**Follow-up to European Council conclusions**

**European Council of 28 June 2016**

*(version of 13 September 2016)*

*This document reviews the tasks which the European Council has set out in its conclusions (doc. EUCO 26/16). It includes steps towards implementation of the tasks, as well as the actors involved. It is updated as and when progress is made on implementation.*

*A first version of this document, dated 6 July 2016, was presented to Coreper II on 7 July 2016.*

*This version includes progress made on the implementation of tasks up to 13 September 2016.*

*At its meeting on 28 June 2016, the European Council discussed:*

*I. Migration*

*II. Jobs, growth and investment*

*III. External relations*

*IV. The outcome of the UK referendum.*

*The text highlighted in* **bold** *indicates the tasking elements of the conclusions.*

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| 1. Migration 2. Further to the decision to fully apply the Schengen Borders Code and the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement of 18 March 2016, crossings from Turkey to the Greek islands have sharply decreased and have now almost come to a halt. It is important to continue working actively to further stabilise the situation and to ensure a sustainable solution. The legislation recently adopted by Turkey on the treatment of both Syrians and other nationalities allows for the return of migrants to Turkey in full respect of the provisions on inadmissibility under the Asylum Procedures Directive. Considerable progress has been made by both sides to implement the full range of action points contained in the EU-Turkey statement and the European Council **looks forward to further determined action**. The European Council recalls the **need to provide continued support to Western Balkan countries, including in their fight against smugglers**, and to **remain vigilant about potential developments regarding other routes** so as to be able to take rapid and concerted action. Further **action is required to accelerate the implementation of the existing relocation and resettlement** schemes. |

**Comments**

* The next Commission report on the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement is foreseen in September 2016.
* The latest overview of data on the ground can be found in the weekly ISAA report (no. 40 to be published on 13 September 2016). Two IPCR high-level round tables on the Western Balkans and the Central Mediterranean routes were held on 5 September 2016. The chair reported on them in COREPER on 7 September. **Shortcomings persist in hotspot coordination, reception capacity, the number of returns to Turkey, pledges by Member States to EASO and FRONTEX calls.** The next IPCR round tables are expected to take place on 19 September.
* Work is ongoing between the GSC, the Commission and the EEAS in order to open a section on the IPCR platform to monitor progress towards migration compacts with the five priority countries identified in June.
* Support to countries along the Western Balkans route takes place through the Special Measure under the Instrument for Pre-Accession, ECHO's humanitarian programmes and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). The latter, as of 5 September, remains activated only for Greece for this particular crisis. Previously, requests for support under UCPM had also been made by Slovenia, Croatia, and Serbia. **The list of needs expressed by Greece is still not covered fully.** Following its creation in March 2016, the Emergency Support Instrument has been used to implement humanitarian actions in Greece in response to the refugee and migrant crisis through NGOs and international organisations.
* Emergency assistance has also been awarded to Croatia, Slovenia and Greece under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, and the Internal Security Fund.
* Updates concerning the fight against smugglers can be provided by the dedicated unit within Europol through the IPCR platform. Europol reports that guest officers will be deployed to Greek hotspots and could be made available to Italy too.
* Relocations and resettlements are the subject of monthly Commission reports, the latest (COM (2016) 480)) published on 13 July. Updates are regularly made public by DG HOME and are available in the IPCR framework. In July, the Commission noted an increase in the rate of implementation, with Member States stepping up their efforts on both relocation and resettlement. As of 8 September, there have been 3 676 relocations from Greece and 1 074 from Italy.
* During the first week of September, however, pledges for relocation from Greece were exhausted for the first time. As a result of the pre-registration exercise conducted over the summer and an increase in capacity in the Greek Asylum Service, foreseen for September, **the number of candidates for relocations is likely to continue to exceed pledges.** The Greek Asylum Service also noted that an increase in the response time of Member States to approve relocation requests.
* According to the July report, 8 268 people have been resettled, out of the 22 504 agreed under the July 2015 scheme. As of 8 September, 1 551 Syrians have been resettled to 13 Member States under the 1:1 framework, while another 5 700 candidates for resettlement were referred by the Turkish authorities to the UNHCR on 2 September. The practice by Turkey to deny exit permits to candidates with higher education persists.
* Possible new routes: according to figures shared in the IPCR framework on 5 September, there have been 12 100 arrivals from Egypt to Italy in 2016, which marks a significant increase (+63%) in comparison with 2015. Europol indicated that relations exist between smuggling networks operating in Libya and in Egypt. The Commission (DG NEAR and DG HOME) plan a mission to Egypt at Deputy Director General level later in September.

