



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

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WORKING PAPER

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	COMPETITIVENESS Council on 29 and 30 September 2025: Mertens Forecast

Delegations will find attached the Mertens Forecast.

MERTENS FORECAST

COMPETITIVENESS (Internal Market, Industry and Research) Council

29-30 September 2025

The **COMPET Council** will be held on **Monday** and **Tuesday, 29-30 September 2025** in Brussels. The Internal Market and Industry session will be chaired by Mr. Morten Bødskov, Minister for Industry, Business and Financial Affairs. The Research session will be chaired by Ms. Christina Egelund, Minister for Higher Education and Science.

The European Commission will be represented at the Internal Market and Industry session by Mr. Stéphane Séjourné, Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, and at the Research session by Ms. Ekaterina Zaharieva, Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation.

The size of the delegations will be limited to 2+2 in the meeting room (Europa Building EB S5) and + 2 in the listening room Europa Building S3.1. The items that will be taken in public session are indicated on the agenda.

Internal Market and Industry, 29 September 2025

The Internal Market and Industry session will start at **09:30** with the adoption of the **agenda** and the approval of **non-legislative and legislative A items**.

At **10:00**, in a public session, EVP Séjourné will present the **Competitiveness Fund**, followed by a policy debate between the Ministers. Delegations will be requested to limit their interventions to a maximum of 3 minutes.

At **12:00**, in a public session, under “any other business”, Austria will present information on **Bringing an end to unjustified territorial supply constraints**. Delegations will be requested to limit their interventions to a maximum of 1 minute.

At **12:10**, in a public session, under “any other business”, the Netherlands will present information on the **Semiconductors Declaration**. Delegations will be requested to limit their interventions to a maximum of 1 minute.

At **12:20**, in a public session, under “any other business”, EVP Séjourné will present information on the **Third Strategic Dialogue on the Future of the European Automotive Industry**. Delegations will be requested to limit their interventions to a maximum of 1 minute.

At **12:45**, the Council will break for lunch (Europa Building EB S9 left), which will include a debate with EVP Séjourné on the topic of **Single Market Strategy**. The lunch will be attended by Mr. Enrico Letta.

The afternoon session will start at **15:00**, in a public session, under “any other business”, where the Presidency will present information on the **State of play of the Omnibus packages**. Delegations will be requested to limit their interventions to a maximum of 1 minute.

At **15:10**, in a non-public session, the Presidency and EVP Séjourné will present his **2025 Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement**, followed by an exchange of views between the Ministers on Simplification, progress towards the 25% reduction of burdens for businesses. Delegations will be requested to limit their interventions to a maximum of 2 minutes.

At **16:40**, in a public session, under “any other business”, France will present information on **Reconciling the 2040 climate target with European industrial competitiveness**. Delegations will be requested to limit their interventions to a maximum of 1 minute.

Following that, Germany’s expected “any other business” point on **the planned EU Industrial Decarbonization Accelerator Act (IDAA)** will be taken in public session.

The Internal Market and Industry session of the COMPET Council is expected to finish around 17:20, to be followed by a press conference on the outcomes of the Council with the Presidency and EVP Séjourné.

Research, 30 September 2025

The Research session will start at **09:30**.

At **09:35**, in a public session, the Council will approve the **Conclusions on the importance of research and innovation for the EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy**. Delegations will be requested to limit their interventions to a maximum of 3 minutes.

At **09:55**, in a public session, the Council will approve the **Conclusions on a call for action on life sciences for the Union’s competitiveness**. Delegations will be requested to limit their interventions to a maximum of 3 minutes.

At **10:15**, in a public session, the Council will hold a policy debate on the topic of **Horizon Europe Package: Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2028-2034**, with a focus on **EU research and innovation for dual use, security and defence**. Delegations will be requested to limit their interventions to a maximum of 3 minutes.

Following that, the Commission’s expected “any other business” point on **Commissioner Zaharieva’s 2025 Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement** will be taken in public session.

At **12:35**, in a public session, under “any other business”, Commissioner Zaharieva will present information on the **Strategy on Research and Technology Infrastructure**. Delegations will be requested to limit their interventions to a maximum of 1 minute.

At **13:00**, the Council will break for lunch (Europa Building S9 left), which will include a debate with Commissioner Zaharieva on the topic of **the future ambitions at EU level on research and technology infrastructures**.

The Research session of the COMPET Council is expected to finish around 14:50, to be followed by a press conference on the outcomes of the Council with the Presidency and Commissioner Zaharieva.