

Brussels, 29 May 2026
(OR. en)

9260/26
PV CONS 27
EDUC 164
JEUN 76
CULT 72
AUDIO 71
SPORT 32
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Education, Youth, Culture and Sport)
11 and 12 May 2026

MEETING ON MONDAY 11 MAY 2026

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 8719/26.

2. Approval of "A" items

a) Non-legislative list 8870/26

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) 8871/26

Employment and Social Policy

1. Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2021/691 as regards support to workers affected by imminent job displacement in enterprises undergoing restructuring 8480/26 PE-CONS 15/26 SOC

Adoption of the legislative act

Approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 6.05.2026

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Article 175, third paragraph, TFEU), with Sweden voting against and Austria and Poland abstaining.

General Affairs

2. Regulation on the extension of data protection for certain existing biocidal active substances (Omnibus X: Food and feed) 8597/26 PE-CONS 20/26 SIMPL


Adoption of the legislative act

Approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 6.05.2026

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Article 114 TFEU).

YOUTH

Non-legislative activities

3. **Resolution on the revision of the EU Youth Strategy Work Plan 2025 -2027**  8308/26
+ **8308/26 REV 1**
Approval (de, et, lv, nl)

The Council approved the resolution as set out in the document above and agreed that it be published in the Official Journal.

4. **Resolution on the outcomes of the 11th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue**  8310/26
+ **8310/26 REV 1**
Approval (de, et, fi, lv, nl)

The Council approved the resolution as set out in the document above and agreed that it be published in the Official Journal.

5. **Ensuring the youth-friendliness of EU and national policies**  8292/26
Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views on the basis of a steering note as set out in the document above.

EDUCATION

Legislative deliberations

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

6. **Regulation on Erasmus+**   8265/26
Partial general approach

The Council reached a partial general approach on the Regulation on Erasmus+.

Non-legislative activities

7. **Conclusions on teachers in the era of artificial intelligence (AI)**  8262/26
Approval

The Council approved the conclusions as set out in the document above and agreed that they be published in the Official Journal.

8. **Basic skills and the European Education Area: building bridges for the future** [2] 8263/26
Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views on the basis of a steering note as set out in the document above.

Any other business

9. Youth

- a) **Outcomes of the discussion at the informal EU Youth Dialogue breakfast meeting¹** [2]
Information from the Presidency

The Council took note of the information shared by the Presidency and the two external guests regarding the outcomes of the informal youth breakfast.

- b) **Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness** [2] 7112/26
Information from the Commission

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

- c) **Action Plan against cyberbullying** [2] 6361/26
Information from the Commission

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

- d) **Work programme of the incoming Presidency**
Information from Ireland


Education

- e) **Navigating the AI era: How project BrAIIn is upgrading Croatian education** [2] 8626/26
Information from Croatia

The Council took note of the information provided by Croatia.

¹ In the presence of a representative of the Cyprus Youth Council and a representative of the European Youth Forum.

- f) **Coordinated action for child online safety**
Information from Slovakia

 8559/1/26 REV1

The Council took note of the information provided by Slovakia, supported by Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

- g) **Work programme of the incoming Presidency**
Information from Ireland



MEETING ON TUESDAY 12 MAY 2026

CULTURE, AUDIOVISUAL AND MEDIA

Legislative deliberations

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

10. **Regulation on AgoraEU**
Partial general approach


  8313/26
+ COR 1 (bg)
+ COR 2 (fr)
+ ADD 1

The Council reached a partial general approach on the Regulation on AgoraEU.

Bulgaria presented a statement, as set out in the Annex.

Non-legislative activities

11. **EU work plan for culture 2027-2030**
Exchange of views

 8311/26

The Council held an exchange of views on the basis of a steering note as set out in the document above.

SPORT

Non-legislative activities

12. **Conclusions on sport tourism as a contributor to sustainable development** ☐² 8255/26
+ 8255/1/26
REV 1 (es, fr,
hu, lv, pl, sl, sv)
+ 8255/2/26
REV 2 (lv)
Approval

The Council approved the conclusions as set out in the document above and agreed that they be published in the Official Journal.

13. **Mental health in sport: from individual resilience to system responsibility²³** ☐² 7935/26
Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views on the basis of a steering note as set out in the document above.

Any other business

14. Culture, audiovisual and media
- a) **Strengthening the independent and pluralistic European media landscape – futureproofing AVMSD rules** ☐² 8621/26
Information from Austria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain

The Council took note of the information provided by Austria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain.

² In the presence of a former artistic gymnast and current member of the International Olympic Committee.

³ In the presence of a physical education teacher and professional football coach.

