



Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council
Brussels, 20 February 2020

The Council session will start at **10.00** and will be chaired by **Blaženka Divjak**, minister for Science and Education of Croatia.

The meeting will be public and will be devoted to education issues only. After the adoption of the agenda and the approval of non-discussion items, ministers are expected to adopt a **Resolution on education and training in the European Semester**.

The meeting will then continue with a policy debate entitled '**Brain circulation – a driving force for the European Education Area**'.

A press conference will be held around **13.00** with Minister **Blaženka Divjak** and Commissioner **Mariya Gabriel**.

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[*Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting page*](#)

[*Press conferences and public events by video streaming*](#)

[*Video coverage in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery:*](#)

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

EDUCATION

Resolution on education and training in the European Semester

Education ministers are expected to adopt a [Resolution on education and training in the European Semester: ensuring informed debates on reforms and investments](#).

Against the background of an increased importance of education and training in the European Semester process, this resolution reflects member states' commitment to further improving the quality and relevance of education and training with the aim to boost growth and jobs. It also ensures that education ministers are appropriately involved in the European semester process when education and training related issues are being discussed.

The current European Semester for economic policy coordination started in December 2019 with the adoption of the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy by the European Commission. In spring the Commission will propose Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) which will then be endorsed by the European Council in June 2020. The Resolution on education and training in the European Semester is the contribution from the EYCS (Education) Council to the process.

Brain circulation – a driving force for the European Education Area (policy debate)

In a public session, ministers will discuss ways of achieving a balanced brain circulation² in the EU. Based on a steering note prepared by the presidency ([Discussion paper](#)), they will be invited to share their views in relation to the following questions:

- What mix of policies is necessary to ensure balanced brain circulation in the European Education Area and how can relevant players at local, regional and national level be mobilised to achieve this aim?
- What can be done at national and European levels to further support the European Universities initiative's strong potential to contribute towards balanced brain circulation in the European Education Area?
- How can European funds, programmes and funding instruments be used to develop and implement policies that would, consequently, enhance balanced brain circulation? Do you have any national examples of measures that you implement?

² Brain circulation is the possibility for developing countries to draw on the skills, know-how and other forms of experience gained by their migrants - whether they have returned to their country of origin or not - and members of their diaspora. Source: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/glossary_search/brain-circulation_en

The debate will take place against the background of a growing competition for highly skilled workforce. Free movement of people, as one of the fundamental principles of the EU, ensures learning and labour mobility for EU citizens, as well as free circulation of knowledge and ideas across the Union. This contributes to the development of various skills, higher employability and ultimately to further economic development. At the same time, imbalances in brain flow and one-way migration of people with skills, due to economic disparities across the EU, may lead to negative consequences, such as brain drain³.

Education ministers will jointly reflect on how best to strive for brain circulation that is balanced and can support long-term sustainability and cohesion within the Union. The discussion will also touch upon the ways to enhance the positive effects of brain circulation, for example by developing policies and initiatives, such as European universities, that can contribute towards balanced brain circulation in the European Education Area⁴.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The presidency will brief ministers on the state of play regarding the post-2020 strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training ([5533/20](#)).

³ Brain drain is the loss suffered by a country as a result of the emigration of a (highly) qualified person. Source: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/glossary_search/brain-drain_en

⁴ [Commission Communication on Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture](#)