



Council of the European Union

**PRESS**  
**EN**

**BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>**  
Brussels, 17 October 2022

## **Environment Council**

### **Luxembourg, 24 October 2022**

**Chair:** Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union

European Commission representative: Executive Vice-President **Frans Timmermans** and Commissioner for the environment **Virginijus Sinkevičius**

Starting time: 10:00

EU environment ministers will seek to approve Council conclusions in view of the 27th United Nations Climate Change conference (COP 27). The Council will also aim to approve conclusions in view of the 15th United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 15). The conclusions will serve as the EU's general negotiating mandate in these meetings.

Ministers will hold a policy debate on the proposal to revise the Industrial Emissions Directive. Ministers will hold another policy debate on the proposal to renew the Eco-Design Regulation on ecological design requirements for sustainable products.

Under any other business, the presidency will provide information about the state of play of the Environmental Crime Directive. The presidency and the Commission will update ministers on the main recent international meetings. The presidency will inform ministers on the Conference on Designing Climate Resilient Landscapes. Spain and Slovenia will inform ministers on the issue of droughts and Belgium will provide information on the topics on PFAS and the proposal for a Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence.

At the start of the meeting, the Council will formally adopt the regulation on persistent organic pollutants. The Council will also formally adopt other significant legislation, including a directive on the common charger, a decision identifying the violation of restrictive measures as an EU crime, a decision on the opening of negotiations for an international agreement on plastic pollution and regulations on the European Centre for disease prevention and control and on serious cross-border threats to health.

During lunch, ministers will have an informal discussion on the OECD's perspectives in relation to the European Green Deal implementation and on current energy crisis in Europe, at the presence of Jo Tyndall, Environment Director at OECD.

**Press conference:** at the end of the meeting (+/- 18:00).

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[Environment Council meeting page](#)

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

## Preparations for COP27 Climate Conference

Ministers will seek to approve Council conclusions on the preparations for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Sharm El Sheikh 6-18 November 2022 (COP 27).

The Council conclusions will set the general mandate for the EU's negotiators at the COP27 climate conference.

COP27 aims to bring countries together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015 at the 21<sup>st</sup> UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21). Its first goal is to limit the global average temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. The second goal is to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change while making finance flows consistent with climate-resilient development.

The main objectives of COP27 are to:

- implement the Glasgow pact call to review ambitions in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- enhance resilience and assist the most vulnerable communities on their adaptation efforts
- move forward on all finance related items on the agenda and to follow up on existing pledges and commitments
- ensure adequate representation and participation from all relevant stakeholders.

The Council approved a more specific mandate for the EU's negotiators as regards the financial aspects in the form of Council conclusions at the Economic and Financial Affairs Council on 4 October 2022.

- [Council conclusions on climate financing \(press release, 4 October 2022\)](#)
- [Financing the climate transition \(background information\)](#)
- [Climate change: what the EU is doing \(background information\)](#)

## Preparations for UN Biodiversity Conference

The Council will aim to approve conclusions in view of the Conference of parties for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), the Cartagena Protocol (COP-MOP 10) and the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP 4) to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 7 to 19 December 2022.

The conclusions will serve as the EU's general negotiating mandate in the meetings.

This is expected to be a landmark UN Biodiversity Conference, where the intention is the adoption of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework setting out goals to guide global actions to protect and restore nature into the next decade.

The draft Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework has 21 action targets for 2030, including:

- Conservation of land and sea areas globally.
- Restoration of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems.
- Reduction in the rate of introduction of invasive alien species.
- Reduction of nutrients lost to the environment, and pesticides, and eliminating discharge of plastic waste.
- Nature-based contributions to global climate change mitigation efforts.

[Biodiversity: how the EU protects nature \(background information\)](#)

## Industrial emissions directive

Ministers will also hold a policy debate on the review of the industrial emissions directive. On 5 April 2022, the Commission presented proposals to update and modernise the rules on industrial emissions set out in the Industrial Emissions and waste Landfill Directive, and the related Regulation on monitoring and reporting (European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register).

The Commission proposals aim at guiding the investments in large scale industrial installations to reach the goal of a zero-pollution, competitive, climate-neutral economy by 2050.

The Commission proposes that the revised industrial emissions directive:

- brings more installations under its scope (notably more large-scale intensive livestock farms)
- makes permitting more effective
- reduces administrative costs
- increases transparency
- gives more support to breakthrough technologies and other innovative approaches.

On 26 September, the Agriculture Council discussed the agricultural aspects of the proposal.

In order to structure the debate, the Presidency prepared a background paper with two questions. The first question concerns the extension of the scope of the rules in the livestock farming flanked with a simplified permitting and registration procedure for relevant activities. The second question concerns the appropriateness of setting-up penalties and compensations for health damages at EU level.

[Presidency background note](#)

[Commission proposals](#)

[Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 26 September 2022](#)

## Ecodesign Directive

The Council will hold a policy debate on a proposal for a regulation establishing a framework for setting eco-design requirements for sustainable products. The debate will be based on questions prepared by the Presidency in a background document, focussing on whether the parameters of the proposal will be effective in reaching green transition goals and on product information aspects.

The new proposed rules aim to make almost all physical goods on the EU market (except food, feed and medicines) more environmentally friendly, circular, and energy-efficient throughout their whole lifecycle from the design phase through to daily use, repurposing and end-of-life.

In addition, the proposal requires that product-specific information is attached to products to ensure that consumers know the environmental impacts of their purchases. To that end, all regulated products will need to have Digital Product Passports. The proposal also introduces the possibility for the labelling of products.

The Commission presented the proposal on 30 March. The file is examined in the Competitiveness Council. The Environment Council will focus its debates on the sustainability aspects of the file.

[Presidency background note](#)

[Commission proposal](#)

[Competitiveness Council of 29 September 2022](#)

## **Any other business**

The presidency will provide information about the Environmental Crime Directive. The presidency and the Commission will update ministers on the main recent international meetings. The presidency will inform ministers on the Conference on Designing Climate Resilient Landscapes. Spain and Slovenia will inform ministers on the issue of droughts and Belgium will provide information on the topics on PFAS and the proposal for a Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence.