



Competitiveness Council

Luxembourg, 9 and 10 June

The Council will take place on Thursday 9 and Friday 10 June 2022. On Thursday 9 June, the Council will deal with internal market and industry issues. Research and space issues will be discussed on Friday 10 June. The meeting will be chaired on Thursday by Agnès Pannier-Runacher, Minister with responsibility for industry, and on Friday by Sylvie Retailleau, Minister for Higher Education and Research.

The European Commission will be represented by Margrethe Vestager, executive Vice-President of the European Commission, Thierry Breton, Commissioner for the Internal Market, and Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth.

Internal market and industry (Thursday 9 June)

On Thursday, the meeting will start at 10.00. In the morning, ministers responsible for the internal market and industry will be invited to adopt a general approach on the revision of the **consumer credit directive**. Ministers will also hold a policy debate on the resilience of **strategic industrial European ecosystems** and the **Chips Act**.

Research (Friday 10 June)

The Council session will resume on Friday with a meeting starting at 10.00. In the morning session, ministers responsible for research will be invited to adopt three sets of conclusions: on principles and values for **international cooperation** in research and innovation; on the promotion of **open science**; and on **EU missions**. Ministers will then have a policy debate on support for young researchers in times of crisis.

Space (Friday 10 June)

The afternoon session on space will start at 15.30. This session will begin with the approval of the conclusions on Copernicus by 2035 and of the conclusions on an EU approach to space traffic management (STM). Ministers will also hold a policy debate on the resilience and competitiveness of the EU space programme.

Press briefing: Wednesday 8 June at 13.30

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

Press conferences:

Thursday 9 June at +/- 16.45 (press room in Luxembourg)

Friday 10 June at +/- 14.30 and at +/- 17.45 (press room in Luxembourg)

* * *

[Competitiveness Council - meeting page](#)

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

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

* * *

INTERNAL MARKET AND INDUSTRY

Consumer credit directive

The Council will be invited to examine the draft general approach on the revision of the consumer credit directive. The revised directive repeals and replaces the current directive of 2008 to adapt consumer protection to new market practices and aims to harmonise the European market.

Since the adoption of the previous directive, increasing digitalisation has led to significant changes on the consumer credit market, both with the emergence of new products and new players online, as well as with more frequent online purchases. It is therefore necessary to provide a framework compatible with the dissemination of information in digital format, to regulate advertising or the use of automated decision-making systems and non-standard data sources for creditors' creditworthiness assessments of consumers.

The European Commission submitted the revision of the consumer credit directive on 30 June 2021. Together with the review of the general product safety regulation, it is part of the New Consumer Agenda, which was launched in 2020 and aims to update the overall strategic framework of EU consumer policy.

On 25 November 2021, during the Competitiveness Council, the Slovenian presidency presented a progress report.

This general approach will be a basis for negotiations with the European Parliament, which are scheduled to start once the European Parliament adopts its position.

Strategic industrial ecosystems

The situation following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine highlights the need to work on Europe's strategic dependencies and to make Europe's economic base more resilient.

Challenges such as high energy prices and limited access to raw materials were at the heart of the informal meeting of heads of state or government in Versailles on 10-11 March. Following the meeting, EU leaders committed in the Versailles Declaration to a stronger and more open economic base, in particular by reducing the EU's strategic dependencies.

Since the EU competitiveness ministers have an important role to play in providing guidance for strengthening the resilience of the EU's strategic industrial ecosystems, ministers will hold a public policy debate on this topic, in particular with regard to the resilience of the supply of critical raw materials. They will be invited to share their ideas for and approaches to increasing the resilience of the EU's economy and reducing its dependence on third countries. To guide the discussion, the presidency will invite ministers, on the basis of a [background note](#), to share their views on the following questions:

- What are the priority actions that should be taken in order to continue the work of the Versailles Declaration and to set concrete European targets for production and for the reduction of our dependencies in strategic sectors?
- Given the announcement of an upcoming regulatory initiative on raw materials, and the increase in our needs to implement the twin transition, what guidelines would you like to take in order to develop primary and secondary production in Europe and strengthen the resilience of our supplies of critical raw materials outside Europe?

