



Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

Brussels, 21 - 22 November 2016

*The Council will start on Monday at 10.00 with **youth** issues, chaired by **the** Slovak minister for Education, Science, Research and Sport, **Peter Plavčan**. The Commission will be represented by Commissioner Navracsics..*

The Council session will be preceded (at 08.30) by the usual informal meeting ('structured dialogue') between representatives of European youth organisations, the President of the Youth Council configuration, Commissioner Navracsics, and the ministers from the extended troika (NL, SK, MT and EE).

*The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on promoting **new approaches in youth work** and will have a policy debate on the **role of young Europeans** at the centre of a modern European Union.*

*The afternoon session, beginning at 15.00, will be devoted to **education matters**.*

*The Council will adopt a resolution on a **New Skills Agenda**. It is also expected to reach political agreement regarding a recommendation on **New Opportunities for Adults** as a response to the Commission's proposed **Skills Guarantee**.*

*The Council is due to adopt conclusions on the **prevention of radicalisation** leading to violent extremism and will also hold a public debate on **policies for fostering and developing talent in young people**.*

*The Council proceedings will resume on Tuesday at 09.30, addressing **culture and audiovisual** issues, under the chairmanship of the Slovak minister for Culture, **Marek Maďarič**.*

The Commission will be represented by Commissioner Navracsics and Commissioner Oettinger who is in charge of the audiovisual portfolio.

*The Council will take note of a progress report on the revision of the **Audiovisual Media Services Directive**.*

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

It is also expected to adopt a general approach regarding two proposals for decisions

- *on a **European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018)**
establishing a Union action for the **European Capitals of Culture** for the years 2020 to 2033*

*The morning session will end with a policy debate on **international cultural relations**.*

***Sports**-related issues will be dealt with in the afternoon, starting at 15.00, chaired by minister Peter Plavčan.*

The Commission will again be represented by Commissioner Navracsics.

The sports session will be preceded at lunchtime by the 'structured dialogue' meeting between representatives of the sports movement, EU sports ministers of the extended troika (NL, SK, MT and EE), and Commissioner Navracsics. They will address the issue of sports diplomacy.

*In the follow-up, the Council is due to adopt conclusions on **sports diplomacy** and will have a public debate on the **impact of sport on personal development**.*

The debates on both days will be held in public deliberation.

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Press conferences: Monday +/- at 18.00 and Tuesday +/-14.30

*Press conferences and public events can be followed by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu/>
Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery:
<https://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/87643>*

YOUTH

New approaches in youth work

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on promoting new approaches in youth work to uncover and develop the potential of young people ([13621/16](#)). Youth work helps young people to develop competences, skills and positive attitudes.

The conclusions highlight the importance of youth work in reaching outside the formal structures to young people of different backgrounds, including marginalised and disadvantaged youth. They call for innovative tools in youth work practice, in the fields of education and training, sport and culture, social services, information and communication technologies.

They also stress the need to take into account the new settings where young people increasingly spend their time, such as modern city infrastructure and virtual space.

The conclusions underline that the capacities of youth workers (either volunteers or employees) can be strengthened through education, training and networking opportunities, guidance and financial support.

Furthermore, they invite member states to work closely with the representatives of regional and local authorities, youth councils and youth work organisations and other actors in the youth field so that the messages included in the conclusions are widely incorporated into practice at regional and local level.

Young Europeans at the centre of a modern European Union.

Ministers will reflect on how to reconnect young people with the European project, as a follow-up to the debates at the Bratislava informal summit of Heads of State or Government in September 2016. One of the objectives set out in the [Bratislava Declaration and Roadmap](#) was to "create a promising economic future for all, safeguard our way of life and provide better opportunities for youth".

