



Council of the European Union

PRESS
EN

BACKGROUND¹
Brussels, 12 October 2016

GENERAL AFFAIRS Council

Tuesday 18 October in Luxembourg

Starting at 10.30, the Council will take note of the state of play of the **mid-term review of the EU's multiannual budgetary framework** for 2014-2020.

It will then prepare the **European Council on 20-21 October 2016** by examining draft conclusions.

Finally, ministers will be informed by the presidency on the implementation of the **interinstitutional agreement on better law-making**.

A presidency press conference will be held after the end of the meeting at +/-13.00.

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Press conferences and public events by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu/en/webcasts>

Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on:
<https://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/85909>

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

MFF mid-term review

The Council will take note of the state of play of the mid-term review of the EU's multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020.

Guided by a questionnaire ministers will exchange views on the basis of a presidency report.

The MFF regulation sets out annual maximum amounts which the EU is allowed to spend on different policy areas over the period from 2014 to 2020. It translates political priorities into figures, ensures budgetary discipline for the EU and facilitates the adoption of the annual EU budget.

Preparation of the October European Council

The Council will examine draft conclusions for the European Council meeting to be held on 20-21 October, prepared by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, in cooperation with the Slovak presidency and the Commission.

The European Council is due to focus on:

- migration: the European Council will take stock of the latest developments concerning the EU's migration policy, including in the area of external border protection and Schengen; it will in particular review (1) progress on the partnership framework of cooperation with countries of origin or transit and on the external investment plan and (2) the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement
- trade issues: the European Council will discuss how to ensure a robust EU trade policy able to provide the benefits of open markets while addressing concerns of citizens; it will (1) set out the way forward on the ongoing free trade negotiations, notably with the United States and Japan, (2) call for swift agreement on the modernisation of trade defence instruments and (3) endorse the decision to sign and provisionally apply the comprehensive economic trade agreement with Canada
- external relations: the European Council will hold a policy debate on relations with Russia

An [annotated draft agenda](#) was discussed by the Council on 20 September 2016.

Interinstitutional agreement on better law-making

The Council will be informed by the presidency on the implementation of the interinstitutional agreement on better law-making adopted by the Council on 15 March 2016.

The main objective of the interinstitutional agreement is to improve the way in which the European Union legislates to ensure that EU laws better serve citizens and businesses.

- [Council press release of 15 March 2016 on the better law-making agreement](#)
- [Council website on the better regulation agenda](#)