

# West Coast Model European Union 2024

## Communication from the Presidency



### Heads of Government

#### **1. Türkiye – Cooperation and Enhancement: Proposal to clarify the long-term status of Türkiye’s European Union membership application:**

The Presidency notes that negotiations with Türkiye regarding EU membership have been formally suspended since 2019. The 2016 refugee agreement was intended to accelerate this process and bring visa-free travel within the EU to citizens of Türkiye. The Presidency proposes two options for consideration – formally reopening negotiations for membership with conditions to be determined, OR unilaterally closing negotiations and declare Türkiye’s current application to the EU as complete, with the possibility of a future reapplication should underlying conditions change favorably.

#### **2. European Defense Identity – Proposal to stand up a coherent European defense capability parallel to NATO:**

The combination of Russia’s continued illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine and upcoming elections in the United States compels an urgent reconsideration of independent European Union defense capabilities both in terms of military organization and cooperation with European defense contractor partners for procurement and effective implementation. The traditional ‘Three D’s’ calling for no duplication, no decoupling and no discrimination in NATO/EU cooperation has left the EU with modest meaningful capability without substantial support from US assets through NATO. The Presidency proposes budgeting EUR 100b over 10 years to establish a functional European defense organization parallel with NATO, capable of meaningful action both inside the EU and externally, without US support. This will be the baseline investment and require member nations to significantly increase their cooperation and defense spending in addition to increased EU budget contributions and increased production and innovation capacity in the private sector of defense-industrial

production. We therefore propose a requirement for EU member states to increase their defense spending to 3% of GNP by 2027, and 3.5% by 2032.

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## **Interior Ministers**

### **1. Digital Single Market – Proposal to require media and communications companies to open all encrypted customer communications to government agencies:**

It is increasingly clear that the proliferation of End-to-End Encryption (E2EE) messaging services offered by corporations like Apple, Alphabet/Google, Meta, Signal, Telegram and others has provided a haven for terrorist organizations, organized crime, trafficking and exploitation of vulnerable individuals, abuse of migrants and many other direct threats to our shared values and safety. The Presidency proposes a comprehensive program of business regulation requiring services offering encrypted communications to offer both law enforcement and intelligence agencies access to end-to-end encrypted communications with the provision of a letter of request throughout the EU, starting in January 2024, with fines to be determined for non-compliance. Companies offering messaging services will be required to create at their own expense a method of on-demand access to encrypted messages, while simultaneously fully protecting consumer privacy and data security from unauthorized access. The Presidency proposes EUR 300m over three years in grants to member states to study and implement pilot programs to establish best practices for effective security intervention prior to terrorist or significant criminal actions. Grants may NOT be paid to private entities. Service providers will need to create the means to access communications as part of their ongoing course of business. No funding or compensation will be offered.

### **2. Immigration – Proposal to expand Frontex as a unified Coast Guard agency in the Mediterranean:**

Mediterranean Coast Guard. We have been facing a near-continuous influx of migrants, potential refugees and other displaced persons across the Mediterranean frontier over the last decade. Frontline member states have borne a significant burden in terms of patrol, rescue, migrant acceptance and significant humanitarian challenges in terms of determining how much resource to project into the Mediterranean Sea for search, rescue, and the return of migrants to their port of departure. The Presidency proposes a transition toward

Frontex/European Border and Coast Guard Agency towards a significant presence at sea – an actual direct EU force with police powers, vessels, aircraft and a unification of the Mediterranean coast guard responsibility/authority. We propose an initial budget of EUR 10b over six years to create the new service and spin up shore radar stations, vessels, helicopters, surveillance aircraft and associated infrastructure. The Presidency further encourages member states with substantial Coast Guard agencies to transition their existing budgets, facilities, vessels and aircraft to Frontex under a mechanism and timeline to be determined – initial proposals are 50% transition by 2026, and 90% transition by 2028.