

Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020: Council approves conclusions

The Council today approved **conclusions** on the Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020, reaffirming its **strategic importance**, and the joint commitment to building a **common area of shared democracy, prosperity and stability**.

Today's Council conclusions follow up on the conclusions of the European Council of 20 June 2019, which marked the 10th anniversary of the Eastern Partnership, and the **joint communication: "Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020: Reinforcing Resilience – an Eastern Partnership that delivers for all"** of 18 March 2020.

In its conclusions the Council welcomes the significant achievements of the Eastern Partnership to date, and reiterates its incentive- and conditionality-based approach as a means to **encourage Eastern partner countries** to continue **engaging in reforms** and increasing efforts in this regard. The Council confirms that the **current policy framework**, including the set of **'20 deliverables for 2020'** is valid and brings tangible results and benefits for people.

The Council also stresses the importance of the future Eastern Partnership being a more **strategic, ambitious, flexible** and **inclusive** framework for cooperation, allowing participants to tackle common and global challenges jointly in a wide range of areas, especially in the current unprecedented situation caused by the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

The conclusions call firmly for a **renewed commitment** to the **fundamentals** of the Eastern Partnership. These include democracy, human rights, rule of law, good governance, and successful anti-corruption policies, but also economic reforms, environmental, climate and energy challenges, digital transformation and investing in people.

Finally, the Council looks forward to the **next Eastern Partnership Summit**, which is expected to review the results achieved since the last Summit in 2017, endorse long-term policy objectives, and set out the way forward in further strengthening and deepening cooperation, as well as give a mandate for preparatory work on the next generation of post 2020 deliverables.