



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject: European Council (25 and 26 June 2015)
- 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.

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I. MIGRATION

In April 2015 the European Council took emergency measures to avert further loss of life, while providing orientations for the medium term. The European Council in June will take stock of their implementation. [p.m. reference to CSDP mission] Further to the Commission's European Agenda on Migration, which calls for developing a balanced, geographically comprehensive EU approach to migration, work must be carried forward on all the issues, in accordance with the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility. While all the dimensions of the migration policy constitute together the comprehensive strategy, the June European Council will focus more particularly on the following issues:

1. Relocation / resettlement

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2. Return policy

- Mobilise all tools to promote readmission of unauthorised economic migrants to countries of origin and transit:
 - develop implementing rules for readmission commitments under Cotonou;
 - speed up the negotiation of readmission agreements with the most relevant third countries;
 - launch new negotiations with third countries (not only frontline);
 - Commission to propose negotiating directives for readmission agreements with key countries of origin for irregular migrants in Sub-Saharan Africa;
 - monitor the implementation of the Return Directive by Member States;
 - reinforce the role and means of Frontex on return;
 - increase transparency on bilateral readmission agreements entered into by the Member States;
 - provide EU assistance to implement readmission agreements, in particular by using development policy tools to reinforce local capacity-building, programmes for the voluntary return of nationals, assistance/help to create employment in the countries of origin, and clauses to encourage ODA contractors to employ refugees;

- develop incentives for partner countries to conclude readmission and return agreements by operationalising the commitments set out in trade agreements regarding the temporary presence of persons for the provision of services;
- further mobilise the EU's asylum and migration fund in support to our return policy.

3. Valletta Conference

- The Valletta Conference should help reinforce cooperation with the countries of origin and transit in Africa on stemming the flows of irregular migrants.
- It will also look at:
 - a better targeting of development cooperation to address the root causes of migration, as well as providing economic and social opportunities for prospective migrants and returnees in countries of origin;
 - additional means to enhance investment in Africa;
 - assistance to partner countries in their fight against smugglers.

The ongoing review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) should also assess how the Neighbourhood instruments can be further targeted to tackle irregular migration.

II. SECURITY CHALLENGES

In recent years, and since the beginning of the year in particular, the European Council has been active in addressing the security challenges facing today's European Union. The current threats are both internal and external and cover a multitude of areas. In the follow-up to European Council orientations, the Commission, the Council and the High Representative have been working intensively to address these challenges. On the basis of that work, the European Council will focus on the issues on which further work is required and, where appropriate, it will provide additional orientations:

1. Security and defence

- Europe's security environment has changed dramatically, with conflicts and instability at its borders in the South and in the East, as well as the emergence of new types of security challenges.
- This calls for a review of the European Security strategy, which the EU and its Member States should underpin with the resources and capabilities required to face these responsibilities, in line with EU collective benchmarks from 2007.
- The EU should focus on areas where it can bring strong added value.
- The European Council will keep security and defence policy regularly on its agenda.

2. Fight against terrorism

The European Council is to take stock of the work on-going in the area of internal security, in particular as regards progress made in the implementation of measures in the fight against terrorism.

III. ECONOMIC ISSUES

1. European Semester

The European Council is expected to conclude the 2015 European Semester by endorsing the Country Specific Recommendations and calling for their implementation.

The European Council will also take stock of the state of play concerning TTIP.

[p.m. EFSI]

2. Digital Agenda

The European Council is expected to:

- call for the rapid adoption of pending legislation such as the European Single Market for Electronic Communications and the Directive on Network and Information Security;
- recall the need to adopt the proposal for a Regulation on Data Protection by the end of this year [and welcomes the general approach reached by the June JHA Council (tbc)];
- stress the importance of taking action on key components to realise the digital single market on the basis of the Commission Communication, notably:
 - remove the remaining barriers to the free circulation of goods and services sold on-line, including through legislative proposals, i.a. to facilitate cross-border e-commerce and to tackle unjustified discrimination on the grounds of geographic location;
 - guarantee the portability and facilitate cross-border access to online material protected by copyright, and help creative industries to thrive in a digital context;
 - identify and deliver rapidly on the key ICT standardisation priorities;
 - assess the role of on-line platforms and intermediaries;
 - pursue an ambitious reform of the telecommunications framework, including a more efficient spectrum coordination.

The European Council will come back to these issues in December 2015 and thereafter regularly as required.

3. **Report by the President of the Commission, in close cooperation with the President of the Euro Summit, the President of the Euro Group and the President of the European Central Bank on better economic governance in the euro area**

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IV. UK

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