

COUNCIL NEWS

Selected for you

Here are some of the issues that have recently attracted media attention. To stay up-to-date on the latest news, remember you can subscribe to email alerts on the topics of your choice through the Council website or follow the social media channels.



EU-League of Arab States

For the very first time, an EU-League of Arab States summit was partly devoted to improving cooperation in controlling migration flows and combating irregular migration, particularly from Africa. This summit took place on 24 and 25 February 2019 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, chaired by President Donald Tusk. The summit had high level participation on both sides and delivered a joint declaration focused on key issues such as effective multilateralism, economic cooperation and the Middle East peace process. It allowed constructive discussions to be held, with a view to strengthening the Euro-Arab partnership and promoting peace, stability and prosperity between the parties. It was also agreed that another summit would be held in three years' time (2022) in Brussels.

The future of Syria

On 12-14 March, the European Union and the United Nations

co-chaired the third Brussels Conference on Supporting the future of Syria and the region, adopting a joint declaration. 57 countries and more than 20 international organisations and UN agencies took part. They succeeded in mobilizing aid to Syrians inside the country and in the neighbouring countries, through pledges totalling € 6.2 billion for 2019, and multi-year pledges of close to € 2.1 billion for 2020 and beyond. At the moment, over 11 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian assistance, and more than 5.6 million Syrian refugees are displaced outside the country.

Copyright for the digital age

The EU has amended its copyright legal framework to make it fit for purpose in today's digital environment. In February, representatives of the Romanian Presidency of the Council reached a provisional agreement with the European Parliament on a

draft directive that introduces changes to existing EU copyright rules as part of creating a true EU digital single market. At the end of February, the European Parliament's Justice Committee voted in favour of a compromise already hammered out between EU governments. After two years of negotiations, the compromise was finalised: the proposed legislation will require digital platforms to pay content creators for using their work. The European Parliament will have the final say in a vote before the end of March.



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