

EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT

EN

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Invitation letter by President Donald Tusk to the European Council

It is my pleasure to invite you to the meeting of the European Council on 13-14 May 2017 in Brussels.

Our second European Council in 2017 is dedicated to fundamental challenges that we face in today's world. In particular, we will discuss the **future of the European Union**.

European unity started as the dream of a few, it became the hope of the many. Then Europe became one again. Today, we are united and stronger: hundreds of millions of people across Europe benefit from living in an enlarged Union that has overcome the old divides. The European Union is facing unprecedented challenges, both global and domestic: regional conflicts, terrorism, growing migratory pressures, protectionism and social and economic inequalities. Together, we are determined to address the challenges of a rapidly changing world and to offer to our citizens both security and new opportunities.

We will make the European Union stronger and more resilient, through even greater unity and solidarity amongst us and the respect of common rules. Unity is both a necessity and our free choice. Taken individually, we would be side-lined by global dynamics. Standing together is our best chance to influence them, and to defend our common interests and values. We will

act together, at different paces and intensity where necessary, while moving in the same direction, as we have done in the past, in line with the Treaties and keeping the door open to those who want to join later. Our Union is undivided and indivisible.

In this respect the presidency would like to:

- **Propose that the Council takes a closer look at the possibility that certain Member States who want to do more in common, one or several “coalitions of the willing” emerge to work together in specific policy areas. These may cover policies such as defence, internal security, taxation or social matters.**

- **Propose a scenario where there is a consensus on the need to better tackle certain priorities together, whereby the EU27 decides to focus its attention and limited resources on a reduced number of areas. For these policies, stronger tools are given to the EU27 to directly implement and enforce collective decisions, as it does today in competition policy or for banking supervision. Elsewhere, the EU27 stops acting or does less.**

I look forward to meeting you in Brussels to listen to your assessment of the situation considering the latest developments. I would welcome your thoughts on the issue by 5 May, well in time for our 13-14 May meeting.