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Sort  Sort by date
Author "Suzana Elena ANGHEL"

50 result(s)

Creation date : 15-10-2019

Publication type: Study
Date: 10-10-2019
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Summary: The Sibiu Summit of 9 May 2019 and the subsequent adoption of the 2019-24 Strategic Agenda on 20 June 2019 constitute the end of the Future of Europe debate (at least in its current iteration), which was initiated following the June 2016 UK referendum on EU membership. Throughout the Future of Europe process, EU Heads of State or Government reiterated three core messages that also featured prominently in all the milestone documents: the need for unity, priority to EU citizens, and focus on (policy) delivery. Moreover, the three policy priorities – migration, security and the economy – identified in the Bratislava Declaration, have been the focus over the entire period of the Future of Europe process (June 2016 to June 2019), forming the European Council’s ‘rolling agenda’ of policy priorities.

Outcome of the European Council and Euro Summit, 20-21 June 2019

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 26-06-2019
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Summary: At their most recent meeting, EU Heads of State or Government postponed decisions on nominating a set of high-level EU appointments, including the position of President of the European Commission. EU leaders will now reconvene for a special meeting of the European Council on 30 June, with the aim of reaching an agreement on a package of candidates. On climate policy, the European Council did not achieve consensus on ensuring climate neutrality by 2050 either. Conversely, it adopted the strategic agenda for 2019-24, setting four priority areas that will guide the work of the EU institutions over the next five years. EU leaders also discussed a wide range of external relations issues, including the situation in eastern Ukraine and the Azov Sea, and reconfirmed economic sanctions on Russia.

Key issues in the European Council

Publication type: Study
Date: 20-06-2019
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | MARKO VUKOVIC | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Summary: The European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) monitors and analyses the activities, commitments and impact of the European Council, so as to maximize parliamentary understanding of the political dynamics of this important institution. This new EPRS publication, ‘Key issues in the European Council’, which will be updated quarterly to coincide with European Council meetings, aims to provide an overview of the institution’s activities on major EU issues. It analyses nine policy areas, explaining the legal and political background and the main priorities and orientations defined by the European Council. It also assesses the results of European Council involvement to date and identifies future challenges in the various policy fields.

Outlook for the European Council and Euro Summit meetings, 20-21 June 2019

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 19-06-2019
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Summary: The June 2019 European Council will discuss, and potentially agree on, high-level appointments to EU institutions and adopt the 2019-2024 strategic agenda. Other agenda topics are the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the EU’s common climate ambition, disinformation, enlargement and foreign policy issues, including relations with Russia. EU-27 leaders will meet for a Euro Summit in extended format to discuss the report submitted by the Eurogroup on EMU reforms.

Source: © European Union, 2019 - EP
Outcome of the informal dinner of Heads of State or Government on 28 May 2019

Publication type
At a Glance
Date
29-05-2019
Author
Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Policy area
EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary
EU leaders met to consider the outcome of the European Parliament elections, and to start the appointment process to high-level EU positions ahead of the June 2019 European Council. They discussed the principles that would guide their action, and mandated the European Council President, Donald Tusk, to begin consultations with the Parliament. EU leaders reiterated their February 2018 position on the absence of automaticity between a role as lead candidate and the European Council nomination for President of the European Commission. They discussed the balance that needs to be found, but did not discuss any names. The President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, stressed the parliamentary majority’s attachment to the Spitzenkandidaten process.

At a Glance
EN

Assessing the Leaders’ Agenda

Publication type
In-Depth Analysis
Date
06-05-2019
Author
Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Policy area
Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary
The Leaders’ Agenda can be assessed rather favourably as it has enabled more structured work and better preparation by all actors concerned. This method can be recommended for the future work of the European Council as it allows a consistent follow-up. However, it has not helped to overcome deadlock on some of the most sensitive issues, such as migration and taxation.

In-Depth Analysis
EN

Outcome of the meetings of EU leaders, 21-22 March 2019

Publication type
Briefing
Date
25-03-2019
Author
Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Policy area
EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law

Summary
Discussions at the March 2019 European Council meeting focussed on agreeing on a both legally and politically workable response to the request of the UK Prime Minister, Theresa May, that Brexit be delayed until 30 June 2019. The European Council (Article 50) agreed to extend the Article 50 period until 22 May 2019, provided that the Withdrawal Agreement is approved by the House of Commons by 29 March. If not approved, the extension would end on 12 April, with the UK required to indicate a way forward. The EU-27 also formally approved the texts agreed by the UK and the European Commission on 11 March, which add further clarification to the Withdrawal Agreement and the political declaration, in particular regarding the ‘Irish backstop’. On Friday 22, the European Council discussed jobs, growth and competitiveness, climate, external relations and fighting disinformation. As part of these discussions, EU leaders endorsed the Annual Growth Survey, decided to strengthen the EU’s economic base and called for a more assertive industrial policy. They reiterated their commitment to the Paris Agreement and called on the Council to intensify its work on a long-term climate strategy. Regarding external relations, EU Heads of State or Government prepared the forthcoming EU-China summit, reiterated their commitment to Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and expressed the EU’s readiness to provide humanitarian relief assistance to Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe. The European Council also marked the 25th anniversary of the European Economic Area, together with the Prime Ministers of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Finally, it also appointed Philip Lane as a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank.