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| 1. In the **Central Mediterranean**, flows of predominantly economic migrants remain at the same level as last year. **The flows must be reduced**, thus saving lives and breaking the business model of smugglers. **The relevant security procedures must be fully applied to ensure full control over external borders**. Delivering rapid results in preventing illegal migration and returning irregular migrants **requires an effective Partnership Framework of cooperation with individual countries of origin or transit**. This will contribute towards the **implementation of the Valletta Action Plan, which should be stepped up**. Building on the Commission communication, the **EU will put into place and swiftly implement this Framework based on effective incentives and adequate conditionality, starting with a limited number of priority countries of origin and transit, with the following objectives**:  * to pursue specific and measurable results in terms of fast and operational returns of irregular migrants, including by applying temporary arrangements, pending the conclusion of full-fledged readmission agreements; * to create and apply the necessary leverage, by using all relevant EU policies, instruments and tools, including development and trade; * to also mobilise elements falling within Member States' competence and to seek synergies with Member States in relations with the specific countries.   Cooperation on readmission and return will be a key test of the partnership between the EU and these partners.   1. **The High Representative, including in her role as Vice-President of the Commission, will lead the implementation of this new approach and ensure close and effective coordination between the EU institutions and services and the Member States, with a view to concluding the first compacts before the end of the year. The Council and the Commission will regularly monitor the process, assess its results and report to the European Council.** |

**Comments**

* See the previous section for an overview of monitoring tools. On the ground, the increase in flows from Egypt to Italy is a growing concern, while no significant displacement from the Eastern Mediterranean to the Central Mediterranean has been recorded.
* As regards negotiations for migration compacts with the 5 priority countries, the EEAS reported in COMIX on 7 September, noting some progress e.g. with Nigeria (negotiations for a readmission agreement to start in October), Niger (government action to disencourage transit), less so with Ethiopia. The Commission will report at the October European Council.
* The Slovak Presidency will arrange a rapid tasking of the HLWG on Asylum and Migration to monitor and assess implementation of the process, with input from other relevant Council Working Parties. COREPER will keep the work on the Partnership Framework under review and will provide further political guidance where required.
* Member States are to apply the relevant security procedures so as to ensure full control over external borders.

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| All relevant instruments and sources of funding should be mobilised in a coherent manner in support of the approach set out above. **The Council is invited to rapidly examine the proposals made by the Commission to that effect**. In addition:   * the European Investment Bank's initiative in the Southern Neighbourhood and Western Balkan countries, as a first step in the new framework of cooperation, will help to foster investment in partner countries and has our full support. To implement this initiative swiftly, **the Council is asked to rapidly explore how to provide the required resources**; * **the Commission is invited to present by September 2016 a proposal for an ambitious External Investment Plan**, which should be examined as a matter of priority by the European Parliament and the Council.   Complementarity among all the above initiatives must be ensured. |

**Comments**

* The EIB mentioned **a**mong the pre-requisites for its initiative additional guarantees provided by Member States and/or the EU budget, suggesting that the current review of the EIB's External Lending Mandate be completed by 2016. Additional guarantees for the EIB external mandate are linked to the Guarantee Fund for external actions (part of Heading 4, budget Article 01 03 06).
* The Slovak Presidency will examine as a matter of priority all the proposals tabled by the Commission.
* The Commission proposal for the External Investment Fund will be included in the State of the Union speech by President Juncker on 14 September. The Slovak Presidency will start discussions on that proposal with the aim to explore all feasible ways to foster investment in partner countries.