Significant and rapid changes have taken place in European society over the last few years: changing social and family structures, bringing a lack of a sense of security and justice, poor integration and a lack of opportunities and prospects for young people. Although today's younger generation is on the whole better educated than any before it, research shows that they will be the first to experience worse living conditions than their parents. Close to one third of European youth are at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Ministers are invited to contribute to one or more of the following issues raised in the Presidency discussion paper ([13617/16](#)) :

- What can be done at EU level and at the level of Member States to renew the links between the younger generation and the decision-makers in order to approach young people in appropriate language and using effective modern methods?
- Following the outcomes of the Bratislava summit, how can we reconnect young people with the ideas underpinning the European project? How can member states and the EU institutions help in this process?
- In the context of reconnecting with young people across Europe, do you think the recommendations from the European Youth Conference in Košice in October are useful ²? Which of them could you take into consideration at national level and in what way?

Two external guest speakers will launch the debate:

- Mr Jean-Paul Philippot, President of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU)
- Ms Madiana Asseraf, European Broadcasting Union (EBU), Young Audiences Unit

The Presidency intends to report on the outcome of the debate in a letter to President Tusk before the European Council meeting of 15-16 December 2016.

EDUCATION

New Skills Agenda

The Council will adopt a resolution on a New Skills Agenda for an inclusive and competitive Europe ([13413/16](#)), which comes in response to the Commission's communication outlining its vision on the strategic importance of skills for sustaining jobs, growth and competitiveness ([10038/16](#)).

The New Skills Agenda consists of a cross-cutting set of proposals covering areas such as skills development, mutual recognition of qualifications, support for both vocational education and training and higher education, as well as ways of exploring the full potential of the digital economy, aiming to promote 'lifelong investment in people'.

² 13457/16

The current resolution highlights the main aspects that will guide Council work in this field, in particular:

- education and training should not only prepare people for the labour market, but should also contribute to social inclusion and to the development of engaged and active citizens;
- ensuring high quality teachers and trainers;
- closer links between education and training and the world of work;
- developing the flexible mind-sets and curiosity needed to adapt to future needs;
- efficient and effective coordination at EU level in the area of education; and
- adequate EU funding for the actions under the New Skills Agenda

The resolution also emphasises that the measures outlined in the New Skills Agenda should be carried out in coherence with the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET2020)³, as it brings together all forms of learning, offers a useful platform to support member states' policies and fosters EU-level cooperation.

The examination of the Commission package by the Council started in July, at a joint meeting of the Education Committee and the Social Questions Working Party. While the EYCS Council is in the lead, the EPSCO Council is also contributing on the labour market related aspects. Furthermore, the Tripartite Social Summit on 19 October discussed the key role that the social partners can play in putting the Agenda into practice.

Upskilling Pathways: New Opportunities for Adults

The Council is expected to reach political agreement on a recommendation establishing "Upskilling Pathways: New Opportunities for Adults" (formerly "Skills Guarantee"), which aims to provide opportunities for low-skilled adults to acquire a set of skills, knowledge and competences relevant for the labour market and active participation in society. It is also part of the "Skills package" presented by the Commission.

In 2015, more than a quarter of the European Union population aged 25-64 had left initial education and training with at most a lower secondary education qualification. The OECD Survey of Adult Skills, which tested levels of literacy, numeracy and problem solving in technology-rich environments, indicates that similar shares of adults aged 16-65 performed at the lowest level of proficiency in 20 member states.

It is clear that in the future there will be fewer jobs of an elementary nature. Even jobs traditionally requiring no or low-level qualifications are becoming more demanding, requiring some core or generic skills (communication, problem-solving, team work, emotional skills). In particular, a large majority of jobs will require some level of digital competence.

³ OJ C 119, 28.5.2009

These training opportunities for adults should be implemented through

- **skills assessments**,
- **tailored and flexible learning offers** according to the target groups identified and the local, regional and national labour market needs,
- **validation and recognition** of the skills and competences acquired, including learning at work, encouraging their certification in the form of a qualification, taking into account the Council recommendation on validation of non-formal and informal learning ,
- **coordination and partnership** among relevant public and private actors in education and training, employment, social, cultural and other relevant policy areas, including cross-border and regional cooperation; and
- **follow-up and evaluation** within one year from the adoption of the recommendation and, at the latest by mid-2018, appropriate measures for its implementation at national level should be outlined. Further policies and reforms of upskilling pathways should build on the results of the evaluation

The Commission is also invited to support the use of current and future European funding programmes in the area of skills development, in particular the European Structural and Investment Funds, and Erasmus+, for implementation of the recommendation.

