectors, recognising the socioeconomic impacts on the most vulnerable developing countries in particular.

## *Strengthening EU sovereignty*

9. The Council supports the continuous operationalisation of the economic security strategy. The EU needs to assess, monitor and mitigate high-risk dependencies and the risks posed by disruptive trade measures and export restrictions, ensure secure and reliable access to strategic technologies and resources, and advance the circularity, diversification and resilience of industrial value chains and the global supply chains of critical raw materials. In this respect, the Council calls for boosting work on strategic projects launched under the Critical Raw Materials Act, the RESourceEU Action Plan, and Global Gateway. The Council highlights the importance of Member States and all relevant stakeholders actively contributing to risk assessments, monitoring, and appropriate response measures.
  
10. The Council welcomes the effective steps taken to increase energy efficiency, expand homegrown clean energy production, and reduce fossil fuel consumption. These steps have also contributed to the phase-out of EU dependency on Russian fossil energy. The Council calls for further endeavours to reduce existing and avoid new dependencies and build a balanced external energy supply network, based on reliable routes and partners and a full compliance with EU energy market rules. During the period of the clean transition and while avoiding long-term fossil-fuel lock-ins, foreign policy needs to continue to support the security of supply of fossil fuels by diversifying imports, promoting transparent, rules-based and liquid global markets, and ensuring the safety and security of all relevant infrastructure. Geopolitical considerations should be fully integrated in the revision of the EU's energy security legislative architecture. The Council also calls for continued diplomatic support to the ongoing efforts by Member States to diversify nuclear fuel supplies, nuclear fuel cycle services, and spare part supplies, to complement European supply capacities.

11. Considering repeated and growing threats against the EU's critical infrastructure, the Council calls for a 'preparedness and security by design' approach investing into improved situational awareness, and for the strengthening of the protection and resilience of infrastructure against physical, hybrid, cyber, climate-related and environmental threats, highlighting the importance of resilient ecosystems, landscapes and sustainable forest management. In this context, the Council invites the Commission to propose measures to increase repair capacities and assess the need to review the safety and security rules applicable to all relevant energy infrastructure, both on and offshore. The Council also stresses the need to continue to strengthen energy systems by bridging infrastructure gaps and building additional external interconnections, where appropriate, thus enhancing market integration and regional connectivity with partners in the EU's neighbourhood and beyond. The Council calls on the High Representative and the Commission to assist Member States in engaging third countries on the safety and security of critical energy infrastructure situated on their territory.
12. The Council condemns, in the strongest possible terms, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, including attacks on critical civilian and energy infrastructure precipitating a humanitarian crisis. The Council invites the High Representative, the Commission and Member States to support, in cooperation with international partners, the reconstruction and defence of Ukraine's energy sector based, as much as possible, on clean, decentralised and efficient technologies. The Council calls further to reinforce diplomatic action in support of Ukraine's energy resilience through the G7+ coordination group, the Ukraine Energy Support Fund and other mechanisms. The EU and Member States should intensify the provision of equipment and enhance cross-border infrastructure – with Ukraine, while supporting accelerated reforms towards alignment with EU energy market rules and improved transparency. The Council calls with particular urgency for the immediate cessation of all military activities endangering nuclear safety and security in Ukraine and condemns the illegal seizure of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. The Council welcomes the work assessing compensation for environmental damages arising from the war, highlighting ongoing destruction of ecosystems and pollution risk, particularly in the Black Sea region.

