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General Affairs

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President **George Ciamba**
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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

Multiannual financial framework for 2021-2027

The Council held a policy debate on the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-2027 ahead of the June European Council. Ministers exchanged views on the revised draft negotiating box prepared by the Romanian presidency as a result of the intensive work carried out during its term of office.

The negotiating box is a tool used for structuring and facilitating the MFF negotiation process. It brings together those elements which are most likely to require political guidance from the leaders with a view to the Council reaching its position. Its aim is to facilitate preparations for the future draft European Council conclusions on the MFF to be tabled by the President of the European Council.

In its revised draft, the Romanian presidency aimed to streamline the draft negotiating box and clarify a significant number of issues which, in the presidency's assessment, will drive negotiations forward and limit the number of items that need to be dealt with in the final stage of negotiations, based on the principle that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.

Work on the draft negotiating box is expected to continue during the Finnish presidency on the basis of the guidance to be provided by the leaders at their meeting on 20-21 June.

[Revised draft negotiating box prepared by the presidency \(14 June 2019\)](#)

Enlargement and stabilisation and association process

The Council adopted conclusions on the EU's enlargement policy and the stabilisation and association process.

The conclusions reaffirm the Council's commitment to enlargement, which remains a key policy of the European Union, in line with the renewed consensus on enlargement approved by the European Council in December 2006 and the subsequent Council conclusions. The Council reiterates that enlargement continues to represent a strategic investment in peace, democracy, prosperity, security and stability in Europe.

Reaffirming its conclusions of 26 June 2018, the Council welcomes the historic and unprecedented Prespa agreement and takes good note of the Commission's recommendation to open accession negotiations with the Republic of North Macedonia and Albania based on its positive evaluation of the progress made and of the fulfilment of the conditions identified by the Council. In light of the limited time available and the importance of the matter, the Council will revert to the issue with a view to reaching a clear and substantive decision as soon as possible and no later than October 2019.

[Council conclusions of 18 June 2019 on enlargement and the stabilisation and association process](#)

June European Council

The Council examined draft conclusions for the **European Council** meeting to be held on 20-21 June, prepared by the President of the **European Council**, Donald Tusk, in cooperation with the Romanian presidency and the Commission.

EU leaders will meet in Brussels to take the relevant decisions on appointments for the next institutional cycle and to adopt the EU's strategic agenda for 2019-2024. The strategic agenda will be used to plan the work of the **European Council**, and will provide the basis for the work programmes of the other EU institutions.

They will also return to the issue of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework.

The **European Council** will also discuss climate change ahead of the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit on 23 September 2019.

In the context of the European Semester, the **European Council** will discuss the country-specific recommendations.

In addition, the leaders will take note of a report on disinformation and elections prepared by the Romanian presidency in cooperation with the Commission and the High Representative.

The President of Romania will provide an overview of progress on the implementation of earlier **European Council** conclusions.

European Semester

As part of the European Semester process, the Council discussed a horizontal note on country-specific recommendations (CSRs), which summarises the discussions in ECOFIN and EPSCO, and transmitted it to the European Council.

The European Council will discuss, on this basis, a conclusion on the country-specific recommendations at its meeting in June. The CSRs are scheduled to be formally adopted by the Council in July.

The country-specific recommendations provide member states with yearly guidance on national reforms. They adapt priorities identified at EU level to the national level.

This year, due to the European Parliament elections, the Commission delayed the publication of its proposals on the CSRs. The procedure for their discussion within the Council has therefore been modified from the established practice.

[European Semester - Horizontal report on country-specific recommendations](#)

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Non-binding criteria for the application of Articles 290 and 291 TFEU

The Council adopted non-binding criteria for the application of articles 290 and 291 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), as negotiated with the European Parliament and the Commission ([8559/1/19](#)).

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission had committed to entering into negotiations on such non-binding criteria under paragraph 28 of the [interinstitutional agreement on better law-making](#) concluded in April 2016, with a view to supplementing the common understanding on delegated acts annexed to that agreement.

The non-binding criteria provide guidance to the three institutions as to whether empowerments in legislative acts should be of a delegated or an implementing nature, and should thus be given pursuant to article 290 TFEU for the adoption of a delegated act or article 291 TFEU for the adoption of an implementing act.

Following an exchange of letters between the three institutions, these non-binding criteria will be published in the C series of the Official Journal.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Emergency travel document

The Council adopted a directive on an EU emergency travel document ([8596/19](#)). The directive updates the rules for and format and security features of the EU emergency travel document (ETD). It simplifies the formalities for unrepresented EU citizens in third countries whose passport or travel document has been lost, stolen or destroyed, to ensure that they are provided with an emergency travel document by another member state and thus can travel home. The directive therefore enables unrepresented EU citizens to exercise their right to consular protection in an easier and more effective way.

See [press release](#)

CRISIS MANAGEMENT**Integrated political crisis response - preparedness policy**

The Council approved the preparedness policy of the integrated political crisis response (IPCR) arrangements. This policy seeks to support member states and relevant EU institutions in becoming better prepared to deal with major complex crises by setting out concrete, proportionate actions to optimise preparedness in all areas of the arrangements. The policy will be reviewed every 5 years, in consultation with the member states, the Commission and the European External Action Service.

An initial IPCR preparedness policy was approved on 18 October 2013. However, the Council implementing decision on EU IPCR arrangements adopted in December 2018 set out the parameters for a more comprehensive preparedness policy. The presidency then presented a draft for a revised preparedness policy in February 2019.
