OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3742nd Council meeting

Foreign Affairs

Brussels

President Josep Borrell
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
ITEMS DEBATED

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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none
ITEMS DEBATED

Current affairs

The Council discussed recent developments in Libya, including the military escalation around Tripoli and, in the margins of the meeting, were briefed by the UN Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Ghassan Salamé.

Ministers expressed their agreement on the need for the EU to take concerted action to prevent the current crisis from spiralling out of control, and gave a mandate to the EU’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Josep Borrell, to engage with all parties with a view to finding a political solution in the framework of the Berlin process and the UN-led mediated efforts.
**Recent developments in Iraq**

The Council was briefed on the latest developments in Iraq. The briefing also entailed an informal exchange with the Secretary General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg.

Ministers were invited to assess the consequences of the recent escalation of tension and major security incidents in Iraq and in the region, and discussed the impact of these developments on the international coalition involved in the fight against Da'esh.

The Council called for urgent de-escalation and maximum restraint. It also condemned any attack on coalition forces Da'esh and restated that defeating Da'esh remains a EU priority.

Foreign affairs ministers stressed their continued support for Iraq's stability and reconstruction, as well as for the preservation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). They stated that this was a key element of the global nuclear non-proliferation architecture. In addition, they called on Iran to adhere to the JCPOA without delay.

Finally, the Council gave the EU's High Representative a mandate to carry out diplomatic efforts with all parties in order to help secure a de-escalation of tensions in the region, to support political dialogue and to promote a political regional solution.
OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none