

ASIA-PACIFIC MODEL EUROPEAN UNION 2019
SIMULATION EXERCISE, HONG-KONG 26-27 APRIL



Brussels, 27 April 2019

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COVER NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Meeting of the European Council on the Future of Security and Defence of Europe
(26-27 April, 2019)

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

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With regards to the ongoing Lithuanian crisis:

1. The European Council deplores the recent incident in Lithuania. We express our deepest concerns to all whose lives may have been endangered. We believe peace in the European region is of crucial importance and we lend our full support to Lithuania and commit to conduct a full investigation into the situation.
2. The European Council urges all parties involved to remain calm and exercise prudence to better understand the situation, and thereby avoid further escalation of geopolitical tensions within the region.
3. The European Council is working closely with the member state intelligence services on the ground to investigate and better understand the incident, so as to facilitate diplomatic mediation.
4. The European Council reaffirms our support to Lithuania as a Member State of the European Union, and calls for an emergency meeting in Brussels before deciding on an appropriate course of action.
5. In light of the recent incident, the European Union and its Member States reaffirm their commitment to enhance their capabilities to address military threats. Based on the decision taken today, the European Council instructs the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to take this work forward and report on progress at the June European Summit.
6. The European Union will remain closely focused on this issue and its implications.

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1. The European Council welcomes the imperative to strengthen and deepen cooperation on collective EU defence and security, and hereby proposes the political framework as follows:
 - a. Towards a European Defence Community, the European Council highlights the significance of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) as the guiding framework for further development and collaboration;
 - b. The European Council suggests continuing to optimize the PESCO framework;
 - c. To further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the European Defence Community and recommends restructuring and reforming the existing European External Action Service (EEAS) by clarifying security, defence and military responsibilities of the EEAS with the view of preparing for the eventual establishment of the Council of Defence and Security.
 - d. Please refer to Appendix I

The Core Principles

A. Flexibility

1. The Council recognises that flexibility is an utmost priority in facilitating the success of our long-term policies given the reality of the various interests and goals of each Member State.
2. The Council also acknowledges the difficulties in creating an effective military framework with the various capabilities of each Member State. To this end, it recommends that each Member State's contribution is equitable to the establishment of the proposed military framework to the best of their capacity. The Council also recognizes that contributions to the reformed EDC can come in various forms.

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B. Inclusiveness

1. Each EU Member State should commit to the building process of the European Defense Community.
2. The Member States of the EDC agree to participate in the European Army on a voluntary basis only if they accept the proportional voting mechanism and the minimum contribution to the European Army.
3. Military capacity developed within PESCO remains in the hands of Member States that can also make them available in other settings such as NATO or the United Nations.

Operationalisation

1. After the establishment of European Defense Community, the Member States of the EDC will follow the PESCO model, and may participate incrementally in the European Army on a voluntary basis.
2. The European Council shall further discuss the details of the European Army and the EDC during the next meeting.

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Appendix I:

One of the possible roadmaps:

EDC under CSDP

