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For video coverage of Council sessions and audiovisual material, please see the following Council websites:

- <http://video.consilium.europa.eu> (live webcast of public deliberations, public debates and press conferences), and
- www.eucouncil.tv (video material available for download in broadcast quality and photo gallery).

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¹ This document has been prepared under the sole responsibility of the Press Office.
Information may be subject to change, depending on further developments.

Monday 27 May 2019 (10.00)

Foreign Affairs Council (Trade)

Europa building, Brussels

The Council is expected to discuss the state of play of negotiations on the reform of the **World Trade Organization**. The EU has been actively engaged in promoting a comprehensive approach towards the modernisation of all the main functions of the World Trade Organization: **rulemaking, monitoring and dispute settlement**.

Ministers will then have the opportunity to discuss recent developments in **EU-US trade relations**. In April 2019, the Council approved mandates for the Commission to open negotiations with the United States on the elimination of **tariffs for industrial goods** and on **conformity assessment**, in line with the July 2018 joint statement of Presidents Juncker and Trump.

Ministers will take stock of preparations for the signature of the **free trade agreement and the investment protection agreement with Vietnam** which the presidency is planning to complete by the end of its term. The EU and Vietnam agreed on final texts for both agreements in July 2018.

Over lunch, ministers will discuss ongoing trade negotiations, in particular with Mercosur, Australia, New Zealand, Chile and Indonesia.

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Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 May 2019 (10.30 & 09.00)

Competitiveness Council (Internal market, Industry, Research and Space)

Europa building, Brussels

On Monday (whole day meeting), the Council will deal with Internal Market and Industry issues. As a follow-up to the conclusions of the March 2019 European Council, ministers will have a public policy debate (and adopt conclusions) on two interlinked topics: the **future approach to the single market** and the **EU's long-term industrial policy strategy**. The Council will also be invited to adopt conclusions on the **competitiveness of the EU tourism sector**.

Over lunch, ministers will exchange views on the contribution of cross-border cooperation in **public procurement** to the competitiveness of the single market.

On Tuesday morning, the Council will have a policy debate on matters relating to the **EU's space policy on a global scale** and will adopt conclusions. The Council will also prepare the ninth session of the Space Council, which will take place immediately after the end of the Council meeting.

On Tuesday afternoon, research ministers will have a public policy debate on the **impact of research and innovation on EU competitiveness**.

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Tuesday 28 May 2019 (18.30)

Informal dinner of heads of state or government

Europa building, Brussels

The heads of state or government will discuss the outcome of the European Parliament elections and **start the nomination process for the heads of the EU institutions.**

Contacts

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Thursday 6 June 2019 (10.00)

Justice and Home Affairs Council (Justice)

European Convention Centre, Luxembourg

Justice ministers will start in public session with a debate on the digitalisation of document (as part of the discussions on the regulations on the service of documents and on the taking of evidence), followed by a report on the current state of play of technical-level discussions on the regulation on the assignments of claims.

The Council will then hold forward looking debates on issues related to criminal law with a discussion on substantive criminal law and another on the way forward in the field of mutual recognition in criminal matters. On the same topic, the Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the synergies between Eurojust and the networks established by the Council on judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

The Council is then expected to adopt two negotiating mandates for international agreements related to access to e-evidence. The first agreement is with the US, while the second is an additional protocol to the Budapest convention on cybercrime.

Ministers are also expected to adopt conclusions on improving the retention of data for the purpose of fighting crime effectively, a topic that has been discussed several times in the past based on the needs of law enforcement authorities and on developing case law from the Court of Justice.

Finally, ministers will be updated on the implementation of the EPPO regulation. There will then be a presentation of the work programme of the incoming Finnish presidency.

Press briefing: Wednesday, 5 June 2019 at 14.00

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Friday 7 June 2019 (9.30)

Justice and Home Affairs Council (Home Affairs)

European Convention Centre, Luxembourg

Home affairs ministers will begin discussions on the **future of EU law enforcement policy**, in the run up to the adoption of the strategic agenda by the June European Council, which will set out the EU's political priorities for the coming years. This discussion is expected to be continued in more detail later this year.