Briefing
EN
European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date

Publication type Study
Date 20-03-2019
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | MARKO VUKOVIC | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Summary The role of the European Council – to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' – has evolved rapidly over the last decade. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council's delivery on commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview of European Council conclusions is a new, updated and more comprehensive edition of the Rolling Check-List, which has been published regularly by the European Council Oversight Unit since 2014. It distinguishes between four types of European Council conclusions (commitments, reviews, endorsements and statements) and indicates the follow-up given to calls for action made by EU leaders. It also offers an introductory analysis of each policy area, highlighting the background to the main orientations given by the European Council, as well as the follow-up to them and the future challenges.
Study EN

Outcome of the meetings of EU Heads of State or Government, 13-14 December 2018

Publication type Briefing
Date 20-12-2018
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Policy area Budget | Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues
Keyword single market | xenophobia | disinformation | United Kingdom | common foreign and security policy | multiannual financial framework | European Council | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | climate change policy | racism | withdrawal from the EU | Eurogroup (euro area) | summit meeting
Summary The meetings on 13-14 2018 of EU Heads of State or Government dealt with a more comprehensive agenda than originally foreseen. The European Council set a timeline for the negotiations of the MFF, assessed the implementation of its comprehensive approach to migration, and announced an in-depth discussion on the Single Market for next spring. On external relations, it discussed the upcoming summit with the League of Arab States, expressed its concern regarding the escalation at the Azov Sea, welcomed progress in the field of security and defence and addressed disinformation. Additionally, EU Heads of State or Government issued conclusions on climate change, fight against racism and xenophobia, as well as citizens' dialogues and citizens' consultations.
Briefing EN

European Council conclusions - A rolling check-list of commitments to date

Publication type Study
Date 12-12-2018
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Keyword single market | digital single market | area of freedom, security and justice | common foreign and security policy | EU energy policy | development policy | European Council | climate change policy | competitiveness | EU migration policy | economic policy | Schengen Agreement | international trade | summit meeting | EU employment policy
Summary The role of the European Council – to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' – has evolved rapidly over the last decade. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council's delivery on commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview of European Council conclusions is a new, updated and more comprehensive edition of the Rolling Check-List which has been published regularly by the European Council Oversight Unit since 2014. It is designed to review the degree of progress in achieving the goals that the European Council has set itself and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.
Study EN
Outcome of the meetings of EU Heads of State or Government, 17-18 October 2018

Summary: The European Council (Article 50) meeting of 17 October 2018 made neither made progress towards finalising a withdrawal agreement nor decide on holding an extraordinary summit on Brexit. At the European Council meeting of 18 October 2018, EU leaders stressed the need to cooperate with countries of origin and transit as well as fighting people smuggling-networks. On internal security they adopted conclusions regarding many of the new threats the EU is facing, including cyber-attacks, disinformation campaigns, and terrorism. Additionally they addressed a number of external relations related issues, such as EU-Africa relations, the upcoming EU League of Arab States meeting and Climate change.

Outlook for the meetings of EU Heads of State or Government, 17-18 October 2018

Summary: As has become the norm with European Council meetings, EU Heads of State or Government will convene on 17 and 18 October 2018 in different formats with varying compositions and levels of formality: a regular meeting of the European Council, and an enlarged Euro Summit of 27 Member States on 18 October, preceded by a European Council (Article 50) meeting on the 17 October over dinner. The agenda of the European Council meeting focuses on migration and internal security. Specific foreign policy issues might also be addressed at this meeting. The Euro Summit will discuss the state of play of negotiations on the deepening of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), with a view to the next Euro Summit in December. However, the priority issue for Heads of State or Government will be Brexit. At the European Council (Article 50) meeting, EU-27 leaders are expected to discuss the progress that has been achieved in the negotiations so far, and possibly call for an extraordinary summit in November 2018.

Outcome of the meetings of EU leaders on 28-29 June 2018

Summary: On 28-29 June 2018 Heads of State or Government met, in different formats and constellations (i.e. a formal European Council, an article 50 European Council and a Euro summit), to discuss migration, security and defence, Brexit and the euro area. Migration topped the agenda of the European Council. The Euro Summit discussed further developments in the euro area, including potentially the creation of a special budget for the euro area.

The European Council’s ‘rolling agenda’ on European defence cooperation

Summary: In 2012, the European Council introduced European Defence Cooperation on its agenda and kept it as a ‘rolling’ item ever since. A series of push factors beginning in 2014 has accelerated the process of European Defence Cooperation and the European Council finally began to commit more to defence than ever in December 2016. The upcoming June 2018 European Council is expected to continue to drive the process of European Defence Cooperation and continue the trend of cooperation.
### Outlook for the meetings of EU leaders, 28-29 June 2018

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 27-06-2018  
**Author** Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL  
**Policy area**  
Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence  
**Keyword** European Council | United Kingdom | aluminium | steel | fund (EU) | digital economy taxation | international trade | withdrawal from the EU | summit meeting | common security and defence policy  
**Summary** On 28-29 June 2018 Heads of State or Government will meet, in different formats and constellations (i.e. a formal European Council, an article 50 European Council and a Euro summit), to discuss migration, security and defence, Brexit and the euro area. Migration will top the agenda of the European Council while the Euro Summit will discuss further developments in the euro area, including potentially the creation of a special budget for the euro area.

