

Remarks by President Donald Tusk on the European Council

meetings of 28-29 June 2018

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USPA NEWS - "Good afternoon. We have just finished a long European Council with the following outcomes. As regards our deal on migration, it is far too early to talk about a success. We have managed to reach an agreement in the European Council. But this is in fact the easiest part of the task, compared to what awaits us on the ground, when we start implementing it." Donald Tusk said as introductory of his keynote President of European Council on June 29th. The European Leaders reached an unprecedented agreement to solve the migrant crisis, during the European Council held in Brussels on June 28-29th. President Macron said it was a "significant agreement, and a first step forward"^[2]. This European Council was of high level of importance during the tensions due to the divergent positions, about the migrant situation. Even Europe's future was put in a balance versus the challenge of humanity and efficient legal migration, according to the European rules. Leaders agreed that this was a challenge not only for a single EU country, but for Europe as a whole. The European Council called for further measures to reduce illegal migration and prevent a return to the uncontrolled flows of 2015.

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Another part of the compromise is the Franco-Italian proposal of controlled centres on EU territory, in countries that are willing to build them. All the measures in the context of these centres, including relocation and resettlement, will be taken on a voluntary basis. Last but not least, we agreed to launch the next tranche of financing for Turkey and to transfer 500 million euros of development money to the EU Trust Fund for Africa.-----

Moving on to this morning's proceedings. The Euro Summit agreed, as promised in December, to progress on the completion of the Banking Union and to strengthen the European Stability Mechanism, including by providing the backstop to the single resolution fund. This reform of the EMU will strengthen the euro, and as a result, also our Union. In turbulent times, this is welcome news for all Europeans.-----

On Brexit. The EU27 has taken note of what has been achieved so far. However, there is a great deal of work ahead, and the most difficult tasks are still unresolved. If we want to reach a deal in October we need quick progress. This is the last call to lay the cards on the table. Before concluding, let me thank my good friend, Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, for the outstanding and effective Bulgarian Presidency. You and your team have done a truly remarkable job. Including on the Sofia Summit, which was a historic moment in terms of our relations with the Western Balkans. Thank you very much, Boyko.

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