



Competitiveness Council Brussels, 25 September 2023

Internal market and industry

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

During the meeting, ministers are invited to adopt three general approaches: The first other two are on the legislation package for the protection of designs in the EU market that has been recently revised: the Directive on the legal protection of designs and the Regulation on European Union Designs. The other one is on the Euro 7 Regulation that establishes limits for the emissions of motor vehicles.

Ministers will also hold a policy debate on the role of competitiveness checks in the formulation of legislative proposals. This debate is a follow-up of the March and June European Councils in the light of the Commission's communications "The Single Market at 30" and "Long-term competitiveness of the EU: looking beyond 2030"

There are three points in any other business:

- information of the Presidency on the political agreement reached on 19 September on the directive empowering consumers for the green transition
- a report by the Spanish Presidency on the Ibero-American Forum of Governmental Consumer Protection Agencies that took place in Madrid on 13-14 September 2023.
- an information point from the Austrian and German delegations on the EU pharmaceutical legislation from an industrial and competitiveness perspective.

During the informal lunch there will be a debate on the high-level report that was mandated by the European Council in June on the future of the Single Market. Enrico Letta, former Italian Prime Minister and current President of the Jacques Delors Foundation, who is responsible for drafting the report, has been invited to the discussion.

The Council will conclude with a press conference led by Spanish Secretary of State Pascual Navarro Ríos with the presence (tbc) of Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton.

Chair: Pascual Navarro Ríos, Spanish Secretary of State for the European Union

Press conference: Monday 25 September at +/- 16.20 (EUROPA BUILDING press room)

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

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

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

Review of the EU legislation on design protection

Design-intensive industries represent almost 16% of GDP and 14% of all jobs in the Union. The visual appeal created by a design is one of the key factors influencing a consumer's choice in preferring one product over another. Good design constitutes an important competitive advantage for producers and increase the added value of the product. Therefore, designs need to be protected against copies or imitations.

On 10 November 2020, the Council called the Commission to present proposals to modernise the EU design protection systems, which was almost 20 years old. On 28 November 2022, the Commission published a package of measures with two proposals: a Regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) No 6/2002 on Community designs and a Directive on the legal protection of designs (recast of Directive 98/71/EC).

The proposed revision seeks to encourage innovation by making the EU designs acquis fit for the digital and green transitions and aims to make the design protection system more accessible and efficient, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and individual designers.

The package streamlines and modernises registration procedures. It also clarifies the subject matter, definitions and scope of rights and limitations with a view to further specifying the scope of protection in the digital environment, such as digital graphical user interfaces or icons, and clarifying design rights in the context of 3D printing. It also introduces a 'repair clause' in line with the circular economy principles.

[European Commission proposal on Regulation Community designs](#)

[Commission's proposal for a directive on the legal protection of designs \(recast\)](#)

[Intellectual property policy and the revision of the industrial designs system in the Union – Council Conclusions](#)

Legislative deliberations

EURO 7

Ministers will aim to reach a general approach on the type-approval of motor vehicles and engines and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles, with respect to their emissions and battery durability, better known as Euro 7, which was proposed by the Commission on 10 November 2022. Euro 7 puts together in a single legal act the emission objectives for light and heavy-duty motor vehicles that were up to now separated in two different regulations: in Regulation (EC) No 715/2007 for cars and vans and in Regulation (EC) No 595/2009 for lorries, trucks, and other heavy-duty vehicles.

The main objective of the regulation is to set more adequate rules for vehicle emissions and to further lower air pollutant emissions from road transport. According to two studies of the European Environmental Agency and the European Joint Research Centre, in 2018, road traffic was responsible for 39% of the harmful NO_x emissions (47% in urban areas) and 11% of total PM₁₀ emissions.

Euro 7 proposes limits for non-exhaust emissions such as emissions from brakes and tyres. It additionally covers minimum performance requirements for battery durability in electric cars, and it imposes stricter vehicle lifetime requirements. The regulation also provides for the use of advanced technologies and emission-monitoring tools.

The Euro 7 regulation is part of the Commission's 2020 Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy and the 2021 Zero-Pollution Action Plan. According to those strategies, transport should become substantially less polluting, especially in cities and Euro 7 is one of the measures for the transition towards clean mobility.

[European Commission Proposal on Euro 7](#)

[Infographic: Fit for 55 towards more sustainable transport](#)

Non-legislative deliberations

Long-term competitiveness and productivity – Competitiveness checks in legislative proposals

Ministers will hold a policy debate on the role of competitiveness checks in the formulation of legislative proposals. This is a continuation of the debates that have taken place both at European Council level (both in March and June 2023) and at COMPET Council level, based on two communications of the Commission presented early this year: “The Single market at 30” and “Long-term competitiveness of the EU: looking beyond 2030”.

One of the issues addressed in the second communication is how the quality of the regulatory framework is affecting the competitiveness of the Union. The Communication explains that ‘the new competitiveness check ensures that the impact assessments of legislative proposals present in an integrated manner the expected impacts of each proposal on cost and price competitiveness, international competitiveness, capacity to innovate and on SME’s competitiveness’. Building on this Communication, the European Council on 23 March 2023, called for advancing work on a growth-enhancing regulatory environment. More specifically, it called **to simplify rules** and reduce the administrative burden **by carrying out competitiveness checks for new legislative proposals**.

Ministers will be invited to share their ideas on four points:

- Necessary elements in competitiveness checks and how to implement them
- Whether competitiveness checks should be applied only to legislation (or also to strategies or action plans)
- The role of the Competitiveness Council to assess the competitiveness of EU legislative proposals
- Best practices in member states

[European Council conclusions, 23 March 2023](#)

[European Council conclusions, 29-30 June 2023](#)

[Communication of the Commission “The Single Market at 30”](#)

[Communication of the Commission “Long-term competitiveness of the EU: looking beyond 2030”](#)

[Competitiveness check-up](#)

[Infographic: 30th anniversary of the EU single market](#)

Any other business

a) Directive on empowering consumers for the green transition through better protection against unfair practices and better information

The Presidency will inform ministers on the provisional agreement reached on the directive empowering consumers for the green transition after the trilogue that took place in European Parliament, on 19 September. The proposal agreed last Wednesday, aims at fighting against unfair commercial practices that prevent consumers to make the right choices for greener or more circular products and services. Practices like misleading ‘greenwashing’ or false claims about products that last less than expected are among the practices that this legal text aims to address.

[Press release: Council and Parliament reach provisional agreement to empower consumers for the green transition](#)

[Link to infographic to circular economy](#)

[Commission’s proposal](#)

b) Report from the Ibero-American Forum of Governmental Consumer Protection Agencies

The Presidency will inform ministers on the outcome of the Ibero-American Forum of Governmental Consumer Protection Agencies (FIAGC), that took place in Madrid on 13-14 of September 2023

[Event Page in the web site of the Spanish Presidency](#)

c) The EU pharmaceutical legislation from an industrial and competitiveness perspective

The Austrian and the German delegations have requested an information point on the EU pharmaceutical legislation from an industrial and competitiveness perspective.

Lunch debate

During the lunch, ministers and commissioner Breton will discuss with Enrico Letta, President of the Jacques Delors Institute and former Prime Minister of Italy, about the high-level report on the future of the single market that he is currently drafting. In its conclusions, the European Council of 29-30 June called for an independent report on the future of the single market to be presented at its meeting of March 2024, and which was entrusted to Mr. Letta. The Council also invited the incoming presidencies of the Council and the Commission to take this work forward, in consultation with the Member States.

[European Council conclusions, 29-30 June 2023](#)
