

Main topics and media events 25 June – 8 July 2018

Overview of the main subjects to be discussed at meetings of the Council of the EU over the next two weeks.

Foreign Affairs Council, Monday 25 June 2018

The Foreign Affairs Council will start with a joint session between foreign affairs ministers and defence ministers. They will discuss and adopt conclusions on EU cooperation in **security and defence**, and will hold a session on **EU-NATO cooperation** together with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. Over lunch, foreign ministers will discuss **Yemen** with UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths. The Council will adopt conclusions.

Foreign ministers will have a discussion on the implementation of the **EU Global Strategy**, the **Horn of Africa and the Red Sea** (with Council conclusions), and **Jordan**.

Environment Council, Monday 25 June 2018

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on delivering the EU action plan for the circular economy. Environment ministers will hold policy debates on the regulation on CO2 standards for cars and vans as well as on the directive on drinking water.

General Affairs Council, Tuesday 26 June 2018

The Council will discuss draft conclusions of the June European Council and hold a first hearing on the rule of law in Poland. It is expected to adopt conclusions on enlargement and the Stabilisation and Association Process.

General Affairs Council (Art.50), Tuesday 26 June 2018

EU27 ministers will prepare the European Council (Article 50) by discussing the state of play of Brexit negotiations and the conclusions to be adopted by the leaders.

European Council, European Council (Art.50) and Euro summit, Thursday 28 – 29 June 2018

The June European Council will focus on migration, security and defence as well as economic and financial affairs. It will be followed by a Brexit European Council (Article 50) to discuss progress in the talks with the UK and a Euro summit in inclusive format to discuss the reform of the European Monetary Union.

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Information Note: Informal working meeting on migration and asylum issues

The informal working meeting will take place on Sunday, 24 June 2018.

Meeting times

- 14.30 Arrival of Heads of State or Government at the VIP entrance of the Berlaymont
 - Doorsteps on the VIP podium (ground floor) upon arrival
 - FOR POOL: Welcome by President Jean-Claude Juncker, Berlaymont 13th floor – *for audio-visual technicians only*
1. 15.00 FOR POOL: Family photo, lobby Jean Monnet room, Berlaymont 13th floor – *for audio-visual technicians only*
 2. 15.05 Working session for Heads of State or Government, Jean Monnet room
 - FOR POOL: Photo and filming opportunity at the beginning of the meeting – *for audio-visual technicians only*
 3. 19.00 (approximately) End of the Informal Working Meeting
 - Doorsteps on the VIP podium (ground floor) upon departure

Access to the Commission

The Commission premises will only be open to already accredited press. No day accreditations will be provided.

For accredited press:

A Security perimeter around the Berlaymont will be in place on Sunday, 24 June. Your accreditation status will be verified at the entrance point to the Security Perimeter.

- If you are an accredited journalist to the European Institutions (yellow badge) or hold a 6-month Council badge you will need to show:
 - your badge
 - your valid ID card/passport
4. If you are travelling with a delegation and have received a valid e-pass from the European Commission you will need to show:
 - your valid ID card/passport
 - your valid national press card
 - a paper or electronic version of the email confirming your registration

The **Berlaymont** will be open from **13:30 CET** and will close two hours after the

end of the meeting.

After entering the Berlaymont building, please register at the reception desk. You will be asked to show the same documents as above before being able to pass through security.

Working space

Extra workstations will be available in the press zone directly outside of the main press room.

Workspaces cannot be reserved in advance.

Doorsteps

Doorsteps will take place at the VIP corner (behind the security check) from **14:00 CET** (depending on actual arrival times), and following the end of the informal working meeting.

No “concluding” press conference is planned.

No national briefings are planned.

As per standard practice, photo and video opportunities on the 13th floor of the welcome by President Juncker and the family photo will be accessible to a pool of audio-visual technicians only. The pool is fixed in advance and determined on a rotational basis – no additional applicants will be accepted.

All images will be available free of charge and free of rights on the audio-visual portal of the European Commission: <http://ec.europa.eu/ebs>

Food and drinks

The press bar will serve food and beverages from 13:00 to 19:00 CET.

For more information

For questions about accreditation or logistical assistance onsite: COMM-PRESSROOM-TEAM@ec.europa.eu

For questions on media opportunities: Oscar.SANCHEZ-BENITEZ@ec.europa.eu

For media enquiries: Natasha.BERTAUD@ec.europa.eu

[Weekly schedule of President Donald](#)

Tusk

Your request will be handled by the Press Office of the General Secretariat of the Council in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.

