



**MAIN TOPICS FOR THE COMING FORTNIGHT<sup>1</sup>**  
**21 November - 4 December 2016**

*Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 November*

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[Agenda of the President of the European Council](#)

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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](http://www.eucouncil.tv) (video material available for download in broadcast quality and photo gallery).

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

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**Monday 21 November 2016 (10.00)**

## **Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council**

### **(Youth and Education issues)**

**Justus Lipsius building, Brussels**

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At its youth session, the Council is due to adopt conclusions on promoting **new approaches in youth work** to develop the potential of young people ([13621/16](#)). The conclusions underline the importance of youth work in reaching beyond the formal structures to young people of different backgrounds, including marginalised and disadvantaged youth. They call for innovative tools in youth work practice, in the field of education and training, sport and culture, social services, information and communication technologies.

Ministers will also discuss, in public deliberation, the **role of young Europeans in a modern European Union** ([13617/16](#)). Ministers are invited to reflect on how to reconnect young people with the European project, also as a follow-up on the debates at the Bratislava informal summit of 27 Heads of State or Government in September 2016.

At its education session, the Council will adopt a **resolution on a New Skills Agenda** ([13413/16](#)), in response to the Commission's communication outlining its vision on the strategic importance of skills for sustaining jobs, growth and competitiveness ([10038/16](#)). The resolution highlights the main aspects that will guide Council work in this field.

The Council is also expected to reach political agreement on a **recommendation establishing a Skills Guarantee** ([13630/16](#)), which aims to provide opportunities for low-skilled adults to acquire a wider set of skills relevant for the labour market and active participation in society.

The Council is due to adopt **conclusions on the prevention of radicalisation** ([13611/16](#)), which propose a coordinated action across all relevant policy areas to combat this phenomena, but with a particular focus on preventive "soft" measures, such as education and youth work.

Finally, ministers will hold a public debate on **fostering and developing talent in young people** ([13631/16](#)). Ministers are invited to reflect on the best ways to ensure all young people have the opportunity to discover their talents and realize their full potential.

#### **Further information**

- [Bratislava Declaration and roadmap](#)

#### **Other events**

- Informal meeting of youth ministers of the expanded Presidency's trio (NL, SK MT and EE) and Commissioner Navracsics with representatives of European youth movements ("structured dialogue") (08.30).

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**Tuesday 22 November 2016 (09.30)**

## **Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (Culture and Sport issues)**

**Justus Lipsius building, Brussels**

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At its culture and audiovisual session, the Council will take note of a progress report on the [proposal for a revised directive on audiovisual media services \(AVMS\)](#). The proposal - presented by the Commission in May this year - aims to make to the AVMS directive better fit the the digital age in the light of rapid technological progress, the emergence of new business models and changing viewers behaviour.

The current legislation, which was adopted in 2010, establishes a single market for the free circulation of audiovisual works. It regulates both traditional TV broadcasting, as well as new on-demand services, but to varying degrees.

The Council is expected to adopt a general approach regarding a proposal for a decision on a **European year of cultural heritage (2018)** ([11856/16](#)). This initiative aims to raise awareness of the opportunities offered by cultural heritage, mainly in terms of intercultural dialogue, social cohesion and economic growth. At the same time, it seeks to draw attention to the challenges that cultural heritage is facing, such as the impact of the digital shift, environmental and physical pressure on heritage sites and illicit trafficking of cultural objects.

The Council is also due to adopt a general approach on the decision establishing a Union action for the **European Capitals of Culture** for the years 2020 to 2033. The aim of the proposed decision is to extend the geographical scope of the European Capitals of Culture action to EFTA/EEA countries (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein).

Ministers will also have a policy debate on a **EU strategy for international cultural relations**. Ministers are invited to identify the best ways in which to take forward the strategic approach to culture in EU external action and ensure cooperation between culture and foreign affairs ministries ([13638/16](#)).

In its sport session, the Council is due to adopt conclusions on **sport diplomacy**, encouraging cooperation between public authorities and the sports movement in order to use the potential of sport in foreign policy. The conclusions also call for better use of the potential of sport, including through education and the involvement of well-known athletes as messengers, to promote positive sporting and European values.

Ministers will also exchange views on the **impact of sport on personal development**. They will address the educative and social values of sport, as well as its character building potential.

### **Further information**

- [Digital Single Market Strategy](#)
- [Joint communication on a EU strategy for international cultural relations](#)

### **Other events**

- Meeting of sports ministers (NL, SK, MT and EE) and Commissioner Navracsics with representatives of the sports movement (13.00-14.30).

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**Monday 28 November 2016 (09.30)**

## **Foreign Affairs Council (Development)**

**Justus Lipsius building, Brussels**

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Ministers are expected to discuss **the revision of the EU development policy**, based on a Commission communication to be presented before the meeting.

