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## OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3793rd Council meeting

### General Affairs

Brussels, 11 May 2021

President **Ana Paula Zacarias**  
Portuguese Secretary of State of European Affairs

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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**

### **EU coordination on COVID-19**

The Council discussed the state of play regarding EU coordination on COVID-19, focusing on the vaccination campaign, the ongoing work on digital green certificates, and the epidemiological situation and travel restrictions.

On 3 May, the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission held a first trilogue on the digital green certificate, intended to facilitate free movement, with a view to conclusion in June. A second trilogue will take place on 11 May.

The ongoing technical work on COVID-19 interoperable digital certificates forms part of the preparations for a common approach to the future gradual lifting of restrictions. Work is also ongoing on the revision of the Council Recommendation on travel from third countries.

[COVID-19: Council agrees its negotiating mandate on the Digital Green Certificate](#)

[Presidency press release on solidarity vaccines](#)

[COVID-19: research and vaccines](#)

[Video conference of the members of the European Council, 25 March 2021](#)

[COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic: the EU's response](#)

[COVID-19: travel and transport – Council updates recommendations on COVID-19 travel measures \(background information\)](#)

[Commission proposes to ease restrictions on non-essential travel to the EU \(press release\)](#)

## **Special European Council meeting on 24-25 May 2021**

The Council prepared for the special European Council meeting on 24-25 May 2021.

EU leaders will meet in Brussels to coordinate the EU response to COVID-19 and discuss the latest developments.

Heads of state or government will also focus on climate change, following up on the European Council conclusions of December 2020.

Lastly, the EU leaders will turn to external relations, with a strategic debate on Russia. The 25 March statement of the members of the European Council provided for a strategic debate to be held “at a forthcoming European Council meeting”.

[Special meeting of the European Council, 24-25 May 2021](#)

[Provisional agenda](#)

## **Conference on the Future of Europe**

Ministers for European Affairs were informed by the presidency about the state of play regarding the Conference on the Future of Europe, following the formal inaugural event on 9 May in Strasbourg.

Directly before this formal event, the Conference's executive board met for the fourth time to discuss and agree on the remaining chapter of the Rules of Procedure relating to the Conference plenary. The Rules of Procedure have thus been completely finalised after the board gave the green light to the other two sections of the Conference's Rules of Procedure on 22 April, namely the section on citizens' participation and that on the board's working methods. On that occasion, the board was also informed about the practical modalities for the organisation of European citizens' panels.

On 19 April the digital platform of the Conference on the Future of Europe was launched, allowing the conversation with citizens across Europe to start. A number of ideas and events have already been posted on the platform.

[Conference on the Future of Europe: launch of the citizens' platform on 19 April](#)

[The Conference on the Future of Europe gets green light from the Council](#)

[Joint declaration](#)

[Conference on the Future of Europe - revised Council position \(3 February 2021\)](#)

[Conference on the Future of Europe - Council position \(24 June 2020\)](#)

## **Any other business**

Ministers took stock of the enlargement and stabilisation and association process, and of EU-Switzerland relations.

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED****INTERNAL MARKET****Commission Regulation amending Annex XIV to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH)**

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission regulation amending annex XIV to regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH).

The proposed regulation amends annex XIV of REACH as far as the substances bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP) and diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP) are concerned.

The Commission regulation is subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt the regulation, unless the European Parliament objects ([6893/21](#) + [ADD 1](#)).

**INTERNAL MARKET****Commission Regulation amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 on cosmetic products**

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission regulation amending annexes II and III to regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 on cosmetic products.

The proposed regulation updates the above-mentioned regulation as far as the use of the substances deoxyarbutin and dihydroxyacetone in cosmetic products is concerned.

The Commission regulation is subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt the regulation, unless the European Parliament objects ([6871/21](#) + [ADD 1](#)).

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