



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 7 July 2023
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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Council Preparatory Bodies

1. The list of Council preparatory bodies is attached in Annex I.¹
2. For preparatory bodies marked with a single asterisk, all delegates should have a valid EU personnel security clearance at least to the level SECRET UE/EU SECRET. For preparatory bodies marked with a double asterisk, all delegates should have a valid EU personnel security clearance at least to the level CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL.²
3. Annex II sets out certain security requirements governing access to meetings, in particular where classified information is discussed.
4. Annex III lists all the preparatory bodies with a fixed chair (i.e. committees or Working Parties with an elected/appointed chair, chaired by a representative of the High Representative or chaired by the General Secretariat of the Council).

¹ This list does not include Joint Committees and other bodies with third countries. Nor does it include certain bodies (e.g. the Standing Committee on Employment) which, although they meet in the Council building, are not Council preparatory bodies.

² These references in Annex I cancel and replace 8683/05 + COR 1.

5. Committees or Working Parties may only be set up by, or with the approval of, the Council or Coreper. Only the committees and Working Parties on this list may meet as Council preparatory bodies (Article 19(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure). Ad hoc Working Parties cease to exist once their terms of reference have been fulfilled. Their terms of reference should expressly state this rule or be time-limited.
 6. Substantial and important new technical proposals requiring specific expertise should, as a rule, be included within the remit of the competent existing Working Party. If necessary for practical reasons, a specific sub-area may be listed rather than creating a new permanent or ad hoc Working Party or subgroup. The listing of sub-areas does not imply that Working Party remits are confined to the sub-areas in question; Working Parties cover any other matters falling within their general scope.
 7. Meetings should only be convened when a sufficiently substantive agenda exists or objective deadlines require it.
 8. The interpretation arrangements of Council preparatory bodies are currently laid down in Decision No 54/18 (as amended by Decision No 16/21) of the Secretary General of the Council concerning interpreting for the European Council, the Council and its preparatory bodies. Newly-created working parties and subgroups shall in principle be subject to the "on request" system, unless otherwise decided by Coreper.
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LIST OF COUNCIL PREPARATORY BODIES

A.	Committees established by the Treaties	4
	Committees and Groups established by Council Act	5
	Groups closely associated with Coreper	5
	Counsellors/Attachés	5
B.	General Affairs	6
C.	Foreign Affairs	8
D.	Economic and Financial Affairs	10
E.	Justice and Home Affairs	11
F.	Agriculture/Fisheries	12
G.	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	14
H.	Transport/Telecommunications/Energy	14
I.	Employment/Social Policy/Health/Consumer Affairs	15
J.	Environment	15
K.	Education/Youth/Culture/Sport	15
L.	Technical expertise	15

COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY THE TREATIES	
A.1	Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) * - Part II - Part I
A.2	Economic and Financial Committee (EFC) ³ (°) ** - Sub-committee on the International Monetary Fund (SCIMF) - Euro coin subcommittee (ECSC) - Sub-committee on EU Sovereign Debt Markets (ESDM) - ESDM Working Group on Overbidding and Hedge Funds (ESDM WG on OHF) - ESDM Working Group on Green Bonds (ESDM WG on GB) - Subcommittee on Statistics (SCS)
A.3	Employment Committee (EMCO) ⁴ (°)
A.4	Trade Policy Committee (TPC) ⁵ ** - Full Members - Deputies - Experts (Services and Investment) - Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)
A.5	Political and Security Committee (PSC)(°°) *
A.6	Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI) ⁶ *
A.7	Social Protection Committee (SPC) ⁷ (°)

* All delegates should be security cleared at least to the level SECRET UE/EU SECRET.

** All delegates should be security cleared at least to the level CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL.

(°) Committees and Working Parties with elected/appointed chairs.

(°°) Committees and Working Parties chaired by a representative of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

³ This advisory body, established under Article 134 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), formulates opinions at the request of either the Council or the Commission and contributes to the preparation of Council proceedings. It has an elected chair and its secretariat is provided by the Commission (OJ L 158, 27.6.2003, p. 58).

