



MAIN TOPICS FOR THE COMING FORTNIGHT¹
8 - 21 October 2018

Tuesday 9 October 2018

Environment Council 3

Thursday 11 October 2018

Justice and Home Affairs Council (Justice)..... 4

Friday 12 October 2018

Justice and Home Affairs Council (Home) 5

Monday 15 October 2018

Foreign Affairs Council 6

Monday 15 October 2018

Agriculture and Fisheries Council 7

Tuesday 16 October 2018

General Affairs Council 8

Tuesday 16 October 2018

General Affairs Council (Art. 50)..... 9

Wednesday-Thursday 17-18 October 2018

European Council (Art.50), European Council and Euro Summit..... 10

¹ This document has been prepared under the sole responsibility of the Press Office.
Information may be subject to change, depending on further developments.

Thursday-Friday 18-19 October 2018

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) 11

Other events 12

[Agenda of the President of the European Council](#)

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For video coverage of Council sessions and audiovisual material, please see the following Council websites:

- <http://video.consilium.europa.eu> (live webcast of public deliberations, public debates and press conferences), and
- www.eucouncil.tv (video material available for download in broadcast quality and photo gallery).

Tuesday 9 October 2018 (09:30)

Environment Council

European Convention Centre, Luxembourg

Environment ministers will discuss the proposal for a recast regulation on **CO2 emission standards for cars and vans** with the aim of reaching a general approach. This will be followed by a policy debate on the proposal on **CO2 emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles**. Both discussions will be live streamed.

The Council will adopt conclusions on **climate change** which will serve as orientation for the upcoming negotiations at **COP 24**, the UN Framework Convention on climate change which will take place in Katowice, Poland, in December.

The Council will adopt conclusions on **biodiversity** ahead of the meeting of the conference of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November. These conclusions also cover the **Cartagena Protocol** on biosafety and the **Nagoya Protocol** on access and benefit sharing.

The Austrian Presidency will inform ministers on the state of play on the directive on **single-use plastics**. This point on the agenda will be broadcast live.

Press briefing: Monday 8 October, 11.00

Contacts

Press officer: Katharina Pausch-Homblé +32 2 281 62 63, + 32 470 884 296,
katharina.pausch-homble@consilium.europa.eu

Austrian Presidency spokesperson: Vera Pürerfellner, +32 476 601 839, vera.puererfellner@bmeia.gv.at

Thursday 11 October (10:30)

Justice and Home Affairs Council (Justice)

European Convention Centre, Luxembourg

The Council is expected to adopt a general approach on the **directive on insolvency, restructuring and second chance**. This new legislation aims to provide access for viable companies in financial difficulties to national insolvency frameworks that enable them to restructure at an early stage with a view of preventing their insolvency. It also aims at giving honest bankrupt entrepreneurs a second chance across the Union.

Ministers will hold a policy debate on the so-called **e-evidence package**. Its objective is improve cross-border access to e-evidence by allowing for judicial orders to be addressed directly to service providers in another member state, without the intervention of an authority from that other member state.

Ministers will exchange views on **mutual recognition in criminal matters** and hold discussions **with the Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency** (FRA).

Ministers will be informed by the Commission on measures it proposes **to ensure free and fair elections**, against the background of next year's European elections.

Finally, ministers will be updated by the Commission on the state of play of implementation of the **EPPO** regulation.

Press briefing : Tuesday 9 October, 14.00

Contacts:

Press officer: Romain Sadet, +32 2 281 89 14, + 32 473 865 437,
romain.sadet@consilium.europa.eu

Austrian Presidency spokesperson: Alexander Paier, +32 475 65 17 13, alexander.paier@bmeia.gv.at

Friday 12 October 2018 (09:30)

Justice and Home Affairs Council (Home)

European Convention Centre, Luxembourg

Home affairs ministers are expected to discuss the Commission proposal on the **European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) Agency**. This proposal covers several aspects, including the role of the agency in the field of returns, in working with third countries and supporting member states in border management. It also proposes to reinforce the agency in terms of staff and equipment.

Following this, ministers are expected to express their views on the Commission proposal reforming the **return directive**. This proposal aims to improve the rate of returns of those who do not have the right to stay in Europe. Changes include accelerated border procedures, clearer and faster procedures for issuing return decisions and for appeals, and clear rules on detention.

Ministers will also hold a debate on the Commission's sectoral proposals for the field of home affairs in the context of **the Multiannual Financial Framework**. The Council is expected to focus in particular on the question of the implementation of the external aspects of migration in these three sectoral proposals, following the European Council conclusions of 28 June 2018.

