

EUCO 6/19

CO EUR 4  
DECL 3

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Informal European Council Meeting (22 – 23 January 2019) - Berlin Declaration -

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

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## **The Berlin Declaration**

### **I. European Integration**

The Member States reinstate their support for European values as laid out in the Lisbon Treaty and the EU Charter of Human Rights, and decide to remain active upon implementing them, through further support of education of the youth and through facilitating the work of the European Court of Justice in cases of their violation.

The Union is committed to move towards integrating third countries who are willing to join as Member States and working to make this possible. We encourage and support the integration into the European Union system not only through direct enlargement but also through our European Neighbourhood policy and Association Agreements which are the first steps of convergence for such regions as Western Balkans, Eastern European Countries and other countries which are willing to cooperate. Such enlargement shall abide by the Copenhagen Criteria of 1993.

Careful not to limit the possibility of even further enlargement, the Union especially acknowledges its partners in the Western Balkans and expresses its determination to welcome them into the Union. In order to facilitate this process, we aim to provide more institutional help to promote progress in the areas of democracy, anti-corruption, rule of law as well as more financial help to strengthen free market economy and infrastructure of these countries.

### **II. Security**

#### **1. Border Security**

In the face of ongoing humanitarian crises and wars, particularly in the Middle East and Africa, the Union calls on its Member States to support aid programs and UN peacekeeping missions so as to decrease the pressure of migration into the Union. We furthermore state with resolve that the Migration Pact with Turkey must be upheld and that the conditions of refugees in Turkey ought to be improved. We also want to strengthen FRONTEX by pledging further funding to the organisation whilst simultaneously supporting Member States that protect their own borders, in order to uphold the Schengen area and keep the freedom of movement within the EU as unlimited as possible.

#### **2. Migration**

Seeing as migration is a multifaceted issue, a multifaceted approach is of high importance. The Union commits to the humanitarian standards manifested in the Geneva Convention from 1949.

Preliminary measures should firstly include methods of stemming the migrant influx in the home countries. This can be achieved first through establishing cooperation pacts with the home countries, in which they will be aided with logistics and infrastructure, under the supervision of the EU. Additionally, humanitarian aid will be provided to further aid in relieving the home countries in form of refugee shelters and aid centres outside the EU. Lastly, we plan on establishing further agreements with transit countries (such as the one between Greece and Turkey) in order to relieve countries of entry.

Furthermore, we aim to stem the influx of migrants through better control of border security and the migration routes. This shall be achieved not only by a long-term strengthening of the European Border and Coast Guard EUCO 6/19

Agency FRONTEX but also through the already existing cooperation agreement between the EU and the NATO (2018) in developing our border control through common exercises.

Preparation for emergency situations is of paramount importance. We aim to establish an EU Migration Emergency Fund to be used in the form of emergency support packages (as decided by the European Commission), consisting of logistical and monetary support.

Member states in the borders of the EU shall receive logistical support in updating their asylum application infrastructure, in order to process applications faster and more effectively.

We call for a review of the current refugee distribution procedure and the establishment of a voluntary Resettlement Network monitored by the European Commission, with the goal of facilitating the redistribution of refugees in order to relieve Member States who serve as entry points for refugees seeking asylum in the Union.

### **3. EU Defense**

The European Council recognizes the gravity of the impending threat of foreign aggression on sovereign nations, particularly the Baltic countries. Member States should aim to be prepared to cooperate militarily in cases of illegal foreign intervention into EU states. In addition, we encourage more voluntary investment in high-technology systems and the national defence industry. A strategic EU framework consisting of the European Defence Strategy (2003) and Common Security and Defence Policy should continue playing an instrumental role in guiding Member States in their EU Defence Policy. Furthermore, the European Union aims to harmonize the standards in the military industry to enable a European defence system to work properly.

Apart from those strategies we should not discount the importance of the soft power of the EU which is reflected in the EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy (EGP) which emphasizes forming new partnerships, including with the UK and with new countries. Special emphasis should also be put on further developing and improving existing cooperation with countries currently in accession talks in the Western Balkans and those recognized as official candidates.

Furthermore, measures should be taken towards the establishment of a cooperative body which will simplify the management and implementation of the common Defense Policy and act as partner of NATO. The European Union, acknowledging the role of armed forces in a nation's sovereignty, the right of Member States to upkeep and establish voluntarily, national armed forces shall not be infringed.

