

GENERAL AFFAIRS Council

Monday 25 September in Brussels

Chair: Estonian Deputy Minister for EU Affairs **Matti Maasikas**

Meeting will start at 10:00.

The meeting will open with a presentation of the **priorities of the Estonian presidency**.

The Council will then prepare for the **European Council of 19-20 October 2017** by discussing an annotated draft agenda. Ministers will also take a look at the **implementation** of earlier European Council conclusions, with the focus on developments since June.

Ministers will exchange views on a **Commission** letter of intent on its **draft work programme for 2018** in order to provide broad indications of where the Council and its member states put the emphasis in relation to the priorities for 2018.

Under 'Any other business', the Commission will update ministers on the state of play of its **rule of law** dialogue with Poland.

Over a working lunch, ministers will discuss a number of issues linked to the end of the institutional cycle.

Press conference: +/-12.30.

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Press conferences and public events by video streaming

<http://video.consilium.europa.eu/en/webcasts>

Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery:

<https://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/98351>

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the Press Office.

Priorities of the Estonian presidency

The Estonian presidency will present its overall priorities up to the end of 2017.

[Programme of the Estonian presidency](#) (pdf)

October European Council

The Council will prepare for the forthcoming European Council meeting on 19-20 October 2017 by discussing an [annotated draft agenda](#) drawn up by the President of the European Council in cooperation with the Estonian presidency and the Commission.

The October European Council is expected to focus on migration, Digital Europe, defence and external relations.

In particular, leaders will take stock of the measures taken to stem illegal flows on all migration routes, decide on any additional measures, and call for further progress on the Common European Asylum System.

Regarding digital issues, they will look at how the EU can best meet the challenges and use the opportunities of the digital revolution.

The annotated draft agenda will serve as the basis for draft conclusions, to be prepared in the run-up to the European Council meeting.

Follow-up to the European Council

The Council will take stock of the implementation of earlier European Council conclusions, with the focus on developments since June.

Commission work programme for 2018

The Council will exchange views on a Commission [letter of intent](#) on its draft work programme for 2018. The discussion aims to provide the Commission with broad indications of what the Council and its member states wish to highlight in relation to the priorities for 2018.

The discussion will be steered by the following questions:

- Which of the envisaged initiatives do ministers see as particularly important, also in the light of the [strategic agenda](#)?
- Are there initiatives ministers would like to see in the Commission's work programme that are not contained in the letter of intent?
- Do any of the envisaged initiatives cause ministers to doubt their usefulness?

The views expressed by ministers will be summed up in a presidency letter so that the Commission can take them into account before adopting its work programme in October. As the last step in the annual legislative programming process, the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission will agree on a joint declaration on priorities for 2018.

[Annual programming process - timeline and steps](#) (pdf)

Any other business

The Commission will update ministers on the state of play of its rule of law dialogue with Poland.