



Council of the European Union

PRESS
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BACKGROUND¹
Brussels, 21 May 2022

General Affairs Council **Brussels, 23 May 2022**

Chair: Mikuláš Bek, Minister of European Affairs of the Czech Republic.

The meeting will start at 10.00. A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting (+/- 17.00).

Ministers will prepare the special European Council of 30-31 May and discuss the annotated draft agenda of the European Council on 23-24 June.

Ministers will exchange views on the citizens' proposals made in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe and discuss follow-up arrangements, as far as the Council is concerned.

There will also be a hearing on the rule of law in Hungary (Article 7(1) TEU).

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[General Affairs Council, 23 May - 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.

Special European Council (30 & 31 May)

The General Affairs Council will prepare the special European Council of 30 and 31 May where EU leaders will address current issues (Ukraine, defence, food security and energy).

European Council (23 & 24 June)

Ministers will exchange views on the annotated draft agenda for the European Council meeting on 23 and 24 June 2022.

Conference on the Future of Europe

On 9 May, at the closing ceremony of the Conference on the Future of Europe, the final report of the Conference was delivered to the three Co-Presidents of the Conference on the Future of Europe. The report presents 49 proposals broken down into 326 measures. This is the result of an unprecedented Europe-wide exercise which has mobilised European citizens very intensively through European and national panels for a year.

On that occasion, the Co-Presidents reaffirmed, on behalf of each of their institutions, the collective commitment made at the time of the adoption of the Joint Declaration in 2021 to follow up on the Conference's proposals.

It is therefore up to the Council to organise this follow-up work effectively. To this end, Ministers will discuss the conclusions of the Conference and the methodology to be used for the follow-up of the proposals.

The Council could then return to it on 21 June (at the General Affairs Council) on the basis of a document expected from the General Secretariat of the Council analysing the arrangements for translating proposals.

[Conference on the Future of Europe](#)

[Report on the final outcome of the Conference](#)

Rule of Law in Hungary

The Council will hold a hearing on the rule of law in Hungary (Article 7 (1) TEU procedure).

Hungary was heard by the Council three times: on 16 September 2019, 10 December 2019 and 22 June 2021. The purpose of the hearing is to provide the Council with an up-to-date picture of the situation on the ground.

Therefore, and taking into account that significant developments may have taken place since the latest hearing in 2021, developments related to the various issues raised in the reasoned proposal may be addressed at this fourth hearing.

The European Parliament's reasoned proposal for a Council decision determining the existence of a clear risk of a serious breach by Hungary of the values on which the Union is founded was adopted on 12 September 2018.

[Reasoned European Parliament proposal triggering the Article 7\(1\) procedure for Hungary](#)

[Standard modalities for hearings referred to in Article 7\(1\) TFEU.](#)