### The European Council and the Western Balkans: Overview of discussions since the Lisbon Treaty

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 14-05-2018  
**Author** Suzana Elena ANGHEL  
**Policy area**  
Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Foreign Affairs  
**Keyword** migration policy | fight against crime | multilateral relations | terrorism | exchange of information | Western Balkans | accession to the European Union | summit meeting  
**Summary** The Western Balkans have regularly featured on the agenda of the European Council since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty in December 2009. Three dimensions – enlargement, counter-terrorism and migration – have been at the centre of the EU leaders' discussion of the subject. However, the message has often seemed technical and EU leaders have appeared less inclined to offer a strategic view of future relations between the EU and the Western Balkans. The European Council has held only one strategic debate on the Western Balkans, in March 2017, when it discussed the then deteriorating security situation in the region and agreed to keep it under review. The strategy for the Western Balkans put forward by the European Commission in February 2018 sends a strong political message of openness and inclusiveness to the countries in the region. In April 2018, the Commission’s country reports for Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia recognised the progress made, and supported the opening of accession negotiations. In this context, EU leaders may consider enlargement at their next regular meeting, following a Council meeting on enlargement in June 2018.

### From Rome to Sibiu

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 12-04-2018  
**Author** Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL  
**Policy area**  
**Keyword** European Council | head of government | citizens’ Europe | President of the European Council | opinion poll | head of State | summit meeting | EU statistics  
**Summary** The purpose of this paper is to assess the follow-up and delivery by the European Council on the priorities that were set in the declaration adopted in Rome on 25 March 2017 on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome. The analysis shows that in the year since Rome, and a year before the special summit on the Future of Europe debate and, furthermore, was a potentially far-reaching institutional innovation for the European Council. Under the Leaders' Agenda, discussions among the Heads of State or Government now attempt to resolve seemingly intractable policy disputes by means of a new working method. Not only has this helped to operationalise the Rome Declaration, it also seems to have consolidated the European Council's position at the centre of the EU policy-making and agenda-setting framework.
**European Council Conclusions - A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date**

**Publication type** Study  
**Date** 26-10-2017  
**Author** Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN


**Keyword** activity report | European Council | EU policy | competitiveness | economic policy | area of freedom, security and justice | regulatory policy | international trade | EU energy policy | EU employment policy

**Summary** The European Council’s role – to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past seven years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council's delivery of the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a regularly updated Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council has set itself since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.

**Study EN**

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**The European Council in 2016: Overview of decisions and discussions**

**Publication type** In-Depth Analysis  
**Date** 13-07-2017  
**Author** Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN

**Policy area** Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | International Trade | Competition law and regulation | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence

**Keyword** European treaties | third country | political asylum | European security | bilateral agreement | common foreign and security policy | trade agreement | common security and defence policy | European Council | EU environmental policy | energy policy | EU migration policy | terrorism | distribution of EU funding | withdrawal from the EU

**Summary** This In-Depth Analysis by the European Council Oversight Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) is the second in a series of annual publications examining the activity of the European Council. In 2016, the Heads of State or Government devoted most of their attention to three policy areas: migration; foreign and security policy; and economic governance, competitiveness and trade. The publication also considers the impact of the United Kingdom referendum vote on the proceedings of the European Council, both procedurally (EU 28 and EU-27 meetings) and thematically (policy priorities and debates on the future of a Europe-at-27). The European Council has carried out its strategic, deliberative, and follow-up roles throughout the year. This was particularly notable when it dealt with migration, which attracted 50% of the attention of the Heads of State or Government, as shown in the conclusions of their debates. The European Council President, Donald Tusk, continued to report to the European Parliament on the outcomes of the European Council meetings, as required by the Treaties.

**In-Depth Analysis EN**

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**Outcome of European Council meeting of 22-23 June 2017**

**Publication type** Briefing  
**Date** 29-06-2017  
**Author** Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL

**Policy area** Environment | Employment | Security and Defence

**Keyword** European security | European Banking Authority | European Medicines Agency | United Kingdom | exchange of information | external border of the EU | common security and defence policy | European Council | climate change policy | European defence policy | EU migration policy | terrorism | digital technology

**Summary** The main results of the European Council meeting of 22-23 June 2017 include the ‘historic step’ of agreeing to set up ‘permanent structured cooperation’ in European defence, the commitment to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change in all its aspects, and the extension of sanctions against Russia. The EU Heads of State or Government also reviewed progress in deepening the single market, endorsed the country-specific recommendations on economic policy, pledged to increase cooperation on counter-terrorism, and called for reinforced cooperation with countries of origin and transit to tackle migration issues. EU-27 leaders endorsed the procedural arrangements for the relocation of the EU agencies currently sited in the UK.

**Briefing EN**
Outlook for the European Council meeting on 22-23 June 2017 and the European Council (Article 50) meeting on 22 June 2017

Publication type Briefing
Date 20-06-2017
Author Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Environment | European Semester | Democracy | Security and Defence
Keyword European security | United Kingdom | exchange of information | European Fund for Strategic Investments | external border of the EU | common security and defence policy | European Council | climate change policy | European defence policy | EU migration policy | economic policy | anti-dumping measure | data transmission | international trade

Summary At their meeting on 22-23 June 2017, EU leaders will focus on internal security, including, most probably, the fight against terrorism, as well as external security, when they will assess progress made in European defence cooperation. They will also review progress on deepening and modernising the Single Market, and endorse the country-specific recommendations under the European Semester process. In addition, migration, external relations and the Paris Agreement on climate change are to be discussed. Although not on the draft agenda, EU leaders will probably address current issues related to trade. Finally, EU-27 leaders will meet in a separate formal European Council (Article 50) without the United Kingdom, to discuss the latest developments following the UK's formal notification of its withdrawal from the EU.

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (12th edition)

Publication type Study
Date 20-06-2017
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN

Keyword single market | digital single market | social policy | area of freedom, security and justice | common foreign and security policy | international relations | development policy | European Council | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | economic policy | international trade | tax harmonisation | EU employment policy

Summary The European Council's role – to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past seven years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council's delivery of the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a regularly updated Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council has set itself since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.

From Bratislava to Rome: The European Council’s role in shaping a common future for EU-27

Publication type In-Depth Analysis
Date 18-04-2017
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL

Policy area Democracy
Keyword governance | European security | youth unemployment | citizens' Europe | common foreign and security policy | policymaking | external border of the EU | European Council | EU strategy | economic and social cohesion | EU migration policy | operation of the Institutions | terrorism | EU situation | fight against unemployment | withdrawal from the EU | economic priority

Summary The Rome Declaration of 25 March 2017, issued by the Heads of State or Government of the EU-27 on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, marked the end of a process that started after the UK referendum on EU membership on 23 June 2016. The aim of this In-depth Analysis is to assess the outcomes of the various EU-27 and European Council meetings in the period between the Bratislava summit of 16 September 2016 and the Rome summit of 25 March 2017, in relation to the objectives laid out in the Bratislava Declaration and Roadmap. The analysis shows that substantial progress has been made on the Bratislava commitments for all three policy priorities listed – migration, security, and the economy. It also reflects on how the Rome Declaration and Bratislava process were shaped by the overall context of the growing concerns of EU citizens and their attitude towards the EU and demonstrates how the views of the different EU institutions and the various Member States have converged during this process, leading to a consensual Rome Declaration.
Outcome of the European Council of 9 March 2017 and of informal meeting of the EU27 of 10 March 2017

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 14-03-2017

Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL


Keyword: public prosecution | European security | Treaty on European Union | EU Member State | President of the EP | Western Balkans | anti-dumping legislation | extra-EU trade | European Council | Poland | President of the European Council | economic policy | euro area

Summary: After re-electing Donald Tusk as its President, the European Council meeting of 9 March 2017 discussed the economic situation in Europe, progress on measures regarding migration, internal and external security, and external relations. In his first speech to the European Council, the recently-elected President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, outlined his approach to appearing before European Council meetings, he will present the positions of the European Parliament, including minority views. He stressed his commitment to ‘fair and constructive cooperation’ between the two institutions, stating that ‘Parliament will be part of the solution, not part of the problem’. In the end, the meeting produced ‘Conclusions by the President of the European Council supported by 27 Member States,’ due to a lack of consensus ‘for reasons unrelated to its [i.e. the documents] substance’. At the informal meeting of the 27 Heads of State or Government without the UK (EU27), held the following day, leaders discussed the procedural and content-related aspects of the forthcoming celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Rome Treaties and the expected ‘Rome Declaration’.

Briefing EN

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (11th edition)

Publication type: Study
Date: 10-03-2017

Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN


Keyword: single market | digital single market | social policy | area of freedom, security and justice | common foreign and security policy | international relations | development policy | European Council | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | economic policy | international trade | tax harmonisation | EU employment policy

Summary: The European Council’s role - to ‘provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development’ and to define its ‘general political directions and priorities’ - has developed rapidly over the past seven years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament’s in-house research service and think-tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council’s delivery of the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a regularly updated Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council has set itself since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.