13. The Council also calls on Member States to ensure the full and effective implementation of sanctions, in accordance with relevant legislation, preventing their circumvention via third countries and complex trading practices. The Council welcomes continued efforts countering the threats from the ‘shadow fleet’ in full compliance with international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, addressing the security and environmental risks posed by substandard ships and risky navigation practices as set out in relevant International Maritime Organisation resolutions.
14. The Council recognises the strategic role of the Energy Community in strengthening regional energy security, advancing energy and climate cooperation, and driving the clean transition. The Council highlights the continued need to respond to the energy system vulnerability of the Republic of Moldova, including by enhancing cross-border connectivity, and the need to strengthen the resilience of the Western Balkans partners. The Council calls for further support to energy security, energy market reforms, and the adoption of climate and environmental standards in the region, advancing the full integration with the EU energy market in line with EU accession goals and the EU *acquis*.
15. The Council underlines the need for EU foreign policy to support the growth of the European clean tech sector. EU diplomacy needs to leverage the EU’s strengths such as innovation, reliability, local value creation, financial tools, cyber security as well as social and environmental standards. The EU and Member States will support the EU’s global competitiveness through the creation of lead markets and by encouraging global demand for European products and technologies, including through promotion by Delegations and Missions in a Team Europe approach, underlining the EU’s reputation as a trustworthy trading partner. The Council calls for coordinated and shared assessments of market potentials, the promotion of EU technology standards and solutions, and strengthened international research cooperation where appropriate.

16. The Council acknowledges the links between the clean transition and a credible defence policy and invites the High Representative and the Commission to systematically consider the requirements of the defence sector when reviewing relevant legislation, including the revision of rules on liquid fuels security. Recalling the Climate Change and Defence Roadmap of 2020, the Council calls for a full review to be completed by the end of 2026 to align it with current EU climate and energy frameworks and strategic defence priorities.
17. The Council calls, in the context of increased defence spending, for strategic investments that build upon the technological and innovation potential of the clean transition and address its consequences, recognising the role of the defence industry in the development of clean technologies. Such investments can bolster both the EU's clean tech and defence industries, increase defence readiness, and the resilience of the military, improving adaptation to climate change impacts.

### *Climate diplomacy and advancing the clean transition*

18. Recognising the existential threat of climate change to livelihoods, economies, cultural heritage, ecosystems and thus to international peace and security, the Council reconfirms its unwavering commitment to international climate action, with the Paris Agreement temperature goal at its centre, keeping 1.5C within reach. The Council underlines the EU's substantial contribution to global climate action expressed through its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) setting an indicative 2035 net greenhouse gas emissions reduction range based on the European Climate Law, which commits the EU to climate neutrality at the latest by 2050, and sets a domestic net emission reduction target of at least 55% by 2030 and a net emission reduction target of 90% by 2040, compared to 1990 levels.
19. The Council reaffirms the importance of effective multilateralism for advancing global climate action based on implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. The EU aims to ensure that the multilateral process reflects the voice of all Parties and stakeholders, including future generations and the most vulnerable, and promotes sound economic, environmental and social policy solutions, while underscoring that the severe costs of inaction far outweigh the costs of action. The EU will advance its cooperation with all Parties, notably COP presidencies, and the UNFCCC secretariat, in scaling up the efficiency and effectiveness of this multilateral process and

ensuring that it remains the key vehicle for climate action, in particular through the full implementation of the Paris Agreement ambition cycle leading towards enhanced objectives.

20. The Council urges parties that have not done so to submit their NDC under the Paris Agreement as soon as possible. Highlighting the existing implementation gap between pledges and policies, the EU urges all parties to fully implement their NDCs and will continue to work with partners to support the implementation of their plans in steady alignment of their ambition with agreed mid-century climate neutrality strategies. The Council recalls, in this context, the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion on the 'Obligations of states in respect of climate change'. The EU will engage all countries, in particular major emitters, to realise the potential for common actions and socio-economic benefits, while highlighting their evolving responsibilities commensurate with their economic role and capacity to act.
21. The EU is committed to the delivery of the agreed ambition expressed in the first global stocktake (GST) outcome. The EU will particularly promote the implementation of the goal to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and in line with Paragraph 28 of the GST outcome, the goals to triple renewable energy and double energy efficiency improvements by 2030, to accelerate zero and- low-emission technologies, and to 'transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating efforts in this critical decade.' In this context, the Council welcomes and supports the Brazilian COP30 Presidency in developing, by COP 31, credible and inclusive roadmaps on forests and the transition away from fossil fuel, mobilising stakeholders and advancing planning on a transition consistent with climate neutrality commitments, while taking into account diverse national circumstances. Building on the outcome of the first global stocktake and geopolitical circumstances, the Council will continue to reflect on its longer-term approach towards the second global stocktake in 2028.
22. The Council underlines that scientific integrity, transparency, and reliable data and information are essential for informing credible and effective climate action and preparedness and rejects the politicisation of climate science. The Council calls on all partners with urgency to ensure that all contributions to the 7th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change are delivered in time to inform the second global stocktake and supports joint diplomatic action by the EU and Member States facilitating that goal.

