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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
Subject: European Council (25 and 26 June 2015)
- Draft conclusions

In accordance with Article 2(3)(a) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, delegations will find attached the draft conclusions prepared by the President of the European Council, in close cooperation with the member of the European Council representing the Member State holding the six-monthly Presidency of the Council and with the President of the Commission.

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I. MIGRATION

1. Europe needs a balanced and geographically comprehensive approach to migration, based on solidarity and responsibility. Following the decisions taken by the European Council last April, concrete measures have been taken to prevent further loss of life at sea, to find new ways of confronting smugglers and to intensify cooperation with countries of origin and transit. The launch of the EUNAVFOR MED mission, decided on 22 June by the Council, is an important contribution in this respect.
2. Further to the Commission's European Agenda on Migration, work should be taken forward on all dimensions of a comprehensive approach.
3. Wider efforts are required to better contain the growing flows of illegal migration. Today, the European Council focused on three key dimensions which must be advanced hand-in-hand: relocation/resettlement, return/readmission/reintegration and cooperation with countries of origin and transit. The Council will regularly assess progress in all three strands.

Relocation/ resettlement

4. In the light of the current emergency situation and of our commitment to reinforce solidarity and responsibility, and in line with its April decisions, the European Council agreed on the following:
 - a) the relocation over two years from Italy and Greece to other Member States of 40.000 persons in clear need of temporary protection;
 - b) the rapid adoption by the Council of a Decision setting up a temporary and exceptional mechanism to this effect; to that end, all Member States will agree by the end of July on the distribution of such persons;

- c) the setting up of structured border zones and facilities in the frontline Member States, with the active support of Member States' experts and of EASO, Frontex and Europol to ensure the swift identification, registration and fingerprinting of migrants ("hotspots");
- d) the immediate provision of enhanced financial assistance to the frontline Member States to help alleviate the costs of receiving and processing applications for temporary protection;
- e) the principle that all Member States will participate in the resettling of 20.000 displaced persons in clear need of international protection.

Return/readmission/reintegration

- 5. Effective return, readmission and reintegration policies for those not qualifying for protection are an essential part of combating illegal migration and will help discourage people from risking their lives. All tools shall be mobilised to promote readmission of illegal migrants to countries of origin and transit, building on the ideas presented by the Commission at the Council on 16 June¹. In particular:
 - a) the Commission will ensure that readmission commitments are implemented effectively as soon as possible, notably those under the Cotonou Agreement, and that ongoing negotiations on readmission agreements are accelerated and concluded as soon as possible, while new negotiations will be launched with other third countries;

¹ (doc./15)

- b) building on the "more-for-more" principle, EU assistance and policies will be used to create incentives for concluding and implementing readmission agreements. Commitments set out in trade agreements regarding the temporary presence of persons for the provision of services should be used as an incentive to conclude readmission agreements; development policy tools should reinforce local capacity-building, including for border control, asylum, counter-smuggling and reintegration;
- c) Member States will fully implement the Return Directive, making full use of all measures it provides to ensure the swift return of illegal migrants; return decisions issued by the Member States will be introduced in the Schengen Information System;
- d) the Commission will set out by July 2015 how Frontex will bring immediate support to frontline States on return. The Commission has announced its intention to propose to amend the Frontex Regulation to strengthen the role of Frontex in return, notably so that it can initiate return missions;
- e) in order to accelerate the treatment of asylum claims, the Commission will set out by July 2015 measures to be taken to use EASO to bring together the implementation of the "safe country of origin" provisions in the Asylum Procedures Directive. The Commission has indicated its intention to strengthen the "safe country of origin" provisions in the Asylum Procedures Directive, including the possible establishment of a common EU list of safe countries of origin;
- f) adequate means will rapidly be made available in support of an effective EU return policy; furthermore, the Commission is invited to make proposals in this respect in the context of the 2016 EU budget.

Cooperation with countries of origin and transit / Valletta Conference

6. It is crucial to reinforce our overall cooperation with countries of origin and transit, both on stemming the flows of illegal migrants and on tackling the root causes of migration so as to reduce the incentives for illegal migration and to combat the smuggling networks. Development assistance will play an important role in this respect.
7. A true partnership between European and African countries, working together to tackle illegal migration in an integrated way, is essential. The Valletta Conference will seek in particular to achieve, together with the African partners:
 - a) assistance to partner countries in their fight against smugglers;
 - b) a strengthened cooperation on an effective return policy;
 - c) better targeting of development cooperation and enhancing investments in Africa to address the root causes of migration, as well as providing economic and social opportunities.
8. The EU will also step up its cooperation with Turkey and the relevant countries in the Middle East (notably Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon).

II. SECURITY

9. Europe's security environment has changed dramatically. This requires action in three interconnected areas:
 - a) further to the Commission's "European Agenda on Security" and the Council conclusions of 16 June 2015, work will be taken forward on the renewed European Union Internal Security Strategy; full implementation of the orientations on the fight against terrorism agreed at the February 2015 meeting remains a priority;

- b) the High Representative will continue the process of strategic reflection with a view to preparing an EU global strategy on foreign and security policy in close cooperation with Member States, to be submitted to the European Council by June 2016;
- c) in line with the European Council conclusions of December 2013 and the Council conclusions of 18 May 2015, work will continue on a more effective, visible and result-oriented CSDP, the further development of both civilian and military capabilities, and the strengthening of Europe's defence industry. The European Council recalls the need for:
 - the Member States to allocate a sufficient level of expenditure for defence;
 - the EU budget to ensure appropriate funding for the preparatory action on CSDP-related research, paving the way for a possible future defence research and technology programme;
 - fostering greater and more systematic European defence cooperation to deliver key capabilities, including through EU funds;
 - mobilising EU instruments to help counter hybrid threats;
 - intensifying partnerships, namely with the UN, NATO, OSCE and AU;
 - empowering and enabling partners to prevent and manage crises, including through capacity building with a flexible geographic scope.

The European Council will keep security and defence policy regularly on its agenda.

III. JOBS, GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS

10. The European Council concluded the 2015 European Semester by generally endorsing the Country Specific Recommendations and calling for their implementation. The European Council welcomed the agreement reached on the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and called for its rapid implementation.
11. Digital technologies bring immense opportunities for innovation, growth and jobs. In order to benefit fully from this technological revolution, we need to tackle market fragmentation, build supporting infrastructure, help the digitisation of industry, create conditions to facilitate growth in all sectors and protect our citizens. While emphasising the importance of all dimensions of the Commission's strategy and pursuing an ambitious reform of the telecommunications framework, including more effective EU-level spectrum coordination while respecting national competences, the European Council agreed that:
 - a) the Telecommunications Single Market Regulation and the Directive on Network and Information Security must be rapidly adopted; the Data Protection package must be adopted by the end of this year;
 - b) action must be taken on key components of the Commission communication, notably:
 - remove the remaining barriers to the free circulation of goods and services sold on-line and 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;
 - ensure effective investment instruments and improve the innovation climate, targeting in particular SMEs and start-ups;
 - identify and deliver rapidly on the key ICT standardisation priorities;
 - assess the role of on-line platforms and intermediaries.

12. [p.m. 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]

IV. UK

[p.m.]
