

21. The European Council underlines the importance of working together with like-minded partners, who share our foreign and security policy goals. It welcomes in that regard the EU's recent Security and Defence Partnerships with the UK and Canada.
22. The European Council will review progress at its October 2025 meeting and discuss the next steps in the implementation of its defence readiness objective. It invites the Commission and the High Representative to present a roadmap to that end.
23. The above is without prejudice to the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States, and takes into account the security and defence interests of all Member States, in accordance with the Treaties.

IV. EU IN THE WORLD

24. The European Council discussed preparations for upcoming summits with third countries and relations with partners, in the light of the current global political and economic context.

V. COMPETITIVENESS

25. The European Council exchanged views on economic developments. It underlines that boosting Europe's competitiveness and further integrating the Single Market are key for sustaining Europe's prosperity and social model, and will contribute to strengthening the EU's global influence and position as a predictable, reliable and credible partner, including by enhancing the international role of the euro.
26. Recalling its conclusions of 20 March 2025, the European Council calls for the further strengthening of EU competitiveness, including through innovation and the promotion of European technological leadership, especially in frontier technologies, to close the EU productivity gap, deepening of the Single Market and enhancing the Union's industrial base, ensuring a level playing field.

27. The European Council reaffirms the commitment to the objectives of the Single Market and reiterates its calls to remove remaining barriers, in particular in the areas of services and goods, including essential goods, to overcome fragmentation, to prevent new barriers and to improve the application and enforcement of Single Market rules. In this context, the European Council welcomes the Commission's 'Strategy for making the Single Market simple, seamless and strong' and its 'EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy' and calls for work on implementation to begin swiftly.
28. The European Council reaffirms that particular attention should be paid to the challenges faced by traditional industries, notably the automotive, shipping, aviation and energy-intensive industries, such as steel and metals and chemicals. It also underlines that SMEs will remain central to Europe's economic and social fabric. The European Council recalls the importance of advancing decisively on the Savings and Investment Union.
29. In this context, the European Council invites the Council, the Commission and the European Central Bank, as appropriate with the Eurogroup, to take work forward to reinforce the international role of the euro, including as a reserve currency and a transaction currency.

30. The European Council underlines the key role of an ambitious and horizontally driven simplification and better regulation agenda in ensuring Europe's competitiveness. The European Council stresses the importance of a 'simplicity by design' approach. In this regard, it recalls the need for continued efforts at all levels – EU, national and regional – to ensure a clear, simple, smart and innovation- and SME-friendly regulatory framework, without undermining predictability, policy goals and high standards. The European Council welcomes the progress achieved so far and urges the co-legislators to maintain the momentum, with a view to swiftly agreeing the simplification packages presented by the Commission. It welcomes the intention of the Commission to follow up with further initiatives. The European Council calls on the Commission and the co-legislators to avoid over-regulation and the introduction of administrative burdens, throughout the legislative and implementation processes.
31. In the light of global instability and pressure on energy markets, and their impact on Europe's competitiveness, the European Council reiterates the importance of building a genuine Energy Union before 2030 with a fully integrated and interconnected EU energy market, ensuring energy security and resilience as well as the security of supply of affordable and clean energy for all Member States, including through robust, reliable and secure energy systems and increased energy production.
32. The European Council reiterates the importance, for Europe's competitiveness and strategic autonomy, of reducing energy dependencies, and welcomes the progress achieved since 2022. In this context, the European Council underlines the importance of security of supply, affordability and legal certainty and of addressing Member States' concerns, in a spirit of solidarity, including with a view to ensuring economically viable alternative energy transit routes, notably taking the specificities of landlocked countries into account. The European Council calls on the Commission to support Member States in addressing these concerns, and welcomes the process agreed between the Commission and Slovakia, inviting other Member States to support the agreed objectives, as relevant.

33. In the context of the European Semester, the European Council discussed the integrated country-specific recommendations on the basis of a horizontal note.
34. The European Council welcomes the fulfilment by Bulgaria of all the convergence criteria as set out in the Treaty. It endorses the Commission's proposal that Bulgaria adopt the euro on 1 January 2026 and invites the Council to swiftly adopt the relevant Commission proposals.
35. The European Council will revert to competitiveness and the green and digital transitions in October 2025 to assess progress and provide further guidance.

VI. MIGRATION

36. Recalling its previous conclusions, the European Council took stock of progress in their implementation, including in the light of the recent letter from the President of the Commission, and encourages an intensification of work in particular on: the external dimension, notably through comprehensive partnerships; the implementation of adopted EU legislation and the application of existing legislation; the prevention and countering of irregular migration, including through new ways in line with EU and international law; efforts to facilitate, increase and accelerate returns, using all relevant EU policies, instruments and tools; the concepts of safe third countries and safe countries of origin; the fight against instrumentalisation, human trafficking and smuggling; visa policy alignment by neighbouring countries; as well as safe and legal pathways in line with national competences. The European Council recalls the EU's determination to strengthen security at its external borders and ensure their effective control, in line with EU and international law.
37. In particular, it invites the co-legislators to continue examining the Commission's recent legislative proposals. It takes note of ongoing discussions on returns, on the establishment of a list of safe countries of origin at Union level, and on the application of the safe third country concept.