
Chapter 31 Screening

Foreign, Security and Defense Policy,
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**Political Decision-making Process – European
Council, GAERC Conclusions, CFSP Declarations**
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GAERC Conclusions

1. GAERC CYCLE

European Council → GAERC → Coreper → Working Parties
Instructions/Guidelines follow-up to EC follow-up to GAERC Coreu exchanges

PSC → Coreper → GAERC → European Council
Preparation of preparation of adoption of Presidency conclusions
GAERC conclusions GAERC conclusions

2. WORKING PARTIES

- Preparation of GAERC conclusions only small part of regular work
- Initiatives from: Presidency assisted by Secretariat
 Member States
 Commission
 - usually distributed by Coreu
 - Policy Unit may issue own contributions
- Working Parties transmit draft text to PSC

3. POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

- At least 2 meetings devoted to GAERC conclusions

N.B.:

PSC discussions divided between:

- policy issues
- drafting

- PSC transmits draft text to Coreper (or sends back to Working Party)
- Coreper endorses PSC text (or makes amendments) and transmits to GAERC for discussion or approval
- PSC may meet early on morning of GAERC to incorporate last-minute developments in conclusions

GAERC Conclusions

4. GAERC

- Divided into “General Affairs” and “External Relations”
- Starts by formally adopting pre-agreed conclusions (“A” points)
- Last-minute draft conclusions are occasionally tabled directly to Ministers
- Long lunches = policy discussions
- Last GAERC before European Council endorses some conclusions for adoption by European Council

CFSP Declarations

- Presidency Declarations on behalf of the EU
 - Negotiations mainly via Coreu
 - Issued as Press Releases simultaneously by Presidency and Secretariat
 - Available on Council, Presidency and Commission websites

- EU Declarations
 - Adopted by GAERC
 - PSC more likely to play role in negotiations

- European Council Declarations

- Presidency Statements

ALIGNMENT I

■ Who can align?

- ❑ Candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey and FYROM)
- ❑ SAP countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia)
- ❑ EFTA countries members of the EEA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway)
- ❑ Ukraine, Moldova

■ Alignment to what?

- ❑ Declarations/Statements
- ❑ Common Positions
- ❑ Demarches

■ Procedure

- ❑ Alignment proposed in draft declaration to Member States
- ❑ If accepted, alignment proposed to above groups
- ❑ Deadlines; reply required

ALIGNMENT II

■ Formula for alignment to Declarations

“ The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration. ”

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

■ Formula for alignment to Common Positions

“The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, declare that they share the objectives of Common Position 2006/.../CFSP of [date] on [subject].

They will ensure that their national policies conform to that Common Position.

The European Union takes note of this commitment and welcomes it.”

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

LINKS TO MAIN ACQUIS

Treaties: <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/en/treaties/index.htm>

European Council Conclusions:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=76
&LANG=1&cmsid=347](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=76&LANG=1&cmsid=347)

GAERC Conclusions:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=71
&LANG=1&cmsid=349](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=71&LANG=1&cmsid=349)

CFSP Legal Acts: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/repert/18.htm>

CFSP Declarations:

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=73
&LANG=1&cmsid=257](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_applications/applications/newsRoom/loadBook.asp?BID=73&LANG=1&cmsid=257)

International Agreements:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=252&lang=EN&mode=g