The Presidency is also expected to report on progress on the **reform of the Common European Asylum System**.

Press briefing : Tuesday 9 October, 14.00

Contacts:

Press officer: Veronica Huertas Cerdeira, +32 2 281 45 48, + 32 470 88 21 99,
veronica.huertas-cerdeira@consilium.europa.eu

Austrian Presidency spokesperson: Alexander Paier, +32 475 65 17 13, alexander.paier@bmeia.gv.at

Monday 15 October 2018 (10:00)

Foreign Affairs Council

European Convention Centre, Luxembourg

The Foreign Affairs Council, chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, will start with a discussion on **current affairs** allowing ministers to review pressing issues on the international agenda. This will include the outcome of the recent UN General Assembly. The High Representative will also refer to the EU strategy for connecting Europe and Asia, following the Joint Communication released on 19 September, on which the Council is expected to adopt conclusions.

The Council will discuss the **external aspects of migration**, following the Informal Summit of Heads of State or Government in Salzburg, Austria, on 19 and 20 September, as well as the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 11 October.

The Council will then discuss **Libya**. Building on the informal meeting of EU foreign ministers on the margins of the UN General Assembly, the Council will prepare the forthcoming conference on Libya foreseen on 12-13 November in Palermo.

Foreign ministers will exchange views on the latest developments in the **Central African Republic** and may adopt conclusions.

Over lunch, foreign ministers will discuss the situation in **Venezuela**. The discussion will focus on the European and international responses to the migratory crisis and the situation of Venezuelan refugees.

The Council is expected to adopt a number of decisions and conclusions without debate, including the adoption of a **new sanctions regime on chemical weapons** and conclusions on the EU strategy for connecting Europe and Asia.

For further information:

- [Connecting Europe and Asia - Building blocks for an EU Strategy \(press release, 19 September 2018\)](#)
- [Finding solutions to migratory pressures \(background information\)](#)
- [EU-Libya relations \(factsheet\)](#)

Press briefing: Thursday 11 October 2018 at 10.30)

Contacts

Press officers: Virginie Battu-Henriksson +32 2 281 5316, +32 470 18 24 05,
virginie.battu@consilium.europa.eu

Spokesperson for the High Representative for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy:
Maja Kocijancić, +32 2 298 6570, +32 498 984 425, maja.kocijancic@ec.europa.eu

Monday 15 October 2018 (10:00)

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

European Convention Centre, Luxembourg

On fisheries, the Council will discuss the **2019 fishing opportunities in the Baltic Sea** with the aim of reaching an agreement on total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas for the ten main commercial stocks in the basin.

The Council will also exchange views on the position to be taken by the EU at the annual **consultations between the EU and Norway** in the framework of their bilateral fisheries agreement, and at the **annual meeting of** the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (**ICCAT**).

Agriculture ministers will then consider a progress report on the regulation on **CAP strategic plans** and will be informed about the latest **meeting of the G20 agriculture ministers** and the latest developments in the fight against **African swine fever**.

Contacts

Press officer: Daniela Maria Lenzu, +32 2 2812146, +32 470 880 402,

maria-daniela.lenzu@consilium.europa.eu

Austrian Presidency spokesperson: Vera Pürerfellner, +32 476 601 839

vera.puererfellner@bmeia.gv.at

Tuesday 16 October 2018 (10.00)

General Affairs Council

European Convention Centre, Luxembourg

Ministers will continue preparations for the **European Council meeting on 18 October** by examining draft conclusions. They will take stock of the implementation of previous European Council conclusions.

Ministers will discuss the situation regarding the **rule of law in Poland**.

The presidency will also inform ministers on how it intends to organize the Council's proceedings following the triggering of the **Article 7(1) TEU procedure for Hungary**.

In public session, the Council will return to **the MFF package** to hear an assessment from the presidency on the state of play in the examination of the Commission proposals.

Press briefing: Monday 15 October, 16.30

Further information

- [European Council meeting on 18 October 2018](#)
- [Commission proposals on the multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027](#)
- [Reasoned proposal under Article 7\(1\) TEU regarding Poland](#)
- [Reasoned proposal under Article 7\(1\) TEU regarding Hungary](#)

Contacts

Press officer: Liis Jaansalu, +32 2 2813871, +32 470 890 850, liis.jaansalu@consilium.europa.eu

Austrian Presidency spokesperson: Alexander Paier, +32 475 65 17 13, alexander.paier@bmeia.gv.at

Tuesday 16 October 2018 (16.00)

General Affairs Council (Article 50)

European Convention Centre, Luxembourg

The Council, in EU27 format, will be updated by the Commission's Brexit chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, about the **state of play of Brexit negotiations** with the UK, covering both the withdrawal agreement and the political declaration on future relations. Ministers will use this as a basis for preparing the **European Council (Article 50) of 17 October 2018**.

