Council of the European Union

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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
Subject:	DEBATES taken by the Presidency on behalf of the Council at the European Parliament plenary part-session in Strasbourg from 5 to 8 October 2026

The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to take note of the following debates taken by the Presidency (Irish Minister of State for European Affairs, Thomas Byrne) on behalf of the Council:

Tuesday 6 October 2026

1. *Council and Commission statements - Preparation of the European Council meeting of 15-16 October 2026*

   The Presidency provided an overview of the agenda of the next European Council, indicating the scope of the discussions regarding competitiveness, Ukraine, the next MFF, the Middle East, European defence and security, migration, as well as enlargement and reforms.

2. *Council and Commission statements – Affordable Housing Act*

   The Presidency acknowledged that the housing crisis has become one of the most pressing social and economic challenges facing Europeans. In such context, it welcomed the Commission proposal for an Affordable Housing Act and reaffirmed its commitment to pursuing the examination of the proposal over the coming months.

Wednesday 7 October 2026

1. *Council and Commission statements - An ambitious Multiannual Financial Framework 2028 - 2034 for a strong and resilient Europe*

   The Presidency stated that negotiations on the next MFF and its timely implementation by 2028 are a top priority. In this context, the Presidency noted that they would put forward a revised Negotiating Box ahead of the next EUCO. The ambition of the Presidency is to reflect a balance in the positions of all actors, with compromise being the key word. The Presidency further stated that it is ready to start negotiations with the EP once the latter gets a mandate on sectoral files.

2. *Council and Commission statements - Empowering Europeans to address the cost-of-living crisis*

   The Presidency stressed that the cost-of-living crisis has increased the risk of poverty and social exclusion across the EU and highlighted the need for accessible social protection systems, tailored support and early intervention to tackle intergenerational poverty. The Presidency also underlined the growing housing crisis and welcomed the forthcoming Council recommendation on fighting housing exclusion and homelessness. Finally, it emphasised the role of regional and local authorities and the 2026 European Semester in coordinating reforms and investments to address these challenges.

3. *Topical debate requested by a political group (Greens/EFA) (Rule 169) - Urgent need for a tax on super profits of polluters: protecting people's health and lowering energy bills in times of the climate crisis*

   The Presidency acknowledged the need to mitigate the increase in the cost of living for households following the developments in the Middle East.

   In light of the exceptional temporary emergency measures taken in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and the joint letter of six Member States calling for an EU-wide framework to tax windfall profits of energy companies in August, the Presidency noted that the tax on windfall profits is among the tax measures that could be considered. The Presidency recognised that Member States are free to take such measures and that those already taken by Member States are generally in line with the strategic priorities and principles of EU law.

It concluded that the Presidency would keep following developments on the topic, including at the upcoming ECOFIN meeting on 9 October.

4. *Council and Commission statements - Ensuring promotion of clean energy in European policies*

The Presidency highlighted the urgent need to reduce dependencies on fossil fuels and the need to accelerate electrification, decarbonize power and increase action on renewable energy. It mentioned the progress achieved in the trilogue negotiations on the Permitting Directive and the TEN-E Regulation, as well as Council's work towards a mandate on the Network Charges Regulation.

5. *Council and Commission statements - The need for an EU strategy to counter Islamist entryism and the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood network*

The Presidency acknowledged the growing scrutiny of the Muslim Brotherhood in Europe and noted various EU measures available to counter financial channels exploited by such groups. On radicalisation, the Presidency stressed that radicalisation is a multifaceted issue that encompasses various forms of violence and requires vigilance and a comprehensive response and emphasised the importance of maintaining a broad approach to combating all forms of extremism while protecting the fundamental values of the EU. In concluding, the Presidency confirmed that Council stands ready to work with the Parliament, the Commission, and Member States on an evidence-based EU strategy that effectively counters terrorism and radicalisation.

6. *Council and Commission statements - Implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation*

The Presidency highlighted the Nature Restoration Regulation as a flagship piece of EU legislation that will feature in the main priorities for the 2026 UN Convention of Biodiversity Conference of the Parties. The Minister underlined the importance of protecting and restoring nature and biodiversity in the context of extreme weather events, while pointing out that the implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation requires a considerable effort from Member States, which need the appropriate support and flexibilities.