Ministers will then be updated on cooperation between competent authorities dealing with counter-terrorism. They will also receive an update by the **counter-terrorism** coordinator on the **implications of 5G in the area of internal security**.

The Council will aim to reach partial general approaches on **sectoral home affairs funds** in the context of the next MFF, including the internal security fund and the border management and visa instrument. The agreements would exclude budget-related and horizontal issues which are currently being discussed as part of the negotiations on the EU's next multiannual financial framework for the period 2021 to 2027.

The Council will also seek to reach a partial general approach on a proposal to reform the **return directive**. This proposal aims to improve the rate of returns of those who do not have the right to stay in Europe. Changes include clearer and faster procedures for the issuing of return decisions and for appeals as well as clear rules on detention. The partial general approach would cover all elements of the directive except for those related to the border procedure, as the scope of this procedure is set out in the asylum procedure regulation which is also currently under discussion.

Finally, ministers will hold a first debate on the **challenges ahead on migration and asylum**, in the context of the strategic agenda. This discussion is expected to be continued in more detail later in the year. Over lunch, ministers will exchange views on this topic in the presence of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Director General of IOM.

Press briefing: Wednesday, 5 June 2019 at 14.00

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Thursday 6 June 2019 (9.30)

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Transport)

European Convention Centre, Luxembourg

Ministers will be invited to agree on a Council position ('general approach') on a proposal to make the transport sector more efficient by establishing a uniform legal framework for the use of **electronic freight transport information**.

The Council will take note of progress on a proposal to streamline permit-granting measures to facilitate the completion of the **trans-European transport network (TEN-T)**.

The Council will assess progress on a proposal to establish a clear regulatory framework for the **hired vehicles** market and to soften the restrictions on using hired vehicles in international transport.

Ministers will take stock of the progress made on a proposal to revise EU **road charging** rules (Eurovignette) to address issues relating to road infrastructure financing, congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Council will assess progress on a draft regulation revising **rail passengers' rights**.

'Any other business' will include, among many other topics, presidency information on the large number of dossiers agreed on with the European Parliament under the Romanian presidency, as well as presidency information on the proposal to stop **seasonal time changes**.

The incoming Finnish presidency will also present its work programme.

An **Eastern Partnership Ministerial meeting on transport** will take place in the margins of the Council meeting, starting with a joint lunch at around 13.30 and continuing with a joint ministerial session until around 16.30.

Provisional draft agenda of the Council meeting (2863/19)

Press briefing: Monday 3 June 2019, 14.30

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Friday 7 June 2019 (10.00)

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Telecommunication)

European Convention Centre, Luxembourg

The Council will hold a policy debate and adopt conclusions on the **future of a highly digitised Europe beyond 2020**: 'Boosting digital and economic competitiveness across the Union and digital cohesion'.

The Council will adopt a decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the EU in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) **World Radiocommunication Conference 2019** (WRC-19).

Ministers will assess progress on a proposal to update **privacy rules for electronic communications (ePrivacy)**.

Under 'Any other business', the presidency will update ministers on current legislative dossiers: the **Digital Europe** programme, and the **European Cybersecurity Competence Centre and the Network of Coordination Centres**.

The presidency will provide an overview of presidency events held in Romania. The Czech delegation will brief ministers on the Prague 5G security conference.

Lastly, the incoming Finnish presidency will present its work programme.

The Council will also adopt, without discussion, the directive on **open data and the re-use of public sector information**.

Further information:

- [Provisional draft agenda of the Council meeting \(2863/19\)](#)
- [Digital single market for Europe \(background information\)](#)
- [Reform of cyber security in Europe \(background information\)](#)

Press briefing: Monday 3 June 2019, 14.30

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Other events

Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 June

[Informal meeting of agriculture ministers](#) (Bucharest, Romania)

[Romanian presidency website](#)
