



European Council

**Berlin, 6 December 2016  
(OR.en)**

**EUCO 35/16**

**CO EUR 4  
DECL 3**

**COVER NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	European Council Meeting (30 November – 1 December 2016) - Berlin Declaration -

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Delegations will find attached the Declaration adopted by the European Council at the above meeting.

## **The Berlin Declaration**

Today we meet in Berlin to discuss the Future of the European Idea. We all agreed on the following principles:

### **About the future of the European idea concerning the relationship of the UK and the EU:**

While the UK is leaving the European Union it is not neglecting the European idea. We all share a common culture and values as well as a strong friendship built on a long history. The UK is still a part of Europe and will continue close cooperation on various fields:

1. Security/Peacekeeping: The main principle the European Union was built upon, peacekeeping, will remain the first priority in Europe. The UK will continue to defend the values of the European states inside and outside of Europe on a military level especially in the field of fighting terrorism.
2. Economy: However the concrete trade relationship will look like in the future, the UK and the EU will aim to continue economic cooperation as close as possible.
3. Migration/Travel: Even though the UK does not wish to continue with the free movement of people, it still aims to uphold a convenient migration policy between the UK and the member states of the EU for each side. The UK is also aware of our international responsibilities especially concerning humanitarian crisis like the civil war in Syria. However the UK wants to take care about these problems through national politics.

Facing tremendous global challenges in the future the UK and the EU support the idea of a strong and unified Europe beyond the EU membership. These goals stand independently from structural changes and the concrete outcome of the negotiations about Brexit.

### **Publicity and Parliament**

Since 1989 the participation in Europe in some countries, like Greece, Ireland and Italy was crucially under 10 %. This is obviously an effect of the lack of transparency that the Union provides and that's why we should also focus on reforming some European institutions.

*How can we make voting meaningful again?*

By enhancing the powers of the Parliament

We acknowledge the importance of reforming the structure of the Parliament, but we see that this cannot be reached in a glance; therefore we suggest the following two year plan for fostering EU's publicity through:

- a) Promote education on the EU through fundings in the communes
    - School projects for the European Union
    - A similarity to Erasmus open for students in the grades from 7 to 12
- this has to be available for all forms of schools [e.g not only the Gymnasium in Germany]

- b) On a supranational level the introduction of EU Media
  - Present candidates of the European Parties
  - App for Monthly Report for the citizens of Europe
  - what has been changed and what will come up for the Union citizens
  - Major advertising efforts of the EU through online campaign such have to be available for individuals
  - As free Interrail already exists for 18 year olds in the EU, a creation of an Interrail pass for seniors, who tend to be more euroskeptic has to be adopted
- c) Direct civil initiatives in the European Union
  - Change the system to participate in handing in initiatives for a legal act to Commission
  - Transparency for treaties in European Media, so that people can refer and understand what is going on behind closed doors

### **Let's Work Globally**

Due to the increasingly economic immigration, high unemployment rate in EU, and the widening gap between the status of worker in the EU and across the world, we propose guidelines for further regulation:

1. Each European institution will be in 5 years allowed to buy goods and services only from the countries that fulfill at least minimal standards of EU regarding working conditions,
2. Each member's state public institution will be in 7 years allowed to buy goods and services only from the countries that fulfill at least minimal standards of EU regarding working conditions,
3. Possible expenditures in connection with further regulation will be by 50% subside form EU budget,
4. EU will endeavor to develop instruments and good working conditions for producing goods and sales which will be affected at beginning due regulation in question.

#### **Explanation:**

In past few years EU is facing huge immigration's issues, which caused also others nowadays big problems of EU, especially rapidly raising nationalism.

Regarding refugee crisis we are of opinion that refugees are essentially not the biggest problem, namely economic immigrants.

Why do people want to immigrate to EU? Firstly, because we have developed in recent 50 years quite good working conditions, and secondly, working conditions especially in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, South America are really bad.

