

Afghanistan crisis shows EU must seek greater military autonomy - Michel



European Council President Charles Michel pauses for one minute of silence to pay respect to victims of the recent floods in Europe, at the EU Council in Brussels, Belgium, July 20, 2021. Virginia Mayo/Pool via REUTERS

LJUBLJANA, Sept 1 (Reuters) - The European Union must take action to be better prepared for military evacuations of its citizens in situations such as occurred in Afghanistan in recent weeks, EU Council President Charles Michel said on Wednesday.

“In my view, we do not need another such geopolitical event to grasp that the EU must strive for greater decision-making autonomy and greater capacity for action in the world,” he told the Bled Strategic Forum in Slovenia.

Western nations scrambling to get their citizens out of Kabul after the Taliban takeover were dependent on the U.S. military to keep the airport running during airlifts.

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