



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 28 November 2016  
(OR. en)

13936/16

LIMITE

CO EUR-PREP 43

**NOTE**

---

From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee

---

Subject: European Council (15 and 16 December 2016)  
- Draft guidelines for the conclusions

---

*With a view to the forthcoming meeting of the European Council, delegations will find below the state of progress regarding the various topics on its agenda. Where possible, first indications are given on the elements the President of the European Council intends to include in the draft of the conclusions.*

*Member States are invited to provide their reactions, in order to help guiding the preparations for the draft European Council conclusions which will be submitted in one week.*

o

o o

## **I. MIGRATION**

The European Council will review the implementation of its comprehensive migration policy and provide guidance for further work.

On the external dimension, the European Council will:

- assess and reaffirm its commitment to the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement;
- assess progress on the compacts with the five selected African countries in terms of arrivals and returns, on the basis of information to be provided by the High Representative and the Commission. In the light of this assessment, it will consider whether the approach should be extended and on which basis;
- welcome progress on the External Investment Plan and on the EIB External Lending Mandate and call for their swift adoption by the co-legislators; take stock of the EIB Resilience Initiative for the Western Balkans and Southern Neighbourhood.

On the internal dimension, the European Council will assess progress on the reform of the Common European Asylum System, including on how to apply the principles of responsibility and solidarity in the future, on the basis of a report from the Presidency.

## **II. SECURITY**

### *Internal security*

The European Council will review progress and where necessary provide guidance for further work under the European Agenda for Security, e.g. on systematic checks against the relevant databases, that must be interconnected, of all persons crossing the Union's external borders, including nationals from EU Member States; the entry/exit system; the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS); combatting terrorism; firearms; anti-money laundering; Passenger Name Record (PNR); and enhancing effective cooperation with electronic service providers.

### *External security and defence*

In light of Europe's evolving security environment, the European Council will discuss the strengthening of EU cooperation on external security and defence and provide guidance. In particular, it will:

- call for the swift implementation of the common set of proposals [to be endorsed by the Council on 6 December 2016] to follow up the Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw by EU and NATO leaders, in particular on hybrid, maritime security, exercises and strategic communication;
- express itself on the upcoming Commission proposals on supporting European Defence;
- call on the High Representative and the Member States to rapidly implement the Council conclusions of 14 November, notably as regards a renewed commitment at national level to provide the resources required to respond to external threats and crises.

### **III. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, YOUTH**

The European Council will [welcome the agreement reached in the Council] on the amended EFSI regulation and call for its adoption in the first half of 2017.

It will briefly take stock of the implementation of the various Single Market Strategies, in view of the March 2017 European Council meeting.

The European Council will welcome the increased support for the Youth Employment Initiative (Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020) Mid-term Review/Revision) and call for work to be taken forward on the upcoming Commission proposals dedicated to youth, including a European Solidarity Corps.

### **IV. EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

p.m.: Netherlands/EU-Ukraine Association Agreement

---