Preventing violent radicalisation

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism ([13611/16](#)) in response to the Commission communication on this subject presented in June ([10466/16](#))

The conclusions are built upon a cross-sectoral approach with a particular focus on preventive "soft" measures such as education, voluntary and cultural activities, and youth work. Input on the security-related aspects has been provided by WP on Terrorism and the EU Internal Security Committee (COSI).

The terrorist attacks in Paris and Copenhagen in 2015 and in Brussels in March 2016 have highlighted the specific threat posed by "home-grown" radicalisation, i.e. the promotion of Islamic fundamentalism in Western Europe by extremists seeking to recruit young Muslims to further their cause by violent means. At the same time, the increasing number of incidents of violent xenophobia all over Europe clearly demonstrate the urgent need for action.

The present conclusions underline the need to undermine and challenge existing violent extremist ideologies and to counterbalance them with appealing non-violent alternatives and to support parents, siblings, peers and others in contact with young people who are at risk of violent radicalisation, providing them with information on existing support systems and counselling possibilities.

They also emphasise the need to involve and cooperate with service providers in the fight against illegal hate speech online, in full respect of freedom of expression, in view of the role of the social media as a prime vehicle for targeting, grooming and triggering potential radicals to commit violent acts.

They recommend cooperation between education and training institutions, local communities, local and regional administrations, the wider family, youth field actors, volunteers and civil society to enhance inclusion and strengthen a sense of belonging and positive identity.

Furthermore, the conclusions recommend that prevention of radicalisation should be supported through actions funded notably by Erasmus+, European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon 2020, Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens, the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme and the Internal Security Fund.

The issue of radicalisation has been and remains high on the Council agenda. The informal meeting of EU education ministers in Paris on 17 March 2015 highlighted the need to promote fundamental European values such as democracy, equality, non-discrimination, tolerance, solidarity and the rule of law.

The May EYCS Council adopted two sets of Council conclusions on different aspects of this important issue ([9068/16](#) and [9041/16](#)).

The current EU Work plan for youth 2016-2018 ([13631/15](#)) focuses on increased social inclusion of all young people, taking into account underlying European values, and the role of youth work in both the non-digital and digital worlds.

Fostering and developing talent in young people:

Ministers will also discuss which policies would be the most appropriate for discovering and drawing out the best in young people in the follow-up to the flagship conference on the subject held in Bratislava in September.

There is evidence to show that young people, particularly the disadvantaged and marginalised, often lack the opportunity to make the most of their talents (if they ever become aware that they have them). Encouraging passion and commitment is equally important in developing talent to the fullest extent.

Talent is not necessarily taught as such, but the discovery, effort, space, support and opportunities to foster and develop it are things which educators and educational systems - ranging from early childhood, basic schooling, youth work, vocational to higher education - can strive to provide.

The debate will be launched by an external speaker, Ms Sharon McCooey, Senior Director International Operations LinkedIn, and will be structured around three questions prepared by the Presidency ([13631/16](#)):

- “A mind is a terrible thing to waste”: What are member states doing to ensure all young people have the opportunity to discover their talents and realise their full potential?
- How can talent and educational pathways (i.e. school curricula, vocational training, non-formal learning, university, etc.) be better matched to market demands and personal development? How can we avoid ‘overskilling’ in some economic sectors and ‘underskilling’ in others?
- In the competitive race to attract and retain top talent in science and the arts, what can the EU and member states do to foster and develop their own ground-breaking generation of innovators and ‘path-breakers’?

Other business

- Testing a European student card
 - Information from the French delegation
- Work programme of the incoming presidency
 - Information from the Maltese delegation

CULTURE and AUDIOVISUAL

Audiovisual Media Services Directive

The Council will take note of a progress report on the [proposal for a revised directive on audiovisual media services \(AVMS\)](#). The proposal - presented by the Commission in May this year - aims to make the AVMS directive a better fit for the digital age, taking into account the rapid technological progress, the emergence of new business models and changing consumption patterns. It is also part of the Commission's [Digital Single Market Strategy](#).

