

# Main topics and media events 26 February – 11 March 2018

## **Press contacts**

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

## **Foreign Affairs Council, 26 February**

The Council will debate and adopt conclusions on the Republic of Moldova. Foreign ministers will discuss Venezuela, review prospects for the Middle East Peace Process, and prepare for a lunch with representatives of the League of Arab States (LAS). The lunch will be an opportunity to discuss how to pursue further options aimed at achieving a two-state solution jointly with the LAS.

## **General Affairs Council, 27 February**

The Council will begin preparations of the March European Council. The Commission will present its reasoned proposal under Article 7(1)TEU regarding the rule of law in Poland.

## **General Affairs (Art. 50) Council, 27 February**

The Council, in EU27 format, will be informed by the Commission's chief negotiator Michel Barnier about the state of play of the Brexit negotiations with the UK, and will consider a draft annotated agenda for the next European Council (Article 50).

## **Environment Council, Monday 5 March**

The Council will dedicate large parts of the meeting to the circular economy: plastics, chemicals, products, waste and eco-innovation are on the agenda. Ministers will also be informed by the Commission on the proposal for CO2 emission performance standards for cars and for light commercial vehicles. The Council will end with an exchange of views on Greening the European Semester.

## **Foreign Affairs Council (Defence issues), Tuesday 6**

## **March**

Defence ministers will discuss the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO). They will then have an exchange of view on security and defence. The Council will then review the EU training missions deployed in Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia. Over lunch, they will discuss cooperation with NATO together with the NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

### **Justice and Home Affairs Council (Home Affairs issues), Thursday 8 March**

On Thursday, home affairs ministers are expected to focus mainly on security issues. They will also discuss the state of play regarding migration.

### **Justice and Home Affairs Council (Justice issues), Friday 9 March**

The Council will discuss the directive on non-cash fraud as well as the so called Brussels IIa regulation on matrimonial matters and parental responsibility.

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