Countries with an opt-out from the Common Security and Defence Policy are not affected by anything decided in this area, as mentioned in the protocol of the Treaty of Amsterdam.

### **4. Cyber Security**

Cyber threats are one of the three main concerns of the EU outlined in 2015 by the European Agenda on Security. In face of this, the member states will strengthen the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security and turn it into a European Cyber Defence Centre. This European agency shall specialise on coordinating existing national agencies and build its own cyber defence capabilities. It shall also provide a European cyber emergency response team. In the long term, the agency shall also develop offensive cyber capabilities. Transnational cyber exercises and security tests for public and private institutions should be organized and implemented by all the EU-members. The existing Network and Information Security Directive

(NIS) should be further implemented by member states in order to create a viable cyber security system within the EU.

As members of the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) and as an EU for all the people we will support the international community by strengthening their cyber security. When the EU has strengthened its own cyber security, it gives us the future possibility to let other states cooperate with the European Cyber Defense Centre.

In regard to big data, we demand from international enterprises that they keep data about EU citizens on EU grounds and comply with the GDPR and the right to be forgotten, and with the latest cryptography standards, so as to avoid data leakages. We strongly advocate for this to be taken into consideration as a law project, EU-wide. In addition, we support the voluntary development of a GoSwift border management system to allow countries to better organise the crossing management.

## **5. Foreign Relations**

In the face of growing international disunity and the erosion of international cooperation, the Union aims to become more self-reliant. It is the Union's stated goal to be a world leader in matters of peace, democracy, and human rights, as well as technological advancement, free trade, and the overall improvement of the lives of our citizens.

## **III. Economics**

### **1. Future Development of European Economic Policy**

The overcoming of a fragmented economic policy, together with the further implementation and enlargement of the Eurozone, is of primary importance. Therefore, the next necessary step is to merge the different fiscal policies of the member countries into a common European one. The principal measures to introduce are:

1. The extension of the tasks of the European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs and the Euro, turning into de facto a European Minister of Economics and Finance. The Minister will act under the subsidiarity principle, recognizing the precedence of the Ministers and policies of the individual European Countries. The purpose of the Minister is:
  - a) to pursue the general interest of the EU in regard to economy and to represent it on a global level
  - b) to strengthen policy coordination and overseas implementation of economic, fiscal and financial rules
  - c) to make proposals on adequate fiscal policy for the euro area, in support of the European monetary policy. Decisions on such policy should take into account the negotiations on the next Multiannual financial framework. Resources would come from both national contributions, allocation of tax revenues and European resources. The Eurozone budget would further be defined on a pluriannual basis. The purpose of the Eurozone budget is competitiveness and convergence, which would be delivered through investment in innovation and human capital. It could finance new investments and come in substitution of national spending.
  - d) to oversee the use of the EU area budgetary instruments including support for structural reforms, macroeconomic stabilization and convergence.
2. Reassuring the commitment to establish a single market for the energy and defense industry previously brought forward by the European Commission.

3. Strengthening of the social dimension of the economic integration process within the Union with the aim of linking economic growth with social prosperity and overcoming the North-South dichotomy.
4. Including an Opt-out measure for countries not part of the monetary union (EMU). EU Members who are not fully part of the monetary union or are part of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism can decide to Opt-Out of any of the measures or clauses proposed by this resolution. The countries included for Opt-Out measures must at a minimum include the Kingdom of Denmark and Sweden and the sponsors of this Amendment. In time of writing these countries are Sweden and Estonia.
5. Legal Definition of an Opt-Out: Opt-out clause refers to a clause that is contained in many arbitration agreements that allows the consumers to reject the unacceptable terms of an arbitration agreement within a permitted time frame by keeping the other terms of the agreement intact.

## **2. Future Trade Cooperation**

The EU will expand the economic framework not just with the United Kingdom, but also our transatlantic allies and our partners in the east. In a world full of isolationism, the Union must stand on the forefront of free and fair Trade. This can happen through multilateral trade deals such as a Transatlantic Trade Partnership.

The declaration is making clear that the social impacts of free trade must be considered and that trade deal negotiations must be transparent for every European citizen within reason.

The issue of the British territories Gibraltar, Akrotiri, and Dhekelia are important to the Union and will be subject of the next informal meeting.

