



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
MAIN TOPICS FOR THE COMING FORTNIGHT¹
12 - 25 May 2014

Monday 12 May

Foreign Affairs Council

- Overview of the agenda3

Tuesday 13 May

General Affairs Council

- Overview of the agenda4

Monday 19 May

Foreign Affairs Council (Development)

- Overview of the agenda5

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

- Overview of the agenda6

Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 May

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

- Education and youth issues7
- Culture, audiovisual and sport issues8

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

Agenda of the President of the European Council (12 - 17 May)	9
Other events	10

*

* *

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 (audiovisual material available for download in broadcast quality).

For photo coverage: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/council/photographic-library.aspx?lang=en>.

Monday 12 May 2014

Foreign Affairs Council - overview of the agenda

The Council, chaired by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, will discuss the **Ukraine** crisis and take stock of ongoing work, including on diplomatic efforts to promote de-escalation of the situation, EU support to security sector reform in Ukraine, the EU's policy regarding Crimea and restrictive measures.

The Council will also debate the state of play regarding the **Middle East peace process**, taking also into account the [statement](#) of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton of 27 April.

It will discuss the EU's **neighbourhood policy** for 2014, inter alia on the basis of a joint communication of the Commission and the High Representative ([8595/14](#)). This annual stocktaking of the implementation of EU neighbourhood policy reports on the Union's engagement with, and support of, its neighbours to the East and South.

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on Ukraine and the Middle East Peace Process.

A Stabilisation and Association Council with **Albania** will take place in the margins of the Foreign Affairs Council on 12 May. On 13 May, the EU-**Algeria** Association Council will be held.

Further information

- Council website: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/>
- European External Action Service website: <http://eeas.europa.eu>

Events

Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels ([9.30](#)).
A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

Contacts

Press officer: Susanne Kiefer, tel. + 32 2 281 94 42, susanne.kiefer@consilium.europa.eu
Spokespersons for the High Representative for Foreign Affairs:
Michael Mann, tel. +32 2 299 9780, Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu
Maja Kocijancic, tel. +32 2 298 6570, +32 498 984 425, Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu

Tuesday 13 May 2014

General Affairs Council - overview of the agenda

The Council meeting will be devoted to the **preparation of the European Council** on 26-27 June. For that purpose, ministers will examine the draft annotated agenda ([8280/14](#)). The European Council is expected to focus in particular on the area of freedom, security and justice; the European Semester; and climate and energy issues. The European Council may also address specific external relations issues in light of developments on the international scene.

Event

Meeting of the General Affairs Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels (10.00).
A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

Contacts

Press officer: Jüri Laas, tel. +32 2 281 55 23, juri.laas@consilium.europa.eu
Greek presidency: Alexandros Vidouris, tel. +32 2 02 551 56 36, a.vidouris@rp-grece.be

Monday 19 May 2014

Foreign Affairs Council - development cooperation issues

EU ministers for development cooperation, meeting within the Foreign Affairs Council, are expected to exchange views on the **post-2015 agenda for sustainable development and poverty eradication**.

The Council will be briefed by the Commission on the implementation of the **agenda for change**.

The Council will also debate a **rights-based approach to development cooperation**, encompassing all human rights, and adopt conclusions.

Over working lunch, ministers are set to discuss development cooperation with the **Central African Republic** and with **South Sudan**.

In addition, the Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the EU's **comprehensive approach** as well as on the **annual report 2014 to the European Council on EU development aid targets**.

Further information

- [The Overarching Post 2015 Agenda](#) - Council conclusions June 2013
- [Agenda for change](#) - Council conclusions May 2012
- [Factsheet on the Central African Republic](#)
- [Factsheet on South Sudan](#)

Event

Meeting of ministers for development cooperation within the Foreign Affairs Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels, on Monday 19 May at 10.00.

A briefing will take place in the Council's "Lipsius" room on Friday 16 May at 11.30.

A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

Contacts

Press officer: Susanne Kiefer, tel. + 32 2 281 94 42, susanne.kiefer@consilium.europa.eu

Spokespersons for the High Representative for Foreign Affairs:

Michael Mann, tel. +32 2 299 9780, Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu

Maja Kocijancic, tel. +32 2 298 6570, +32 498 984 425, Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu

Monday 19 May 2014

Agriculture and Fisheries Council - overview of the agenda

The Council will have an exchange of views on a report from the Commission on the **establishment of a European fund for minor uses in the field of plant protection products**. Regulation 1107/2009 governs the placing of plant protection products (PPP) on the market and contains special provisions for the application and authorisation of so-called minor uses. These are uses of PPP that are economically not sustainable for the plant protection industry, but important for growers. The Commission report highlights the main causes for the minor uses problem and proposes the establishment of a coordination group.

In addition, ministers will be briefed on **food loss and food waste**, on the **climate and energy framework 2030** and on the **protection of animals during transport**.

Further information

- [Commission's report on the establishment of a European fund for minor uses in the field of plant protection products](#)

Events

Meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels (14.30). The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room on Friday 16 May at 15.00. A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

Contacts

Press officer: Xavier Pavard, tel. + 32 2 281 83 52, xavier.pavard@consilium.europa.eu
Greek presidency: Panagiotis Beniadis, tel. +32 477 600279, beniadis@rp-grece.be

Tuesday 20 May 2014

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council - education and youth issues

At its education session, the Council is due to adopt conclusions notably on:

- **effective teacher education**, which address concrete issues such as how to attract and retain the best candidates, how to ensure the relevance of teacher education programmes and how to better exploit the potential of new technologies and resources;
- **multilingualism and the development of language competences**, inviting member states to improve measures aimed at promoting multilingualism and enhancing the quality and efficiency of language learning and teaching, as well as to develop appropriate methods for assessing language proficiency;

Ministers will also hold, in public deliberation, a debate on the subject "**Education crossing borders: new opportunities and challenges**", on the basis of a Presidency discussion paper ([9127/14](#)).