⁴ This advisory body, established under Article 150 of the TFEU, formulates opinions at the request of either the Council or the Commission or on its own initiative and contributes to the preparation of Council proceedings. It has an elected chair and its secretariat is provided by the Commission (OJ L 121, 14.5.2015, p. 12).

⁵ 8728/21

⁶ This Committee, provided for by Article 71 of the TFEU, was set up by Council Decision 2010/131/EU of 25 February 2010 (OJ L 52, 3.3.2010, p. 50).

⁷ This advisory body, established under Article 160 of the TFEU, prepares reports, formulates opinions or undertakes other work within its fields of competence at the request of either the Council or the Commission or on its own initiative. It has an elected chair and its secretariat is provided by the Commission (OJ L 121, 14.5.2015, p. 16).

COMMITTEES AND GROUPS ESTABLISHED BY COUNCIL ACT	
A.8	Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA) ⁸
A.9	European Union Military Committee (EUMC) ⁹ (°) * - Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) - Military representatives (Milreps)
A.9a	Military Committee Working Group (EUMCWG) ¹⁰ (°) *
A.9b	Headline Goal Task Force (HTF) ¹¹ (°) *
A.10	Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CivCom) ¹² (°°) *
A.11	Economic Policy Committee (EPC) ¹³ (°)
A.12	Financial Services Committee (FSC) ¹⁴ (°)
A.13	Security Committee ¹⁵ (°°°) *
A.13a	Information Assurance ¹⁶ - AQUA Reference Group - Implementation Tempest Task Force (ITTF)
A.13c	Security Accreditation Board (SAB) ¹⁷
A.13d	Technical Surveillance Counter-Measures Expert Group (TSCM) ¹⁸
A.20	Working Party on the United Kingdom (WPUK) ¹⁹ *
A.21	Export Credits Group ²⁰
A.22	European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC) ²¹ (°)

* All delegates should be security cleared at least to the level SECRET UE/EU SECRET.

(°) Committees and Working Parties with elected/appointed chairs.

(°°) Committees and Working Parties chaired by a representative of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

(°°°) Committees and Working Parties chaired by the General Secretariat of the Council.

⁸ The Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA) was established by a decision of the Council of 20 July 1960. The Council confirmed its mandate as formulated in the decision of the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on 12 May 1960 to prepare decisions of the Agriculture Council.

⁹ Council Decision 2001/79/CFSP of 22 January 2001, OJ L 27, 30.1.2001, p. 4. This Committee has an elected chair, as is confirmed by Annex II and Annex III to Council Decision 2009/908/EU of 1 December 2009, OJ L 322, 9.12.2009, pps. 33, 34.

¹⁰ Council Decision 2001/79/CFSP of 22 January 2001, OJ L 27, 30.1.2001, p. 6. This Committee has an elected chair, as is confirmed by Annex II and Annex III to Council Decision 2009/908/EU of 1 December 2009, OJ L 322, 9.12.2009, pps. 33, 34.

¹¹ 10023/00 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED.

¹² Council Decision 2000/354/CFSP of 22 May 2000, OJ L 127, 27.5.2000, p. 1.

¹³ Council Decision 2000/604/EC of 29 September 2000, OJ L 257, 11.10.2000, p. 28. This Committee has an elected chair and its secretariat is provided by the Commission.

¹⁴ Council Decision of 18 February 2003, OJ L 67, 12.3.2003, p. 17.

¹⁵ Council Decision 2013/488/EU of 23 September 2013, OJ L 274, 15.10.2013, p. 1 (Article 17).

¹⁶ Council Decision 2013/488/EU of 23 September 2013, OJ L 274, 15.10.2013, p. 1 (Article 17 (3)).

¹⁷ Council Decision 2011/292/EU of 31 March 2011, OJ L 141, 27.5.2011, p. 17–65.

