



Council of the European Union

PRESS
EN

BACKGROUND¹
Brussels, 19 May 2016

GENERAL AFFAIRS Council **Tuesday 24 May in Brussels**

Starting at 10.00, the Council will launch preparations for the **European Council on 28-29 June 2016** by discussing an annotated draft agenda.

The Council will hold its annual **rule of law dialogue**, focusing on migrants' integration and EU fundamental values.

A presidency press conference will be held after the end of the meeting at +/-12.15.

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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 an [annotated draft agenda](#), drawn up by the President of the European Council in cooperation with the presidency and the Commission, for the European Council meeting to be held on 28 and 29 June 2016.

The European Council will 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 and may, in the light of events, address other foreign policy issues
- UK referendum: the European Council will address the referendum's outcome

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

Rule of law dialogue

The Council will hold its second annual rule of law dialogue focusing on the challenges that the current migratory flows put on the safeguard of the EU's fundamental values.

The dialogue is steered by a [presidency note](#) and the following questions:

- What can member states do to ensure the respect for fundamental rights and rule of law in the context of integration? What can be expected from the receiving societies and migrants in this regard?
- From your national experience, do you have relevant lessons learned or best practices to share on how to help refugees and migrants to integrate smoothly in the receiving societies and embrace fundamental values and rule of law? Alternatively, which key challenges do you see in this respect?

The discussion will start with a contribution from the Director of the EU agency for fundamental rights, Michael O'Flaherty.

The second rule of law dialogue builds on a seminar on EU fundamental values, immigration and integration organised by the presidency on 2 February 2016 in Strasbourg.

The rule of law dialogue was established in December 2014 to promote and safeguard the rule of law in the framework of the Treaties. The first dialogue took place in November 2015.