## **3. Digitalization**

The new EU agenda for digitalisation shall include the promotion, subsidisation and funding of both modern, future-proof digital infrastructure, and projects which allow citizens of the member states to make use of state and EU services online (e-government). This will lay the foundation for the future success of European businesses worldwide.

Besides the efforts being made in the digital single market strategies, we reiterate to further develop the single digital gateway strategy which provides a single point of access for access to information, procedures and assistance services online. We further urge the related administrative institutions to digitalise administrative processes such as but not limited to: registering businesses, accountancy, etc.

In addition, we call for a common strategy on Artificial Intelligence, and support for battery cell development and production in the EU.

## **IV. Climate Change**

The EU upholds their dedication to the Paris Agreement. Member states commit to implement and to intensify global action in order to limit the average global temperature rise to 1.5°C above the pre-industrial baseline. As the goal is to act in accordance with the targets agreed upon during the COP21, the EU will obligate itself to a CO2-Reduction of 55% until 2030 compared to 1990 levels. Also, the EU will establish a joint high-level inter-ministerial working group on climate change meeting four times a year to intensify cooperation in this cross-cutting area.



For the French Republic



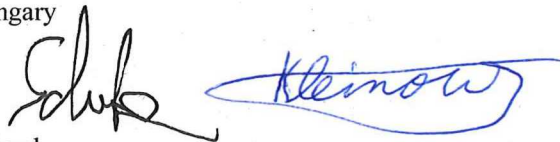
For the Federal Republic of Germany



For the Hellenic Republic



For the Republic of Hungary



For the Republic of Ireland



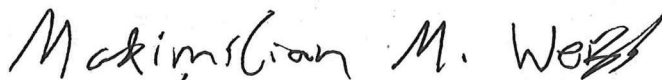
For the Italian Republic



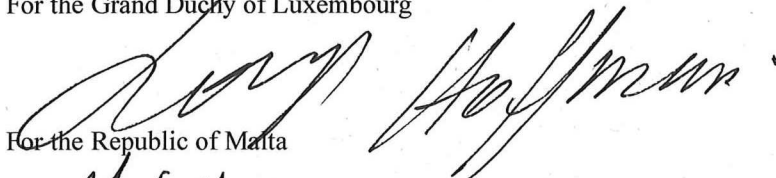
For the Republic of Latvia



For the Republic of Lithuania



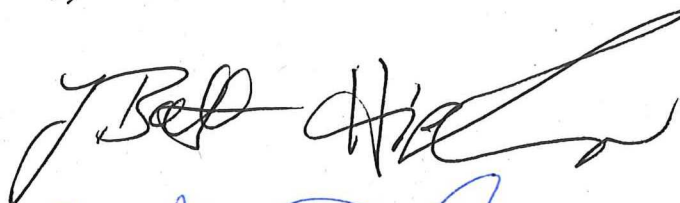
For the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



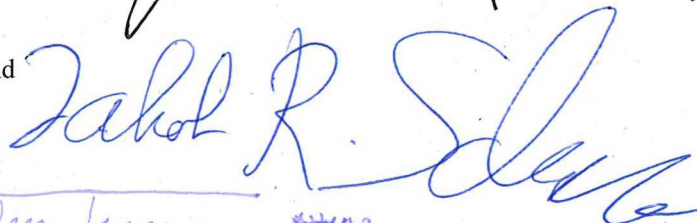
For the Republic of Malta



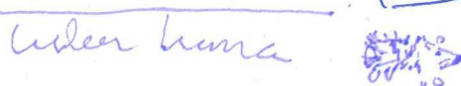
For the Kingdom of the Netherlands



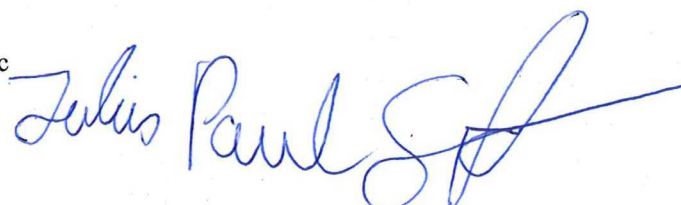
For the Republic of Poland



For Romania



For the Slovak Republic



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For the Republic of Slovenia



For the Kingdom of Spain



For the Kingdom of Sweden



The President of the European Commission



The President of the European Council