23. The Council supports international agreements and initiatives that advance the uptake and deployment of renewable and low carbon energy, improved grid connectivity and flexibility, energy storage, the energy efficiency first principle, the clean electrification of end-use sectors, effective carbon pricing, and the role of hydrogen in the decarbonisation of hard-to-abate sectors. The Council supports further initiatives advancing circular economies, sustainability in supply chains and policies combatting threats to ecosystems, land degradation and biodiversity loss, highlighting the crucial role of nature-based solutions. In the context of some countries opting for nuclear energy, the EU will continue to promote and support full transparency on nuclear projects and the highest nuclear safety and environmental standards, in the immediate vicinity of the EU, regionally and globally.
24. The EU recognises the growing importance of the Global Climate Action Agenda as an integral part of the UNFCCC process and will continue to support valuable plurilateral initiatives that broaden engagement with state and non-state actors in advancing the clean transition. In this context, the Council highlights, among others the Global Energy Transitions Forum, Just Energy Transition Partnerships, the support of ‘No New Coal’ commitments towards the phase out of unabated coal in cooperation with the Powering Past Coal Alliance, the acceleration of industrial decarbonisation through the Climate Club, the Declaration on Information Integrity on Climate Change, the Open Coalition on Compliance Carbon Markets, and the efforts to phase-out fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or just transition as soon as possible. The EU will continue to support methane abatement initiatives, co-lead the Global Methane Pledge, and enhance engagement on the implementation of the EU Methane Regulation, while preserving secure energy supplies to the EU.

25. The Council underlines the importance of forging mutually beneficial partnerships that advance the clean transition. This includes sustainable investment facilitation agreements, raw materials partnerships, Green Alliances and Partnerships, trade agreements and Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships, the promotion of domestic carbon pricing instruments, as well as cooperation with partners on high quality international credits under Article 6 of Paris Agreement in line with the European Climate Law that provides for their contribution towards the EU 2040 climate target of up to 5% of 1990 EU net emissions, from 2036, in a way that is both ambitious and cost effective, supporting the EU and third countries in achieving their Paris Agreement compatible emissions reduction trajectories. The EU will continue to propose that the respect of the Paris Agreement should be considered an essential element in future trade and investment agreements. The EU seeks a fair access to resources and clean technologies, noting the important role of industrial alliances, and the role of free and rules-based trade in accelerating the clean transition. In this context, EU businesses should be increasingly linked with EU-financed lending and global investments through Global Gateway and other instruments. The Council supports integrated bilateral and regional engagement strategies linking clean transition and investment promotion with climate adaptation, resilience and security cooperation. In this context, the Council takes note of the Trans-Mediterranean Renewable Energy and Clean Tech Cooperation Initiative (T-MED) under the Pact for the Mediterranean, which aims to channel private and institutional financing through politically framed investment platforms.
26. The Council stresses the urgent need to scale up climate adaptation and to continue supporting societies globally in enhancing their adaptive capacities, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerabilities, in line with the Global Goal on Adaptation, and the UAE framework for Global Climate Resilience. The Council invites the High Representative and the Commission to intensify engagement on adaptation and resilience and continue to support partners in implementing their National Adaptation Plans.
27. Emphasising the role of the EU and its Member States, together with the European Investment Bank, as the world's largest collective provider of public climate finance, the Council emphasises the need to leverage current and new EU financial instruments in support of accelerated climate action. Together they should ensure that the EU's climate finance is politically visible, fully aligned with Paris Agreement goals, and gives recognition to partners willing to accelerate climate action.

