



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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POLGEN 200
ENV 896
ENER 498
MI 784
RECH 437
COMPET 734
IND 207
ECOFIN 992
SOC 965
EDUC 359
TELECOM 230**

NOTE

from: Incoming Presidency
to: Permanent Representatives Committee / Council
Subject: European Semester
- Roadmap on the implementation of the 2013 European Semester

Delegations will find below the above-mentioned roadmap as presented by the incoming Presidency.

Following the practice established in 2011 and as recommended in the Presidency synthesis report on the lessons learned on the 2012 European semester (doc. 15674/12), the incoming Presidency has prepared this roadmap outlining all key steps of the 2013 European Semester and providing preliminary indications on the focus of discussions in certain fora. The objectives of the roadmap are to ensure that all relevant Council formations, and their preparatory bodies, work in a coordinated and consistent manner towards a thorough preparation of the March and June European Councils and to enable the General Affairs Council and COREPER to oversee the process.

The roadmap is divided in two phases: the first, with more details, until the March European Council, and the second, more indicative, for the period between the European Council meetings in March and June 2013. After the March EC, an updated roadmap will be presented, as appropriate.

The incoming Presidency has planned the work of Council with a view to responding to the recommendations made in the synthesis report. In particular, the incoming Presidency has initiated discussions with the chairs of the Committees (EFC, EPC, EMCO, SPC) with a view to coordinating the management of their work throughout the semester, in particular their consideration of the CSRs. These discussions have focused, in particular, on the Presidency's synthesis report on lessons learned from the 2012 European Semester and has addressed the division of labour and coordination between Committees on cross-cutting issues, as well as the consolidation of Committees' views and their channelling to Coreper/Council. On all of these, decisions will be required before the Committees start their work on the Country-specific recommendations and related milestones are included in this roadmap. The incoming Presidency will keep COREPER informed.

As recommended in the synthesis report and called for in the resolution of the European Parliament of 26 October 2012, the incoming Presidency welcomes the European Parliaments efforts to enhance parliamentary involvement in the European Semester and notes that it will host a Parliamentary week in January 2013 to debate the European Semester. Further ways to reinforce parliamentary involvement in the semester are being explored.

FIRST PHASE: preparation of the March European Council

pm. 8-19 October 2012: Bilateral meetings Commission - Member States

- Planned actions to implement 2012 Country-specific recommendations
- Economic priorities for the Annual Growth Survey 2013
- European Semester process 2012

pm. 20 November 2012: General Affairs Council

- Synthesis report on lessons learned from 2012 European semester

pm. 28 November 2012: Adoption, by the Commission, of the Annual Growth Survey 2013, including the Joint Employment Report and the first annual Report on the Internal Market, and the Alert Mechanism Report

4 December 2012: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- Annual Growth Survey 2013: presentation by the Commission and exchange of views
- Alert Mechanism report: presentation by the Commission and exchange of views
- Report by Finance Ministers on tax issues in the framework of the Euro Plus Pact: endorsement

6 December 2012: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

- Annual Growth Survey 2013, including the Joint Employment report, and the Alert Mechanism Report: presentation by the Commission and exchange of views

10 December 2012: Competitiveness Council

- Annual Growth Survey 2013: presentation by the Commission (Internal Market/Industry)

11 December 2012: General Affairs Council

- Roadmap for 2013 European Semester: presentation by the incoming Presidency
- Annual Growth Survey 2013: presentation by the Commission

pm. 13-14 December 2012: EUROPEAN COUNCIL

17 December 2012: Environment Council

- Annual Growth Survey 2013: exchange of views on Greening the European Semester, with an emphasis on resource efficiency

**20-21 December 2012: Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council
(Telecommunications)**

- Annual Growth Survey 2013: exchange of views (in the context of the Mid-Term Review of the Digital Agenda)

December 2012 - January 2013: Bilateral meetings Commission - Member States

- State of play re. implementation of 2012 Country-specific recommendations
- Priorities of the Annual Growth Survey 2013

22 January 2013: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- Annual Growth Survey 2013: exchange of views

28-30 January 2013: Parliamentary week in the framework of the European semester

- Debates between members of relevant committees from the European Parliament and national parliaments

by February 2013: Approval of 2013 work programmes by EFC, EPC, EMCO and SPC

4 February 2013: General Affairs Council

- Preparation of the March European Council: annotated draft agenda

12 February 2013: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- Council conclusions on macroeconomic and fiscal guidance, including the Euro Plus Pact
- Alert Mechanism Report: Council conclusions and exchange of views
- (poss.) Discussion on selected thematic issues identified during 2012 semester.