Study EN

Outcome of the European Council of 15 December 2016

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 22-12-2016

Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL

Policy area: EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Social Policy | Security and Defence

Keyword: political asylum | European security | European Structural and Investment Funds | United Kingdom | bilateral agreement | association agreement | migrant | Ukraine | Cyprus question | threat to national security | European Council | EU migration policy | Turkey | withdrawal from the EU | summit meeting

Summary: As flagged up in the EPRS Outlook for the European Council on 15 December 2016, this European Council meeting concentrated on migration and internal and external security, as well as economic and social development. As events unfolded, EU leaders discussed external relations at greater length, in particular Syria, and found a solution for the Association Agreement (AA) with Ukraine. Martin Schulz, addressing the European Council for the last time as President of the European Parliament, called upon Heads of State or Government to ‘take proper ownership’ of their decisions and to involve the European Parliament, more closely in the ‘migration compacts, the Bratislava agenda and the UK withdrawal agreement’.

Briefing EN
Outcome of the European Council of 20-21 October 2016

The European Council and EU efforts to strengthen the partnership with the United Nations on crisis management

The European Council and European defence cooperation: Developments since June 2016

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (10th edition)
### The European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (9th edition)

**Publication type:** Study  
**Date:** 18-10-2016  
**Author:** Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN  
**Keyword:** single market | digital single market | social policy | area of freedom, security and justice | common foreign and security policy | international relations | development policy | European Council | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | economic policy | international trade | tax harmonisation | EU employment policy  
**Summary**  
The European Council's role - to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past seven years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Political and Security Committee (EPSC) has been developing an annual publication, which will provide a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the work of the European Council. The purpose of the publication is to provide a thorough overview of the activity of the European Council and its deliberations, including an assessment of the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council has set itself since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.

**Study** EN

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### The European Council and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

**Publication type:** Study  
**Date:** 14-09-2016  
**Author:** Suzana Elena ANGHEL  
**Policy area:** Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Security and Defence  
**Keyword:** third country | head office | EU military mission | Treaty on European Union | EU Member State | UNO | EU Military Staff | common security and defence policy | rapid reaction force | European External Action Service | crisis management | military cooperation | NATO  
**Summary**  
This study assesses the planning, command and control of civilian and military CSDP missions and operations, progress made in developing civilian and military capabilities, particularly rapid response capabilities in the form of the EU Battlegroups, as well as challenges encountered during the force generation process. In recent years, the European Council has repeatedly called for further progress in all of these areas. The study concludes that, despite recent progress in reviewing crisis management procedures, operational planning remains cumbersome and slow. The findings indicate that the chain of command for CSDP military operations would benefit from further streamlining, possibly through the creation of a Follow-up Centre for Missions and Operations placed under the supervision of the European Union Military Staff. Modular configurations specific to high-readiness alert units should also be explored as a priority when further developing rapid reaction military capabilities. The study also shows that, for civilian CSDP, the delays encountered in the force generation process could be reduced by further developing national rosters of experts deployable on missions and operations.

**Study** DE, EN, FR

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### The European Council in 2015

**Publication type:** In-Depth Analysis  
**Date:** 25-07-2016  
**Author:** Ralf DRACHENBERG | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN  
**Keyword:** European treaties | third country | political asylum | European security | bilateral agreement | common foreign and security policy | trade agreement | common security and defence policy | European Council | EU environmental policy | energy policy | EU migration policy | terrorism | distribution of EU funding | withdrawal from the EU  
**Summary**  
Designed to be the first in a series of annual publications, this In-Depth Analysis by the European Council Oversight Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) examines in detail the activity of the European Council in 2015 in all of the six policy areas which have most attracted the attention of the Heads of State or Government: namely migration, economic governance, foreign and security policy, terrorism, and work towards a new settlement for the United Kingdom in the European Union. Although European Council's principal mission is meant to be strategic, in 2015 the institution mainly engaged in crisis management, due principally to the outbreak of the migration crisis. This led to an increase in the number of meetings: eight meetings of the Heads of State or Government were held, two of which were of an informal nature. Except for one informal meeting, the European Council President, Donald Tusk, reported to the European Parliament on the outcome of the meetings of the Heads of State or Government as required by the Treaties.

**In-Depth Analysis** EN
Activation of Article 42(7) TEU France's request for assistance and Member States' responses

Publication type Briefing
Date 04-07-2016
Author Carmen-Cristina CIURLIG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL

Policy area Security and Defence
Keyword Iraq | military intervention | Treaty on European Union | mutual assistance | EU Member State | Syria | terrorism | military cooperation | mail | common foreign and security policy

Summary Following the terrorist attacks in Paris on 13 November 2015, France requested aid and assistance from the other Member States based on Article 42(7) TEU. This represented the first activation of the mutual assistance clause since the Lisbon Treaty introduced it in 2009. Member States expressed their solidarity and political support to France instantly and unanimously. Within days, several Member States, including Germany and the United Kingdom, decided on a series of contributions. More decisions followed or are still pending, subject, in some cases, to parliamentary approval. This allows France to reconsider its engagements and redeploy its military. There is also a window of opportunity to strengthen political cooperation, as Member States have expressed their full support for a diplomatic solution to the crisis in Syria. Furthermore, it could contribute to enhancing intelligence-sharing and the stepping up of counter-terrorism cooperation, particularly in the aftermath of the 22 March 2016 terrorist attacks in Brussels. This is the second update of a briefing published in December 2015 and first updated in April 2016.