¹⁸ 12075/22

¹⁹ Council Decision 2020/121 of 28 January 2020, OJ L 23 I, 29 January 2020, p. 1.

²⁰ Tasks defined in S/477e/74, Council Decision of 27.9.1960.

²¹ Council Decision 2021/2241/EU of 13 December 2021, OJ L 450, 16.12.2021, p. 143. This Committee is co-chaired by the Commission and an elected representative from the Member States.

GROUPS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH COREPER	
A.14	Antici Group *
A.15	Mertens Group *
A.16	Friends of the Presidency Group - Regulatory procedure with scrutiny (RPS) adaptation ²²

COUNSELLORS/ATTACHES	
A.18	Counsellors/Attachés

²² 5707/17.

GENERAL AFFAIRS	
B.1	Working Party on General Affairs (GAG)
B.3	Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP) ²³
B.4	Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG) ²⁴
B.5	Working Party on Structural Measures and Outermost Regions (SMOR) ²⁵
B.7	Working Party on Atomic Questions (AQWP) **
B.8	Working Party on Statistics ²⁶
B.9	Working Party on Information (WPI) (°°°)
B.14	Working Party on the Court of Justice
B.15	Working Party on the Staff Regulations (WPSR)
B.17	Ad hoc Working Party on the follow-up to the Council conclusions on Cyprus of 26 April 2004 ²⁷
B.18	Ad hoc Working Party on the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism for Bulgaria and Romania (COVEME) ^{28 29}
B.19	Working Party on Enlargement and Countries Negotiating Accession to the EU ³⁰ (COELA)
B.23	Horizontal Working Party on Cyber Issues (Cyber) ^{31 32 *}
B.24	Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) ³³
B.25	Ad hoc Working Party on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 mid-term revision (AHWP MFF) ³⁴
B.26	Horizontal Working Party on Enhancing Resilience and Countering Hybrid Threats (HWP ERCHT) ^{35 *}
B.27	Working Party on Maritime Issues ³⁶ - Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) - EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS)

* All delegates should be security cleared at least to the level SECRET UE/EU SECRET.

** All delegates should be security cleared at least to the level CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL.

(°°°) Committees and Working Parties chaired by the General Secretariat of the Council.

²³ 8728/21

²⁴ The Horizontal Working Party retains a general overview of all drug-related questions. The Presidency and the General Secretariat will accordingly ensure that it receives information on all drug-related issues being handled in other Working Parties.

²⁵ 8728/21

²⁶ Deals in particular with Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), internal market, agricultural and fisheries, social policy and health/consumer protection statistics. This Working Party retains a general overview of all statistical questions. The Presidency and the General Secretariat accordingly ensure that it receives information on all statistics-related issues being dealt with in other Working Parties (cf. 7003/03, p. 2).

²⁷ 11083/1/04 REV 1

²⁸ 5144/07

²⁹ 5754/2/21 REV 2

³⁰ 10249/06

³¹ 13114/16 + COR 1

³² The Horizontal Working Party on Cyber Issues retains a general overview of all cyber issues. The Presidency and the General Secretariat of the Council will accordingly ensure that it receives information on all cyber issues being handled in other Working Parties.

³³ 14809/17

³⁴ 10593/23

³⁵ 10027/19

³⁶ 8728/21

B.29	Ad hoc Working Party on preparedness, response capability and resilience to future crises (AHWP Resilience) ³⁷
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³⁷ 10363/23

