



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council  
Subject: European semester 2016  
- Roadmap

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Delegations will find below the above-mentioned roadmap as presented by the Presidency and the incoming Presidency.

Following established practice, the Presidency and the incoming Presidency have prepared this roadmap on the 2016 European semester.<sup>1</sup> The roadmap outlines all key steps of the 2016 semester and, where appropriate, provides preliminary indications on the focus of discussions.

The objectives of the roadmap are to ensure that all relevant Council formations, and their preparatory bodies, work in a coordinated and consistent manner towards a thorough preparation of the European Council debates on the European semester and to enable the General Affairs Council and COREPER to oversee the process.

The roadmap is divided in two phases: the first, with more details, until the March European Council, and the second, more indicative, for the period between the European Council meetings in March and June 2016. An updated roadmap will be presented in the spring of 2016, as appropriate.

The incoming Presidency will approach the European semester in a holistic manner, addressing the Annual Growth Survey package together with the issue of implementation of Country-specific recommendations (CSRs). Spring Councils will devote specific attention to cross-examination of best practices and bottlenecks in implementing Country-specific recommendations. This will enable ministers to examine how EU level guidance and conclusions are translated into national action and how this could be further improved.

The reforms foreseen in the Five Presidents' report on Completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union pertaining to the European semester will be discussed within the Council in parallel to the European semester itself. The Presidency and the incoming Presidency will ensure the necessary interlinkages.

The incoming Presidency is initiating discussions with the chairs of the Committees (EFC, EPC, EMCO, SPC) and the Chair of the HLG-COMPCRO with a view to coordinating the management of their work throughout the semester. The incoming Presidency will keep COREPER informed.

The Presidency and the incoming Presidency acknowledge the parliamentary dimension, both at national and European level, of the European semester and take note of the intention for a Joint debate on the European semester with the European Parliament foreseen for March 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> This roadmap is without prejudice to the overall discussion on the Five President's report on Completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union.

## **FIRST PHASE**

### **Run-up to the March European Council**

#### **p.m. 21 October 2015: EMU package**

- Adoption, by the Commission, of the Communication on steps towards Completing Economic and Monetary Union, including proposals on a revamped European semester

#### **p.m. 26 October 2015: Environment Council**

- European semester: exchange of views with a focus on environmentally harmful subsidies with a view to contributing to the Annual Growth Survey 2016 and implementation of environmental legislation and policies

#### **16 November 2015: opinions on the Draft Budgetary Plans**

- Adoption, by the Commission, of the opinions on the Draft Budgetary Plans for euroarea Member States

#### **17 November 2015: General Affairs Council**

- Presentation, by the Presidency and the incoming Presidency, of the 2016 roadmap on the European semester
- p.m. Preparation of the December European Council: draft annotated agenda

#### **18 November 2015: European semester 2016 package**

- Adoption, by the Commission, of the Annual Growth Survey 2016 alongside the draft Joint Employment Report, the Alert Mechanism Report and the proposal for Employment Guidelines, and of the recommendation for a Council recommendation on the implementation of the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States whose currency is the euro (euro area recommendation)

#### **30 November - 11 December 2015: Bilateral meetings Commission - Member States**

- State of play of the implementation of Country-specific recommendations

#### **7 December 2015: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council**

- European semester 2016: presentation by the Commission and exchange of views on the Annual Growth Survey and the EMU package

### **8 December 2015: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- European semester 2016: presentation by the Commission and exchange of views on the Annual Growth Survey and the EMU package

### **15 December 2015: General Affairs Council**

- European semester 2016: presentation by the Commission and exchange of views
- p.m. Preparation of the December European Council: draft European Council conclusions

### **17-18 December 2015: EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

- p.m. follow-up to the Five Presidents' report on Completing Europe's Economic and Monetary Union

### **14 January 2016: Eurogroup**

- Preparation of the Council recommendation on broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States whose currency is the euro

### **15 January 2016: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Approval of the Council recommendation on the implementation of the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States whose currency is the euro
- Annual Growth Survey 2016 and Alert Mechanism Report: Council conclusions

