



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Informal meeting of Heads of State or Government (Granada, 6 October 2023) - Draft declaration

Draft
Granada Declaration

We, the Leaders of the European Union, have gathered in Granada to mark the start of the process to define the Union's general political directions and priorities for the years to come, setting a strategic course of action to shape our common future for the benefit of all.

The Strategic Agenda agreed in June 2019 has been our compass. The pandemic and the return of war to our continent have tested our resilience and exposed certain vulnerabilities, highlighting the need for the Union to enhance its sovereignty and its ability to make its own choices.

We have come a long way since the decisions taken in Versailles in the direct aftermath of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Threatened with energy blackmail, we have greatly reduced our dependencies and diversified our sources. Faced with tightening supply chains and international competition, we have strengthened our economic base. Resolved to take more responsibility for our own defence and to assist Ukraine, we have bolstered Europe's security and defence capabilities. We have also reconfirmed that the future of our aspiring members and their citizens lies within the European Union.

We will not stop here. Today in Granada, we have confirmed the actions that form the basis for a dynamic, competitive and cohesive Europe able to match the pace of a changing world.

[Defence]

We will strengthen our defence readiness and develop the European defence technological and industrial base, including with more investments. We will boost military mobility throughout the EU and address cyber and hybrid threats.

[Resilience and competitiveness]

We will work on our resilience and global competitiveness, making sure that the EU has all the necessary tools for securing sustainable growth and global leadership in this crucial decade. We will address vulnerabilities, not least as a result of deepening climate risks and geopolitical tensions. We will anticipate potential challenges and seize the opportunities for our Union in the green and digital transitions, with the aim of ensuring the sustainability of our economic model. We will concentrate particularly on energy and resource efficiency, circularity and decarbonisation that continue to shape the future.

We will continue our efforts to build a more cohesive, innovative and interconnected Single Market. We will increase our energy sovereignty and reduce external dependencies in other areas where the EU needs to build a minimum level of capacity to guarantee its economic and social welfare – such as digital technologies, critical medicines and food. We will strengthen our position as an industrial, technological and commercial powerhouse. We will put a special focus on high added value areas where we already have a competitive edge or can become a frontrunner.

[Global engagement]

We will engage with partners from all regions of the world to enhance and protect the international order with the United Nations at its core, bring more fairness into the multilateral system, and prevent further fragmentation. It is now more important than ever to cooperate on strengthening and diversifying our supply chains, fostering partnership, trade and investment agreements and promoting sustainable development to meet our agreed goals towards net zero emissions. This work requires reinvigorating global trade, in which the WTO plays a fundamental role.

[Migration]

Migration is a European challenge that requires a European response. Migration needs to be addressed in an orderly manner, where it is not smugglers that decide who enters the EU. We will reinforce the implementation of our decisions and take a comprehensive approach to migration which combines increased external action, more effective control of EU external borders, and internal aspects, in compliance with international law, EU principles and values, and the protection of fundamental rights.

[Enlargement]

Enlargement will enhance our European sovereignty and is a geo-strategic investment in peace, security, stability and prosperity on our continent. An enlarged Union will make the EU safer, and more prosperous. Enlargement is a driver for improving the economic and social conditions of our citizens and reducing cross-country disparities. Looking ahead to the prospect of a further enlarged Union, both the EU and future Member States need to be ready. Aspiring members need to step up their reform efforts. The Union needs to undertake the necessary internal groundwork. In particular, we will need to address critical questions: What do we do together? How do we decide? How do we match means and ambitions?

We will continue discussions on the future priorities of our Union at our level in the coming months in an inclusive manner, inspired by a long-term vision ahead of the adoption of the Strategic Agenda next year. We reiterate the original promises of the European project to ensure peace, stability and prosperity for our citizens, guided by our values and principles, democracy, and the rule of law.