FOREIGN AFFAIRS	
C.1	Working Party of Foreign Relations Counsellors (RELEX) * - Horizontal files in the field of external relations (Horizontal questions) ³⁸ - Legal, financial and institutional aspects of the CFSP (Sanctions) ³⁹
C.2	Working Party on Public International Law (COJUR) ** - International Criminal Court (COJUR-ICC)
C.3	Working Party on the Law of the Sea (COMAR)
C.4	United Nations Working Party (CONUN) (°°) **
C.5	Working Party on Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe (COSCE) (°°) **
C.6	Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) (°°) **
C.7	Working Party on Transatlantic Relations (COTRA) (°°) *
C.9	Working Party on Eastern Europe and Central Asia (COEST) (°°) *
C.10	Working Party on European Free Trade Association (EFTA) ⁴⁰ **
C.11	Working Party on the Western Balkans Region (COWEB) (°°) *
C.12	Ad hoc Working Party on the Middle East Peace Process (COMEPP) (°°) *
C.13	Middle East/Gulf Working Party (MOG) (°°) *
C.14	Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party (MAMA) (°°) *
C.15	Africa Working Party (COAFR) ⁴¹ (°°) *
C.16	African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Working Party ⁴² **
C.17	Asia-Oceania Working Party (COASI) (°°) *
C.18	Working Party on Latin America and the Caribbean (COLAC) (°°) *
C.19	Working Party on Terrorism (International Aspects) (COTER) *
C.20	Working Party on Non-Proliferation and Arms Exports ⁴³ (°°) * - Non-proliferation and disarmament (CONOP) - Conventional arms exports (COARM)
C.23	Working Party on Dual-Use Goods ⁴⁴ **
C.25	Politico-Military Group (PMG) (°°) *
C.27	Working Party on Trade Questions ⁴⁵ **

* All delegates should be security cleared at least to the level SECRET UE/EU SECRET.

** All delegates should be security cleared at least to the level CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL.

(°°) Committees and Working Parties chaired by a representative of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

³⁸ 7668/1/22 REV 1

³⁹ 5603/04

⁴⁰ In addition to the EFTA countries and the Faroe Islands, this Working Party covers matters relating to Monaco, Andorra, San Marino and the Holy See.

⁴¹ 8745/08, 9846/96

⁴² Includes ACP/FIN.

⁴³ 8728/21

⁴⁴ 9923/2/23 REV 2

⁴⁵ 8728/21

C.30	Working Party on Development Cooperation and International Partnerships (CODEV-PI) ⁴⁶ ** - Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - Global Europe - Preparation of international development conferences
C.32	Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)
C.33	Working Party on Commodities (PROBA)
C.34	Working Party on Consular Affairs (COCON) ⁴⁷ **
C.36	Nicolaidis Group ⁴⁸ (°°) *
C.38	Working Party on restrictive measures to combat terrorism (COMET) ⁴⁹ *
C.40	Ad hoc Working Party on defence industry ⁵⁰
C.41	Ad hoc Working Party on the multi-agency donor coordination platform for Ukraine (AHWP UA platform) ⁵¹
C.42	Ad hoc Working Party on the use of frozen and immobilised assets to support Ukraine's reconstruction (AHWP frozen assets) ⁵²

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(°°) Committees and Working Parties chaired by a representative of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

⁴⁶ 8728/21

⁴⁷ 6673/01

⁴⁸ 8441/03

⁴⁹ 14612/1/16 REV 1

⁵⁰ 10644/22

⁵¹ 5863/23

⁵² 6282/23

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS	
D.1	Working Party on Own Resources (WPOR)
D.2	Working Party of Financial Counsellors (FICO)
D.3	Working Party on Financial Services and the Banking Union ⁵³ - Financial Services - Banking Union
D.4	Working Party on Tax Questions ⁵⁴ - High Level - Indirect Taxation - Direct Taxation
D.5	Code of Conduct Group (Business Taxation) (COCG) ⁵⁵ (°) - Subgroup (external issues) - Subgroup (internal issues) ⁵⁶
D.7	Budget Committee
D.8	Working Party on Combating Fraud (GAF)
D.15	Working Party on Customs Union ⁵⁷ - Directors General of Customs
D.17	Ad hoc Working Party on the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (AHWP CBAM) ⁵⁸

(°) Committees and Working Parties with elected/appointed chairs.

⁵³ 8728/21

⁵⁴ 8728/21

⁵⁵ High-level representatives of the Finance Ministers; 13350/20, items 45-49.

⁵⁶ 9653/19 para 3 Council conclusions 14 June 2019.

