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DRAFT MINUTES

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held on 15 December 2016

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1. Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament

The President of the European Parliament was heard by the European Council.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The European Council adopted its agenda as set out in document EUCO 35/16.

3. Migration

The European Council took stock of the latest developments concerning the EU's comprehensive migration policy. The debate focused in particular on the external dimension, with an assessment of the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement and of progress on the Partnership Framework. The European Council also reverted to the internal dimension, including the reform of the Common European Asylum System.

4. Security

The European Council reviewed the implementation of the European Union Internal Security Strategy 2015-2020. After an informal exchange of views with the NATO Secretary-General the European Council discussed and agreed ways to strengthen EU cooperation on external security and defence. The European Council will review progress in March 2017 on the basis of a Council report and will provide further strategic guidance in June 2017.

5. Economic and social development, Youth

The European Council took stock of progress and called for work to be taken forward on the European Fund for Strategic Investment, the different Single Market Strategies, as well as youth-related initiatives. It briefly touched upon industrial policy and the Banking Union. The European Council had an informal exchange of views with the President of the European Central Bank on the economic situation.

6. Cyprus

The European Council was informed on the negotiations on a Cyprus settlement and expressed its support to the ongoing process for the reunification of Cyprus.

7. External relations

The European Council reconfirmed its commitment to international law and the territorial integrity of Ukraine as well as the conclusion of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, including the establishment of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. In that context it took note of a Decision of the Heads of State or Government of the 28 Member States of the European Union, meeting within the European Council. The European Council briefly took stock of the implementation of the Minsk Agreements. It also discussed the situation in Syria, in particular developments in Aleppo.

8. Approval of the conclusions

The European Council approved the conclusions, reflecting the outcome of its discussions, as set out in document EUCO 34/16.

9. Adoption of the minutes of the European Council meeting held on 20-21 October 2016

The European Council adopted the minutes of its meeting held on 20-21 October 2016 as set out in document EUCO 33/16.
