



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
MAIN TOPICS FOR THE COMING FORTNIGHT¹

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Friday 10 February 2012

Education (Youth, Culture and Sport) Council - overview of the agenda

The Council will be devoted to education issues, starting with the adoption of the **joint report on the implementation of the strategic framework for European cooperation in the field of education and training** until 2020 (ET2020), which supports and supplements the Europe 2020 strategy. The report assesses actions and developments during the first cycle of implementing "ET 2020" (2009-2011) and establishes priorities for European policy cooperation during the next cycle (2012-14).

In public debate, ministers will discuss the education-related aspects of the Commission's Annual Growth Survey ([17229/11](#) + [ADD 1](#), [ADD 2](#), [ADD 3](#) and [ADD 4](#)), which launches the new six month cycle of economic policy coordination in the EU, the "European Semester". Ministers will be invited, on the basis of a presidency discussion paper ([5444/12](#)), to discuss **the role of education in fostering employability**, with particular emphasis on the urgent need to reduce youth unemployment, and in ensuring a smooth transition into work.

The results of the debate, which will also cover the relevant headline goals and priority measures to be taken, will be forwarded to the Spring European Council of 1-2 March and form part of the synthesis report from the sectoral Councils directly involved in Europe 2020.

Further information

- Commission communication: "Education and Training in a smart, sustainable and inclusive Europe" ([18577/11](#) + [ADD 1](#), [ADD 2](#))
- Commission communication "An Agenda for new skills and jobs: A European contribution towards full employment" ([17066/10](#))
- Strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (*OJ 119, 28.5.2009*)

Event

Meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (education items only) - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels (morning-only session, starting at 10.00).

The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room on Thursday 9 February at 14.00.

A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting (around 13.00).

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Tuesday 14 February 2012

**Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (energy issues)
- overview of the agenda**

The Council will be devoted to energy issues, starting with a public policy debate on a draft regulation on guidelines for **trans-European energy infrastructure**. The Commission presented its proposal in October ([15813/11](#)), following the call from the European Council in February 2011 ([2/1/11](#)). The proposal is intended to help the EU deliver the huge investments required to replace aging infrastructure, to ensure security of supply, to make the transition to a low-carbon economy and to complete the internal energy market.

The Council will hold a public policy debate on its contribution to the European Semester, the new cycle of economic policy coordination under the **Europe 2020 strategy** for jobs and growth, in the light of the 2012 Annual Growth Survey ([17229/11](#)). Ministers will be invited to address the main obstacles to the achievement of the Europe 2020 energy objectives and measures in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy, which have the biggest potential to contribute to growth and job creation. The outcome of the debate will constitute provide the TTE Council's input to the overall report on the implementation of the 2020 Strategy, to be presented to the March European Council.

Event

Meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (energy items only) - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels (10.00).

The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room on Monday 13 February at 10.00.

A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

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Friday 17 February 2012

Overview of the agenda of the EPSCO Council (employment and social policy issues)

The Council will have a first exchange of views on legislative proposals regarding the enforcement and implementation of the **posting of workers directive** and the **use of the right to collective action** (Monti II), which the Commission will present to the Council.

The main objective of these proposals is to improve the implementation and the application in practice of the posting of workers directive of 1996.

Preparing its **contribution to the European Council** of 1-2 March, the Council will set the priorities for action in the areas of employment and social policies for 2012 by adopting conclusions as well as the joint employment report, and endorsing the Social Protection Committee (SPC) opinion on the 2012 annual growth survey; it will also be called on to reach a general approach on guidelines for the employment policies of the member states.

The Council is also due to endorse the SPC's third report on the social impact of the economic crisis and ongoing fiscal consolidation.

The Council will hold a policy debate on **women on company boards** and will take stock of the **alert mechanism report on macro economic imbalances** which will be presented by the Commission.

Further information

- Directive 96/71 concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services (*OJ L 18, 21.1.1997*)
- Third report on the social impact of the economic crisis and ongoing fiscal consolidation: main messages ([5858/12](#))

Event

Meeting of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels (10.00).

The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room on Wednesday 15 February at 14.00. A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

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Agenda of the President of the European Council ²

6 - 10 February 2012

Monday 6 February

"Europe in 2012: The road ahead" speech at the Humboldt University (Berlin)

Wednesday 8 February

- Meeting with the Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Zeljko Komsic (14.30) (press statement ± 15.00)

Friday 10 February

- EU-India summit (New Delhi, India)

Further information

[European Council - the president](#)

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² Information included in this page may be subject to last minute changes. Please check regularly the President's website.

Other events

Friday 10 February (New Delhi, India)

- EU-India summit
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