They are also expected to discuss **future relations between the EU and African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries**, in view of the expiry of the Cotonou agreement in 2020.

The Council will also address **migration and development**. Ministers will exchange views on the state of play and ongoing initiatives.

**Press briefing:** Friday 25 November (time to be confirmed)

### **Further information**

[The ACP-EU Partnership after 2020](#) (European Commission)  
[Finding solutions to migratory pressures](#)

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**Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 November 2016**

## **Competitiveness Council (Internal market, Industry, Research, Space)**

**Justus Lipsius building, Brussels**

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On Monday 28 November the Council will deal with internal market and industry items.

There will be the customary debate on the **competitiveness check-up**, which allows ministers to address key issues of the **real economy**. It will have a focus on the “**New Skills Agenda for Europe**”.

Ministers will hold a discussion on the **single market strategy** with a view to assessing the progress made one year after its launch.

The draft regulation addressing unjustified **geo-blocking** to facilitate cross-border trade in the single market will be examined with a view to reaching an agreement on a Council's general approach.

Ministers will be invited to exchange views on the finalisation of the implementation and entry into operation of the **unitary patent protection** system.

On Tuesday 29 November the Council will deal with space policy in the morning and research and innovation policy items in the afternoon.

The presentation by the Commission of the **new space strategy for Europe** will be followed by a ministerial policy debate.

Research ministers will be called on to adopt conclusions aimed to **support young researchers** and to raise the attractiveness of scientific careers. They will also exchange views on the implementation of the strategy for **international cooperation in research and innovation**.

**Press briefing:** Friday 25 November at 15.00

### **Further information**

[Geo-blocking: Commission proposal](#)

[New Skills Agenda for Europe](#)

[Single market strategy](#)

[Space strategy for Europe](#)

[Bratislava declaration of young researchers](#)

[International cooperation in research and innovation \(Commission report\)](#)

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*Thursday 1 December 2016 (10.00)*

## **Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Transport issues)**

*Justus Lipsius building, Brussels*

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The Council aims to adopt a general approach on a proposal on revised **safety rules for civil aviation** and a revised mandate for the **European Aviation Safety Agency** ("EASA basic regulation"). The main objective of the draft regulation is to allow the EU aviation sector to continue to grow while maintaining the current high level of safety. The proposal introduces a more performance- and risk-based approach to safety regulation. It includes the first-ever EU-wide rules on **civil drones**. The aim of these rules is to allow drones to fly safely in European airspace and to encourage this rapidly expanding industry.

The Council is also set to agree on a general approach on two proposals to improve the safety of passenger ships and simplify the rules relating to them. These proposals take the form of a revised "general" directive on **passenger ship safety** and a simplified **inspection regime for ro-ro ferries and high-speed passenger craft**. The proposals are part of a review of passenger ship safety.

In addition, ministers will take stock of the progress made on the third proposal resulting from the review: revised rules on the **registration of ship passengers**.

**Press briefing:** Wednesday 30 November at 15.15

### **Further information**

[Draft agenda](#)

Passenger ship safety directive - draft general approach ([14361/16](#))

Ro-ro ferry inspection directive - draft general approach ([14362/16](#))

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*Friday 2 December 2016 (9.30)*

## **Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Telecommunications issues)**

*Justus Lipsius building, Brussels*

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The Council aims to agree on a general approach on a proposal which regulates **wholesale roaming markets** in the EU. The rules must be in place by 15 June 2017 to enable the **abolition of roaming fees** on that date, subject to fair use, as laid down in the roaming regulation last year. The aim is to find a level of wholesale caps that allows for surcharge-free roaming in a sustainable manner, without distorting either home markets or visited markets. The general approach will be the starting point for negotiations with the European Parliament.

The Council will be invited to adopt a partial general approach on a proposal to promote **high-speed internet connectivity in local communities (Wifi4EU)**. The budget issues relating to the review of the multiannual financial framework will be discussed later.

Ministers will take stock of the progress made on a draft regulation to increase regulatory oversight and price transparency for **cross-border parcel delivery services**. The proposal aims to bring down prices and improve competition on the market.

Ministers will also hold a policy debate on the **review of the telecoms regulatory framework**, to guide future work in the Council working party. The objective of the review is to improve fixed and mobile connectivity for everyone in Europe, and to further investment, competition and innovation while also protecting consumers.

**Press briefing:** Wednesday 30 November at 15.15

### **Further information**

[Draft agenda](#)

[Digital single market for Europe](#)

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## Other events

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### 24 November

- [EU-Ukraine summit](#)

### 25 November

- EU - Kosovo Stabilisation and Association Council

### 2 December

- EU - Georgia Association Council

[Slovak presidency website](#)

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