

Brussels, 6 January 2025
(OR. en)

16459/24
PV CONS 62
EDUC 449
JEUN 285
CULT 128
AUDIO 114
SPORT 85

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Education, Youth, Culture and Sport)
25 and 26 November 2024

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 15721/24. At the request of France, the Council agreed to add another “any other business” item on the Notre-Dame Cathedral reopening.

2. Approval of ‘A’ items

(a) Non-legislative list

15858/24

The Council adopted all "A" items listed in the document above including all linguistic COR and REV documents presented for adoption.

b) Legislative list (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

15860/24

Economic and Financial Affairs

1. Joint text on the general budget of the European Union for 2025



15788/24 + COR 1
+ ADD 1-4
+ ADD 5 REV 1
+ ADD 6
FIN

Approval


Following Council (ECOFIN/Budget) on 16.11.2024

The Council approved the joint text on the budget for 2025 as set out in the Annex and the addenda of the above indicated document, with Sweden voting against and Austria, Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands abstaining (Legal basis: Article 314(5) TFEU). A statement to this item is set out in the Annex.

MEETING ON MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2024


Non-legislative activities

YOUTH


3. Conclusions on providing glocal opportunities for young people living in rural and remote areas
Approval 14905/24
+ **REV 1 (de, fi, hr, hu, it, lv, nl)**
+ ADD 1-2
4. Resolution on the outcomes of the 10th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue
Approval 14876/24
+ **REV 1 (de, fi, lv, nl)**
5. Resolution on the EU Youth Strategy Work Plan 2025-2027
Approval 14903/24
+ **REV 1 (de, fi, it, nl)**
6. **The evolving demographic trends shaping opportunities for rural youth**  15031/24
Policy debate

The Council held a policy debate on the above subject on the basis of a discussion paper prepared by the Presidency. Delegations shared their concerns on the demographic challenges that the European Union is facing. Focussing on the needs of the rural youth, they agreed to continue working on cross-sectoral measures aiming, among others, for better education and training opportunities, affordable housing, improved public transport and internet connections and access to mental health care.

EDUCATION

7. Conclusions on strategic partnerships in education and training
Approval 15019/24
+ **REV 1 (fr, hr, hu, it, lv, ro, sv)**
8. Council Recommendation on attractive and sustainable careers in higher education
(Legal basis proposed by the Commission: Article 292 in conjunction with Article 153(1), points (b) and (i), and Articles 165(4) and 166(4) TFEU)
Adoption  14906/24
+ **REV 1 (de, es, fr, hr, hu, ro, sk, sv)**
+ ADD 1-2

9. **Boosting future-proof skills and competitiveness through higher education**
Policy debate

 15234/24
+ REV 1 (sv)

The Council held a policy debate on the above topic on the basis of the background note prepared by the Presidency. Views were exchanged on how future-proof skills and competitiveness could be boosted through the planned European degree and how European higher education institutions could be supported to become engines driving the competitiveness of the EU at global level.

Any other business

10. Youth

a) **Outcome of the discussion at the informal EU Youth Dialogue breakfast meeting¹**
Information from the Presidency




The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency.

b) Work programme of the incoming Presidency
Information from Poland

Education

c) **MED9 Ministerial Summit for Education for Sustainable Development and Green Transition in the Mediterranean Region (Limassol, 27 June 2024)**
Information from Cyprus

 15329/24

The Council took note of the information provided by Cyprus.


d) Work programme of the incoming Presidency
Information from Poland

¹ In the presence of a Hungarian youth delegate and a representative of the European Youth Forum.

MEETING ON TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2024

Non-legislative activities

SPORT


11. Conclusions on fostering the lasting legacy of major sporting events
Approval 14443/24
+ **REV 1** (es, fi, fr, hr, hu, lv, pl, sk, sl, sv)
+ **REV 1 COR 1** (pl)
+ **ADD 1 REV 2**
12. **The role of the key features of a European Sport Model²**  14826/24
Policy debate
- The Council held a policy debate on the above topic on the basis of a background note prepared by the Presidency. The discussion was focused on those aspects of the European Sport Model that best preserve the European values in sport (e.g. inclusiveness, equality, good governance), but also on the need for improved financial solidarity between professional and grassroots sport. The debate demonstrated the continued support of the Member States for the model.