In two recent publications, the Commission outlined the analyses and actions undertaken to reduce the EU's economic dependencies and strengthen its strategic capacities. These actions include enhancing and diversifying trade with international partners and strengthening the EU's capacity to act autonomously.

[Annual Single Market report 2022 \(European Commission\)](#)

[European Commission communication updating the 2020 New Industrial Strategy](#)

Chips Act

Chips are essential for a wide range of technological and digital products, such as cars, household appliances and electronics. Due to geostrategic issues and value chain disruptions, European industry is currently facing challenges in the supply of semiconductors, which could also hamper the EU's green and digital transition.

To overcome these challenges, the European Commission presented the Chips Act on 8 February 2022. This package aims to reduce the EU's vulnerabilities and dependencies on foreign actors. It aims to improve the EU's security of supply, resilience and technological sovereignty in the field of chips.

With the Chips Act, the Commission seeks to integrate national chip production capacities into a coherent European vision and strategy. The proposal for a Chips Act will boost public and private investment in the EU by pooling EU and member states funds for actions in which private actors should also participate.

In public session, ministers will be briefed on the progress made on the Chips Act. Given that the Competitiveness Council has an important role to play in facilitating work on the Chips Act, ministers will be invited, on the basis of a [background note](#), to share their views on the following questions:

- Do you consider that coordinated and rapid European action is necessary in order to respond to the current difficulties facing the supply of semiconductors and to anticipate future difficulties?
- Do you consider that the actions proposed by the European Commission on semiconductors offer relevant levers to strengthen short- and long-term production capacities in Europe and to increase the resilience of its supplies?
- Do you consider that they provide solutions to boost the transfer of innovations from the European research ecosystem to industry?

[Progress report on the Chips Act](#)

Any other business

a) Consumer rights in the green transition

The French presidency will brief ministers on the state of play on the proposal for a directive on consumer rights in the green transition. Proposed by the European Commission on 30 March 2022, this proposal will ensure that consumers can take informed and environment-friendly choices when buying products. It will provide information on what steps to take to get a product repaired.

[Information from the European Commission \(30 March 2022\)](#)

b) Work programme of the incoming presidency

The Council will be informed by the Czech delegation of the work programme of the incoming Czech presidency in the field of the internal market and industry.

RESEARCH

Principles and values for international cooperation in research and innovation

Ministers are invited to adopt conclusions on principles and values for international cooperation in research and innovation. These Council conclusions develop the EU values and principles that should guide international cooperation in research and innovation,

The conclusions follow the Council conclusions of 28 September 2021 on the global approach to research and innovation, which outlined the EU's strategy for international cooperation in a changing world and called for a multilateral dialogue involving the EU's main international partners.

The conclusions also follow up on the Council recommendation on a pact for research and innovation, adopted on 26 November 2021, which recommended that member states apply a set of values and principles for research and innovation in the Union.

A statement on the impact of Russian military aggression against Ukraine on research and innovation was annexed to the conclusions.

[Council Conclusions on principles and values for international cooperation in R&I](#)

[Council Conclusions on principles and values for international cooperation in R&I – statement on Russian military aggression against Ukraine](#)

[Council agrees on a global approach to research and innovation \(press release, 28/09/21\)](#)

[New Pact and governance structure for the European Research Area \(ERA\) \(press release, 26/11/21\)](#)

Open science

Ministers are invited to adopt conclusions on open science. Open science is crucial in enhancing the quality, efficiency, transparency and integrity of research and innovation. The Council conclusions on open science propose joint action in three areas: the reform of research assessment systems, the development of the EU's editorial capabilities and the promotion of multilingualism to increase the visibility of European research results.

[Council conclusions on research assessment and implementation of open science](#)

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

European missions

Ministers are invited to adopt conclusions on EU missions. European missions are a novelty of the 9th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe. They aim to address major societal challenges with a collaborative, transnational, inclusive, multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach. The five European missions identified by the Commission concern climate change, cancer, the health of oceans and waters, climate-neutral and smart cities, and healthy soil.

