

**WORKING DOCUMENT  
IN PREPARATION OF THE ROME DECLARATION  
(03 March 2017)**

*In the light of the discussions held in Malta on 3 February, and taking into account the contributions sent by a number of Member States, the President of the European Council, the Prime Minister of Italy, as host of the Rome celebrations, the Prime Minister of Malta, as Presidency of the Council, and the President of the European Commission have jointly drafted the elements below, with a view to the Declaration to be adopted in Rome on 25 March.*

*Heads of State or Government of the 27 will be invited, during their informal meeting on 10 March, to give their reactions, so as to guide the subsequent drafting of the Rome Declaration, with a view to the text being finalised ahead of the Rome ceremony.*

*In particular, Heads could respond to the following questions:*

- *do you agree with the proposed structure?*
- *do you agree with the elements suggested under the different sections?*
- *are there any elements which pose difficulties or are there key elements missing?*

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### ***Possible elements for the section on the achievements of the EU***

- we, the representatives of 27 Member States of the European Union take pride in the achievements of the EU: the construction of European unity is a bold, far-sighted endeavour; sixty years ago, recovering from the tragedy of two world wars, we decided to bond together and rebuild our continent from its ashes;
- we, the citizens of the European Union, have united for the better; European unity started as the dream of a few, it became the hope of the many; today, we are united and stronger; hundreds of millions of people across the continent benefit from living in a Union that has overcome old divides and developed into a unique community of democratic rights, the rule of law and common values;
- together, we have built a Union of peoples and States, with common institutions. A Union with a single market ensuring the free movement of people, goods, services and capital, a single currency and a common space of freedom, security and justice.

### ***Possible elements for the section on the new challenges facing the EU***

- today, the European Union is facing unprecedented challenges, both global and domestic: regional conflicts, terrorism, growing migratory pressures, protectionism and social and economic inequalities;
- we must show that the EU is capable of addressing the challenges of a rapidly changing world and offers to its citizens both security and new opportunities;
- we are determined to make the EU stronger and more resilient; we need to show even greater unity and solidarity among EU Member States. Unity is a necessity, not an option;
- taken individually, we would be sidelined by global dynamics. Standing together is our best chance to influence them, and to defend our common interests and values.

### ***Possible elements for the section on the Rome Agenda***

- In the 10 years to come we want a Union that is a safer and more prosperous place where to live. We want to enhance the social dimension of the EU, further strengthen the EMU, boost our cooperation on security and defence, make our societies stronger and more resilient towards globalization. We will bring the European Union closer to its citizens, giving to Member States, regions and cities the necessary room for maneuver to strengthen Europe's innovation and growth potential. We want a Union where citizens always have new opportunities of cultural, social and economic growth.
- In these times of change, we commit to the Rome Agenda and pledge to work over towards:

1. A safe and secure European Union: a Europe where all citizens feel safe and can move freely, where our external borders are secured and where migration is managed humanely and effectively; a Europe determined to fight terrorism and organized crime.
2. A prosperous and sustainable European Union: a Europe which creates growth, where a vast and developing Single Market and a stable and further strengthened single currency opens avenues for growth, innovation and exchange; a Europe promoting a sustained and sustainable growth, through investment, the implementation of structural reforms and the completion of the Economic and Monetary Union; a Europe where economies converge; a Europe where energy is secure and affordable and the environment clean and safe.
3. A social European Union: a Europe which promotes economic and social progress, a Europe which promotes rights and equal opportunities for all; a Europe which fights discrimination, social exclusion and poverty; a Europe where young people receive the best education and training and can study and find jobs across the continent; a Europe which preserves cultural diversity and promotes our cultural heritage.
4. A stronger European Union in the world: a Europe ready to take more responsibilities, and committed to strengthening its common security and defence; a Europe with a more integrated defence industry; a Europe protecting a rule-based multilateral system, proud of its values and protective of its people, promoting free and fair trade, defending the rule of law; a Europe committed to building new partnerships – including with Africa - and promoting stability and prosperity in its neighbourhood and globally.

We will:

- pursue these objectives, firm in the belief that Europe's future lies in our own hands;
- work together at the level that makes a real difference, be it the EU, national, regional, or local, fully in line with the principle of subsidiarity, and in a spirit of loyal and close cooperation, both among Members States and between them and the EU Institutions;
- promote a more effective and transparent decision-making process;
- work together to promote the common good, on the understanding that some of us can move closer, further and faster in some areas, keeping the door open to those who want to join later, and preserving the integrity of the single market, the Schengen area, and the EU as a whole. An undivided and indivisible Union, which acts together whenever possible, at different paces and intensity whenever necessary.

We commit to this Rome Agenda and will work together within the European Council towards its implementation.