



Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

Brussels, 22-23 May 2018

The Council will start on Tuesday 22 May at 10.00 addressing **education** issues and will be chaired by the Bulgarian minister for education and science, Mr Krasimir **Valchev**. The Commission will be represented by Commissioner Tibor **Navracsics**.

The Council will adopt recommendations on **key competences for lifelong learning** and on **promoting common values, inclusive education** and the **European dimension of teaching**, as well as conclusions on moving towards a **vision of a European Education Area**.

Then the Council will hold a public policy debate on the potential of **universities for regional growth** and promoting **entrepreneurial and innovative skills**.

The **youth** session will start with a working lunch on "**Restructuring of structured dialogue**". In the afternoon (15.00) ministers will then have the opportunity to discuss, in public deliberation, the **future priorities for the EU youth policy**. The Council will also adopt conclusions on **the role of young people in building a secure, cohesive and harmonious society**, and in **addressing demographic challenges** within the EU.

Ministers will also be informed about a variety of Any other business items, including on **addressing anti-Semitism** through education, and the **prevention of violent radicalisation**.

Council proceedings will resume on Wednesday 23 May at 10.00 under the chairmanship of Mr Boil **Banov**, Bulgarian minister of culture, addressing **culture** issues. The Commission will be represented by Commissioner Tibor **Navracsics**.

The Council will adopt conclusions on the need of **bringing cultural heritage to the fore across policies in the EU**, and will have a public policy debate on a **long term vision for the contribution of culture to the EU after 2020**.

Sport-related issues will be dealt with in the afternoon, starting at 15.00 and will also be chaired by Minister **Banov**, with the Commission again represented by Commissioner **Navracsics**.

The session will be preceded by a lunch for sport ministers in the presence of UEFA president Mr **Čeferin**. The topic will be "**The future of club and national team competition**".

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

The Council will also adopt conclusions on **promoting the common values of the EU through sport** and will have the opportunity to discuss, in public deliberation, the issue of **commercialisation of elite sports** and the **sustainability of the European model of sport**.

Among Any other business items: **import of cultural goods**, rates of **added value tax** from a cultural policy perspective, and the meetings of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

* * *

Press conferences: both on Tuesday and Wednesday at +/- 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/108131>

More information about the Council can be found on the Meetings page:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/eycs/2018/05/22-23/>

EDUCATION

Lifelong learning

The Council is due to adopt a revised recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning ([8299/18](#)).

The current recommendation on key competences was adopted in 2006. The revised one aims to take account of the significant changes like digitalisation occurred since then, and better prepare citizens for changing labour markets and for a diverse and digital society.

The revised recommendation focuses on how the education system can manage the challenges highlighted by the latest PISA survey and on the ever-growing need for learners of all ages to develop their key competences through their lives, including soft skills.

Promoting common values, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching

The Council will adopt a recommendation on promoting common values, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching ([8015/18](#))

The recommendation recognises the need to promote a European dimension of teaching in order to increase the understanding of the common European heritage and the awareness of the cultural and social diversity of the Union and its member states. The recommendation also highlights the importance of inclusive education in all learning environments, including all levels and types of education and training in a lifelong perspective.

The initiative is a follow-up to the Paris Declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education, adopted in March 2015. In the declaration member states were invited to reinforce cooperation at EU level in four areas:

1. Ensuring that children and young people acquire social, civic and intercultural competences, by promoting democratic values and fundamental rights, social inclusion and non-discrimination, as well as active citizenship;
2. Enhancing critical thinking and media literacy, particularly in the use of the Internet and social media, so as to develop resistance to all forms of discrimination and indoctrination;
3. Fostering the education of disadvantaged children and young people, by ensuring that our education and training systems address their needs;
4. Promoting intercultural dialogue through all forms of learning in cooperation with other relevant policies and stakeholders.

Moving towards a vision of a European Education Area

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on moving towards a vision of a European Education Area (EEA) ([8504/18](#)).