- b) **On the necessity of assessing the EU copyright legal framework to consider AI development** 8565/26
Information from Austria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain

The Council took note of the information provided by Austria, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

- c) **International Conference for the Reconstruction of Ukraine (URC) (June 25-26 in Gdańsk, Poland) - reconstruction of Ukraine's cultural sector** 8619/1/26 REV 1
Information from Poland

The Council took note of the information provided by Poland.

- d) **Return of Russia to the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia and ensuring a common EU approach** 8620/1/26 REV 1
Information from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden
- e) **Work programme of the incoming Presidency**
Information from Ireland

Sport


- f) **Brain injuries in sports** 8540/26
Information from the Netherlands

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

- g) **Lipica conclusions** 8541/26
Information from Slovenia

The Council took note of the information provided by Slovenia.


h) The impact of allowing athletes from Russia and Belarus to compete internationally under their national symbols on the organisation of sporting events in Europe

 8539/1/26 REV 1

Information from Poland

The Council took note of the information provided by Poland, supported by Estonia, Finland, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Sweden.

i) Participation of Russian and Belarusian athletes in sport competitions in Europe: policy and security considerations

 8301/26

Information from the Commission

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

j) Work programme of the incoming Presidency

Information from Ireland



Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)



First reading



Item based on a Commission proposal

Statements to the legislative "B" items set out in doc. 8719/26

Ad "B" item 10: **Regulation on AgoraEU**
Partial general approach

STATEMENT BY BULGARIA

“The Republic of Bulgaria fully supports the continuation of the support for the cultural sector through a separate programme in the next MFF and the preservation of the main strands, objectives and actions of the Creative Europe programme ("Culture" and "MEDIA") joint with the “Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values” within its successor – the AgoraEU. The Programme has the potential to provide a response to the growing challenges facing the Union and its citizens and, at the same time, to provide the necessary support to the sectors themselves to continue to function and develop in times of geopolitical and technological change.

We strongly support the objectives of the programme to safeguard, preserve, develop and promote cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage, to increase competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors, including media and audiovisual contributing to a more level playing field; to safeguard and strengthen artistic and media freedom and to protect and promote equality, active citizenship, rights and values as enshrined in the Treaties and in the Charter.

The Republic of Bulgaria attaches great importance and is firmly committed to the promotion and protection of fundamental rights, an important part of which is the equality between women and men. We are and will remain dedicated to the principles and values of the European Union as enshrined in the Treaties.

Our country strongly supports the Union's efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, as enshrined in the Treaties and the Charter, and is actively engaged in preventing and combatting any forms of violence as well as in providing protection and support to its victims.

We welcome the relevant objectives and actions of the programme set out to combat all forms of discrimination, to promote fundamental rights, equality and Union citizens' rights as enshrined in the Treaties and the Charter, as well as to prevent and combat violence and support its victims.

Regrettably, **the Republic of Bulgaria is unable to support the adoption of the Partial General Approach of the Regulation**, as the current text contains concepts, such as the term „gender identity“ that are considered incompatible with the main principles of the Bulgarian Constitution and the binary understanding of the notion „sex“ (“пол”). In 2018, the Bulgarian Constitutional Court adopted a decision stating that the Council of Europe’s Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (“Istanbul Convention”) promotes legal concepts that intend to differentiate between “sex” as a biological (women and men) category and “gender” as a social construct. In 2021, the Constitutional Court adopted another decision clarifying that the notion “sex” used in the Constitution could only be regarded in the sense of its biological determination. The Bulgarian constitutional and legal order firmly reject the concept of "gender" as a fluid social construct and does not recognize "gender identity" as a legally valid category.

During the negotiations, our country consistently and constructively requested that the terminology be aligned with universally recognized characteristics or formulated in a way that respects the diverse constitutional frameworks of all Member States. Under Article 4(2) TEU, the Union is obligated to respect the equality of Member States before the Treaties as well as their national identities, inherent in their fundamental structures, both political and constitutional. Because the final text of the Partial General Approach retains concepts that explicitly contradict the mandatory jurisprudence of the Bulgarian Constitutional Court, Bulgaria is constitutionally bound to oppose it.

The Republic of Bulgaria reiterates that not supporting the Partial General Approach is not a rejection of the Regulation's broader goals of fostering a discrimination-free society, but a necessary defence of its national constitutional identity.

Furthermore, the Republic of Bulgaria asserts that, should the Regulation be adopted by the Council in this form, it does not obligate it to recognize or integrate into its national legal order any concepts, incl. „gender identity“ that intend to differentiate between “sex” as a biological (women and men) category and “gender” as a social construct and it will interpret the ones used in the proposal for Regulation as encompassing only the female and male sex in their biological meaning.”