

Joint statement by President Jean-Claude Juncker and Prime Minister Theresa May

The following joint statement was issued by President Jean-Claude Juncker and Prime Minister Theresa May following their working dinner in Brussels on 16 October 2017:

"The Prime Minister and the President of the European Commission had a broad, constructive exchange on current European and global challenges.

They discussed their common interest in preserving the Iran nuclear deal and their work on strengthening the security of citizens in Europe, notably on the fight against terrorism. They also prepared for the European Council that will take place later this week.

As regards the Article 50 negotiations, both sides agreed that these issues are being discussed in the framework agreed between the EU27 and the United Kingdom, as set out in Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. The Prime Minister and the President of the European Commission reviewed the progress made in the Article 50 negotiations so far and agreed that these efforts should accelerate over the months to come. The working dinner took place in a constructive and friendly atmosphere."

Statement by Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides on the deadly forest fires and storms in several Member States

"Today all our thoughts are with our citizens who are suffering from the devastating forest fires in Portugal and Spain and the storms affecting Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Our condolences go to all those that have sadly lost loved ones and we commend the brave first responders working in difficult conditions to save the lives of others.

We are in constant contact with the respective authorities and all EU

emergency response tools are available.

The first EU support is already on its way.

President Juncker has spoken to Prime Minister of Portugal António Costa and I have spoken to Minister Constança Urbano de Sousa to offer the EU's full solidarity and readiness to help.

Following a request for assistance from the Portuguese authorities, firefighting aircraft from Italy are being dispatched through the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism. These specialised planes will operate in the most affected areas in Portugal and provide valuable support to the national emergency efforts.

We are also closely following developments regarding Hurricane Ophelia currently affecting parts of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

At this stage, the Irish authorities have requested assistance via the EU's Copernicus satellite mapping system. Highly detailed satellite imagery will help the national civil protection teams assess the extent of damage and better focus relief efforts.

Our 24/7 Emergency Response Coordination Centre is working around the clock to channel EU support and we stand ready to mobilise any further assistance requested."

Background

The European Commission coordinates voluntary offers made by participating states through the [EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#), and can co-finance the transport of relief items and experts to the country in question. The Civil Protection Mechanism can only be activated upon request from the national authorities. The mobilisation of assistance is coordinated through the [Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre](#), which closely monitors developments and offers the possibility of transport co-financing for the offered assistance.

Assistance can consist of items for immediate relief as well as experts and supporting intervention teams. In the case of fires, support can include fire-extinguishing aircraft. The Commission cannot send planes or equipment itself via the Mechanism.

Overall, the Mechanism facilitates the cooperation in disaster response among 34 European states (28 EU Member States, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Norway, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey).

Links

[Factsheet: EU: a world leader in helping those affected by crises](#)

[Photos: European Commission's Emergency response centre](#)

[Photos: Visit of Christos Stylianides, Member of the EC, to the EU Emergency](#)

[Response Coordination Centre](#)

[Video: European Commission's Emergency response centre](#)

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[**August 2017 – Euro area international trade in goods surplus €16.1 bn – €5.1 bn deficit for EU28**](#)

The first estimate for **euro area** (EA19) exports of goods to the rest of the world in August 2017 was €171.5 billion, an increase of 6.8% compared with August 2016 (€160.6 bn). Imports from the rest of the world stood at €155.4 bn, a rise of 8.6% compared with August 2016 (€143.1 bn). As a result, the **euro area** recorded a €16.1 bn surplus in trade in goods with the rest of the world in August 2017, compared with +€17.5 bn in August 2016. **Intra-euro area** trade rose to €132.9 bn in August 2017, up by 7.6% compared with August 2016.

[Full text available on EUROSTAT website](#)