Your data will be stored in the database until you unsubscribe from the service.

Certain data (name, e-mail address, preferred language, media name, media type) may be disclosed to the press offices of the European institutions, the Permanent Representations of the Member States and to European Union agencies, under the conditions laid down in Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation 45/2001.

If there is data which you would not like to be stored, please let us know at: [\[email protected\]](#)

ESMA clarifies CCPs' liquidity risk assessment under EMIR

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) has published today an [opinion](#) which sets out how central counterparties (CCPs) in the EU should consider in their internal risk models the liquidity risk posed by all entities towards which the CCP has a liquidity exposure, such as liquidity providers.

The opinion, published under the European Markets Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR), outlines how CCPs should assess liquidity risk, and by so doing promotes convergent risk management practices and risk control across EU.

This opinion outlines the assessment of the liquidity risk posed by liquidity providers regardless whether or not these being a clearing member. ESMA clarifies that CCPs should include, in the measurement of their liquidity needs, the default of their top two clearing members in all their capacities vis-à-vis the CCP, in addition to assessing in their stress testing scenarios all entities towards which the CCP has a liquidity exposure.

ESMA's opinion is addressed to competent authorities responsible for CCP supervision.

Remarks by Vice-President Dombrovskis at the ECOFIN press conference

Thank you, Vladislav. Good afternoon everybody.

This was the last ECOFIN meeting under your chairmanship, under the chairmanship of the Bulgarian Presidency. I would like to thank you and your team for hard work during these six months.

We managed to reach some major achievements, including a common approach on the Banking Package, including a common approach on Pan-European Personal Pensions, and on Cross-border Distribution of Funds, to mention a few.

To say a few words on our proposal on Pan-European Personal Pensions, from the European Commission side I would however highlight that it is important to preserve the pan-European nature of this proposal, to ensure that we can develop pension funds across the EU and not limit it to maybe the biggest and most lucrative markets. So clearly some work is needed to preserve the substance of the proposal.

Then a couple of points on my side.

First, I welcome the endorsement by the Ministers of the Country-Specific Recommendations. Now what matters is the implementation of those recommendations. For example, as regards last year, less than half of all recommendations had at least some progress in implementation. Clearly we can do better. We should use the good times to strengthen the resilience of our economies. This message was reiterated on several occasions during the last two days of meetings.

The European Commission stands ready to support Member States in their reform efforts, including by providing technical assistance for the design and implementation of reforms through our Structural Reform Support Programme.

Ministers also confirmed our decisions under the Stability and Growth Pact. They endorsed our proposal to abrogate the Excessive Deficit Procedure for France. This leaves only one Member State under the corrective arm of the Stability and Growth Pact, down from 24 countries in 2011.

The Ministers also confirmed the view that in the case of Romania and Hungary there is a case for significant deviation procedures. So we adopted the adjustment paths for both countries to correct the deviation.

On a more general note, now is not the time to lead expansionary fiscal policies. Instead, countries should be building fiscal buffers to get prepared for the next downturn.

We also presented our convergence reports as regards fulfilment of the Maastricht Criteria. We note that three countries – Bulgaria, Croatia and Sweden – fulfil all economic criteria, except for the exchange rate criteria where obviously there is a need, then, to join the Exchange Rate Mechanism II. As you know, from the European Commission side we stand ready to support countries on their way to euro adoption. That is why we also proposed a dedicated convergence facility for this purpose.

Today we also discussed the ongoing legislative business as regards financial services. And I already mentioned the progress we have been making on Banking Union. And in the coming months I think we should also concentrate on the Capital Markets Union, where everyone seems to agree that this is a priority, but so far we have only 3 out of 13 legislative proposals agreed. So this should clearly be a priority for the coming months.

Speaking of tackling remaining weaknesses in our banking systems, we explained how our Restructuring Directive, which aims at giving a second chance for viable enterprises, can help to tackle high levels of non-performing loans.

Given that issues related to insolvency and loan enforcement regimes are fundamental to our overall Action Plan for tackling non-performing loans, we expressed satisfaction with the partial general approach adopted on this file by the Justice and Home Affairs Council. And we hope to make progress also towards the full general approach.

Finally, we welcome the political agreement reached by EU Member States on administrative cooperation to tackle fraud linked to the Value Added Tax (VAT) in the EU. This agreement paves the way for boosting the exchange of information and cooperation among national tax and law enforcement authorities.

To recall, cross-border VAT fraud causes losses of some €50 billion for national budgets every year. So to combat fraud that is cross-border in nature, we need to work together. So once again we welcome this political agreement.

Thank you very much.