With the Council conclusions on EU missions, the Council provides guidance on missions' governance mechanisms, on investments from EU programmes, national and local public actors, on the monitoring, review and evaluation framework, and on citizen engagement.

[Council conclusions on European missions](#)

[Communication on European missions \(European Commission\)](#)

Supporting young researchers in times of crisis

Ministers will discuss support for young researchers in times of crisis and, more generally, how to ensure good working conditions and long-term career prospects for them beyond the conclusion of emergency situations.

Support for young researchers is of major importance for the future of European research. Current crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine, negatively affect these young researchers. More coordinated action at European level is needed to

overcome the challenges they currently face and to ensure sustainable developments in research careers.

The presidency will invite ministers, on the basis of a [background note](#), to share their views on the following questions:

- In the light of the recent crises, what are the main difficulties encountered by young researchers of which you have become aware? What measures or types of measures have been put in place in your country to support young researchers?
- What lessons can be drawn from this? Regarding which measures would there have been added value (in terms of efficiency, agility, flexibility) in coordinating them at European level?

[Improving conditions for research careers in Europe: Council adopts conclusions \(press release, 28/05/21\)](#)

Any other business

a) Events and activities held under the French presidency

The presidency will update ministers on events and activities that were held during the French presidency, including the Universities for the Future of Europe forum, a high-level conference on citizen engagement in EU missions, and the European open science days in Paris.

[Information from the French presidency](#)

b) European Research Area

The European Commission will provide information on the state of play of the implementation of the European Research Area.

[Information from the European Commission](#)

c) Work programme of the incoming presidency

The Council will be informed by the Czech delegation of the work programme of the incoming Czech presidency in the field of research.

SPACE

Copernicus by 2035

Ministers will be invited to adopt conclusions on Copernicus by 2035. Copernicus is the EU's Earth observation programme. It provides data that helps users to understand the environment and that improves citizens' lives. It offers major socio-economic benefits and contributes to ensure the EU's security, the health of its citizens, and environmental protection.

The Council conclusions prepare the main lines of reflexion on the Copernicus programme until 2035. The text focuses on the evolution of Copernicus services and data by providing guidelines for the future development of the programme based on three pillars: the Green Deal, the digital transition and civil security.

[EU space policy \(background information\)](#)

Space traffic management

Ministers are invited to adopt conclusions on space traffic management (STM). Space is becoming more crowded. The increased probability of collision puts the security and resilience of the EU's member states at risk as key satellites could be endangered.

These conclusions aim to ensure good management of space traffic, making sure that space activities are conducted safely and sustainably. With these conclusions, ministers underline the importance of reinforcing the EU's capabilities in space surveillance and the tracking of orbiting

objects, encouraging coordination on EU legislation and standardisation. This will strengthen the EU's voice on the international scene.

During the Competitiveness Council in November 2021, the Slovenian presidency presented a [report on space traffic management](#), which discussed coherent member states' actions and the EU's capacities regarding space surveillance and tracking.

Resilience and competitiveness of EU space program

Ministers will hold a public policy debate on the resilience and competitiveness of the EU space program. Over the past years, a space race was launched, financed by space powers and with increased participation of private actors.

It is therefore important for the EU to position itself on the global scene and to increase its autonomous access to space and to space technologies. To do so, it is important to look at secure and affordable access to space, while strengthening the EU's competitiveness, flexibility and responsiveness.

During a public session, ministers responsible for space will reflect on ways to improve the monitoring and protection of EU space infrastructures and to ensure their resilience. They will look at how the EU's space programme can contribute to security and defence, especially in light of current challenges. The presidency will invite ministers, on the basis of a background note, to share their views on the following question:

- What measures should the EU and its member states take to strengthen the resilience of the EU space programme and reconcile it with competitiveness challenges?

Any other business

a) Work programme of the incoming presidency

The Council will be informed by the Czech delegation of the work programme of the incoming Czech presidency in the field of space.
