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COVER NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Meeting of the European Council on the Future of the European Union
(The White Paper) (14 May 2017)

Delegations will find the full text adopted by the European Council at the above meeting.

A. Statement Regarding the Assault of the French President-Elect

The Union

1. Condemns all political violence on European soil with a united front among all EU members
2. Expresses sympathy with French people
3. Emphasizes the nature of European solidarity regarding the situation in France
4. Wishes the president-elect a speedy recovery

Prevention

1. Calls upon all Member States to raise their national security level; protection of national leaders; and counter-terrorism
2. Activates the Hotline System and Information Sharing System among EU national leaders
3. Holds an immediate Press Conference to deliver the official statement of the Union

B. Proposed Conclusion Outline

Perambulatory Clauses:

- Reaffirming the objectives listed in the part II of Migration and External Borders of The Bratislava Roadmap
- Recalling the spirit of the 2017 Rome Declaration agreed by 27 EU member states
- Considering the Coalition of the Willing as proposed in the White Paper on the Future of Europe as a preferred scenario
- Reaffirming the obligations of the EU Member States to fully implement The 1951 Refugee Convention of the UNHCR

Part 1. Defining Coalitions of the Willing

Referring to *The White Paper 2017: The Future of Europe*, “Coalitions of the Willing” refers to the third scenario as *Those Who Want More Do More* in common, where one or several “Coalitions of the Willing” emerge to work together in specific policy areas.

We agree to adopt Scenario Three and to set “Coalitions of the Willing” in the following policy areas:

1. Migration Policy;
2. Cyber Security;

Part 2. Migration Policy within the framework of the Coalition of the Willing

2.1. With the objective of addressing irregular migration and ensuring full control of external borders, the Council shall recommend the following actions for the EU Member States:

1. Consistent with a “More Effective Migration Policy” as outlined in the EU Global Strategy and the **Migration Partnership Framework**, the Union shall work with transit countries and the countries of origin to manage more efficiently the flow of irregular migration into Europe taking actions such as:
 - a. improving opportunities
 - b. establishing local settlement and shelters
 - c. supporting external relocation and resettlement
 - d. fighting transnational crime before migrants reach Europe
2. Emphasise and reinforce the role of the **European Border and Coast Guard Agency** in protecting the EU’s external borders.
3. Reiterate that further developments in systems and technologies are imperative for enhanced data collection, analysis, and sharing. Under the existing **EURODAC Regulation**, Coalition of the Willing Member States agree to focus their efforts on reinforcing the **EURODAC Regulation** using other biometric identifiers to complement existing technology.

2.2 Additionally, the EU Member States shall implement the following actions within the proposed framework of the “Coalitions of the willing”:

1. Encourage the acceleration of the legislative processes with regards to the **Qualification Regulation** under the **Common European Asylum System**, specifically on the criteria to qualify for international protection, in order to promote convergence of asylum procedures
2. Recommend to consolidate the **Hotspot Approach to Managing Exceptional Migratory Flows** with the **Enhanced Cooperation** procedure to show solidarity towards frontline European countries that face migrant challenges by 1) allocating

more experts on immigration policies to facilitate the control of migrant flows at the hotspots of Italy and Greece; and/or 2) enhancing financial contributions to ensure the return and readmission of particular categories of migrants arriving at the aforementioned hotspots.

Part 3. Common Policy on Cyber Security under the Coalition of Willing

3.1 Common Policy on Cyber Security

Acknowledging:

- The existing threats of cyberattacks and attempts to compromise democratic elections and national security through cyberattacks and cybercrime;
- The need for early adoption and implementation of the **EU Cybersecurity Strategy (2013); European Agenda on Security 2015; Digital Single Market Strategy (2015) Communication on Strengthening Europe's Cyber Resilience System and Fostering a Competitive and Innovative Cybersecurity Industry (2016)**

We agree to the following:

3.1.1. Establishing a Cyber Security Task Force, within the Commission secretariat, with terms of reference to:

- i. Review cyber security partnerships and initiatives among EU Member States;
- ii. Formulate new strategies, research and development as well as programmes for Member States to tackle cyberattacks with an additional focus on democratic elections and institutions;
- iii. Develop a EU Common Defence Policy on Cyber Security that provides a long term mandate on emerging risks; and,
- iv. Develop programmes for Member States to cooperate with specialised institutions that possess specific capabilities and expertise in cyber security to boost the overall level of online security in Europe.

3.1.2. Preventing cyberattacks and cybercrime, which include the following:

- i. Strengthening cooperation and communication with NATO and other international partners;

- ii. Establishing public-private partnerships to enhance industrial capabilities and innovation in the EU, EU data collection systems, and information sharing;
- iii. Building an efficient Cyber Attack Prevention System to secure a high level and information safety with particular respect to electoral processes;
- iv. Raising public awareness about cybersecurity and promoting cybersecurity culture at both national and European level;
- v. Working closely with cybercrime enforcement agencies on reporting mechanisms to combat fraud and the exploitation of information in Member States; and,
- vi. Promoting Risk Assessment and Risk Management to increase Member States' capacity to combat information security threats;

3.2 Framework for the Coalition of the Willing on Cybersecurity

3.2.1: The Coalition of the Willing aims to achieve an Advanced Mechanism for Cybersecurity that includes, but is not limited to:

- i. Discussing the possibilities for additional funding/areas of further cooperation for Advanced Cybersecurity Systems and its research and development;
- ii. Widening the scope of research and development by committing additional resources, technologies and/or other in-kind contributions; and,
- iii. Allocating resources to education and training programmes for future specialists in the field of cybersecurity to increase their competency.

3.2.2: Parties to the Coalition of the Willing

- i. This Coalition of the Willing includes the following Member States:
Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Malta, and Sweden.
- ii. EU Member States that are not party to the Coalition may, at a later stage, apply to join by acceding to the duties and obligations that accompany this membership, subject to unanimous approval of the existing members.