



OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS (Fall 2023 – SUNY Model European Union)

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Special meeting of the European Council (4 November 2023)
-Conclusions

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

Partnership between the African Union and the European Union

I. WORKING TOGETHER FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES

1. The AU and EU need to work together to ensure more sustainable farming practices in African countries and provide an outlet for sustainable products in the EU market. The EU should also phase out import tariffs within the next 10 years on foodstuffs from African countries. Finally, the EU should work with the AU in supporting efforts to strengthen regional supply chains to increase intra-Africa trade in foodstuffs and fertilisers. The Commission is asked to develop a plan to build a permanent EU corps of sustainable farming experts to be situated in EU and Member State offices/embassies throughout Africa. Netherlands, France, Germany pledged to provide experts.

II. CLIMATE CHANGE

At the 27th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27), the EU led the way for agreement to a 'loss and damage' (L&D) fund to compensate developing countries suffering from climate change damage. The EU now needs to take leadership in the UN to ensure that this fund is developed and that the developed countries pay their fair share into this fund. Agreement within the EU must be reached prior to the COP 28, which will take place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023. Therefore, we expect EU environment ministers (Environmental Council) and EU finance ministers (EcoFin) to present a plan for establish a financial mechanism with the AU to assist AU Member States with meeting targets for reducing GHG emissions. 30 Billion Euro in Member State contributions shall be distributed over a 10 year period to develop renewable energy in cooperating AU partner states.

III. DEBT CANCELLATION

The multiple crises African countries have faced in recent years has created untenable debt in many countries. The EU should work with the IMF to arrange debt cancellation. States must ensure a balanced budget to qualify for cancellation.

IV. THE EUROPEAN PEACE FACILITY

Most of the funds from The European Peace Facility (EPF) have been expended to support Ukraine's repulsion of Russia's aggression, leaving minimal funds to assist African countries to deal with conflicts on their continent. The FAC should raise the EPF ceiling from 5.69 billion (2021-2027 period) to 10 billion, with annual ceilings raised accordingly.

V. GLOBAL GATEWAY PROGRAMME

The EU needs to find creative ways to increase its Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package and the EU-Africa Green Energy Initiative. The GGP is inadequate compared to China's Belt and Road initiative, which is investing tens of billions of euros

in Africa. The Commission is requested to consider options for increasing financing for Global Gateway Projects, working directly with the AU in full partnership.

VI. LINKING AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN YOUTH

There have been occasional Africa-Europe Youth Summits planned as part of the AU-EU efforts to build people-to-people links. This summit should become an annual event that is hosted alternatively in an EU and AU city. Funding can be allocated from an existing EU programme to provide scholarships for youth participation. The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) is asked to issue a Call for Proposals (CFP) for an INGO to develop and manage this event. The program once established must ensure that participating countries meet high standards for free expression and safety.

VII. INNOVATIVE MIGRATION OPPORTUNITIES

Establish a 'diversity lottery' for asylum seekers from AU Member States to receive permanent resident status. This lottery will include nationals of those AU Member States that have negotiated return agreements with the EU to accept the return of irregular migrants. Asylum seekers granted such status by lottery shall be capped at 500,000 migrants, to be distributed as follows: France, 20% Spain, 20% Italy 20% Germany, 30% Ireland, 10% to the remaining Member States.

VIII. TRADE ASSISTANCE

The EU should support the removal of tariffs on textiles and garments manufactured in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The factories must be under either African or European ownership and have fair working conditions. The Commission is directed to deliver a White Paper assessing whether this is doable within WTO rules for developing countries and provide a schedule for decreasing tariffs over a 20-year period.

IX. THE AFRICAN UNION IN THE UN SYSTEM

The EU should support providing the AU its own voice in the UN system, including AU observer status in the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council, and the World Trade Organization (WTO). The High Representative is directed to prepare a report to the UN advocating for AU's recognition in the UN system.

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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Council Conclusions on the Israel-Hamas Conflict and Ukraine's
Candidacy to the European Union

Delegations will find attached the Council Conclusions on the Israel-Hamas Conflict and Laying the Foundation for Opening up Accession Talks with Ukraine

I. EU Condemns the Hamas Attack on Israel

The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms the multiple and indiscriminate attacks across Israel by Hamas and deeply deplores the loss of lives.

The EU calls for an immediate cessation of these senseless attacks and violence, which will only further increase tensions on the ground and seriously undermine Palestinian people's aspirations for peace.

The EU stands in solidarity with Israel, which has the right to defend itself in line with international law, in the face of such violent and indiscriminate attacks.

The EU reiterates its condemnation of acts of terrorism and its unwavering commitment to Israel's security, as well as to the protection of civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The EU recalls the importance of working towards a lasting and sustainable peace through reinvigorated efforts in the Middle East Peace Process.

The EU reiterates that we live in a multipolar world and the EU has a special responsibility, a special role to play in this new global order.

