



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 26 November 2018
(OR. en)

13436/18

LIMITE

CO EUR-PREP 50

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	European Council meeting (13 and 14 December 2018) – Draft guidelines for 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 guide the preparations for the draft European Council conclusions which will be submitted in one week.

At the start of the meeting, the Member of the European Council representing the Member State holding the six-monthly Presidency of the Council will provide an overview of progress on the implementation of earlier European Council conclusions.

I. MULTIANNUAL FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

The European Council welcomes the intensive preparatory work carried out during this semester on the future Multiannual Financial Framework and takes note of the Presidency's progress report. It calls on the incoming Presidency to continue that work and develop an orientation for the next stage of the negotiations, with a view to achieving an agreement on the negotiating box in the European Council in autumn 2019.

II. SINGLE MARKET

The European Council should send a strong signal on the importance of delivering on the Single Market agenda in all its dimensions and developing a forward-looking approach in a rapidly changing environment, on the basis of the following elements:

- a call on the European Parliament and the Council to agree before the end of the current legislature on as many pending proposals relevant for the Single Market as possible and a renewed pledge to implement and enforce decisions taken and rules adopted at all levels of government;
- the recognition that more needs to be done to ensure that the Single Market provides a solid underpinning for an outward-looking, confident and more autonomous European Union in a rapidly changing world;
- the need to adapt the Single Market to the digital age and an economy with a very high component of services and to strengthen the coherence with related policies like trade, industry, sustainability.

The European Council will have an in-depth discussion next spring on the future development of the Single Market with a view to the next Strategic Agenda.

III. MIGRATION

The European Council will return to the implementation of its comprehensive approach to migration, in accordance with its conclusions of June 2018.

IV. OTHER ITEMS

Disinformation

The spread of large scale disinformation is an acute challenge for our democratic systems.

The European Council is expected to:

- call for swift and decisive action at the European and national levels on securing free and fair European elections;
- stress the need for a determined response that is comprehensive and well coordinated, addressing the internal and external dimensions;
- [p.m. Joint Action Plan on disinformation to be presented by the Commission and the High Representative].

External relations

The European Council will discuss preparations for the upcoming summit with the League of Arab States on 24-25 February 2019.

In the light of events, the European Council may address other specific foreign policy issues.

Fight against racism and xenophobia

The European Council condemns any form of racism and xenophobia, including antisemitism. It welcomes the adoption of the 6 December 2018 Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe.

Citizens' Dialogues and Consultations and preparations for the Strategic Agenda

The European Council will be informed on the outcome of Citizens' Dialogues and Consultations and on preparations for the next Strategic Agenda.
