



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on the European Neighbourhood Policy

*3101st FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting
Luxembourg, 20 June 2011*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. Welcoming the publication of the Joint Communication on a new response to a changing Neighbourhood of 25 May 2011, the Council thanks the High Representative and the Commission for this response to its invitation of 26 July 2010 to initiate a reflection on the future implementation of the ENP. The Council also welcomes the consultations that were held in view of the Joint Communication.
2. The new approach of the EU will be based on mutual accountability and shared commitment to universal values of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. The partnership between the EU and each of its neighbours will reflect their needs, capacities and reform objectives. It will be based on joint ownership and differentiation. Such a partnership may lead those countries that are willing and able to move further to closer political association and progressive economic integration into the EU Internal Market. Action Plans and equivalent documents will be used more effectively by focusing on a limited number of priorities with a clearer sequencing of actions, incorporating clearer objectives and more precise benchmarks, and be pursued with closer political steering. This will help partners prioritising reforms and will allow better linking of policy objectives and assistance programming.
3. The Council agrees on the need to provide greater support to partners engaged in building deep and sustainable democracy, to support inclusive economic development and to strengthen both the Eastern and the Southern dimensions of the ENP, in particular in the areas of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. It underlines that stronger political co-operation, closer economic integration and increased EU support, will depend on progress towards reforms. They will be tailored to the needs of partners willing to undertake reforms and to cooperate effectively with the EU in all relevant domains, and may be reconsidered where reform does not take place. These principles would equally apply to all ENP partners. The Council invites the High Representative and the Commission to design the appropriate mechanisms and instruments that will help deliver these objectives.

P R E S S

4. The Council welcomes the emphasis in the Joint Communication on a partnership with societies. It invites the High Representative and the Commission to put forward concrete proposals in support of civil society, including on a European Endowment for Democracy and a Civil Society Facility, to develop new means for the EU to support the development and functioning of deep and sustainable democracy in the neighbouring countries, in full coherence with existing instruments and structures.
5. Recognising the economic benefits of enhancing trade in goods and services, the potential for increased investment flows and the importance of progressive economic integration with the EU Internal Market, the Council supports the EU continuing to pursue such integration through the establishment of Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs) with ENP partners, as proposed in the Joint Communication, as soon as conditions are met. The launching of DCFTA negotiations requires WTO membership and thorough preparation based on key recommendations. The Council expects rapid progress in the ongoing DCFTA negotiations with Ukraine and notes the good progress made by some of the other Eastern partners towards implementing key recommendations. It welcomes the adoption today of the negotiating directives of DCFTA with the Republic of Moldova. As regards the Southern Mediterranean, the Council encourages initiatives aimed at enhancing trade and investment relations with partners engaged in democratic and economic reforms. To this end, the Council invites the Commission to submit recommendations for negotiating directives for DCFTAs with selected Southern Mediterranean partners. The Council agrees that in the context of ongoing or future negotiations, the EU will seek to improve market access opportunities including, where appropriate, by extending trade concessions, taking into account the particular circumstances of each partner country.
6. Well-managed mobility of people is crucial for mutual understanding, business links and economic growth both in the EU and in the partner countries. Recalling the European Council Declaration of 11 March 2011 and the Justice and Home Affairs Council Conclusions of 9 June 2011, the Council invites the Commission to pursue and intensify work with partners in this field on the basis of the Global Approach to Migration. The EU will prepare the launch of negotiations for Mobility Partnerships with Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt, as a first group, as proposed by the Commission in its Communication of 25 May 2011. The EU will seek to fully utilise the potential of the EU Visa Code for bona fide travellers between the EU and all partners. In line with the JHA Council conclusions of 9 and 10 June, the EU will consider to launch, on a case by case basis, readmission and visa facilitation agreements with Southern partners and EU engagement will depend inter alia on effective cooperation against illegal migration including on readmission and border management.

Recalling its conclusions on the Eastern Partnership of 25 October 2010, the EU will seek to conclude negotiations for a Mobility Partnership with Armenia and will also seek to launch negotiations on visa facilitation agreements in parallel with readmission agreements with Belarus, for the benefit of the population at large, as well as with Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Council welcomes the entering into force of the visa facilitation and readmission agreements with Georgia. The Council welcomes the presentation of the progress reports on the implementation of the Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova Visa Liberalisation Action Plans, which could serve as useful models also for the other eastern partners bearing in mind the specificity and progress of each country, in line with the Prague declaration and subsequent Council Conclusions.