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| 1. The approach set out above will be dynamic and will be extended if necessary to other countries or regions to reflect migration flows. 2. The EU and its Member States will continue to address the root causes of illegal migration, in close cooperation and in a spirit of mutual ownership with the countries of origin. 3. Ahead of the upcoming G20 Summit and the UN General Assembly High-Level meeting on large movements of refugees and migrants, the European Council recalls that migration is **a global challenge that requires a strong response from the international community**. 4. **The European Council will continue to address and monitor all aspects of the EU's comprehensive approach to the migration challenge**, as set out in the European Council conclusions of October 2015, and to define the general political directions and priorities. Recalling the need to reinforce the control of the EU's external borders to meet both migration and security objectives, it **welcomes the political agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on the European Border and Coast Guard proposal and asks for its swift adoption and rapid implementation**. |

**Comments**

* P.M.: the UNGA High Level meeting large migratory flows takes place on 19 September.
* As regards the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG), legal-linguistic revision has taken place and the act will be adopted in the week of 12 September for publication in the OJ on 16 September and entry into force 20 days later. Frontex will present a roadmap on the implementation and will report at the JHA Council on 13-14 October, together with the Commission. Ongoing Frontex activities will not be disrupted, but will gradually be developed under the new Regulation in the framework of the reshaped agency, the EBCG.

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| 1. Jobs, GROWTH AND INVESTMENT   **European Semester**   1. The European Council generally endorsed the country-specific recommendations as discussed by the Council, thus allowing the **conclusion of the 2016 European Semester**.   **Single Market**   1. Delivering a deeper and fairer Single Market will be instrumental in creating new jobs, promoting productivity and ensuring an attractive climate for investment and innovation. This requires a renewed focus across Europe. **The European Council calls for the different Single Market strategies, including on energy, and action plans proposed by the Commission to be completed and implemented by 2018**. 2. The European Council today adopted an agenda **calling for swift and determined progress**:  * to bring the full benefits of the Digital Single Market to all stakeholders through:   + **cross-border portability**, which will allow EU residents to travel with the digital content they have purchased or subscribed to at home;   + **removing barriers to e-commerce**, including **unjustified geo-blocking** which prevents online customers from accessing and purchasing a product or service from a website based in another Member State**. Reducing the costs of parcel delivery and modernising VAT systems** will further facilitate cross-border selling of goods and services;   + **the review of the wholesale roaming market** in view of abolishing roaming surcharges by June 2017;   + the invitation to governments and EU institutions to **meet the targets of the eGovernment Action Plan**;   + **reforms of the copyright and audiovisual frameworks**; |

**Comments**

In relation to the European Semester, the ECOFIN Council of 12 July 2016 formally adopted the country-specific recommendations (CSRs), thus marking the end of the 2016 European Semester cycle. Member States are to reflect the CRSs in their national policies in 2016.

The relevant elements of the Single Market and the Digital Single Market highlighted by the European Council are:

* ***energy***
* As regards the single market for energy, the Commission intends to present a legislative package at the end of November.
* ***cross-border portability***
* Commission proposal of 9 December 2015 (Proposal for a regulation on the cross-border portability of online content services in the internal market).
* COMPET Council reached General Approach on 26-27 May 2016.
* EP JURI committee vote scheduled for 13 October 2016, negotiations for 1st reading agreement foreseen for second half of 2016 and adoption scheduled during first half of 2017.
* ***removing barriers to e-commerce / geo-blocking / reducing parcel delivery costs***
* Commission "e-commerce package" of 25 May 2016 includes presented to COMPET Council by VP Ansip on 26 May 2016, and then presented to Telecom/COMPET WP on 9 June 2016. Package is composed of three proposals:
* Regulation on unjustified geo-blocking: Numerous WPs on Competitiveness and Growth have taken place / are foreseen (6 and 11 July; 8, 9, 15, 16, 21 and 22 September). Similar rhythm planned for October and November. Intention is to finalise first examination and to reach a general approach or Coreper mandate by the end of 2016. EP has referred file to its committee on internal market and consumer protection (IMCO), appointed a rapporteur (Ms Thun (EPP/PL) and planned two hearings until the end of the year. IMCO vote planned for the beginning of 2017.
* Regulation on cross-border parcel delivery services: WP on postal services currently examining proposal. WP met on 7 and 18 July and 8; next meetings on 11 and 18 October and 9 November). Intention is to seek general approach before end 2016. EP has referred file to its committee on transport and tourism (TRAN). EP only ready to negotiate with the Council in February-March 2017. Agreement foreseen for mid 2017.
* Regulation on CPC: Numerous WPs on Consumer Protection and Information have taken place / are foreseen (1 and 8 July; 8, 9, 15, 16, 21 and 22 September). Similar rhythm planned for October and November. Intention to reach general approach or Coreper mandate by end of 2016. EP has referred file to its committee on internal market and consumer protection (IMCO) and appointed a rapporteur (Ms Sehnalova (S&D/CZ).
* ***modernising VAT systems***
* Commission proposal (for a Council Directive modernising VAT for cross-border e‑commerce) expected by end of 2016. Negotiations are expected to take place during the second half of 2017. Adoption envisaged for first half of 2018.
* Proposal to include extending the One Stop Shop mechanism to EU and non-EU countries' online sales of tangible goods to final consumers; introducing a common EU-wide simplification measure (VAT threshold[[1]](#footnote-1)) to help small start-up e-commerce businesses; allowing for home country checks, including a single audit of cross-border businesses; removing VAT exemption for imports of small consignments from non-EU suppliers.
* Proposal follows May ECOFIN Council conclusions on Commission's VAT action plan, in which the Council requested "finding an EU-level solution rapidly to eliminate the competitive disadvantage for EU suppliers" and undertook "to review the scope and discuss the possibility of repealing the VAT exemption for final importation of small consignments of goods into the EU by non-EU suppliers".
* Proposal may be coupled with a proposal relating to VAT rates on e-publications and e-books (as requested by ECOFIN in its May 2016 conclusions: invites the Commission "to present a legislative proposal which integrates provisions concerning VAT rates for e-publications in the context of Digital Single Market initiatives by the end of 2016 and include an impact assessment").
* ***review of the wholesale roaming market***
* Commission proposal of 15 June 2016 (for an EP and Council Decision).
* Adoption and entry into force before 15 June 2017 (deadline for abolishing wholesale roaming charges).
* Under examination by the WP on telecoms. Political agreement still to be sought - probably in second half of 2016 or February 2017 at the latest.
* File at the preparatory phase in the EP, where the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) is responsible. The vote on the committee report is expected in November.
* ***e-Government Action Plan***
* Commission package of 19 April 2016 includes EU e-Government action plan for 2016-2020. COMPET Council of 26-27 May 2016 welcomed action plan and recognised need for further elaboration in the Council (ST 9357/16).
* Specific Council conclusions on e-Government due on 20 September 2016, in advance of the Digital Assembly in Bratislava, 28-29 September 2016.
* File at the preparatory phase in the EP, where the Internal Market and Consumer Protection committee (IMCO) is responsible for its examination.
* ***copyright reforms***
* Commission communication of 9 December 2015 (Towards a modern, more European copyright framework - (COM(2015) 626 final)
* Commission proposal originally expected on 21 September 2016, now expected on 13 September 2016.
* ***audiovisual reforms***
* Commission proposal (for EP and Council Directive) of 25 May 2016 (COM(2016) 287).
* Presented to Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (EYCS) Council on 31 May 2016.
* Aftr an initial examination and analysis of the impact assessment by the audiovisual WP in June, the WP is to start examining the text of the proposal. Next WP scheduled on 12 September, 3 October, and 28 October.
* Council progress report expected in November 2016, general approach (and potentially also political agreement) envisaged for first half of 2017.

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| **Paragraph 11 (second bullet point)**   * to create the right conditions for stimulating new business opportunities by:   + ensuring very high-capacity fixed and wireless broadband connectivity across Europe, which is a precondition for future competitiveness. The **review of the telecoms regulatory framework** should aim to incentivise major network investments while promoting effective competition and consumer rights;   + **better coordinating spectrum assignment modalities** together with the timely **release of the 700 MHz band** so as to help ensure Europe's leadership in the roll-out of 5G networks;   + **coordinating EU efforts on high-performance computing**. In this context the European Council looks forward to the launch of an **important project of common European interest** in this field; |