Briefing EN, FR

Outcome of the European Council of 28 June 2016 and the informal meeting of 27 Heads of State or Government on 29 June 2016

Publication type Briefing
Date 01-07-2016
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN

Policy area EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword single market | Libya | European Union membership | European Council | EU relations | United Kingdom | EU investment | EU migration policy | EU situation | coordination of EMU policies | Ukraine | EU-NATO cooperation

Summary The 28 June 2016 European Council was described by its President, Donald Tusk, as 'very much a British European Council'. The result of the UK referendum held on 23 June 2016 – in which 51.9% of the 71.8% of the electorate who voted opted for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union – dominated the agenda. The meeting was thus split into two sessions. On 28 June, EU leaders from all 28 Member States discussed migration, jobs, growth and competitiveness and external relations, before hearing an account from the UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, on the situation in the United Kingdom after the outcome of the referendum, followed by a first exchange of views. The next day, on 29 June, the Heads of State or Government of 27 Member States, meeting without Mr Cameron, discussed the political and practical implications of the UK vote, as well as the future of the European Union with 27 Member States. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format

Briefing EN

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date

Publication type Study
Date 28-06-2016
Author Ralf DRACHENBERG | Josephine MOERMAN | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN

Keyword common commercial policy | single market | enlargement of the Union | EU regional policy | area of freedom, security and justice | European tax cooperation | common foreign and security policy | development policy | European Council | European social policy | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | EU migration policy | coordination of EMU policies | interinstitutional relations (EU) | EU employment policy

Summary This eighth edition of the overview of European Council conclusions, presented in the form of a Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is a product of the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think-tank. As part of its work, the unit maintains a rolling database of all the European Council's commitments and responsibilities, which is updated and published regularly, with an indication of follow-up given to date. The European Council became a formal Union institution, with a full-time President, under the Treaty of Lisbon. Although it does not exercise legislative functions, the European Council's role – to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' – has developed rapidly over the past seven years. As an example of setting overall priorities for the Union, on 26-27 June 2014, the European Council adopted a Strategic Agenda to 'guide the institutions in annual and multannual programming, as well as in legislative planning' in the 2014-19 institutional cycle. The European Parliament is strongly committed to the principle of Better Law-Making, and particularly to the effective use of impact assessment and evaluation throughout the legislative cycle. It is in this spirit that enhanced powers for stronger executive bodies can and should be balanced by greater scrutiny and oversight, especially in respect of the implementation of EU law and policies. The Parliament's administrative capacity to support parliamentary committees and individual Members in exercising ex-post scrutiny and oversight of the executive has accordingly been enhanced in order to provide stronger and deeper analysis of the transposition, implementation and enforcement of EU secondary law, and more generally, of the impact, operation, effectiveness and delivery of EU law and policy in practice. In this context, since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit has been monitoring and analysing the delivery on commitments made by the European Council in the conclusions of its meetings, as well as its various responsibilities either in law or on the basis of intergovernmental agreements. This compendium is designed to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in the months and years ahead.

Study EN
Outlook for the European Council of 28-29 June 2016

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 27-06-2016
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN
Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | European Semester | Employment | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs
Keyword: single market | EU restrictive measure | European Union membership | migration control | United Kingdom | referendum | tax evasion | EU-NATO cooperation | agreement (EU) | European Council | economic governance (EU) | Turkey | EU migration policy | Russia | tax avoidance
Summary: The European Council meeting to be held on 28-29 June 2016 will discuss the outcome of the UK referendum held on 23 June 2016, where 51.9 per cent of those voting opted for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union. As a consequence, the other agenda items foreseen - external aspects of migration, jobs, growth and competitiveness, and external relations - will probably receive less attention.

Activation of Article 42(7) TEU - France's request for assistance and Member States' responses:
European Council Briefing

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 11-04-2016
Author: Carmen-Cristina CIRLIG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL
Policy area: Security and Defence | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council
Keyword: Iraq | military intervention | Treaty on European Union | mutual assistance | EU Member State | Syria | terrorism | military cooperation | common foreign and security policy
Summary: Following the terrorist attacks in Paris on 13 November 2015, France requested aid and assistance from the other Member States based on Article 42(7) TEU. This represented the first activation of the mutual assistance clause since the Lisbon Treaty introduced it in 2009. Member States expressed their solidarity and political support to France instantly and unanimously. Within days, several Member States, including Germany and the United Kingdom, decided on a series of contributions. More decisions followed or are still pending, subject, in some cases, to parliamentary approval. This allows France to reconsider its engagements and redeploy its military. There is also a window of opportunity to strengthen political cooperation, as Member States have expressed their full support for a diplomatic solution to the crisis in Syria. Furthermore, it could contribute to enhancing intelligence-sharing and the stepping up of counter-terrorism cooperation, particularly in the aftermath of the 22 March 2016 terrorist attacks in Brussels. This is an updated version of a Briefing published in December 2015.