The current legislation, which was adopted in 2010, establishes a single market for the free circulation of audiovisual works. It regulates both traditional TV broadcasting, as well as the new on-demand services, but to a different degree.

It is based on a country-of-origin principle according to which service providers are subject only to the rules applicable in their own country. At the same time, the directive seeks to ensure the protection of general public interests such as the protection of minors, media pluralism, cultural diversity, and consumer protection.

The Commission proposal extends the scope of the directive to video-sharing platforms, which will have to comply with rules on the protection of minors and protection against hate speech and violence. The country-of-origin principle has been maintained and strengthened by simplifying the derogation procedure (which allows member states to temporarily derogate from freedom of reception or restrict retransmission of audiovisual media services in certain specific circumstances).

The Commission also proposes stricter obligations, in relation to the promotion of European works, for on-demand services, including through the introduction of a quota and financial contribution. On the other hand, rules on advertising are to be liberalised. The proposal also aims to reinforce the independence of national regulators and create a European body of national regulators (ERGA).

The Council has been examining the proposal in detail since July. Among the major issues still under discussion are the extension of its scope to video-sharing platforms and the level of their regulation, relaxation of quantitative rules on TV advertising, stricter obligations for on-demand service providers to promote European works, insufficient alignment of rules between linear and on-demand services, shortcomings of the country-of-origin principle, and doubts about the role of ERGA.

The Culture and Education Committee of the EP adopted a draft report on 26 September with a high number of amendments. Four other committees (ENVI, IMCO, JURI, LIBE) will issue their opinions on the Commission proposal. The vote in the committee is scheduled for the end of January 2017. The Council expects to reach a general approach on this proposal during the Maltese Presidency.

European Year of Cultural Heritage

The Council will adopt a general approach regarding the proposal for a decision on a European Year of Cultural Heritage (2018) ([11856/16](#)).

The general aim of this initiative is to raise awareness of the richness of European cultural heritage and the opportunities it can offer and to share the European values and ideals embedded in cultural heritage. At the same time, it seeks to draw attention to the challenges that cultural heritage is facing, such as the impact of the digital shift, environmental and physical pressure on heritage sites, and illicit trafficking of cultural objects.

The specific objectives of the European Year of Cultural Heritage are the following:

- promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and social cohesion;
- highlight the economic contribution of cultural heritage;
- emphasise the role of cultural heritage in EU external relations, including post-conflict reconciliation, conflict prevention and rebuilding destroyed cultural heritage

The Commission does not allocate a specific budget to the European Year. It proposes instead to find the necessary budgetary resources from existing EU programmes, mainly from the Creative Europe Programme, which has very little excess budgetary capacity, and from other programmes by seeking to fit in the priorities decided on an annual or multiannual basis.

There is time pressure to adopt the decision before the end of 2016 or early 2017 so as to allow the Commission and member states sufficient time for preparations.

The European Parliament's Culture and Education Committee (CULT Committee) draft report on the decision was voted at its meeting on 8 November. A first trilogue could still take place in early December.

European Capitals of Culture

The Council is expected to reach political agreement on a proposal amending the decision establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020 to 2033 ([10532/16](#)).

The aim of the amendment is to allow access to the action to EFTA/EEA countries (Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein) as well. Since the selection process starts about six years before a city hosts the European Capital of Culture, this could not be done under the current decision, which is valid only until 2019.

Decision 445/2014/EU ⁴ sets out the framework for selection, designation and monitoring of the cities to be awarded the title of European Capitals of Culture from 2020. In addition to member states, candidate countries and potential candidates can also participate in the action provided that they take part in the Creative Europe Programme.

The Commission organises in specific years (as set out in the calendar establishing the chronological order in which countries hold the title) an open competition to award the title to one city from those countries.

International cultural relations

Culture has been increasingly recognised in diplomatic relations as "soft power" for its capacity to establish relations and contacts with third countries when traditional policies fail. Culture in EU external relations is one of the three main pillars of the 2007 European Agenda for Culture⁵. Since then, the development of a strategic approach in this field has become a priority for the Council's work.

