



Competitiveness Council Brussels, 1 and 2 December

Internal market and industry (Thursday 1 December)

The meeting of ministers responsible for internal market and industry will start at 9.30.

During the meeting, ministers are invited to adopt a general approach on the Chips Act, the directive on corporate sustainability due diligence, and the regulation on geographical indication protection for craft and industrial products.

Ministers are also invited to adopt conclusions on the European Agenda for Tourism. The presidency will inform the ministers about the progress on the directive on empowering consumers for the green transition and the ecodesign for sustainable products regulation (ESPR).

The first day of the Council will conclude with a press conference with Czech Minister Síkela and Commissioner Breton.

Chair: Jozef Síkela, Czech minister for industry and trade

Press conference: Thursday 1 December at +/- 18:30 (JUSTUS LIPSIUS press room)

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Research (Friday 2 December)

The Council will resume on Friday at 10.00.

In a morning session, ministers responsible for research are expected to adopt conclusions on research infrastructures and on the New European Innovation Agenda, as well as a Council recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation. Ministers will then have a policy debate on the role of science in member states' policymaking.

The research part of the Council will conclude with a press conference with Czech Minister Balaš.

Chair: Vladimír Balaš, Czech minister for education, youth and sports

Press conference: Friday 2 December at +/- 13.05 (JUSTUS LIPSIUS press room)

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

Space (Friday 2 December)

The last session of the Competitiveness Council will start at around 15.00, where ministers responsible for space will have a policy debate on EU space data exploitation.

The Council will conclude with a press conference with Czech Minister Kupka and Commissioner Breton.

Chair: Martin Kupka, Czech minister for transport

Press conference: Friday 2 December at +/- 17.00 (JUSTUS LIPSIUS press room)

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[Competitiveness Council \(Internal market and industry\) – meeting page](#)

[Competitiveness Council \(research and space\) – meeting page](#)

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

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

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Internal market and industry

Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence

Ministers are expected to adopt a general approach on the corporate sustainability due diligence directive (CSDDD). This session will be public.

The CSDDD directive lays down rules on obligations for large companies regarding actual and potential adverse impacts on human rights and the environment, with respect to their own operations, those of their subsidiaries, and those carried out by their business partners. It also lays down rules on liability for violations of these obligations and also an obligation to adopt a climate plan in line with Paris agreement.

The CSDDD will help the EU transition towards a more climate-neutral and green economy as described in the European Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals and enhance the protection of human rights in the EU and beyond.

[European Commission proposal for a directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence](#)

Geographical indication protection for craft and industrial products

Ministers are expected to adopt a general approach on the regulation on geographical indication (GI) protection for craft and industrial products. This session will be public.

The EU currently has specific GI protection rules for wines, spirit drinks, foodstuffs and other agricultural products. Champagne or Prosciutto di Parma are well-known examples of agricultural GIs. However, there is currently no EU-wide GI protection for craft and industrial goods. This regulation aims to establish at EU level a directly applicable GI protection for craft and industrial products (such as jewellery, textiles, glass, porcelain), complementing the existing EU protection for GIs in the agricultural domain.

The absence of EU-level GI protection for craft and industrial products has not only been an internal issue. In November 2019, the EU acceded to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origins and Geographical Indications (an international treaty of the World Intellectual Property Organization), which covers GIs for both agricultural and non-agricultural products. The proposal will enable the EU to meet its international obligations under this treaty, and to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by it.

[European Commission proposal for a regulation on geographical indication protection for craft and industrial products](#)

Ecodesign regulation

The presidency will present a progress report on the ecodesign for sustainable products regulation (ESPR). This session will be public.

The ESPR aims to create conditions for regulation of almost any physical goods on the EU market (except for food, feed and medicines) so that they can be produced in a more environmentally friendly, circular and energy-efficient way. The proposal applies to products throughout their entire lifecycle: from the design phase through to daily use, repurposing and end-of-life.

The ESPR introduces a 'digital product passport' that provides product-specific information about goods so that consumers are aware of the environmental impact of their purchases, as well as the possibility of labelling for products, for instance with information on reparability options.

Besides improving the environmental sustainability of products, the ESPR can support the better functioning of the single market and the free movement of sustainable products.

So far, the main topics for discussion on the ESPR at Working Party level have been identified as: the use of delegated acts, the potential increase in production costs or administrative burden,

increased checks on the compliance for national market surveillance authorities, and secure and confidential access to data through the Digital Product Passport.

[Presidency progress report](#)

[European Commission proposal for a regulation establishing a framework for setting ecodesign requirements for sustainable products](#)

Enhancing consumer rights for the green transition

The presidency will present a progress report on the directive on empowering consumers for the green transition through better protection against unfair practices and better information. This session will be public.

The directive aims to enhance consumer rights, in particular by ensuring that consumers can take informed and environmentally friendly decisions when buying products. This will increase sustainable consumption. The proposal also refers to unfair commercial practices that mislead consumers in this respect.

Consumers should have a right to know how long a product is designed to last and whether it can be repaired. In addition, the proposed rules strive to strengthen consumer protection against untrustworthy or false environmental claims by banning 'greenwashing' and other practices that mislead consumers about a product's durability.

As main topics for the discussions ahead, the presidency has identified: clarity on definitions, the blacklisting of commercial practices such as early obsolescence and durability, pre-contractual information on the commercial guarantee of durability, and information on software updates.

[Presidency progress report](#)

Conclusions on European agenda for tourism 2030

Ministers are invited to adopt conclusions on the European agenda for tourism 2030.

