

Video conference of the members of the European Council 21 January 2021

On 21 January 2021, President Charles Michel will chair a video conference of the members of the European Council, as part of a series of regular video conferences at leaders' level to discuss the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The EU leaders will exchange information on measures taken by the member states so far and discuss the roll-out of vaccines and the cooperation with third countries.

The leaders will exchange on best practices with regard to the measures taken across member states and will discuss the outlook for the coming weeks.

The Commission will offer a state of play on the vaccination roll-out, future production increases and equitable access to vaccines. The heads of state or government are expected to share their experiences on the implementation of vaccination campaigns. The leaders will also discuss the suitability of a common approach to certification, and if appropriate, under which circumstances certificates could be used.

During the discussions, the leaders are also expected to address cooperation with third countries in relation to vaccines and look at how to assist partners in the neighbourhood

At the end of the video conference, Presidents Charles Michel and Ursula von der Leyen will hold a press conference.

[Meeting page](#)

[Invitation letter](#)

Indicative programme:

Thursday 21 January

18.00 Video conference of the members of the European Council

TTBC Press conference by Presidents Charles Michel and Ursula von der Leyen

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

Background

At the European Council meeting of 10 and 11 December, EU leaders adopted conclusions on COVID-19. They welcomed the positive announcements on the development of effective vaccines and the common advance purchase agreements concluded by the Commission.

Furthermore, the leaders highlighted the importance of preparing for the timely deployment and distribution of vaccines to ensure they are made available in good time and in a coordinated manner. The European Council also pointed out that the arrival of vaccines does not mean that the pandemic is over and called for sustained efforts to counter the spread of the virus.

Leaders also stated that a coordinated approach to vaccination certificates should be developed.

[European Council conclusions, 10-11 December 2020](#)

Vaccinations against COVID-19 started on 27 December across the EU. So far, the EU has granted a conditional marketing authorisation for two COVID-19 vaccines, following positive assessments by the European Medicines Agency.

[COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic: the EU's response](#)

[COVID-19: research and vaccines](#)

[Infographic - COVID-19: EU coordination for safe and effective vaccination](#)

[Timeline: Council actions on COVID-19](#)

[EU solidarity: five ways the EU and member states work together to fight COVID-19](#)