All the **withdrawal issues** need to be covered in the withdrawal agreement, which should be agreed well in time to be ratified before the withdrawal date of 29 March 2019. Some parts of the text have already been agreed in principle by the UK and the EU negotiators, although nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

There are still **parts of the withdrawal agreement that require further negotiation**. One of them is the issue of avoiding a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

An agreement on a **future relationship** can only be negotiated and concluded once the UK has become a third country. However, an overall understanding on the framework for the future relationship will be set out in an accompanying **political declaration** which will be referred to in the withdrawal agreement.

Further information:

- [Remarks by President Donald Tusk after the Salzburg informal summit](#)
- [Draft withdrawal agreement \(partial agreement between the EU and the UK negotiators\), 19 March 2018](#)
- [Joint statement on progress by the negotiators, 19 June 2018](#)
- [Brexit – background information and timeline](#)

Press briefing: Monday 15 October, 16.30

Contacts

Council press officer: Ester Arauzo-Azofra, +32 2 281 53 61, +32 473 63 07 23,
ester.arauzo-azofra@consilium.europa.eu

Austrian Presidency spokesperson: Alexander Paier, +32 2 2345 344, +32 475 651 713
alexander.paier@bmeia.gv.at

Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 October 2018

European Council (Art.50), European Council and Euro summit

Europa building, Brussels

At the October summit, heads of state or government will discuss **Brexit, migration, internal security, external relations**, as well as **euro zone reform**.

At the European Council (Art. 50) working dinner on 17 October, EU27 leaders will review the state of **negotiations with the UK**.

On Thursday morning, leaders are expected to reaffirm the importance of **making progress on all the elements of the comprehensive approach to migration**. This will include cooperation with countries of origin and transit, recent Commission proposals on the European Border and Coast Guard, the return directive and the Asylum agency, as well as the reform of the Common European Asylum System.

EU leaders are also expected to adopt conclusions on **internal security**, based on the discussions at the informal Leaders' Agenda summit in Salzburg, Austria, on 20 September. These will focus **on cybersecurity, disinformation**, interoperability of databases, fighting cross-border terrorist crimes and the EU civil protection mechanism proposal.

Depending on events, the European Council may address specific **foreign policy issues**.

Finally, EU leaders will meet for a **Euro Summit** in an inclusive format of 27 EU member states. They will discuss the state of play of negotiations on the deepening of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) with a view to the Euro Summit in December.

Contacts:

Spokesperson of the President of the European Council:

Preben Aamann, +32 2 281 2060, +32 476 85 05 43, preben.aamann@european-council.europa.eu

Press officer for European Council and Summits:

Jüri Laas, +32 2 281 5523, +32 470 95 75 61, juri.laas@consilium.europa.eu

Thursday-Friday 18-19 October 2018

Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)

Europa building, Brussels

The **12th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)** takes place in Brussels, bringing together leaders of 51 European and Asian countries, representatives of the European Union and the Secretary General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Under the umbrella "**Europe and Asia: global partners for global challenges**", **connectivity and support for multilateralism** will be the 2 main topics on the agenda.

Leaders will seek to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the two continents in a wide range of areas, including trade and investment, sustainable development and climate, security challenges.

A joint declaration is expected to be adopted by the participants.

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) was established in 1996 as a forum **for dialogue and cooperation between Europe and Asia**. It aims to strengthen the relationship between the two continents.

More information on the Council website: <http://europa.eu/!ny94RC>

- [Factsheet on ASEM \(EEAS\)](#)
- [Connecting Europe and Asia - Building blocks for an EU Strategy \(press release, 19 September 2018\)](#)

Press briefing: Friday 12 October, 11.00

Contacts:

Spokesperson of the President of the European Council:

Preben Aamann, +32 2 281 2060, GSM: +32 476 85 05 43, preben.aamann@european-council.europa.eu

Press officer

Alain Taverri, tel: +32 2 281 3684, GSM: +32 475 63 59 62, alain.taverri@consilium.europa.eu

Other events

15 October 2018

[Eastern Partnership Foreign Ministers meeting](#) (Luxembourg)

16 October 2018

[Tripartite Social Summit](#) (Brussels, Belgium)

[Austrian presidency website](#)
