



Brussels, 23 October 2026
(OR. en)

14521/26

PE 118
AG 166

'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
Subject:	DEBATES taken by the Presidency on behalf of the Council at the European Parliament plenary part-session in Strasbourg from 19 to 22 October 2026

The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to take note of the following debates taken by the Presidency (Irish Minister of State for European Affairs, Thomas Byrne and Irish Minister of State for Fisheries and the Marine, Timmy Dooley) on behalf of the Council:

Tuesday 20 October 2026

1. *Council and Commission statements - EU–UK summit: renewed ambition for a closer partnership*

The Presidency highlighted the United Kingdom as an ally and partner and the importance of strong EU-UK relations based on the full implementation of the existing agreements. The Presidency welcomed the progress made since the first EU-UK summit and set out its hope for a positive and balanced outcome of the second summit, referring to ongoing negotiations on a common sanitary and phytosanitary area, the linking of the EU and UK emissions trading systems and the creation of a youth experience scheme.

2. *General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2027 – all sections*

The Presidency recalled the presentation of the Council's position on 16 September and confirmed the Council is currently examining the amending letter to the draft budget presented by the Commission. The Presidency emphasised several concerns with the EP's position. It nonetheless reaffirmed the Council's willingness to reach a balanced agreement on the budget for 2027.

3. *Council and Commission statements - European support to defend the International Criminal Court*

The Presidency expressed the EU's commitment to the international legal order and the respect for international law and regret over the announced US sanctions on the International Criminal Court. The Presidency ensured that the Council is ready to consider all necessary measures, including the activation of the Blocking Statute should the Commission put this option forward.

Wednesday 21 October 2026

1. *Topical debate requested by a political group (EPP) (Rule 169) – Cutting costs and unnecessary reporting obligations now – concrete next steps to deliver swift relief for EU's entrepreneurs*

The Presidency recalled the European Council's commitment to prioritising simplification and reducing administrative, regulatory and reporting burdens to strengthen EU competitiveness and unlock investment, while safeguarding the Single Market and high social, consumer and environmental standards. It highlighted progress on six Omnibus packages agreed with Parliament, with several already in force, and stressed the need to advance negotiations on the remaining packages in line with the One Europe, One Market Roadmap.

2. *Council and Commission statements - A Circular Economy Act that strengthens Europe's strategic autonomy, boosts competitiveness and makes the lives of Europeans more affordable*

The Presidency underlined that a circular economy grounded on a functional internal market of secondary raw materials can only be achievable if long-term and predictable investments in recycling technologies foster field-specific innovation. The Presidency presented the Council's expectation for the upcoming Circular Economy Act, addressing especially the Extended Producer Responsibility for all waste streams, and recalled the work of the Council on the Environment Omnibus.

3. *Oral question - UN Climate Change Conference 2026 in Antalya, Turkey (COP31)*

The Presidency reiterated the key priorities of the Council for COP31, including progress on the implementation of the current commitments under the Paris Agreement and staying as close to the 1.5°C warming threshold as possible. Moreover, the Presidency emphasised the EU's commitment to electrification, also welcoming discussions on the topic under the 35-by-35 Global Electrification Pledge under COP31.
