



Council of the European Union

**PRESS**  
**EN**

**BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>**  
Brussels, 13 January 2016

## **GENERAL AFFAIRS Council**

### **Monday 18 January in Brussels**

Starting at 16.00, the Council will discuss the **work programme** proposed by the **Netherlands presidency** for the duration of its term of office ending on 30 June 2016.

It will prepare for the **European Council on 18-19 February 2016** by discussing an annotated draft agenda.

A presidency press conference will be held after the end of the meeting at +/-17.30.

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*Press conferences and public events by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu>  
Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on: [www.eucouncil.tv](http://www.eucouncil.tv)*

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<sup>1</sup> This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

## **Presidency programme**

The Netherlands presidency will present, in public session, its [work programme](#) for the duration of its term of office (January to June 2016), in particular the priorities of the Netherlands presidency in the General Affairs Council. The Council will hold an exchange of views.

## **Preparation for the 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 18 and 19 February 2016.

The European Council will focus on:

- United Kingdom: following the discussion at the December 2015 European Council on the UK plans for an (in/out) referendum, the European Council should agree on mutually satisfactory solutions in all four areas
- Migration: the European Council will assess progress in the implementation of its decisions taken in response to the migration and refugee crisis
- Other items: the European Council will be invited to endorse the Euro area recommendation

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

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