**Comments**

* ***review telecoms framework***
* Commission proposal originally expected on 21 September 2016, now expected on 13 September 2016.
* Exchange of views scheduled for December TTE Council and possible general approach in second half of 2017.
* ***700 MHz band***
* Commission proposal (for EP and Council decision on the use of the 470-790 MHz frequency band) of 2 February 2016.
* General approach reached at the TTE (Telecom) Council on 26 May 2016.
* ITRE Committee due to vote on its report on 13 October 2016.
* First trilogue to take place shortly thereafter with the view to reaching an agreement before end of 2016, and adoption in first half of 2017.
* ***high performance computing / important project of common European interest***
* COMPET Council Conclusions 26-27 May 2016 (ST 9357/16) took note of the launch of a joint project by France, Italy, Luxembourg and Spain on high performance computing and big data.

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| **Paragraphs 11 (third, fourth and fifth bullet points) and 12**   * to support service providers seeking to expand across borders. A **services passport**, in line with the Council conclusions of 29 February 2016, will enable entrepreneurs in key sectors to offer their services in other Member States without going through unnecessary procedures and will contribute to promoting innovation; * to ensure easier access to finance for businesses and to support investment in the real economy by **moving forward with the Capital Markets Union agenda**. In particular, swift progress should be made on the **proposal for the simplification of prospectus requirements** and the **proposals for simple, standardised and transparent securitisation**, to be agreed by the end of 2016; * to vigorously pursue efforts towards better regulation.  1. The Council will report annually to the June European Council on progress in deepening the Single Market in all its aspects. Better implementation and enforcement of existing legislation will further help to reap the benefits of Europe's Single Market ambitions. |

**Comments**

* ***services passport***
* The COMPET Council of 29 February 2016 (ST 6613/16) welcomed the concept of a Services Passport.
* The Commission proposal has been announced for the end of 2016.
* ***Capital Markets Union***
* The Council adopted its general approach on the package of two proposals on securitisation on 8 December 2015. The Council is now waiting for the EP to establish its position to start trilogue negotiations. The EP held its first exchange of views on this subject on 23-24 May 2016 and is expected to establish its final position only in November/December 2016.
* Prospectus: a General Approach on the Prospectus Regulation was adopted on 17 June 2016. An EP plenary debate, and an indicative plenary vote, are expected at the September plenary (14 and 15 September). Trilogue negotiations could start in autumn 2016 under the SK Presidency.

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| **Trade**   1. The President of the European Commission updated the European Council on ongoing trade negotiations. The European Council recalls its previous conclusions on trade and on the steel sector and will return to the issue for a **comprehensive discussion at its forthcoming October meeting**. In this context, the **European Council calls for the swift completion of the work on trade defence instruments**. |

**Comments**

* ***Trade defence instruments***
  + The Commission's proposal (COM (2013) 192) to amend the current antidumping and anti-subsidies regulations suffers a stalemate in Council since the FAC of November 2014. Then, several Member States opposed the disapplication of the Lesser Duty Rule in case of structural raw materials distortions, arguing for the need to balance the sometimes competing interests of different EU industries.
  + At the FAC Trade on 13 May 2016, there was wide agreement on the need to make progress in modernising trade defence, in particular in the light of Chinese dumping, but diverging views on how to proceed. There was openness to explore certain avenues suggested by the Commission doc. 8599/16), such as shortening procedures and reviewing the method used to calculate the injury margin. The most controversial element remained the partial disapplication of the Lesser Duty Rule, even with the additional criterion proposed by the Commission of "massive overcapacity in any sector of the EU industry".
  + The modernisation of trade defence is linked to the expiry of certain provisions of China's Protocol of Accession to the WTO in December 2016 (the so-called issue of China's Market Economy Status). On 20 July, the Commission discussed options and consequences of possible changes in the treatment of China in anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations. On that occasion, it encouraged Member States to move swiftly on trade defence instruments. A Commission proposal based on that impact assessment is expected before the end of this year.
  + p.m. FAC/Trade 7 November 2016 (+ informal 22-23 September 2016).
  + CETA: On 5 July, the Commission proposed the signature and conclusion of CETA as a mixed agreement; the Slovak Presidency signalled CETA as a priority; EU-Canada summit planned for 27 October 2016; on 7 September COREPER exchanged views on CETA in view of the EU-Canada summit; there was broad support for the orientation note provided by the Commission and EEAS, and for signing the CETA at the summit (with a few reservations). COREPER will revert to the issue closer to the summit date.