1. No substantial progress has been made in achieving the Two-State Solution, including a viable sovereign independent and contiguous Palestinian state based on the 4 June 1967 lines. Signed agreements, including the 1993 Oslo Peace Accords – which itself was anticipated as a temporary measure to provide space for negotiations for a permanent agreement – have not been honored. On 18 September 2023, the EU, Saudi Arabia, the League of Arab States, Republic of Egypt, and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan launched a ‘Peace Day Effort’ on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. ‘Peace Day’ refers to the day when the parties reach a peace agreement based on the Two-State Solution. This represents a new and promising approach to encouraging Israel and Palestine to agree to a permanent Two-State solution. Considering the attack by Hamas on Israel that took place in October 2023, the European Council directs the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/VP of the Commission and the EEAS’s Special Envoy for the Middle East Peace Process to act urgently to prepare a proposal for an EU incentive package to encourage the Palestinian Authority and Israel to re-engage in the peace process.

2. Considering recent hostilities between Hamas and Israel, the European Council urges the parties to act urgently to accelerate negotiations for the ‘Peace Supporting Package’, which the parties agreed to be presented no later than September 2024. This includes medical, food/water, electrical supplies such as generators, and fuel for hospitals and power dependent infrastructure. The EU has pledged an unprecedented package of political, security, and economic support to both Israel and Palestine upon reaching a peace deal. The European Council hereby directs the European Commission, led by the High Representative/VP of the Commission, to present a detailed package to both parties, including liberalizing trade, visa normalization, and financial packages that would come into immediate effect after ‘Peace Day’.

3. Because achieving peace between the two parties is predicated on accepting the Two-State Solution with Jerusalem the capital of both Israel and Palestine, the European Council urges Israel to immediately end its illegal settlement activities, land confiscation, and house evictions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Failure to act fuels violence and casualties.

4. The European Commission should engage in a program to better educate the European public about the need for a Two-State Solution. As part of this process, the EU should create a programme to improve European/Israeli/Palestinian people-to-people links among students, business leaders, journalists, and government officials. This includes EU support for state level, and local religious based education programs.

5. The EU should strengthen its efforts to combat antisemitism and foster Jewish life in Europe. To this end, the European Commission is asked to continue progress in meeting the goals of the Working Groups on the Implementation of the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life. Additionally, the EU should promote policies that protect the rights of people practicing Islam inside the European Union. This is especially important considering the recent rise in violence against Islamic populations. EU Member States are urged to adopt organizational, national, and locally-ran strategies for combating antisemitism and islamophobia inside their respective countries.

6. The EU has been very generous in its support of Palestinians. The EU will cut off all economic aid (aside from the Medical/food/electrical aid mentioned in Recommendation #1) to Palestinians unless two conditions are met: a) all hostages taken by Hamas in its October 2023 attack on Israel are freed, and b) it can be determined that no EU funding indirectly enables any terrorist organization to carry out attacks against Israel.

7. Any funding required for humanitarian efforts will be provided via a eurobond issue.

II. Ukraine's Candidate Status for EU Membership

1. Within the framework of the Spanish presidency of the Council of the EU, the heads of government met on 6 October 2023 in Granada, Spain to discuss the prospect of a possible enlargement of the EU. Enlargement is a geo-strategic investment in peace, security, stability, and prosperity. It is a driver for improving the economic and social conditions of European citizens, reducing disparities between countries, and must foster the values on which the Union is founded. Looking ahead to the prospect of a further enlarged Union, both the EU and future Member States need to be ready. On 28 February 2022, Ukraine applied for EU membership. On 17 June 2022, the European Commission issued its opinion on the application for EU membership. On 23 June 2022, the European Council granted candidate status to Ukraine. The European Council invited the European Commission to report to the Council on the fulfillment of the conditions specified in the Commission's opinion on the membership application as part of the Commission's regular enlargement package. At the 9 February 2023 special meeting of the European Council, we acknowledged the considerable efforts that Ukraine has demonstrated in recent months towards meeting the objectives underpinning its candidate status for EU membership. The European Council reiterates that Ukraine's future lies within the European Union. Ukraine has made substantial progress toward meeting the requirements as laid out in the Commission's Opinion on Ukraine's application for members of the European Union.

2. A precondition for opening negotiations with Ukraine will be the conduct of a free and fair presidential election in spring 2024.

3. International monitors must be welcomed into Ukraine and certify that elections were free, fair, and inclusive.

4. Ukraine should explore online voting to ensure Ukrainian citizens living in Russian occupied territories can vote without retribution from the Russian occupying forces. This

online voting system should also include all voting eligible Ukrainians within and outside sovereign Ukraine. The European Commission will provide funding to ensure the necessary infrastructure for safe and secure online voting.

5. The winner of the presidential election should form a national unity government in their cabinet, which would ideally include members of the principal opposition parties.

6. The Commission is charged with monitoring these conditions.

7. The Commission is charged with submitting a report to the European Council no later than one month after spring 2024 elections with a recommendation whether to open candidacy talks. The Commission should be specific as to which of the 35 chapters should be prioritized before opening negotiations. The Commission should place special emphasis on the inclusion of Russian speaking Ukrainians into wider Ukrainian government and society.