The Council conclusions on 'Tourism for the next decade: sustainable, resilient, digital, global and social' adopted by the Competitiveness Council on 27 May 2021, called on the member states and the Commission, in cooperation with stakeholders, to design a 'European Agenda for Tourism 2030/2050'.

In response to this request, this set of conclusions has been proposed, containing an EU work plan with voluntary actions to be taken forward. The conclusions include a multi-annual EU work plan to help member states, public authorities, the Commission and relevant stakeholders to render the tourism sector more sustainable, resilient, greener and digitalised.

[Draft conclusions on the European agenda for tourism 2030](#)

Lunch debate

Over an informal lunch, ministers will discuss how to address the EU's dependencies via diversification of supply chains. The discussion will focus on possible new bilateral or multilateral partnerships in the field of critical raw materials or hydrogen.

Chips Act

Ministers are expected to adopt a general approach on the Chips Act. This session will be public.

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 industries are currently facing challenges in the supply of semiconductors, which could hamper the EU's green and digital transitions.

To overcome these challenges, the European Commission presented the Chips Act in February 2022. This package addresses the shortage of semiconductors in Europe and will reduce the EU's vulnerabilities and dependence on foreign actors, thereby increasing the EU's strategic autonomy.

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

[European Commission proposal establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's semiconductor ecosystem \(Chips Act\)](#)

Any other business

a) Single Market Enforcement Taskforce report

The European Commission will inform member states about the Single Market Enforcement Taskforce report.

b) 2022 Report on the SME Envoy Network

The European Commission will inform member states about the 2022 report of the SME Envoy Network.

c) Incoming presidency programme

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

Research

Conclusions on research infrastructures

Ministers are invited to adopt conclusions on research infrastructures (RIs). This session will be public.

RIs are a cornerstone in the development of the European Research Area. RIs provide scientists and innovators with unique expertise, technical devices, data and services to perform cutting-edge basic and applied research, and boost technological advancement and breakthrough innovations. They also bring benefits to industries and SMEs.

The Council conclusions recognise the need to further strengthen RIs and facilitate broader access to them, since they can greatly contribute to the competitiveness of the European economy.

[Draft Council conclusions on Research Infrastructures](#)

Conclusions on the New European Innovation Agenda

Ministers are invited to adopt conclusions on the New Innovation Agenda. This session will be public.

The current geopolitical context highlights the need to reassess how the EU has been investing in innovation and how the EU can adapt to the new wave of innovation. Innovation can be considered a strategic stimulus for economic development in challenging times, defined by the economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, the consequences of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and considerations for a more circular, digitalised and resource-efficient economy.

The Council conclusions propose measures that should be implemented to improve the regulatory innovation environment and to address these challenges.

[Draft Council conclusions on the European Innovation Agenda](#)

Council recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation

Ministers are expected to adopt a Council recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation. This session will be public.

Knowledge valorisation is the process of creating social and economic value from knowledge, by linking different areas and sectors and transforming data and research results into products and solutions that benefit society (economic prosperity, environmental benefits, societal progress and better policymaking).

The Council recommendation updates the European Commission recommendation from 2008 by broadening the scope of actors and activities, with a focus on the whole research and innovation (R&I) ecosystem, and widening the scope to intellectual asset management. The new recommendation emphasises the importance of developing entrepreneurial practices and skills, as well as the new needs for increasing the impact of R&I.

The text contains a set of 24 guiding principles in areas such as knowledge valorisation in R&I policy, skills and capacities, incentives, intellectual asset management, relevancy in public funding schemes, peer learning, metrics, monitoring and evaluation.

[Council recommendation on the guiding principles for knowledge valorisation](#)

Science as an instrument to facilitate policymaking in the member states

In a public session, ministers will have a policy debate on science to facilitate policymaking in the member states. The Commission has recently put forward an analysis on how to support and connect policymaking in the member states with scientific research. In this analysis, it identifies the need to:

- improve relationships between actors and organisations in both research and public administrations
- scale up the professional competences of both scientists and policymakers to inform policy with science
- develop good governance in informing policy with science through transparent, participatory and anticipatory processes

Ministers are invited to reflect on how to address these needs and challenges through existing instruments, and the possibility of using new ones.

Based on a [presidency note](#), member states are invited to discuss issues related to measures at national level to support policymaking, the link between policymaking and scientific research in sectoral areas, and the Commission's support for policy development in the EU.

Any other business

a) Past, present and future of the European research & innovation framework programme

The European Commission will inform member states on the past, present and future of the European research & innovation framework programme.

[Information from the Commission](#)

b) New EIT Culture and Creativity KIC

The European Commission will inform member states on the new European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) Culture & Creativity Knowledge and Information communities (KIC).

[Information from the Commission](#)

c) Partnership for research and innovation in the Mediterranean area

The Spanish delegation will inform ministers about the partnership for research and innovation in the Mediterranean area (PRIMA).

[Information from the Spanish delegation](#)

d) Incoming presidency programme

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

Lunch debate

Over an informal lunch, ministers will discuss technology infrastructures, a topic linked to the Policy Agenda for the European Research Area for the period from 2022 to 2024 and to the draft conclusions on research infrastructures.

Space

EU space data exploitation

In a public session, ministers will have a policy debate on EU space data exploitation.

Space data and services can bring great benefits to innovation and the EU's economic activities. The EU produces high-quality data but does not fully harness their availability or wealth to foster growth in the EU. Ministers are therefore invited to discuss how to structure and coordinate space data and services in the EU in order to use their full economic and social potential.

During the discussion, ministers are invited to reflect on synergies between national and European institutions and public and private stakeholders, as well as on possible barriers that hinder the uptake of EU space data and services at European or national level.

[Presidency note](#)

Any other business

a) Incoming presidency programme

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