⁵⁷ 8728/21

⁵⁸ 10846/21

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS	
E.1	Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA) ⁵⁹
E.2	Working Party on Integration, Migration and Expulsion (IMEX)
E.3	Visa Working Party
E.4	Asylum Working Party
E.6	Working Party on Frontiers
E.7	Working Party on Civil Law Matters ⁶⁰
E.12	Working Party on Terrorism (TWP) *
E.14	Working Party on Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters (COPEN) ⁶¹
E.21	Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV) **
E.22	Working Party on Fundamental Rights, Citizens' Rights and Free Movement of Persons (FREMP) ⁶²
E.23	Working Party on Data Protection
E.25	Coordinating Committee in the area of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters (CATS) ⁶³
E.26	Law Enforcement Working Party (LEWP) ⁶⁴ - Police - Customs
E.27	Working Party for Schengen Matters
E.30	Working Party on JHA Information Exchange (IXIM) ⁶⁵
E.31	Working Party on e-Justice ⁶⁶

* All delegates should be security cleared at least to the level SECRET UE/EU SECRET.

** All delegates should be security cleared at least to the level CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL.

⁵⁹ 17182/11 endorsed by Coreper on 23-24 November 2011 and 12516/15 endorsed by the Council on 8 October 2015.

⁶⁰ 6166/2/99 REV 2 and 17653/09

⁶¹ 8728/21

⁶² Coreper (Part 2) of 27 April 2005 (8457/05 CRS CRP 20). On 17 December 2009, Coreper decided to task this Working Party with all matters relating to fundamental rights and citizens' rights, including free movement of persons, negotiations on accession of the Union to the ECHR and the follow-up of reports from the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. The Working Party should be able to meet in different formations whenever necessary depending on the subject on the agenda. Made permanent by Coreper on 17 December 2009 (17653/09).

⁶³ 16070/09 and 17187/11

⁶⁴ 8728/21

⁶⁵ 14854/19

⁶⁶ 8728/21

AGRICULTURE/FISHERIES	
F.3	Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions ⁶⁷ - High Level - Agriculture and Environment - Direct Payments - Rural Development - Outermost Regions and Aegean Islands - Promotion of Agricultural Products - Organic Farming - Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin - Simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
F.5	Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture ⁶⁸ - Genetic Resources - Seeds, Propagating and Planting Materials - Plant Breeders' Rights - Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and other innovations relevant to agriculture
F.8	Working Party on Agricultural Products ⁶⁹
F.12	Working Party on Wines and Alcohol ⁷⁰
F.15	Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN) ⁷¹
F.16	Working Party on Forestry
F.19	Working Party on Plants and Plant Health Questions ⁷² - Chief Plant Health Officers - Protection and Inspection - Propagating and Planting Materials - Roosendaal Group - International Plant Protection Convention/Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (IPPC/CPM) Affairs - Pesticides/Plant Protection Products
F.21	Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions ⁷³ - Chief Veterinary Officers - Public Health - Animal Health - Animal Welfare and Husbandry - Potsdam Group - Feed

⁶⁷ 8728/21

⁶⁸ 8728/21

⁶⁹ 15728/17

⁷⁰ Including vinegar.

⁷¹ 6919/91

⁷² 8728/21

⁷³ 8728/21

F.22	Working Party on International Food and Agricultural Questions ⁷⁴ - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) - Codex Alimentarius
F.25	Working Party on Fisheries Policy ⁷⁵ - Directors General
F.27	Working Party on Food and Food Systems ⁷⁶ - Food systems - Food safety - Food information and nutrition - Pesticide residues