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| **Investment Plan (including the EFSI)**   1. The Investment Plan for Europe, in particular the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), has already delivered concrete results and is a major step to help mobilise private investment while making smart use of scarce budgetary resources. 2. The Commission intends to soon put forward proposals on the future of the EFSI, which **should be examined as a matter of urgency by the European Parliament and the Council**. |

**Comments**

The Commission proposal on the future of EFSI is due on 14 September 2016. The Commission has indicated that the proposal will be accompanied by its own evaluation of EFSI. The proposal may be examined by the *ad hoc* WP on EFSI, which was set up in January 2015, or by the WP of Financial Counsellors.

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| **Economic and Monetary Union**   1. The European Council took stock of the progress achieved in the work towards **completing the Economic and Monetary Union, including the roadmap to complete the Banking Union, and calls for work to be taken forward**. It endorses the recommendation on National Productivity Boards. |

**Comments**

In the context of the work towards completing the Economic and Monetary Union, including the roadmap to complete the Banking Union, the Commission published initiatives on:

* the external representation of the euro area which aims to give the euro area a unified representation at the IMF by 2025, with the Eurogroup President as its representative - the ECOFIN Council of 17 June 2016 asked the Economic and Financial Committee to continue work on proposals to this effect and to analyse related issues. It asked the committee to report back in autumn 2016 (ST 10324/16);
* an independent advisory European Fiscal Board within the Commission composed of five experts appointed by the Commission - is due to become operational in September 2016;
* national Competitiveness Boards in euro area Member States - the ECOFIN Council of 17 June 2016 endorsed without discussion a draft recommendation on the establishment of national productivity boards within the euro area (ST 10324/16);
* a revamped European Semester, a better use for the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure and a renewed convergence process;
* the establishment of a European Deposit Insurance Scheme (EDIS) along with its agenda for further work on the issue of risk reduction in the banking sector as outlined in the Communication "Towards the completion of the Banking Union - an *Ad Hoc* WP on Strengthening the Banking Union (AHWP) was established in January 2016; the ECOFIN of 17 June 2016 adopted a roadmap for the strengthening of the Banking Union (ST 10460/16). The WP on Strengthening the Banking Union is carrying out its technical work, and a progress report is likely to be presented at the December ECOFIN, although progress is likely to be slow.

As preparation for the second stage of the roadmap to complete the Economic and Monetary Union, which foresees more fundamental reforms to achieve a deep and genuine EMU by 2025, the Commission is to organise a broad-based public consultation and present a White Paper by spring-2017.

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| **Taxation**   1. The **fight against tax fraud, evasion and avoidance, and against money laundering remains a priority**, both within the EU and internationally. This is illustrated by the recent adoption of relevant EU legislation to take up this challenge, in particular in the area of exchange of information on tax rulings and country-by-country reporting, as well as the agreement reached on the Anti Tax-Avoidance Directive. The publication by the Commission of an Action Plan aiming at the creation of a modernised and fraud-proof single VAT area is also an important element of the overall approach. |

**Comments**

On 5 July the Commission adopted a Communication setting out the next steps to boost tax transparency and fight tax evasion, a proposal to amend the Fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive and a proposal to amend the Directive on Administrative Taxation.

Fourth Anti-Money laundering Directive: The Slovak Presidency aims to continue work in this area. On the Fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive it plans on reaching a Council general approach by the end of 2016. A Commission Delegated Regulation under this Directive, which lists high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering/countering terrorism financing, is likely to enter into force in the second half of September 2016.

Directive on Administrative Cooperation: On 11 October 2016, ECOFIN is expected to agree on a general approach as regards access to anti-money-laundering information by tax authorities;

Work has also started on the Code of Conduct Subgroups in order to establish a list of non cooperative jurisdictions and possible countermeasures, and to draft a standard provision on Good Tax Governance clause for international agreements; work is also continuing on the Interest and Royalties Directive.