In its youth configuration, the Council and the representatives of the governments of the member states are expected to adopt two resolutions on

- the **structured dialogue process** (a forum for joint reflection on the priorities, implementation and follow-up of European cooperation in the youth field), including social inclusion of young people ([9026/14](#)), which reviews achievements during the last cycle and establishes priorities for work in the next 18 month cycle.
- the **EU Work Plan for Youth**, a short and medium term plan with a limited number of key policy initiatives to address specific issues and political priorities of the moment in order to respond more efficiently to the consequences of the current crisis on youth.

The Council is also due adopt conclusions on promoting **youth entrepreneurship** to foster social inclusion of young people ([8378/14](#)). In this context, ministers will also discuss, in public deliberation, how to foster **an entrepreneurial mindset** among today's young generation, on the basis of questions prepared by the Presidency ([9012/14](#)).

Event

Meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels (starting at 10.00 with education items). At lunchtime an informal meeting between representatives of European youth organisations, ministers from the expanded troika (LT, EL, IT, LV) and the Commissioner for Youth, Androula Vassiliou, will take place. The Youth session will begin at 15.00. The presidency will hold a press briefing in the Council press room on Monday 19 May at 14.00. A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

Contacts

Press officer: Helena Gomes, tel. +32 473 92 33 08, helena.gomes@consilium.europa.eu
Greek presidency: Panagiotis Beniadis, tel. +32 477 600279, beniadis@rp-greece.be

Wednesday 21 May 2014

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council - Culture, audiovisual and sport issues

At its culture and audiovisual session, the Council is expected to adopt a recommendation for a decision designating Leeuwarden (Netherlands) as **European Capital of Culture for the year 2018** (9252/14). In this context, the Council will also adopt an implementing decision on the arrangements for the **appointment by the Council of three members of the selection and monitoring panel** for the European Capitals of Culture action (2020-2033) (9128/14).

The Council is also due to adopt conclusions on **cultural heritage as a strategic resource for a sustainable Europe**, calling in particular for more resources to be invested in cultural heritage as a part of sustainable regional strategies developed both at national and European level. The funding and development of digital cultural and creative content should also be promoted, including via Europeana (<http://www.europeana.eu/>).

Ministers will also discuss, in public deliberation, the topic "Addressing **cultural policy challenges in the context of the next Council Work Plan for Culture**", seeking to provide high-level guidance regarding priorities for the next Work Plan to be established under the Italian Presidency.

Finally, ministers will have an exchange of views on the **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**, on the basis of information from the Commission.

In its sport session, the Council will adopt a resolution on the **EU Work Plan for Sport (2014-2017)** (9131/14).

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on **gender equality in sport**, inviting member states and sport organizations to develop policies and programmes for eliminating gender stereotypes and to fight against gender-based violence in sport.

Ministers will also discuss, in public deliberation, **the economic, social and environmental sustainability of major sport events** (8751/14).

Event

Meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council - Justus Lipsius building, Brussels, starting at 10.00, with culture and audiovisual items. The sport session will start at 15.00 and will be preceded by a working lunch with representatives of the sports movement.

The presidency will hold a press briefing in the Council press room on Monday 19 May at 14.00. A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

Contacts

Press officer: Helena Gomes, tel.: +32 473 92 33 08, helena.gomes@consilium.europa.eu

Greek presidency: Panagiotis Beniadis, tel. +32 477 600279, beniadis@rp-grece.be

Agenda of the President of the European Council²

12 - 17 May

Monday 12 May

Kiev (Ukraine)

19.00 Meeting with Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk followed by press statement

Tuesday 13 May

Chisinau (Republic of Moldova)

- Meeting with President Nicolae Timofti (11.50) followed by working lunch
- Meeting with Prime Minister Iurie Leancă (14.20)
- Joint press conference (15.35)
- Meeting with speaker of Parliament Igor Corman (16.00)
- Speech at the Palace of the Republic (17.00)

Wednesday 14 May

Tbilisi (Georgia)

- Meeting with Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili (9.15)
- Joint press statements (10.50)
- Speech at the Europe House (11.30)
- Working lunch with President Giorgi Margvelashvili (13.00)

Thursday 15 May

- Meeting with Hong Kong Chief Executive Cy Leung (11.45)
- Presentation of letters of credentials of Ambassadors (15.00)
- Meeting with President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Gjorge Ivanov (17.45)

Saturday 17 May

- Open day for the European Council and the Council of the EU (10.00)

Further information

[European Council - the president](#)

Contacts

Spokesperson of the president:

Dirk De Backer, tel. + 32 2 281 97 68, mobile + 32 497 59 99 19,

e-mail: press.president@consilium.europa.eu

Deputy spokesperson of the president:

Preben Aamann, tel. + 32 2 281 20 60, mobile + 32 476 85 05 43,

e-mail: press.president@consilium.europa.eu

² Information included in this page may be subject to last minute changes. Please check regularly the President's website.

Other events

Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 May

- [Informal meeting of ministers for Competitiveness](#) (Athens)

Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 May

- [Informal meeting of ministers for Environment](#) (Athens)

Thursday 15 and Friday 16 May

- [Informal meeting of ministers for Transport, Telecommunications and Energy \(Energy\)](#)
(Athens)

<http://gr2014.eu>