### **16 February 2016: General Affairs Council**

- Preparation of the March European Council: annotated draft agenda

### **16-17 February 2016: Parliamentary week in the framework of the European semester**

- Debates between members of relevant committees from the European Parliament and national parliaments

### **18-19 February 2016: EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

- Endorsement of the Council recommendation on the implementation of the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States whose currency is the euro

**24 February 2016 (tbc):**

- Publication of country-specific analysis (country reports) by the Commission, including, where relevant, MIP In-depth reviews

**24 February 2016: Education Council**

- Contribution of education and training to growth and jobs, drawing on the Annual Growth Survey 2016 and the Education and Training Monitor 2016

**29 February 2016: Competitiveness Council**

- Implementation of Country-specific recommendations drawing on a Commission presentation on the country reports and with a focus on microeconomic recommendations (Single Market): exchange of views
- Annual Growth Survey 2016: exchange of views

**p.m. by early March 2016:**

- Approval of 2016 work programmes by EFC, EPC, EMCO and SPC

**4 March 2016: Environment Council**

- European semester/Annual Growth Survey 2016 and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development: exchange of views

**7 March 2016: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council**

- Implementation of Country-specific recommendations drawing on the country reports: exchange of views
- Annual Growth Survey 2016: Council conclusions (including on health aspects)
- Joint Employment Report: adoption
- General approach on the Employment Guidelines

**8 March 2016: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Implementation of Country-specific recommendations drawing on the Alert Mechanism Report and the country reports: exchange of views
- Adoption of the Council recommendation on the implementation of the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States whose currency is the euro

### **7-10 March 2016: European Parliament plenary session**

- Joint debate on the European Semester 2016 (tbc)

### **15 March 2016: General Affairs Council**

- Preparation of the March European Council:
  - Draft conclusions
  - Synthesis report on Council contributions on the 2016 European semester
  - Poss. updated roadmap on the 2016 European semester

### **17-18 March 2016: EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

- Exchange of views on the economic situation
- CSR implementation and guidance to Member States for their 2016 Stability and Convergence Programmes and National Reform Programmes

### **March to May:**

- EFC, EPC, EMCO and SPC work on country reports, including, where relevant, MIP In-depth reviews

### **April-May 2016:**

- Adoption of the Employment Guidelines

## **SECOND PHASE**

### **Run-up to June European Council**

#### **Second half of March 2016: Bilateral meetings Commission - Member States**

- State of play
- Outstanding country-specific issues

#### **Mid-April 2016:**

- Further to the guidance provided by the European Council, Member States submit their National Reform Programmes and Stability or Convergence Programmes

#### **Mid-May 2016 [date depends on the timing of the national documents]:**

- Commission to present its proposals for the Country opinions and the Country-specific recommendations (CSR) and updated thematic fiches
- Immediately after CSR publication, division of labour and coordination and cooperation arrangements between committees as well as the methods for consolidating committee views will be confirmed

#### **25 May 2016: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure (MIP) - Country reports (In depth-reviews): Council conclusions

#### **24 May 2016: General Affairs Council**

- Preparation of the June European Council: annotated draft agenda

#### **May - early June:**

- EFC, EPC, EMCO and SPC preparatory work on Country-specific recommendations<sup>2</sup>

#### **16 June 2016: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council**

- Approval of 2016 Country-specific recommendations related to Member States' employment and social policies and draft explanatory note
- Endorsement of the opinions of EMCO and SPC on the National Reform Programmes 2016 and the implementation of the 2015 Country-specific recommendations
- Endorsement of the Employment Performance Monitor and benchmarks

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<sup>2</sup> With inputs from the Education Committee and the Working Party on Public Health (Senior level)

**17 June 2016: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Approval of 2016 Country-specific recommendations and Council Opinions on the updated Stability or Convergence Programmes and draft explanatory note
- (Poss.) Implementation of the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure (MIP)

**21 June 2016: General Affairs Council**

- Preparation of the June European Council: draft conclusions
- Approval of integrated Country-specific recommendations and transmission to the European Council

**23-24 June 2016: EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

- Endorsement of integrated Country-specific recommendations

**July 2016: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Adoption of integrated Country-specific recommendations
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