

European Council 15-16 October 2015 in Brussels

The European Council will start at 16.00 on Thursday 15 October with the usual exchange of views with European Parliament President Martin Schulz.

At its first working session the leaders will start by taking stock of discussions on the Presidents' report on completing **Europe's Economic and Monetary Union**.

This will be followed by an update by the President of the European Council on the process concerning the **United Kingdom' plans for an (in/out) referendum**.

Leaders will then turn to the issue of **migration**, with an emphasis on cooperation with third countries, external borders and returns.

Over dinner leaders will continue the discussion on migration and are expected to focus on **Turkey and Syria**.

President Tusk intends to finish the European Council by Thursday evening. Should it be necessary, the European Council could reconvene at 10.00 on Friday morning.

Indicative programme:

Thursday:	16.00	Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament
	16.30	Family photo
	16.45	First working session
	20.00	Working dinner
	(ttbc)	Press conference by Presidents Tusk and Juncker
Friday:	10.00	Possible second working session
	± 13.00	Possible press conference by Presidents Tusk and Juncker

[Full media programme](#)

[Invitation letter](#)

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

Migration

Building on the three European Council meetings already devoted to the migration crisis since April this year, as well as work done at the Council level on the issue, leaders are expected to focus their discussions on cooperation with third countries, external borders and returns. The European Council will also review implementation of all actions agreed so far, including relocation and financial pledges.

Leaders are expected to set out orientations for cooperation with third countries in order to stem the flows of migration. In particular the European Council should agree to work speedily to adopt a joint Action Plan with Turkey as part of a comprehensive cooperation agenda based on mutual commitments and delivery. Leaders are also expected to call for effective follow-up to the High-level Conference on the Western Balkans Route and to achieve concrete results at the upcoming Valletta Summit with African partners on 11-12 November.

The European Council will discuss ways of strengthening the EU's external borders. This will include a call for enhancing the mandate of Frontex and developing a European Border and Coast Guard system, in support of requesting Member States and in accordance with the Treaty. It will also encompass devising technical solutions to reinforce control of the EU's external borders (smart borders) and the establishment of an integrated management system for external borders.

Leaders are likely to call for the establishment of further hotspots and in this context to ensure that calls for expertise from Frontex and EASO are met. In the area of returns, they are also expected to discuss an increased role for Frontex, including the right to organise joint return operations and the creation of a dedicated return office within Frontex. The European Council should equally call for effective implementation of existing readmission agreements.

Finally the European Council is expected to discuss the political and military developments in Syria, including their impact on migration, and welcome the announcement of the creation of a Government of National Accord in Libya.

[Council website: EU response to migratory pressures](#)
[Informal meeting of heads of state or government, 23 September 2015 -statement](#)
[European Council conclusions, 25-26 June 2015](#)
[Special meeting of the European Council, 23 April 2015 - statement](#)

Economic and Monetary Union

The European Council will hear a report by Prime Minister Bettel of the Luxemburg Presidency on progress made at Council level on the Presidents' report on better economic governance in the euro area. No substantial discussion is foreseen at this meeting with leaders expected to revert to this issue in more detail at the next European Council meeting in December.

[Council website: Completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union](#)
[The Presidents' report](#)

UK (in/out) referendum

The President of the European Council will inform leaders about the process ahead concerning the United Kingdom plans for an (in/out) referendum.

Ukraine/Russia

Finally, Chancellor Merkel and President Hollande are expected to inform colleagues of the "Normandy" meeting in Paris on 2 October.