



Council of the  
European Union

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ECOFIN 554  
SOC 435  
EDUC 266  
EMPL 339

**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: European Semester 2021  
- Roadmap

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

Following established practice, the Presidency and the incoming Presidency have prepared this roadmap outlining the key steps of the 2021 European Semester. They have done so having in mind the particular context deriving from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The objectives of the roadmap are to ensure that all relevant Council configurations and their preparatory bodies work in a coordinated and consistent manner towards a thorough preparation of the **European Council** debates on the European Semester and to enable the **General Affairs Council** and Coreper to oversee the process.

The roadmap is divided into two phases: the first, in more detail, covers the period up to the **March European Council**, and the second, more indicative, covers the period between the **European Council** meetings in March and June 2021.

The incoming Presidency is initiating discussions with the Chairs of the committees with a view to coordinating the management of their work throughout the semester. The incoming Presidency will keep Coreper informed.

The Presidency and the incoming Presidency acknowledge the parliamentary dimension, both at national and European level, of the European Semester and take note of the intention to hold a joint debate on the European Semester with the European Parliament in March 2021.

## **FIRST PHASE**

### **Run-up to the March European Council**

#### **17 September 2020: Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021**

- Adoption by the Commission of the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021

#### **6 October 2020: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Lessons learnt: exchange of views and presentation of the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021 by the Commission

#### **13 October 2020: General Affairs Council**

- Council Decision on Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States: adoption

#### **By 15 October 2020**

- submission of 2021 Draft Budgetary Plans by euro area Member States

#### **21 October 2020: European Parliament plenary session**

- EP joint debate on the policies of the euro area

#### **4 November 2020: Informal videoconference of economy and finance ministers**

- Conclusions on the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021: approval by written procedure of shortly after the videoconference

#### **10 November 2020: Informal videoconference of the ministers responsible for European affairs**

- European Semester 2021 Roadmap: presentation by the Presidency and the incoming Presidency

#### **18 November 2020: Autumn package**

- Adoption by the Commission of the draft 2021 Joint Employment Report, the Alert Mechanism Report 2021, and the draft 2021 Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area
- Adoption by the Commission of the opinions on the 2021 Draft Budgetary Plans for euro area Member States

#### **End November**

- Immediately after the publication of the draft 2021 Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area, the division of labour and the coordination arrangements between committees, as well as the methods for consolidating committees' views, will be confirmed.

## **End November, early December**

- Committees (EFC, EPC-EA, EMCO, SPC) prepare the joint contribution covering the fiscal, economic, employment and social aspects of the draft 2021 Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area.

## **1 December 2020: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Alert Mechanism Report 2021 and draft Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area: presentation by the Commission and exchange of views

## **3 December 2020: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council**

- Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021, Alert Mechanism Report 2021, draft 2021 Joint Employment Report and draft 2021 Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area: presentation by the Commission and exchange of views
- (poss.) Council Conclusions on Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy 2021/ Semester process

## **18 January 2021: Eurogroup**

- Draft Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area

## **19 January 2021: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Conclusions on the 2021 Alert Mechanism Report: approval
- Draft 2021 Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area: approval
- Envisaged priorities for Recovery and Resolution Plans: exchange of views

## **16 February 2021: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- Envisaged priorities for Recovery and Resolution Plans: exchange of views

## **22-23 February 2021: Parliamentary week in the framework of the European Semester**

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

## **23 February 2021: General Affairs Council**

- Preparation of the March **European Council** - annotated draft agenda

## **25 February 2021: Competitiveness (Internal Market and Industry) Council**

- European Semester: The role of Recovery and Resilience Plans for the Digital Transition and Industrial Policy: exchange of views

### **18 March 2021: Environment Council**

- European Semester:
  - The role of Recovery and Resilience Plans for a Green Transition: exchange of views
  - The future of the Semester in the context of Recovery and Resilience Facility in view of the Green Transition: exchange of views

### **16 March 2021: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- The economic Recovery in Europe: exchange of views
- (poss.) Council Implementing Decisions under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation: adoption

### **15-16 March 2021: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council**

- 2021 Joint Employment Report: Council conclusions: approval
- 2021 Joint Employment Report: adoption
- Employment and social policies in the Semester in the context of Recovery and Resilience Plans: exchange of views
- Health policy in the Semester in the context of Recovery and Resilience Plans: exchange of views
- The future of Semester in the context of Recovery and Resilience Facility in the field of health policies: exchange of views

### **23 March 2021: General Affairs Council**

- Preparation of the March European Council:
  - Draft conclusions
  - Synthesis report on Council contributions on the 2021 European Semester: exchange of views
  - Draft Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area: transmission to the European Council
  - (poss.) Updated roadmap on the 2021 European Semester

### **25-26 March 2021: European Council**

- Exchange of views on the economic situation
- Guidance to Member States for their 2021 Stability and Convergence Programmes and National Reform Programmes
- Draft Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area: endorsement

## SECOND PHASE

### Run-up to June European Council

#### **Mid-April 2021 (and before 30 April 2021)**

- Further to the guidance provided by the European Council, Member States submit their 2021 National Reform Programmes and 2021 Stability or Convergence Programmes
- *p.m. Final deadline for Member States to submit their Recovery and Resilience Plans under the RRF Regulation (as part of their National Reform Programmes). Submissions possible as of the entry into force of the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation.*

#### **18 May 2021: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- (poss.) Council Implementing Decisions under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation: adoption

#### **late-May 2021 (tbc):**

- Commission to present its recommendations for the 2021 fiscal Council Recommendations on the National Reform Programmes and delivering a Council Opinion on the Stability and Convergence Programmes (country-specific recommendations) and where applicable In-Depth Reviews under the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure

#### **End of May - early June 2021:**

- EFC preparatory work on the 2021 fiscal country-specific recommendations

#### **14 June 2021: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council**

- (poss.) Council Decision on Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States: adoption
- Assessment of the 2020 country-specific recommendations: endorsement of the opinions of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee
- The future of Semester in the context of Recovery and Resilience Facility in the field of social and employment policies: exchange of views

#### **18 June 2021: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- 2021 fiscal Country-specific recommendations and Council Opinions on the updated Stability or Convergence Programmes: approval
- Conclusions on the future of Semester in the context of Recovery and Resilience Facility in the field of economic and financial affairs: approval
- (poss.) Council Implementing Decisions under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation: adoption

## **22 June 2021: General Affairs Council**

- Preparation of the June European Council: draft conclusions
- Approval of the 2021 fiscal country-specific recommendations and transmission to the European Council
- Conclusions on the future of the Semester in the context of Recovery and Resilience Facility: approval

## **24-25 June 2021: European Council**

- Integrated 2021 country-specific recommendations: endorsement

### ***p.m. by 30 June 2021***

- *Final deadline for the Commission assessment of the Recovery and Resilience Plans, draft Council Implementing Decisions (up to two months after the submission of the national Recovery and Resilience Plans)*

## **July 2021: Economic and Financial Affairs Council**

- 2021 fiscal country-specific recommendations: adoption
- (poss.) Council Implementing Decisions under the Recovery and Resilience Facility: adoption

### ***p.m. by 28 July***

- *Adoption of the Council Implementing Decisions under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation (up to four weeks after the proposal of the Council Implementing Decisions)*

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