



GENERAL AFFAIRS Council

Tuesday 21 May 2019 in Brussels

Chair: George Ciamba, Romanian Minister Delegate for European Affairs

The meeting will start at 10.00.

Ministers will hold a policy debate on the **multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-2027**. This item will be taken in public session.

The Council will discuss the draft annotated agenda of the meeting of **the European Council** which will take place on 20 and 21 June 2019.

Under any other business, the presidency will inform the Council about the conference on **the European Semester** that took place in Bucharest on 4 April 2019; the Commission will present its "Communication on further strengthening of **the Rule of Law** within the Union." Furthermore, the presidency will inform the Council about the ministerial meeting on **European cultural heritage** that took place in Paris on 3 May 2019.

A presidency press conference will be held at the end of the meeting (+/-13:30).

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

Next multiannual financial framework

In public session, ministers will hold a policy debate on the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-2027, on the basis of a [presidency note](#).

The debate will focus on aspects of the MFF that relate to external action, and in particular the following:

- a) The overall balance between flexibility and predictability, in the light of the proposal to include the European Development Fund (EDF) within the framework of the proposed Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).
- b) The proposal for the ring-fencing of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) allocation, also bearing in mind the possibility of transfers to other geographical or thematic pillars.

The discussions will feed into preparations by the Presidency for a revised draft negotiating box ahead of the June European Council.

Preparation of the meeting of the European Council on 20 and 21 June

The Council will examine the [annotated draft agenda](#) for the European Council meeting to be held on 20-21 June. The annotated draft agenda will serve as the basis for draft conclusions, to be prepared in the run-up to the meeting.

At their meeting in June, EU leaders will take the relevant decisions on appointments for the next institutional cycle and adopt the 2019-2024 Strategic Agenda for the Union.

They will also revert to the issue of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.

The European Council will also discuss climate change ahead of the United Nations Secretary General's Climate Action Summit on 23 September 2019.

In the context of the European Semester, the European Council will also discuss the country-specific recommendations.

In addition, the leaders will take note of a report on disinformation and elections prepared by the Presidency in cooperation with the Commission and the High Representative.

Information points under any other business

Under any other business, The Presidency will inform delegations about the conference on the European Semester that took place in Bucharest on 4 April 2019.

The Commission will present its "[Communication](#) on further strengthening of the Rule of Law within the Union." With this communication, the Commission launched a reflection process on the rule of law in the EU and set out possible avenues for future action.

The Presidency will also inform the Council about the ministerial meeting on European cultural heritage that took place in Paris on 3 May 2019.