CULTURE, AUDIOVISUAL AND MEDIA

13. Conclusions on improving and fostering access to culture
Approval 14757/24
+ **REV 1** (de, el, hu, lv, nl)

² In the presence of the President of the UEFA.

14. **The role of libraries in media literacy development**

 14733/24
+ REV 1 (hu)


Policy debate

The Council held a policy debate on the above-mentioned topic on the basis of a background note prepared by the Presidency and in a complex context of ongoing implementation of several media-related pieces of legislation (EMFA, DSA, DMA, AVMSD, AI Act) and emerging challenges in the EU and global media landscape such as disinformation, hybrid threats, fake news and emergence of AI. Ministers highlighted inter alia that libraries are social and cultural hubs that support media literacy education and life-long learning; constitute a source of reliable information and community interaction; and contribute to social inclusion and to the strengthening of our democracies.

Any other business

15. **Sport**


a) **European dimension of the Paris 2024 Games and their lasting legacy in Europe**

 15286/24

Information from France

The Council took note of the information provided by France.

b) **European dimension of the 2024 European Football Championship in Germany**

 15287/24

Information from Germany

The Council took note of the information provided by Germany.

c) **Work programme of the incoming Presidency**

Information from Poland

Culture, Audiovisual and Media

- d) Supporting cooperation and content creation in cultural and creative sectors at the EU level**  15444/24


Information from Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain

The Council took note of the information provided by Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

- e) Conference on Cultural Rights in Times of Crisis and MED9 Declaration on Cultural Rights (Nicosia, 16 September 2024)**  15291/24


Information from Cyprus

The Council took note of the information provided by Cyprus.

- f) European Capital of Culture 2029: Lublin**  15293/24


Information from Poland

The Council took note of the information provided by Poland.

- g) Member States' policies promoting cultural diversity in the Digital Single Market**  15295/24

Information from France, Greece, Italy and Spain, supported by Germany

The Council took note of the information provided by France, Greece, Italy and Spain, supported by Germany.

- h) European Capitals of Culture 2025: Chemnitz and Nova Gorica**  15297/24

Information from Germany and Slovenia


The Council took note of the information provided by Germany and Slovenia.

- i) Strengthening and structural support for independent European media offerings and platforms**  15298/24

Information from France and Germany

The Council took note of the information provided by France and Germany.

- j) **Outcome of the “G7 Culture of Naples - Culture, common good of humanity, common responsibility” (Naples, 19-21 September 2024)**
Information from Italy




 15640/24

The Council took note of the information provided by Italy.

- k) Notre-Dame Cathedral re-opening
Information from France

16066/24

- l) Work programme of the incoming Presidency
Information from Poland

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-  Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)
-  Item based on a Commission proposal
-  Special legislative procedure

Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 15860/24

Joint text on the general budget of the European Union for 2025

Approval

Ad "A" item 1:

Following Council (ECOFIN/Budget) on 16.11.2024

STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA, DENMARK, FINLAND, THE NETHERLANDS AND SWEDEN

“This year’s annual budget negotiation marked the first application of the cascade mechanism agreed upon by the European Council in February 2024 in the context of the MFF mid-term revision. For 2025, an additional 2.3 billion euro was required to cover the cost overruns related to the interest payments for the European Union Recovery Instrument (EURI).

We believe the EU budget should be based on sound budgetary principles, by maintaining sufficient margins and safeguarding special instruments for unforeseen circumstances. The European Council in February 2024 concluded that about 50% of the cost overruns should be covered by step 2 of the mechanism; the use of redeployments and non-thematic special instruments. The cost overrun for 2025 is addressed solely by the use of special instruments, with no redeployments.

According to Commission estimates, the cost overruns will be significantly higher in 2026 and 2027. The budget for 2025 should have taken this into account by covering a higher amount through step 2. We therefore believe that the current agreement on the EU budget for 2025 is not in line with the principle of prudent budgeting.

Lastly, the agreement on the 2025 budget includes significant increases in the administrative expenditure as well as increases in staff levels which is difficult to reconcile with the budgetary realities and measures taken in many Member States.”
