

# Main topics and media events 6 – 19 November 2017

## Press contacts

### Press office

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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.

## **Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 6 November 2017**

The agriculture and fisheries Council will discuss the sustainable use of pesticides, trade-related agricultural issues and sustainable soil management.

## **Economic and Financial Affairs Council, 7 November 2017**

The Council will be called on to agree on new VAT rules for e-commerce, and will discuss proposals to strengthen financial supervision. The Court of Auditors will present its report on implementation of the 2016 EU budget.

## **Foreign Affairs Council (Trade), 10 November 2017**

The Council will take stock of the preparations ahead of the WTO ministerial meeting in Buenos Aires on 10-13 December. Ministers will also discuss the state of play of negotiations with Mexico and Mercosur.

## **Foreign Affairs Council (including Defence), 13 November 2017**

The Foreign Affairs Council will discuss Africa-EU relations and EU strategic communications. Over lunch, foreign ministers will be joined by defence ministers to discuss security and defence. The Council will adopt conclusions on security and defence. Defence ministers will then discuss EU-NATO cooperation with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. The European Defence Agency's steering board meeting with the Defence ministers will be held after the Foreign Affairs Council (defence).

In the margins of the Foreign Affairs Council, those member states who intend to join the permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) are expected to jointly sign the notification letter addressed to the Council and the High Representative.

## **General Affairs Council (Cohesion policy), 15 November 2017**

The Council will be updated on ongoing work to amend the Common Provisions Regulation. It will also discuss on the future of Cohesion Policy post 2020.

## **Economic and Financial Affairs Council (Budget), 17 November 2017**

The Council will prepare negotiations with the European Parliament on the EU's general budget for 2018. The negotiations will be held at a conciliation committee meeting the same day.

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