The conclusions highlight the crucial role of education and culture in bringing Europeans together and for the future of the Union. The conclusions invite member states to cooperate and continue reflecting on a shared vision of a EEA, including its possible goals, objectives and scope, and its links with the post-2020 strategic framework for cooperation in education and training. Special emphasis is put on: ERASMUS+, digital skills and education, higher education, high quality and inclusive education, language learning and the recognition of qualifications.

Education was chosen as the first topic of the new Leaders' agenda, when EU leaders met in Gothenburg in November 2017. Following that meeting, the European Council in December 2017, adopted conclusions calling for work to be taken forward on specific initiatives in the field of education. Education ministers held a policy debate on the follow-up of these EC conclusions in February.

The potential of universities for regional growth and for promoting entrepreneurial and innovative skills

The Council will hold a policy debate on the above subject on the basis of a discussion paper prepared by the presidency ([8074/18](#)).

Higher education institutions play a key role in building knowledge-based and inclusive societies, by providing students with knowledge, skills and competences that respond to the demands for highly-qualified human capital in the labour market. Enhancing cooperation between higher education institutions, research, businesses, public sector and civil society can therefore be a strong driver for strengthening the economic, social and cultural potential of the local communities and regions. Such cooperation can also contribute to building strong inclusive and innovative societies, fostering regional growth and tackling regional disparities.

While the potential of higher education institutions is great, there are a number of obstacles that prevent these institutions from actively contributing to regional development and growth. In public deliberation, the presidency will therefore invite the Council to discuss the following questions:

1. What type of measures and incentives can be put in place by governments and regional authorities to foster the potential of higher education institutions for regional growth and for promoting entrepreneurial and innovative skills?
2. How do you see the role of smart specialisation strategies and synergies among relevant instruments for future enhancement and strengthening the role of higher education institutions in Europe?

Other business

- Addressing anti-Semitism through education: guidelines for policy makers ([8333/18](#))
- The European school sport day ([8711/18](#))
- Work programme of the incoming Austrian presidency

YOUTH

The role of young people in building a secure society

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on the role of young people in building a secure, cohesive and harmonious society in Europe ([7834/18](#)).

The objective of the conclusions is to raise awareness of young people about their role in combating radicalisation, violent extremism, populism and marginalisation. They also aim to create an enabling environment for future cooperation and exchange of promising practices on the youth's role in promoting peace, security and cohesive societies.

The role of youth in addressing the demographic challenges

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on the role of youth in addressing the demographic challenges within the European Union ([8301/18](#)).

The EU is currently in demographic transition from high birth and death rates to lower birth and death rates, as the region develops towards a post-industrialized economic system.

Against this background, the objective of the conclusions is to raise awareness on the demographic changes in Europe and their wide-ranging impact on our societies in general, and young people in particular. The conclusions also highlight the role of mobility and the importance of equipping young people with relevant skills to face these challenges.

"Future of Europe and young people - economic growth and social cohesion" is one of the four overall priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency.

Future priorities for EU youth policy

In public deliberation, the Council will hold a policy debate on the key priorities for future cooperation in the youth sector on a basis of a presidency paper ([8273/1/18 REV 1](#)). The presidency, who included the "Future of Europe and young people" into the main priorities of its 6-month term, will invite ministers to answer the following questions:

1. What do member states consider to be the key priorities for the future EU cooperation in the area of youth policy?
2. How can the inputs from the Structured Dialogue (the 11 Youth Goals), as well as input from other stakeholders, contribute to these priorities?

The Council discussion is intended to contribute to the debate for a new EU Youth Strategy for the period 2019-2024. The current one, adopted in November 2009 by the Council in its resolution on a "renewed framework" for cooperation in the youth field, is coming to an end this year.

The Council called in its conclusions of May 2017 to "maintain and enhance effective European cooperation in the youth field post 2018."

Lunchtime "Informal Forum" meeting on "restructuring the structured dialogue"

The "Informal Forum" is part of the current structured dialogue process between young people and policy makers. The structured dialogue is a well established tool for consulting with young people.