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (seventh edition)

Publication type: Study
Date: 21-03-2016
Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Stanislas DE FINANCE | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN
Keyword: common commercial policy | single market | enlargement of the Union | EU regional policy | area of freedom, security and justice | European tax cooperation | common foreign and security policy | development policy | European Council | European social policy | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | EU migration policy | coordination of EMU policies | interinstitutional relations (EU) | EU employment policy
Summary: Seventh edition. The European Council's role - to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past six years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the European Parliament's in-house research service and think tank, has been monitoring and analysing the European Council's delivery of the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a regularly updated Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council has set itself since January 2010 and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this field.
European Council Briefing

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 25-02-2016

Author: Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL

Policy area: Security and Defence | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council

Keyword: European Council | European defence policy | powers of the EP | Treaty on European Union | mutual assistance | EU Member State | enhanced cooperation | military cooperation | Treaty of Lisbon | common security and defence policy

Summary: The Lisbon Treaty introduced new mechanisms, including a mutual assistance clause, permanent structured cooperation and enhanced cooperation, with the aim of allowing for more flexibility in applying the Common Security and Defence Policy. With the exception of the mutual assistance (defence) clause, which was invoked for the first time in November 2015, the other new mechanisms have not yet been implemented, notwithstanding 20 resolutions of the European Parliament calling for the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty provisions on the Common Security and Defence Policy. Please click here for the full publication in PDF format. Available language versions:

Briefing ES, DE, EN, FR

The European Council and crisis management

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 11-02-2016

Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Stanislas DE FINANCE | Suzana Elena ANGHEL


Keyword: Libya | governance | European Council | EU migration policy | Syria | coordination of EMU policies | public debt | powers of the institutions (EU) | monetary crisis | Ukraine | common foreign and security policy | interinstitutional relations (EU)

Summary: Since it became an institution in December 2009, the European Council has not only had to fulfil its core mandate as defined by the EU Treaties, but in addition has had to engage in crisis management on numerous occasions. Europe was (and is still) facing crises of a very different nature; ranging from the sovereign debt crisis to foreign policy crises – such as in Ukraine and Libya – and the on-going migration crisis. This in-depth analysis by the European Council Oversight Unit of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) examines the role played by the European Council and its President in managing crises. It also looks at the similarities and differences in the measures agreed upon by EU Heads of State or Government. Three policy areas which have faced major crises, within the past five years, are analysed in detail. This paper concludes that no uniform approach has developed at European Council level for managing crises. Each of them has different causes, is based on distinct problems and arose in specific circumstances. At the same time the findings indicate that the European Council has faced comparable challenges during the various crises and goes through similar phases when responding to them.

In-Depth Analysis EN

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (Sixth edition)

Publication type: Study
Date: 21-01-2016

Author: Ralf DRACHENBERG | Stanislas DE FINANCE | Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Susanna TENHUNEN


Keyword: single market | common commercial policy | EU policy | EU regional policy | area of freedom, security and justice | fiscal policy | EU law | common foreign and security policy | development policy | European Council | European social policy | climate change policy | competitiveness | energy policy | EU migration policy | operation of the Institutions | coordination of EMU policies | innovation | intellectual property | EU employment policy

Summary: Sixth edition. The European Council's role - to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past five years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the EP's in-house research service and think tank, has been monitoring and analysing the delivery of the European Council on the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council set itself and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this area over the months and years ahead.

Study EN
Implementation of European Council conclusions in Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) since the Lisbon Treaty: European Council Briefing

Publication type Briefing  
Date 15-01-2016  
Author Suzana Elena ANGHEL  
Policy area Development and Humanitarian Aid | Security and Defence | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council  
Keyword European Council | European security | military research | the EU's international role | European defence policy | arms industry | EU Member State | defence expenditure | UNO | NATO | common security and defence policy  
Summary Three relatively recent European Councils - in December 2012, December 2013 and June 2015 - have considered security and defence issues, with Heads of State or Government emphasising the need to strengthen defence cooperation in Europe. Progress was made on certain issues, such as cybersecurity and maritime security, but more needs to be done to address new security threats, develop greater capabilities and foster growth in both the defence industry and the defence market. This Briefing assesses the different commitments the European Council has made in respect to the CSDP since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, considers to which extent they have been fulfilled, and identifies future challenges to implementation.

Activation of Article 42(7) TEU: France's request for assistance and Member States' responses

Publication type Briefing  
Date 10-12-2015  
Author Carmen-Cristina CIRILIG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL  
Policy area Security and Defence  
Keyword Iraq | military intervention | Central African Republic | Treaty on European Union | mutual assistance | EU Member State | Syria | terrorism | military cooperation | Mali | common security and defence policy  
Summary Following the terrorist attacks in Paris on 13 November 2015, France has requested aid and assistance from the other Member States based on Article 42(7) TEU. France's request is the first activation of the mutual assistance clause since Article 42(7) TEU was introduced by the Lisbon Treaty. Member States expressed their solidarity and political support to France instantly and unanimously. Within days, several Member States, among them Germany and the United Kingdom, decided on a series of initial contributions. More decisions are expected in the days and weeks to come from several other Member States, subject, in some cases, to parliamentary approval. This will allow France to reconsider its engagements and redeploy its military. Furthermore, it could contribute to enhancing intelligence sharing and stepping up counter-terrorism cooperation. There is also a window of opportunity to strengthen political cooperation, as Member States are expressing their full support to the Vienna process for a diplomatic solution to the crisis in Syria.