We are arguing every moment about human rights, good working conditions what helps us that, if we buy most of products from the businesses or authorities who are violating human rights, we are actually supporting human rights violations. In addition, with the presence of the current media with everyone connected via the internet, most humans recognize their mistreated position. This is a good development, however, it also comes to the outcome that there are a lot of economic immigrants that cause a lot of additionally costs. Therefore we should take action with our own policy where we actually invest by obligating sufficient labour and human rights if we want to assign a job. By doing so human rights can be improved in a way where the money goes directly to the people themselves. Regarding budgetary fears, we can say that investing with this, less development aid will be necessary. We will also not be funding countries, but the people directly.

#### **Pros:**

- Less economic immigration (if the working conditions will be better abroad there won't be so much economic immigration)
- Lower rate of unemployment
- Protecting human rights

Cons:

- Damage for international relationships
- Higher costs at beginning

**Regarding Security:**

The creation of a European Information Agency, that should work in cooperation with all the National Information Agencies in order to prevent terrorist attacks more successfully and in order to work more efficiently on forestalling any kind of suspicious activity from forces and governments outside the EU.

**Regarding the Border Controls:**

- o Develop European financial tools that can provide sufficient funds for the long-term challenges it faces,
  - to build effective border and asylum agencies
  - and ensure dignified reception conditions, fair asylum procedures, and opportunities for integration
- o Build common European mechanisms for protecting borders and determining asylum claims
- o Continue the progress with the European Border and Coast Guard
- o Further support existing structures providing refugee aid in both Member States and third countries

Done at Berlin on the 1 day of December in the year two thousand and sixteen.

For the Republic of Austria



For the Kingdom of Belgium



For the Republic of Cyprus



For the Czech Republic



For the Kingdom of Denmark



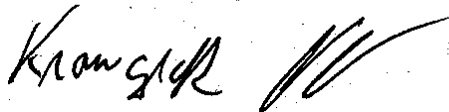
For the Republic of Estonia



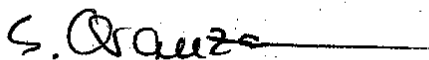
For the Republic of Finland



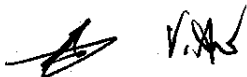
For the French Republic



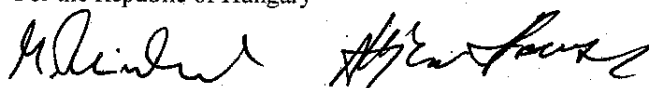
For the Federal Republic of Germany



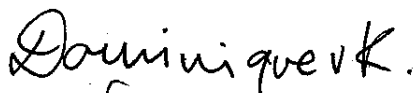
For the Hellenic Republic



For the Republic of Hungary



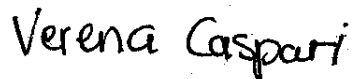
For the Republic of Ireland



For the Italian Republic



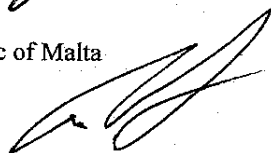
For the Republic of Latvia



For the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



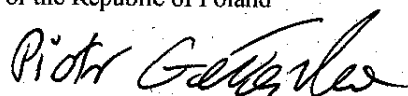
For the Republic of Malta



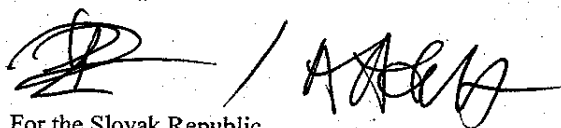
For the Kingdom of the Netherlands



For the Republic of Poland



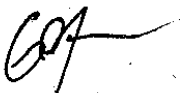
For Romania



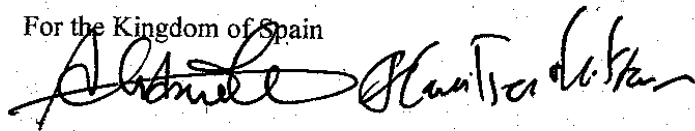
For the Slovak Republic



For the Republic of Slovenia



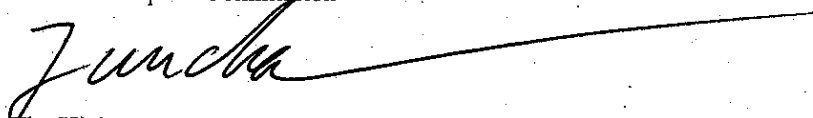
For the Kingdom of Spain



For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and  
Northern Ireland



For the European Commission



The High Representative of the European  
Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy

