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Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Remarks by Prime Minister Samaras on the achievements of the Hellenic Presidency

Prime Minister Antonis Samaras made the following remarks at the final press conference of the June European Council:

I. Greece was one of the very first staunch supporters of Juncker' candidacy. We are glad that this choice received the backing of the European Council. Mr. Juncker is uniquely qualified to fulfil the difficult task ahead of him.

II. Greece approached the Presidency in a practical and result-oriented manner. 67 pieces of legislation were concluded. Agreement was reached within the Council on over 15 legislative acts. Our main priorities:

1. Deepening of the EMU while tackling euro's deficiencies. The Single Resolution Mechanism Regulation (SRM), and the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Single Resolution Fund (SRF), constitute a major step towards the completion of the Banking Union.

2. Jobs and Growth, (a) the own resources legislative package (b) the funding of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (c) legislation, in the framework of the Single Market Act I and II, like (i) the Regulation on e-business and e-commerce and the Directives on (ii) the posting of workers, (iii) electronic invoicing in public procurement and (iv) the disclosure of non-financial information of businesses (important in the fight against tax evasion).

The participation of the Union in the capital increase of the European Investment Fund (EIF) was secured. Important investment files were concluded, while progress was made in the fields of telecommunications and infrastructure.

P R E S S

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3. Border and migration management, a major challenge for the whole of the EU. The list of countries requiring visa to enter the EU was revised, allowing citizens of around 20 countries to travel to the EU without visa. The **(a)** Directive on the conditions of entry and stay in the context of Intra-Corporate Transfer (ICT) and **(b)** the FRONTEX Regulation were adopted.

A major breakthrough is the adoption of the Post Stockholm Strategic Guidelines in the area of freedom, security and justice. They focus attention on (a) the implementation of the principle of solidarity in the areas of asylum, border and migration management, (b) the linkage between migration and the Union's foreign policy, (c) the development of effective return, readmission and visa policies, (d) an effective internal security framework.

4. The horizontal thematic of the Hellenic Presidency has been to redefine and relaunch EU maritime policies in all their aspects, including security, growth and energy. A key component is the European Maritime Security Strategy. It is the first time that the EU is developing a holistic, cross-sectoral strategy of this kind, which will result in better protecting and promoting our security and economic interests at sea. Agreement was reached on the Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning. A Regulation was adopted to finance the actions of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA).

5. The Regulation on the statute and funding of European political parties and foundations is a qualitative leap for European representative democracy through truly transnational European political parties.

6. Agreement was reached on **(a)** new rules for the EU Solidarity Fund and **(b)** the implementation of the Solidarity Clause, enabling joint action in major crisis.

7. Particular attention was paid to enlargement, to renew relevant EU's interest.
