



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council  
to: Council

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Subject: European Semester  
- Roadmap on the implementation of the 2014 European Semester

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

Following the practice established in 2011 and as recommended in the Presidency synthesis report on the lessons learned on the 2013 European semester (doc. 14618/13), the Presidency and the incoming Presidency have prepared this roadmap outlining all key steps of the 2014 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 December, 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 2014. After the March EC, an updated roadmap will be presented, as appropriate.

The Presidency and the incoming Presidency have planned the work of Council with a view to responding to the conclusions of the October 2013 European Council and the recommendations made in the synthesis report on Lessons learned on the 2013 European semester.

The incoming Presidency is initiating discussions with the chairs of the Committees (EFC, EPC, EMCO, SPC) with a view to coordinating the management of their work throughout the semester, notably their consideration of the CSRs. The incoming Presidency will keep COREPER informed. It should be noted that time between the presentation, by the Commission, of its proposals for CSRs and the Council meetings in which these are to be approved, is extremely short and will put the committees and the Council under great pressure.

As recommended in the synthesis report and called for in the resolution of the European Parliament of 23 October 2013, the Presidency and the incoming Presidency welcome the European Parliament's efforts to enhance parliamentary involvement in the European Semester.

## **FIRST PHASE**

### **Annual Growth Survey and guidance for Member States' National Reform Programmes and Stability or Convergence Programmes**

#### **October/November 2013: Bilateral meetings Commission - Member States**

- Actions taken and planned to implement 2013 Country-specific recommendations

#### **13-15 November 2013: Annual Growth Survey 2014 and Autumn Economic Governance Package**

- Adoption, by the Commission, of the Annual Growth Survey package, including the draft Joint Employment Report and the annual Report on the Internal Market, the Alert Mechanism Report and a synopsis overview of the state of CSR implementation across Member States, and the Commission opinions on the Draft budget plans of euro area Member States

#### **19 November 2013: General Affairs Council**

- Presentation, by the Presidency and incoming Presidency, of the roadmap on the 2014 European semester
- Annual Growth Survey 2014: presentation by the Commission

#### **2-3 December 2013: Competitiveness Council**

- Annual Growth Survey 2014 and Annual Single Market Integration Report: presentation by the Commission, adoption of Council conclusions on industrial policy, internal market policy and smart regulation, and exchange of views based on PRES steering note (Internal Market/Industry)

#### **6 December 2013: Justice and Home Affairs Council (justice)**

- Justice related aspects of the 2014 European semester, including the Justice scoreboard: presentation by the Commission and exchange of views

#### **9 December 2013: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council**

- Annual Growth Survey 2014, the draft Joint Employment Report (JER) including the scoreboard with employment and social indicators, and the Alert Mechanism Report: presentation by the Commission, exchange of views on the proposed priorities for the 2014 European semester and, based on the inputs of EMCO and SPC, endorsement of the scoreboard
- Endorsement of the Employment Performance Monitor

### **10 December 2013: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Annual Growth Survey 2014 and Alert Mechanism Report: presentation by the Commission and exchange of views on the proposed priorities for the 2014 European semester

### **17 December 2013: General Affairs Council**

- Preparation of the December European Council: draft European Council conclusions

### **19-20 December 2013: EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

- Discussion with the aim to agree on a shared analysis of the economic situation in the Member States and in the euro area as such and on the main areas for coordination on economic policies and reforms

### **20-21 January 2014: Parliamentary week in the framework of the European semester**

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

### **February 2014: Bilateral meetings Commission - Member States**

- State of play re. implementation of 2013 Country-specific recommendations

### **by February 2014:**

- **Approval of 2014 work programmes by EFC, EPC, EMCO and SPC**

### **11 February 2014: General Affairs Council**

- Preparation of the March European Council: annotated draft agenda

### **18 February 2014: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Alert Mechanism Report: exchange of views/Council conclusions

### **20-21 February 2014: Competitiveness Council**

- Annual Growth Survey and Single Market Integration Report 2014: exchange of views on guidance to Member States on the priorities agreed at the December European Council, including the issue of implementation of relevant CSRs (NB. Both Internal Market/Industry and Research)

### **24 February 2014: Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (Education)**

- Developing skills and enhancing employability: Policy debate

### **3 March 2014: Environment Council**

- Annual Growth Survey 2014: exchange of views on Greening the European semester

### **March 2014:**

- **Adoption of MIP In-Depth Reviews by the Commission**

### **6/7 March 2014: Justice and Home Affairs Council (Justice)**

- Poss. discussion over justice-related issues in the European semester

### **10 March 2014: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council**

- Exchange of views and Council conclusions providing guidance on the implementation of the priorities agreed at the December European Council as regards employment and social policies
- Employment Guidelines: General Approach
- Joint Employment Report (JER): adoption

### **11 March 2014: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Exchange of views and Council conclusions providing guidance on the implementation of the priorities agreed at the December European Council on macroeconomic and fiscal matters.

### **18 March 2013: General Affairs Council**

- Preparation of the March European Council:
  - Draft European Council conclusions
  - Synthesis Report on the European Semester 2014<sup>1</sup>

### **20-21 March 2014: EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

- Assessment of progress made in implementing 2013 Country-specific recommendations
- Europe 2020 Headline Targets: stocktaking
- Guidance to Member States on the implementation of priorities agreed at the December 2014 European Council in their 2014 Stability and Convergence Programmes and National Reform Programmes
- Guidance to Commission and the Council on the implementation of flagship initiatives

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1 This synthesis report will also cover energy, transport and telecommunications, based on written contributions from Member States

## **SECOND PHASE**

### **National Reform Programmes, Stability or Convergence Programmes and Country-specific recommendations**

#### **April 2014: Bilateral meetings Commission - Member States**

- State of play
- Outstanding country-specific issues

#### **April/May 2014:**

- Adoption (A item) of **decision on the Employment Guidelines for 2014**

#### **mid-April 2014:**

- Further to the guidance provided by the European Council, Member States submit their National Reform Programmes and Stability or Convergence Programmes

#### **14 April 2014: General Affairs Council**

- Follow-up to the European Council, including poss. an updated Presidency roadmap on the implementation of the 2014 European Semester

#### **6 May 2014: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure - In depth-reviews: Council conclusions

#### **13 May 2014: General Affairs Council**

- Preparation of June European Council (annotated draft agenda)

#### **After 25 May 2013:**

- Commission to present its proposals for the Country opinions and the Country-specific recommendations
- 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

**early June:**

- EFC, EPC, EMCO<sup>2</sup> and SPC preparatory work on Country-specific recommendations

**19 June 2014: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council**

- Policy debate
- Approval of 2014 Country-specific recommendations on Member States' employment and social policies and draft explanatory note
- Endorsement of the opinions of EMCO and SPC on the National Reform Programmes 2014 and the implementation of the 2013 Country-specific recommendations
- Endorsement of the Employment Performance Monitor and benchmarks
- Assessment of the 2014 CSR package on cross-cutting issues: SPC Report

**20 June 2014: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Approval of 2014 Country-specific recommendations 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)

**24 June 2014: General Affairs Council**

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

**26-27 June 2014: EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

- Endorsement of integrated Country-specific recommendations

**July 2014: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Adoption of integrated Country-specific recommendations

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2 With inputs from the Education Committee and the High-Level Group on Competitiveness and Growth