28. The EU is committed to continue doing its part to deliver the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance agreed at COP 29, including the call for efforts to triple adaptation finance by 2035, acknowledging that public finance remains essential to support the most climate-vulnerable countries and communities. The Council underlines that all financial support tools need to remain climate, environment, and conflict sensitive, and stresses that the mainstreaming of climate goals by partner countries is necessary to unlock additional financing. The Council calls on the largest emitters, and all actors in a position to do so, to start providing and to scale up climate finance in line with growing responsibilities and capabilities. The Council stresses the importance of broadening the scope of contributors and drawing from a variety of innovative sources, including high-emission sectors, and takes note of the work of the Global Solidarity Levies Taskforce. Noting that climate adaptation and resilience enable economic and investment opportunities, the Council emphasises the importance of mobilising private finance. The EU calls on Multilateral Development Banks to scale up efforts towards achieving their 2030 climate finance targets, including increased investments into adaptation, and supports the continued reform of international financial institutions to align financial flows with Paris Agreement goals.
29. The Council reconfirms the importance of targeted environmental measures, such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, in preventing carbon leakage, supporting the global uptake of effective carbon pricing systems and rewarding producers' decarbonisation efforts. The Council also highlights the role of the EU Deforestation Regulation in supporting the transition to sustainable, deforestation free value chains worldwide. The Council calls for continued and early diplomatic engagement with global partners throughout the implementation of such measures and recognises the need to remain responsive to their concerns, ensuring even-handed treatment.

30. The Council recognises that the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution as well as land, water and ocean degradation are interconnected and affirms its commitment to address them in an effective integrated and coherent way, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and a One Health approach. The EU will continue promoting synergies among the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and key multilateral organisations and processes on the environment including the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), highlighting the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The EU will also continue to advance the ongoing work on an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, along with further impactful initiatives on, forests, soils, chemicals, waste, pollution and the circular economy. The Council acknowledges the role of oceans and seas in climate regulation, biodiversity support, food security as well as renewable energy production, and stresses the importance of strengthening international ocean governance, encouraging the ratification and effective implementation of the Agreement under UNCLOS on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction.
31. The Council underlines the need to accelerate global solutions for the decarbonisation of the international transport sector considering all appropriate technologies. The EU will continue to work with partners and through multilateral organisations and initiatives to enable the increasing deployment of sustainable net zero fuels, in particular in the maritime and aviation sectors, as appropriate.
32. The Council highlights the importance of ensuring a just transition towards climate neutrality that promotes decent work and addresses the social and economic dimensions of the transition, leaving no one behind. The EU supports efforts to alleviate global energy poverty ensuring access to clean, affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy to all.

33. The Council stresses that all aspects of EU energy, climate and environmental diplomacy will be conducted in a manner consistent with the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and human rights obligations. In this context, the Council underlines the importance of remaining gender responsive, and recalls the EU's commitment to support women's and youth's equal, full, effective and meaningful participation and leadership, in all their diversity, in all spheres of public and political life, as per the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2027. The Council also stresses the importance of protecting, empowering and cooperating with civil society, environmental human rights defenders, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and persons with disabilities.

### *Global security and resilience*

34. The Council is aware of the severe impacts of climate change on global and European peace and security, acting as a threat-multiplier already at current warming levels. The Council is concerned about hostile actors exploiting climate fragility and displacement in vulnerable regions, highlighting threats to human rights and the disproportionately adverse impact on women and children. In this context, the Council urges the EU and Member States to strengthen global and regional stability by continuing to support the enhanced resilience, preparedness and adaptation action in third countries. The EU will place specific focus on climate-vulnerable, fragile and conflict-affected areas, Least Developed Countries, and the broad European neighbourhood. The Council highlights, in this context, the Pact for the Mediterranean and the upcoming revision of the EU Arctic policy and welcomes the presentation of the Joint Communication on the EU's strategic approach to the Black Sea region. The Council specifically recognizes the threats posed by rising sea levels to low-lying states and coastal communities, including the EU's outermost regions and territories, and looks to address the threats to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Small Island Developing States in close cooperation with the UN.