One of the four priority areas of the current Council Work Plan for Culture (2015-2018) ⁶ is the "promotion of cultural diversity, culture in the EU external relations and mobility".

In response to a call from the EYCS Council in November 2015 ⁷, the Commission and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy adopted in June 2016 the joint communication "Towards an EU strategy for international cultural relations" ([10082/16](#)).

The joint communication outlines five main principles for EU action:

- promoting cultural diversity and respect for human rights,
- fostering mutual respect and inter-cultural dialogue,
- ensuring respect for complementarity and subsidiarity,
- encouraging a cross-cutting approach to culture,
- promoting culture through existing frameworks for cooperation.

Ministers are invited, on the basis of a Presidency discussion paper ([13638/16](#)), to share their views on how the EU and its member states can cooperate, in a concerted manner, to bring about a more strategic approach to culture in external relations.

They are also asked to highlight the areas in which the concerted action of the EU and its member states could bring the strongest added value, on the basis of lessons learnt at national level.

In order to contribute to a more interactive debate, the Presidency has invited an external speaker, Mr Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director-General for Culture at UNESCO, which has long-term practical experience in the area of international cultural relations.

⁴ (OJ L 132, 3.5.2014,)

⁵ OJ C 287, 29.11.2007

⁶ OJ C 463, 23.12.2014,

⁷ Council conclusions (OJ C 417, 15.12.2015, p. 41)

Other business

- Reform of the European copyright framework
 - Information from the French delegation
- European Capitals of Culture 2020
 - Information from the Croatian and Irish delegations
- Facing crisis in Europe: Investing in Culture
 - Information from the Italian delegation
- Work programme of the incoming presidency
 - Information from the Maltese delegation

SPORT

Sports diplomacy

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on **sports diplomacy** ([13645/1/16 REV 1](#)), which can be understood as the use of sport as a means to influence diplomatic, intercultural, social, economic and political relations. This issue will also be addressed in the framework of the 'structured dialogue' meeting.

The conclusions encourage cooperation between public authorities and the sports movement in order to make the best use of the potential of sport in foreign policy.

The also invite member states to better explore the potential of sport at national level, in particular through education and the involvement of well-known athletes as messengers, to promote positive sporting and European values.

Furthermore, the conclusions call for enhanced relations with relevant sport organisations and international governmental organisations through the EU structured dialogue on sport, at Council meetings and through the EU Sport Forum and similar structures.

Impact of sport on personal development

Alongside values important for personal development, such as fair play, respect for diversity, friendship, tolerance and mutual understanding, sports involvement is also linked to important personal benefits, in particular enhanced self-confidence, academic involvement and success, teamwork, and social skills.

It should be stressed that sport is not only for the most highly gifted. It can bring to anyone involved such benefits as self-esteem, discipline, patience, the joy found in effort and social interactions. Those benefits are often highly valued in business and politics. EU member states, as well as third countries, often engage sports people not only in enhancing the image of their countries, but also in politics itself.

The Council has examined different aspects of this issue through several Council conclusions on dual careers, youth unemployment and cohesive societies, and the role of grassroots sports in developing transversal skills. The EU Work Plan for Sport 2014-2017⁸ also addresses the contribution of sport to developing human resources.

The Slovak Presidency organised a conference on "Education in and through Sport" in Bratislava in July.

Ministers are invited to exchange views on this issue, guided by the following questions prepared by the Presidency ([13647/16](#)):

- Could you share best practices on educational programmes regarding personal and professional development of sports people (such as athletes, coaches and leaders) in your country?
- How can sport be used to better develop social skills relevant to participation in democratic society?

By invitation from the Presidency, elite skeet shooter and IOC member Danka Barteková and Matej Tóth, Olympic and World champion in athletics (50 km walk), member of the IAAF Athletes Commission will contribute to the debate.

Any other business

- World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) meetings
 - Information from the EU member state representatives (BE, UK, MT)
- Developments and specific features of the organisation of European sport
 - Information from the French delegation
- Work programme of the incoming presidency
 - Information from the Maltese delegation

⁸ OJ C 183, 14.6.2014.