



Council of the European Union

PRESS
EN

BACKGROUND¹
Brussels, 9 February 2016

GENERAL AFFAIRS Council

Tuesday 16 February in Brussels

Starting at 10.30, it will prepare the **European Council on 18-19 February 2016** by examining draft conclusions and taking note of a recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area.

The Council will also start preparations for the **European Council on 17-18 March 2016** by discussing an annotated draft agenda.

It will take note of the **state of play on the interinstitutional agreement on better lawmaking** agreed by the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission in December 2015.

The Council will assess the **state of play of European Council conclusions**, notably in the field of migration.

A presidency press conference will be held after the end of the meeting at +/-13.30.

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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 on: www.eucouncil.tv

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

European Council follow-up

The Council will be informed about the state of play of conclusions adopted by the European Council, notably in the field of migration.

Preparation for the February European Council

The Council will examine draft conclusions for the European Council meeting to be held on 18-19 February, 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:

- United Kingdom: the European Council will discuss and try to agree a set of arrangements to address the UK reform calls in view of its in/out referendum following the letter of UK Prime Minister of 10 November 2015
- migration: the European Council will assess the state of play of its earlier decisions and address immediate challenges
- other items: the European Council will endorse the recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area

An [annotated draft agenda](#) was discussed by the Council on 18 January 2016.

The Council will also take note of a recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area and transmit it to the European Council.

Preparation for the March European Council

The Council will examine an annotated draft agenda [5859/16], 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 17 and 18 March 2016.

The European Council will focus on:

- Migration
- Economic items
- Other items

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

Agreement on better lawmaking

The Council will take stock of the state of play on the interinstitutional agreement on better lawmaking.

A deal on the interinstitutional agreement has been reached between the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on 8 December 2015. Its main purpose is to improve the way in which the European Union legislates to ensure that EU laws better serve citizens and businesses.

The agreement has been approved by the Council and the Commission on 15 December 2015 and by the Conference of Presidents of the Parliament on 16 December 2015. Following revision by the lawyer-linguists the text still needs to be formally adopted by the three institutions. The Parliament is scheduled to vote on 9 March. The aim of the Netherlands presidency is to have the formal adoption by Council around the same time. The agreement then needs to be signed by the Presidents of the three institutions to enter into force the same day.

Council [press release](#) on the interinstitutional agreement

[Council website on better lawmaking](#)