

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Readout of the telephone conversation between President Charles Michel and Russian President Vladimir Putin**

The phone call between the president of the European Council Charles Michel and president Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation took place on Thursday January 16, 2020 ahead of the upcoming Libya Conference, which is to be held in Berlin on January 19. During the call, president Michel addressed the situation in Libya and in the wider Middle East.

The crisis in Libya poses significant regional risks; the presidents discussed the importance of the cessation of hostilities. The president of the European Council repeated that the European Union fully supports UN initiatives and the Berlin process. The presidents are hopeful that all parties will come to an agreement to lock in a ceasefire and to re-launch the political process.

For the president of the European Council it is essential to reach out to all international partners in order to discuss options for de-escalation in Iran and Iraq. President Michel stressed that the European Union fully supports the JCPOA as an important contribution to regional security and a key pillar of the global non-proliferation architecture.

During the first contact between Charles Michel, in his capacity as president of the European Council, and Vladimir Putin, president Michel recalled the EU's position on the full implementation of the Minsk Agreements; noted the Paris Summit held in December 2019 in the Normandy format and welcomed the gas transit agreement concluded between Ukraine and Russia. The EU supports Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

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