



Council of the European Union

PRESS
EN

BACKGROUND¹
Brussels, 27 November 2020

Informal video conference of the ministers of Education **30 November 2020**

Chair: Anja Karliczek, German Federal Minister of Education and Research

The meeting will start at 15.00. Ministers will first express **solidarity with the victims of the recent terrorist attacks in Europe**. They will then hold a policy debate, titled: **Shaping the European Education Area and the next strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training - the way forward**.

After the debate, the German presidency of the Council will inform ministers, among others, about the state of the negotiations on the **Erasmus+ regulation** (public session) and the work on the Council recommendation on **vocational education and training (VET)** for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, and the Council conclusions on **digital education**.

Press conference:

Online press conference with minister **Karliczek** and Commissioner **Gabriel** at the end of the meeting (+/-18.00).

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[Informal video conference of ministers of Education - meeting page](#)

[Press conferences and public events by video streaming](#)

[Video coverage in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery](#)

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¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the Press Office.

Solidarity with the victims of terrorist attacks in Europe

To mark their commitment to freedom of expression and European values, ministers will express solidarity with the victims of recent terrorist attacks in Europe.

Shaping the European Education Area and the next strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training - the way forward (policy debate)

Ministers will hold the debate in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic which has demonstrated that education and training must be sufficiently flexible and resistant to interruptions in their regular cycles. This makes the establishment of the next strategic framework for cooperation in the field of education and training at EU level (as follow up strategy of the ET 2020 framework) even more important.

At the same time, it will be crucial to link the new framework with the further development of the European Education Area. On 30 September 2020 the Commission published its Communication on achieving the European Education Area by 2025. During the discussions on the communication, member states have identified a number of open questions and issues of concern. Among these are the proposed timeline, the governance mechanism of the European Education Area and the targets at EU level proposed to be reached by 2030.

In relation to this, the German presidency will invite EU education ministers to hold a debate based on the following questions:

- Taking into account the overall objective of achieving the European Education Area by 2025, what are in your view the most relevant strategic goals and priority issues that the Member States cooperation in the field of education and training should focus on in the next 5 to 10 years?
- Against this background, how do you see the five proposed EU-level targets² to be reached by 2030?

[Presidency discussion paper](#)

[European Education Area \(background information\)](#)

² In its [Communication on achieving the European Education Area by 2025, 30 September 2020](#), the Commission has set the following targets to track progress on education and training:

- The share of low-achieving 15-year-olds in reading, mathematics and science should be less than 15%
- The share of low-achieving eighth-graders in computer and information literacy should be less than 15%
- At least 98% of children between 3 years old and the starting age for compulsory primary education should participate in early childhood education
- The share of people aged 20-24 years old with at least an upper secondary qualification should be 90%
- The share of 30-34 year-olds with tertiary educational attainment should be at least 50%

Other business:

1. In a **public session**, the presidency will provide information about the state of the negotiations on the **Erasmus+ regulation 2021-2027**.
[Erasmus+ programme \(background information\)](#)
2. The presidency will also inform ministers about:
 - Council Recommendation on **vocational education and training** (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience
and
 - Council conclusions on **digital education** in Europe's knowledge societies
3. Ministers will receive an updated information about the **state-of-play in EU member states, EFTA and EEA countries in coping with COVID-19 in education and training**.
4. The incoming **Portuguese presidency** of the Council will present its **priorities in the area of Education**.

[COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and the EU's response \(background information\)](#)