Commission proposals on the Common Corporate Tax Base and on Anti-Tax-Avoidance 2 as regards Hybrid Mismatches are expected in October/November 2016.

**Agriculture**

1. Recalling its March 2016 conclusions, the European Council took stock of the developments in the agricultural sector, notably dairy and pigmeat. It invites the Commission to **urgently implement all necessary support measures** including, where appropriate, financial support to assist farmers, and calls on all actors in the supply chain to help improve market conditions.

**Comments**

On 18 July 2016, the Agri-Fish Council broadly endorsed the Commission's 3rd package of support measures worth EUR 500 million addressed to farmers, particularly in the dairy sector. All the delegated and implementing regulations required to give effect to the package were adopted on 8 September. The Special committee on agriculture is to ensure its early implementation and follow-up.

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| 1. EXTERNAL RELATIONS 2. The European Council reiterates its readiness to support the Government of National Accord (GNA), and calls on all groups in Libya to work with the GNA as the sole legitimate government in Libya to restore stability, fight terrorism and tackle migration across the Central Mediterranean. In this context, the European Council welcomes the adoption of UNSC Resolution 2292 and the expanded role for Operation Sophia in enforcing the arms embargo on Libya and training the Libyan Coast Guard. 3. The European Council welcomes the presentation of the **Global Strategy** for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy by the High Representative and **invites the High Representative, the Commission and the Council to take the work forward**. 4. EU-NATO cooperation was discussed in the presence of the NATO Secretary General. The European Council **called for further enhancement of the relationship**, in light of our common aims and values and given unprecedented challenges from the South and East. This new ambition should take the form of accelerated practical cooperation in selected areas. The new impetus in EU-NATO cooperation will take place in the spirit of full openness and in full respect of the decision-making autonomy and procedures of both organisations, be based on the principle of inclusiveness and be without prejudice to the specific character of the security and defence policy of any Member State. The President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission will issue a declaration together with the NATO Secretary General in Warsaw in July. |

**Comments**

* Libya: EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia will take forward the implementation of the additional tasks entrusted to it. A memorandum of understanding with the Libyan coast guard to implement the training mandate was signed on 23 August.
* Global Strategy: elements of the EU Global Strategy will have to be developed and operationalised, including in the field of security and defence, in close consultation with Member States, and in coordination with the Commission's forthcoming European Defence Action Plan. At the FAC on 18 July 2016, where a first discussion on the follow-up to the EU Global Strategy took place, Ministers broadly welcomed the Strategy a good basis for the development of "sub-strategies" in security and defence. Further discussions are envisaged at both FAC Development and FAC Defence. The HR to present the timelines for the implementation on security and defence as well as on other strands that need follow up.
* EU-NATO relations: EU-NATO summit - a Joint Staff Working Document establishing an EU operational protocol for countering hybrid threats (the 'playbook') was adopted on 5 July and was later presented to PMG and the EUMC.
* Joint Declaration: issued on 8 July 2016. It instructs the European External Action Service and the NATO International Staff, together with Commission services as appropriate, to develop concrete options for implementation, including appropriate staff coordination mechanisms, to be presented to the respective Councils by December 2016. On the EU side, the High Representative will steer and coordinate this endeavour.
* The Joint Declaration contains a timeframe for coordination on exercises, including on hybrid threats, calling for parallel and coordinated exercises in 2017 and 2018.
* At the Foreign Affairs Council on 18 July 2016, the High Representative recalled that she had been tasked with following-up to the Declaration, including possible proposals by December 2016, in parallel to work on the implementation of the Global Strategy.

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| 1. The Dutch Prime Minister presented the outcome of the referendum in the Netherlands on the Association Agreement with Ukraine, as well as the concerns expressed in the debate preceding the referendum. **The European Council invites the Council to seek a solution addressing these concerns as soon as possible**. |

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| 1. OUTCOME OF THE UK REFERENDUM 2. The UK Prime Minister informed the European Council about the outcome of the referendum in the UK. |

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1. Under which no registration in other Member States or to the One Stop Shop is required for cross-border supplies. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)