Other business

- Work programme of the incoming Austrian presidency

CULTURE

Bringing cultural heritage to the fore across policies in the EU

The Council is due to adopt conclusions on the need to bring cultural heritage to the fore across policies in the EU ([8544/18](#)).

The objective of the conclusions is to raise the awareness of all interested parties of the mutual benefits of mainstreaming cultural heritage into other EU policies. Member states and the Commission are invited to bring cultural heritage to the fore in relevant EU policies, for instance by including heritage as their strategic objective when preparing and implementing other EU policies.

The Council adopted conclusions dealing specifically with cultural heritage in 2014, and the European Council, at its December 2017 meeting, explicitly recognised the key role that culture and cultural heritage plays in building inclusive and cohesive societies, and in sustaining Europe's competitiveness.

2018 has been designated as the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

The way ahead: long-term vision for the contribution of culture to the EU after 2020

In public deliberation, the Council will hold a policy debate on the role that culture can play in the future of Europe after 2020 ([8435/18](#)).

Culture is a cohesive force that can strengthen ties within societies and play a key role in countering negative trends such as the rise of populism and nationalism, fear of terrorist attacks, and the questioning of democratic institutions. Culture has also other benefits of economic nature, as clearly represented in the cultural and creative sectors.

The crucial role of culture in addressing the key social and economic challenges was recognised by the European Council conclusions on December 2017.

In order to structure the debate on how the EU can maximise the contribution of culture to the future of Europe, the presidency will invite ministers to answer the following questions:

1. In the context of the next MFF, what actions at EU level could we undertake to raise a level of ambition regarding the current actions in the cultural field, so that culture becomes a real driver of change in the EU after 2020?
2. Do you think that there should be a targeted program in the field of culture that would, inter alia, focus on culture and creativity and their prominence in contemporary society with a view to Europe's future?

Other business

- Directive amending the VAT directive as regards rates of value added tax: actively engaging in negotiations from a cultural policy perspective ([8488/18](#))
- Regulation on the import of cultural goods ([8517/18](#))
- European Capitals of Culture 2022 ([8266/18](#))
- Work programme of the incoming Austrian presidency

SPORT

The role of sport in fostering common values

The Council is due to adopt conclusions of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the member states meeting within the Council, on promoting the common values of the EU through sport ([8032/18](#)).

The conclusions underline the role of sport and volunteering as a tool to combat phenomena such as xenophobia, racism and intolerance.

Commercialisation of elite sports

In public deliberation, the Council will hold a policy debate on the commercialisation of elite sports and the sustainability of the European model of sport on the basis of a presidency paper ([8558/18](#)).

The European model of sport is traditionally based on a "pyramid structure" with élite and professional sport being on top and the grassroots sport underpinning the whole structure. The sports clubs have an important role in bringing people together, contributing to social stability and promoting the sporting activity on local level.

There are signs that this model is under pressure. Sport is no longer seen as a leisure activity only but is now recognised as a growing economic sector. With private funding mainly allocated to élite and professional sports and mostly to the disciplines which attract wide media coverage, the funding aimed at the base of the pyramid is getting scarcer. Against this background the presidency will invite ministers to answer the following questions:

1. Is the rapid commercialisation and globalisation of elite sport putting in danger elements of the European model of sport? Is the concentration of revenues to a few elite clubs and top sports causing issues for less popular sports and smaller clubs? How does this affect the links between sports clubs and their local areas and communities?
2. How can these issues be addressed? Given the potential impact on local and regional communities, do governments have a responsibility to intervene?

Lunchtime discussion

During an informal lunch sports ministers will address the topic: "The future of club and national team competitions", in the presence of the UEFA president Aleksander Čeверin.

Other business

- World Anti-Doping Agency meetings (Montreal, 16-17 May 2018)
 - Informal meeting of the EU ministers for sport (Paris, 31 May 2018) and the signing of a declaration for a Europe of sport on the horizon of the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games ([8580/18](#))
 - Work programme of the incoming Austrian presidency
-