European Council Conclusions: A Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date (Fifth edition)

Publication type Study  
Date 13-10-2015  
Author Izabela Cristina BACIAN | Josephine MOERMAN | Ralf DRACHENBERG | Susanna TENHUNEN | Stanislas DE FINANCE | Suzana Elena ANGHEL  
Keyword common commercial policy | single market | EU regional policy | area of freedom, security and justice | fiscal policy | powers of the institutions (EU) | common foreign and security policy | development policy | European Council | European social policy | climate change policy | energy policy | competitiveness | coordination of EMU policies | EU research policy | EU employment policy  
Summary The European Council's role - to 'provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development' and to define its 'general political directions and priorities' - has developed rapidly over the past five years. Since June 2014, the European Council Oversight Unit within the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), the EP’s in-house research service and think tank, has been monitoring and analysing the delivery of the European Council on the various commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings. This overview, presented in the form of a Rolling Check-List of Commitments to Date, is designed to review the degree of progress in realising the goals which the European Council set itself and to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in this area over the months and years ahead.

Study EN
Outcome of the European Council of 25/26 June 2015: Post-European Council Briefing

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 02-07-2015  
Author: Suzana Elena ANGHEL | Ralf DRACHENBERG | Stanislas DE FINANCE

Policy area: Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | European Semester | Internal Market and Customs Union | Economics and Monetary Issues | Foreign Affairs | Security and Defence | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council

Keyword: single market | Economic and Monetary Union | migration control | United Kingdom | migratory movement | common security and defence policy | Mediterranean Sea | aid to refugees | European Council | removal | information technology | EU migration policy | terrorism | Greece | fund (EU) | return migration | investment promotion | interinstitutional relations (EU) | summit meeting

Summary: What was intended to be a scheduled European Council on 25/26 June 2015 with a comprehensive draft agenda became a crisis European Council. Originally its agenda comprised initiatives corresponding to five of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's ten political guidelines. However, and as predicted in the EPRS Outlook for the European Council, the Heads of State or Government spent much time discussing current developments in the Mediterranean and the future of Greece within the euro area, while issues such as CSDP, the digital single market and the European Semester received less attention than had been originally envisaged. The European Council's Conclusions nevertheless managed to address security and defence issues, jobs growth and competitiveness. Particular attention was paid to the topic of migration while the United Kingdom's plan for a referendum on Europe was also addressed.

Outlook for the European Council of 25 - 26 June 2015: Pre-European Council Briefing

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 23-06-2015  
Author: Stanislas DE FINANCE | Ralf DRACHENBERG | Suzana Elena ANGHEL


Keyword: investment policy | United States | United Kingdom | migratory movement | Ukraine | common foreign and security policy | economic sanctions | European Council | Mediterranean Sea | removal | negotiation of an agreement (EU) | Europol | EU migration policy | terrorism | Russia | coordination of EMU policies | Greece | fund (EU) | euro area | digital technology | summit meeting | Frontex

Summary: The June European Council has a very comprehensive agenda, as Heads of State or Government will discuss the situation in the Mediterranean, progress undertaken since December 2013 in the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), means to fight terrorism, economic governance aspects, the development of the digital agenda, as well as relations with Russia and the situation in Ukraine. Current developments in the Mediterranean and the Eurozone will most likely shift the Summit's primary focus from CSDP to migration and the future of Greece within the euro area. In addition, the future role of the United Kingdom will be addressed by the British Prime Minister.

Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) - EUCO policy developments since December 2013: European Council Briefing

Publication type: Briefing  
Date: 17-06-2015  
Author: Suzana Elena ANGHEL

Policy area: Security and Defence | Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council

Keyword: computer crime | European Council | European arms policy | EU relations | military research | arms industry | defence budget | operation of the Institutions | military cooperation | dual-use technology | data protection | common security and defence policy

Summary: The June 2015 European Council will deal mainly with European Common Security and Defence Policy developments, i.e. progress made in implementing the roadmap established in December 2013. The Heads of State or Government will agree a new roadmap enabling Member States to deepen defence and security cooperation and to better address the emerging threats with which the EU is increasingly confronted. A revised policy implementation framework, which will include objectives and reporting deadlines, is also expected to be agreed.
In this fourth edition of the overview of European Council Conclusions, presented in the form of a Rolling Check-List of Commitments, the European Council Oversight Unit has been monitoring and analysing the delivery of the European Council on the commitments made in the conclusions of its meetings, as well as its various responsibilities either in law or on the basis of intergovernmental agreements. The Check-List covers eight broad policy areas: Financial and Economic Affairs; Employment and Social Policies; Competitiveness; Climate and Energy Policy; Freedom, Security and Justice; External Policies; Development; and Regional Policy. This compendium is designed to assist the Parliament in exercising its important oversight role in the months and years ahead.