⁷⁴ 8728/21

⁷⁵ 8728/21

⁷⁶ 8728/21

COMPETITIVENESS (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space⁷⁷)	
G.1	Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (COMPGRO) ⁷⁸ - High Level - Better Regulation - Industry - Internal Market - Public Procurement - Tourism
G.3	Working Party on Intellectual Property - Copyright
G.4	Working Party on Company Law
G.7	Working Party on Technical Harmonisation - Motor Vehicles - Construction Products - Dangerous substances-Chemicals
G.12	Working Party on Competition
G.13	Working Party on Research ⁷⁹ - Atomic Questions
G.22	Working Party on Space ⁸⁰
G.23	Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY	
H.1	Working Party on Land Transport ⁸¹
H.2	Working Party on Shipping ⁸²
H.3	Working Party on Aviation ⁸³
H.4	Working Party on Transport - Intermodal Questions and Networks ⁸⁴
H.5	Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society
H.6	Working Party on Postal Services
H.7	Working Party on Energy ⁸⁵ **

** All delegates should be security cleared at least to the level CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU
CONFIDENTIAL.

⁷⁷ Following the entry into force of the TFEU, in particular Article 189, a decision to include the denomination on Space was endorsed by the European Council of 16 September 2010 on a recommendation by the General Affairs Council (GAC).

⁷⁸ 8728/21

⁷⁹ 8728/21

⁸⁰ 14274/1/10 REV 1

⁸¹ This Working Party also meets in special configurations according to operational needs, including as special committee provided for in Council negotiating directives.

⁸² This Working Party also meets in special configurations according to operational needs, including as special committee provided for in Council negotiating directives.

⁸³ This Working Party also meets in special configurations according to operational needs, including as special committee provided for in Council negotiating directives.

⁸⁴ This Working Party also meets in special configurations according to operational needs, including as special committee provided for in Council negotiating directives.

⁸⁵ Includes the High-level Working Party on Energy.

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS	
I.1	Working Party on Social Questions (SQWP) ⁸⁶
I.2	Working Party on Public Health ⁸⁷ - High Level
I.4	Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices

ENVIRONMENT	
J.1	Working Party on the Environment
J.2	Working Party on International Environment Issues ⁸⁸

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT	
K.1	Education Committee
K.2	Youth Working Party
K.3	Cultural Affairs Committee
K.4	Audiovisual and Media Working Party
K.5	Working Party on Sport ⁸⁹

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE	
L.1	Coordination Committee for Communication and Information Systems (CCCIS) ⁹⁰ (°°°) *
L.2	Working Party on Codification of Legislation (°°°)
L.3	Working Party of Legal/Linguistic Experts (°°°)

* All delegates should be security cleared at least to the level SECRET UE/EU SECRET.

(°°°) Committees and Working Parties chaired by the General Secretariat of the Council.

⁸⁶ This Working Party covers all files and issues dealt with in the fields of employment, social policy, gender equality and equal treatment/antidiscrimination; different delegates from the competent sectors attend, depending on the subject under consideration.

⁸⁷ 8728/21

⁸⁸ These Working Parties meet in several different configurations depending on the subject under consideration.

⁸⁹ 5009/1/10 REV 1

⁹⁰ 14195/10

**SECURITY PROCEDURES FOR
MEETINGS OF COUNCIL PREPARATORY BODIES*****Access to meeting rooms***

1. Rooms where meetings are in progress are considered protected areas and may be subject to access and presence control by the organising entity or by General Secretariat staff. Meetings of certain Council configurations or meetings where sensitive matters are discussed may be subject to access and presence controls by staff from Safety and Security Directorate. For meetings where EU classified information is discussed, further details are provided below. Presence at other meetings is checked by peers under the responsibility of the chair.
2. Delegates' identification badges must be worn visibly. Room attendants may ask to verify any delegate's identification badge and, where an individual cannot produce it, request the assistance of the Safety and Security Directorate. Security officers are authorised to deny access or to remove any unidentified or unauthorised individuals from a meeting. Holders of day badges will only be admitted if their badges specifically authorise attendance at the meeting.

Discussion of classified items

3. All discussion of classified items must be organised in accordance with the Council's security rules for protecting EU classified information⁹¹.

