



Council of the European Union

PRESS
EN

BACKGROUND¹
Brussels, 22 June 2016

GENERAL AFFAIRS Council **Tuesday 24 June in Luxembourg**

Starting at 14.30, the Council will prepare the **European Council on 28-29 June 2016** by examining draft conclusions.

As part of the **European Semester**, the Council will approve draft country specific recommendations and transmit them to the European Council for endorsement.

The Council will discuss the implementation of the **Commission's 2015 and 2016 work programmes** and exchange views on the **legislative priorities for 2017**.

The Council will exchange views on the state of play in the **implementation of the transparency aspects of the interinstitutional agreement on better law-making**.

The Council will adopt conclusions on the **EU Urban Agenda**.

A presidency press conference will be held after the end of the meeting at +/-18.00.

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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 on:
<http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/event/general-affairs-council-march-2016>

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

Preparation for the June European Council

The Council will examine draft conclusions for the European Council meeting to be held on 18-29 June, prepared by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, in cooperation with the Netherlands presidency and the Commission.

The European Council is due to focus on:

- migration: the European Council will review the situation in all its aspects
- economic items: the European Council will endorse the country-specific recommendations, assess the first results of the European fund for strategic investments, endorse an agenda for the single market, address the completion of the Economic and Monetary Union and take stock of on-going action to fight tax fraud and tax evasion
- external relations: the European Council will discuss EU-NATO cooperation, discuss the Global Strategy and may, in the light of events, address other foreign policy issues
- UK referendum: the European Council will address the referendum's outcome

An [annotated draft agenda](#) was discussed by the Council on 24 May 2016.

European Semester

As part of the European Semester, the Council is expected to approve draft country's specific recommendations (CSR's) and transmit them to the European Council for endorsement. The draft CSR's have also been discussed in EPSCO and ECOFIN.

The European Semester involves simultaneous monitoring of the member states' fiscal, economic and employment policies during a six-month period every year. In the light of the guidance provided by the European Council, the member states will prepare their national reform programmes (economic and employment policies) and stability or convergence programmes (fiscal policies) for this year.

[Council website: European Semester](#)

Better law-making agreement - Legislative programming

The presidency will brief ministers on the state of play of the implementation of the interinstitutional agreement (IIA) on better law-making, including on impact assessments.

Ministers will exchange views on **legislative priorities for 2017**. The aim of the discussion is to provide an early input to the Commission's work programme for next year ahead of its letter of intent.

This is in line with the new interinstitutional agreement on better law-making. According to this agreement the Commission consults the Council and the Parliament ahead of adopting its annual work programme and duly takes account of their views. It also reflects the [Council arrangements on annual programming](#) adopted on 15 March 2016 which translate the provisions of the interinstitutional agreement into a set of concrete practical steps and indicative timelines.

According to these arrangements the Commission will submit detailed information on the main elements guiding the preparation of its 2017 work programme in a letter of intent in September 2016. On that basis, the Council will hold an exchange of views with the Commission.

Following the adoption of its 2017 work programme in October the Commission will present it to the Council in November 2016. The three institutions will then adopt a declaration to set out jointly their objectives and priorities for the following year and identify items of major political importance.

The presidency will also inform the Council on the **implementation of the Commission's 2015 and 2016 work programme** ([10092/16](#)).

Transparency

Ministers will exchange views on the state of play in the implementation of the transparency aspects of the interinstitutional agreement on better law-making.

The discussion will be based on a [presidency note](#) which sets out work progress on the three strands that the IIA offers in view of improving transparency. These are a joint database on the state of play of legislative files, a joint register of delegated acts and greater transparency of trilogues.