15 February 2013: Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (Education)

- Annual Growth Survey 2013: Policy debate, including the issue of implementation of 2012 CSR

18-19 February 2013: Competitiveness Council

- European Semester 2013: Policy debate, based on a Presidency progress report on growth and competitiveness enhancing measures, encompassing the Annual Growth Survey 2013 and the Commission's first annual report on progress in the Single Market (NB. Both Internal Market/Industry and Research)

22 February 2013: Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Energy)

- Annual Growth Survey 2013: progress report and poss. exchange of views, including on progress towards Europe 2020 targets

28 February 2013: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

- Policy debate and Council conclusions on political guidance on employment and social policies, including aspects from the Alert Mechanism Report and the Euro Plus Pact
- Adoption of Joint Employment Report (JER)
- Poss. endorsement of the reform tracking device
- Employment Guidelines: General Approach
- The social situation and trends to watch in the EU: key conclusions and policy messages

March 2013: Adoption of MIP In-Depth Reviews by the Commission

5 March 2013: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- (poss.) Informal exchange of views on country-specific issues

11 March 2013: General Affairs Council

- Preparation of the March European Council:
 - Draft European Council conclusions
 - Synthesis Report on the European Semester 2013

14-15 March 2013: EUROPEAN COUNCIL

- First assessment of progress made in implementing 2012 Country-specific recommendations and commitments under the Euro Plus Pact
- Guidance to Member States on the 2013 Stability and Convergence Programmes and National Reform Programmes
- Guidance to Commission and the Council on the implementation of flagship initiatives

SECOND PHASE: after the March European Council

18 March - 12 April 2013: Bilateral meetings Commission - Member States

- State of play
- Outstanding country-specific issues

April/May 2013: adoption (A item) of decision on the Employment Guidelines for 2013

11-13 April 2013: Informal Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- (poss.) Exchange of views on country-specific issues
- (poss.) Exchange of views on thematic issues

mid-April 2013: Further to the guidance provided by the European Council, Member States submit their National Reform Programmes and Stability or Convergence Programmes, also containing their commitments under the Euro Plus Pact for participating Member States.

23 April 2013: General Affairs Council

- Follow-up to the European Council, including poss. an updated Presidency roadmap on the implementation of the 2013 European Semester

2nd half of May: Commission to present its proposals for the Country opinions and the Country-specific recommendations.

2nd half of May: Immediately after CSR publication, division of labour and coordination and cooperation arrangements between committees as well as the methods for consolidating committee views will be confirmed.

28 May 2013: General Affairs Council

- Preparation of June European Council (annotated draft agenda)

2nd half of May - early June: EFC, EPC, EMCO¹ and SPC preparatory work on Country-specific recommendations

20-21 June 2013: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

- Policy debate
- Approval of 2013 Country-specific recommendations on Member States' employment policies and draft explanatory note
- Endorsement of the joint Opinion of EMCO and SPC on the National Reform Programmes 2013 (and the implementation of the 2012 Country-specific recommendations)
- Endorsement of the Employment Performance Monitor
- Poss. endorsement of the Social Protection Performance Monitor

21 June 2013: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- Approval of 2013 Country-specific recommendations on Member States' fiscal and economic policies and Council Opinions on the updated Stability or Convergence Programmes and draft explanatory note
- Approval of Council recommendation on the implementation of the Broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States whose currency is the euro
- (poss.) Council decision on initiating any excessive imbalance procedures (EIP)

¹ With inputs from the Education Committee.

25 June 2013: General Affairs Council

- Preparation of the European Council (draft conclusions)
- Approval of integrated Country-specific recommendations and transmission to European Council

27-28 June 2013: EUROPEAN COUNCIL

- Endorsement of integrated Country-specific recommendations

9 July 2013: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- Adoption of integrated Country-specific recommendations
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