7. The Council invites the High Representative and the Commission to implement the proposals of the Communication regarding sector cooperation in close cooperation with other initiatives existing in the neighbourhood. The EU will also facilitate partner countries' participation in EU programmes and agencies.
8. Significantly increased financial support of up to EUR 1.242 billion to address the urgent needs and to respond to the new challenges and transformations underway in the Neighbourhood will be decided in accordance with the normal budgetary procedures and without prejudice notably to the Multiannual Financial Framework. The Council looks forward to the Commission proposal to the budgetary authority in that respect. Such resources shall be allocated taking fully into account partner countries' needs, their readiness to engage in reforms and their progress towards deep and sustainable democracy as defined in the Communication. The Council asks the Commission, in connection with the EIB, to consider how risk capital operations could be reinforced in the neighbourhood, taking into account sound budgetary management. The Council also underlines the need to reprioritise existing resources and reaffirms its support for the increase in lending from the EIB. The Council also reaffirms its support for the extension of the EBRD area of operations to those Southern partners engaged in democratic transition and appeals to other major donors and international financial institutions to contribute to this effort.
9. In the context of the enhanced approach to the ENP, the Council looks forward to the Commission proposal to establish under the next multi-annual financial framework a new European Neighbourhood Instrument which is based on a simplified programming, is increasingly policy driven and provides for increased differentiation on the basis of a "more for more" approach, including the flexibility to allow for greater targeting of resources in line with reform performance and needs and will reflect the new level of ambition of the policy. The new instrument will also support regional cooperation and Cross Border Cooperation at the EU external border and in this regard the Council also underlines the importance of flexible mechanisms for effective implementation. The Council will revert to these issues in the context of the discussions on the next multiannual financial framework.
10. The Council looks forward to the Eastern Partnership Summit in Warsaw on 29-30 September 2011 with the view to enhancing the relations between the EU and the Eastern partners. The Eastern Partnership seeks to accelerate political association and economic integration as laid out in the Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit of 7 May 2009, based on the shared principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law. These values are adhered to by all the Member States of the European Union. The Council acknowledges the European aspirations and the European choice of some partners. The Council also invites the High Representative and the Commission to propose a roadmap to guide the further implementation of the Eastern Partnership, drawing on the results of the Summit and taking into account the further implementation of flagship initiatives and concrete projects, and including proposals on how to enhance regional cooperation.

11. The Council underlines the importance of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), which complements the bilateral relations between EU and partners in the South and should be enhanced to organise effective and result-oriented regional cooperation through concrete projects. The Council welcomes the nomination of Mr. Youssef Amrani as Secretary General of the UfM Secretariat. The Council reiterates its support to the UfM Secretariat that should operate as a catalyst to bring states, the EIB, International Financial Institutions and the private sector together around concrete projects of strategic importance and support job generation, innovation and growth throughout the region.
12. The ENP will have to live up to the new challenges in the Southern Neighbourhood. Transitions may be long and difficult, nonetheless the Council underlines the strong commitment of the EU and Member States to accompany and support concrete efforts by the governments genuinely engaged in political and economic reforms, as well as the civil societies. In this respect, the Council encourages the High Representative and the Commission to ensure that the ongoing implementation of the 8 March Communication on a Partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean, in line with the related European Council Conclusions, takes into account the new approach set out in the new response to a changing Neighbourhood. The Council welcomes the setting up of the Task Force for the Southern Mediterranean by the High Representative which will enhance the EU's efforts to foster coherent international support for the strengthening of democracy and inclusive economic development in the Mediterranean region. It also welcomes the High Representative's proposal for an EUSR for the Southern Mediterranean region and stresses that the EUSR should start working as soon as possible. The Council welcomes the Deauville Partnership and the G8 support to the countries in democratic transition.
13. The Council encourages the High Representative and the Commission to seize the opportunities provided by the Lisbon Treaty to enhance EU involvement in the resolution of the protracted conflicts, taking into account existing formats, and pursue joint efforts to enhance regional security in our neighbourhood, making joined-up use of Common Foreign and Security Policy and other EU instruments. It calls on Partner Countries to increase their efforts to resolve conflicts and to make best use of the EU's support.
14. The Council agrees that Member States should complement and reinforce EU support in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy with national support programmes, while ensuring close co-ordination. It also encourages the European Commission to intensify coordination with other donors and international finance institutions.
15. The Council looks forward to the implementation of the new response to a changing Neighbourhood and invites the High Representative and the Commission to report in 2012."