35. The Council recalls the need to further strengthen EU capacity to respond to climate- and environment related security risks by continuing to integrate climate and environmental aspects into foreign, security and defence policy, including peacebuilding, mediation, conflict-prevention, and CSDP missions, in line with the full implementation of the 2023 Joint Communication on the *Climate-Security Nexus*. This requires additional evaluations supported by intelligence assessments, strengthened disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts, and preparedness action. The Council calls for climate security to inform relevant foreign and security policy strategies. The Council also invites the Commission to integrate the foreign and security policy dimension into the upcoming ‘Integrated Framework for European climate resilience and risk management’ building on the EU Integrated Approach to Fragility. The Council calls for increased institutional cooperation on climate security and resilience, through multilateral partnerships, in particular with the UN, highlighting the UN Climate Security Mechanism and the Early Warnings for All Initiative, OSCE, NATO - in line with the EU institutional framework and with full respect to EU decision-making autonomy - and bilateral ‘Security and Defence Partnerships’, avoiding unnecessary duplications. The Council highlights the need to enhance cooperation with humanitarian organisations on climate change induced displacement and welcomes international efforts addressing climate related mobility.
36. The Council underlines that accelerating ecosystem degradation, including thawing permafrost, is a growing threat to global security and leads to geopolitical instability by exacerbating food and water insecurity, disasters, infectious disease and health risks and competition for natural resources. The Council recognises the growing importance of water resilience, sustainable water management and transboundary water cooperation, and calls for strengthened water diplomacy, underscoring the importance of the 2026 United Nations Water Conference.
37. Noting projections of declining EU fossil fuel import demand over the coming decade, the Council calls on the High Representative and the Commission together with Member States to continue to proactively develop policy response options and foresight into the geopolitical impact of this shift and strengthen engagement with relevant suppliers in support of orderly clean transitions.

38. In the context of a growing global competition over critical raw materials, the Council recalls the recommendations of the UN Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals and stresses the importance of projects strictly adhering to international law, human rights and sustainability standards, avoiding adverse social and environmental impacts along the whole value chain.
39. The Council is concerned that large-scale climate interventions, in particular solar radiation modification (SRM), pose significant risks for the climate, the environment, security, and geopolitics. The Council calls for the full application of the precautionary principle to geoengineering, a close monitoring of initiatives, and a moratorium on deployment of SRM technologies, in line with and reinforcing existing rules, notably relevant decisions taken under the CBD and the London Convention and Protocol. The EU will continue to engage in discussions on potential international governance arrangements, including research related aspects.

### ***Foreign policy tools***

40. The Council reiterates the EU's offer to build policy, regulatory and technical partnerships on clean transition, climate, environment, peace and security. In this context, the Council invites the High Representative and the Commission, to develop – together with Member States – holistic cross-sectoral approaches for intensified bilateral climate and energy diplomacy engagement and cooperation with key partners. The EU will engage partners, including sub-national authorities, in a coherent, integrated and tailored manner, including under Global Gateway. Dialogue formats must be better aligned and initiatives led by the EU and Member States better coordinated. The Council further underlines the need to proactively use a broad range of EU instruments to support, encourage and reward climate action ambition and the effective implementation of climate and environmental commitments.

41. EU and Member State diplomacy need to ensure responsiveness to partner country concerns throughout the EU policy making and implementation process, strengthening consultation and regulatory cooperation, and mobilising, where appropriate, targeted clean transition focused support, including EU Member State's expertise, to aid alignment with EU legislation.
42. The Council supports, and calls to enhance, all efforts to systematically address foreign information manipulation and interference along with disinformation on the clean transition, climate science, climate change impacts such as extreme weather events, environmental degradation, energy security and critical infrastructure. The Council calls to reinforce tools and capacities to expose and respond to this threat in full respect to human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through proactive and tailored strategic communication campaigns, in close coordination with Member States.
43. The Council underlines the need for the EU and Member States to strengthen common messaging and joint diplomatic action through exchange and continuous feedback on implementation, via the EU Climate Ambassadors Network, the Green Diplomacy Network, the Energy Diplomacy Group and relevant Council preparatory bodies. The Council calls for intensified joint energy and climate diplomacy with a multi-year perspective through the systematic and strategic mobilisation of Team Europe networks and platforms across EU Delegations and Member State missions.
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