Security clearance

4. Delegates attending meetings of the Council preparatory bodies where classified items are discussed regularly must be cleared at least to the levels indicated in Annex I of this document.
5. Delegations will be reminded in advance of the security clearance requirement for any item classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above in the notice convening the meeting.
6. It is the responsibility of the meeting chair to announce the discussion of an item classified at level CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above and to ensure that all delegates attending are appropriately security cleared. It is the responsibility of Member States to send only appropriately cleared representatives to such meetings. The chair may request the assistance of the Safety and Security Directorate to deal with any issues that may arise.
7. For delegates (and interpreters) attending items classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above, a personnel security clearance certificate (PSCC) must be forwarded by the appropriate national authorities, the Commission Security Directorate or the EEAS Security Office to the GSC Safety and Security Directorate (security.clearances@consilium.europa.eu). Exceptionally, the original PSCC certificate may be hand-carried by the delegate concerned.

⁹¹ Council Decision 2013/488/EU (OJ L 274, 15.10.2013, pp. 1-50).

CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL

8. Discussion of items involving information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL may take place in any meeting room. Access to meetings or items classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL is subject to spot checks conducted by the GSC Safety and Security Directorate with the assistance of the GSC official servicing the meeting. Electronic devices (portable computers, tablet devices, mobile phones, PDAs, etc.) are particularly vulnerable to being compromised for eavesdropping. Delegations must switch off such devices for the duration of items classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL. The Chair or the GSC official servicing the meeting should remind delegates of this before discussion of the item.

SECRET UE/EU SECRET

9. Discussion of items involving information classified SECRET UE/EU SECRET must always take place in the room designated for this purpose. Access to meetings or items classified SECRET UE/EU SECRET is controlled by the GSC Safety and Security Directorate with the assistance of the GSC official servicing the meeting. The Safety and Security Directorate is instructed not to allow any exceptions to the possession of a SECRET UE/EU SECRET personal security clearance, nor to allow the presence of electronic devices.

LIST OF PREPARATORY BODIES WITH A FIXED CHAIR

I. Committees and Working Parties with elected/appointed chairs	
A.2	Economic and Financial Committee (EFC)
A.3	Employment Committee (EMCO)
A.7	Social Protection Committee (SPC)
A.9	European Union Military Committee (EUMC)
A.9a	Military Committee Working Group (EUMCWG)
A.9b	Headline Goal Task Force (HTF)
A.11	Economic Policy Committee (EPC)
A.12	Financial Services Committee (FSC)
A.22	European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC)
D.5	Code of Conduct Group (Business Taxation) (COCG)

II. Committees and Working Parties chaired by a representative of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy	
A.5	Political and Security Committee (PSC)
A.10	Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CivCom)
C.4	United Nations Working Party (CONUN)
C.5	Working Party on OSCE and the Council of Europe (COSCE)
C.6	Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM)
C.7	Working Party on Transatlantic Relations (COTRA)
C.9	Working Party on Eastern Europe and Central Asia (COEST)
C.11	Working Party on the Western Balkans Region (COWEB)
C.12	Ad hoc Working Party on the Middle East Peace Process (COMEPP)
C.13	Middle East/Gulf Working Party (MOG)
C.14	Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party (MAMA)
C.15	Africa Working Party (COAFR)
C.17	Asia-Oceania Working Party (COASI)
C.18	Working Party on Latin America and the Caribbean (COLAC)
C.20	Working Party on Non-Proliferation and Arms Exports - Non-proliferation and disarmament (CONOP) - Conventional arms exports (COARM)
C.25	Politico-Military Group (PMG)
C.36	Nicolaidis Group

III. Committees and Working Parties chaired by the General Secretariat of the Council ⁹²	
A.13	Security Committee, and its sub-areas
B.9	Working Party on Information (WPI) ⁹³
L.1	Coordination Committee for Communication and Information Systems (CCCIS)
L.2	Working Party on Codification of Legislation
L.3	Working Party of Legal/Linguistic Experts

⁹² Decision N°10/2020 of the Secretary-General (DE 10/20).

⁹³ Coreper Decision of 2 July 2002 (10589/02).