

Declaration by High Representative Josep Borrell Fontelles on behalf of the EU on the recent protests in Iran

Over the past weeks, many people all across Iran have exercised their fundamental right to assemble and expressed their economic grievances. A growing body of evidence indicates that despite repeated calls for restraint, the Iranian security forces' disproportionate response to recent demonstrations has led to high numbers of deaths and injuries. For the European Union and its Member States, the widespread and disproportionate use of force against nonviolent protestors is unacceptable.

We urge the Iranian authorities to ensure transparent and credible investigations to clarify the number of deaths and arrested, and to provide due process to all detainees. We expect all perpetrators of violence to be held accountable, and in line with statements by senior Iranian officials, all non-violent protestors currently held under arrest should be immediately freed.

Iran's decision to shut down internet access to global networks for over a week prevented communication and the free flow of information for Iranian citizens. This is a clear violation of the freedom of speech. Fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and assembly must always be respected. The Iranian authorities must live up to their international obligations, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The European Union addresses all issues of concern in its bilateral exchanges with Iran, including human rights, and will continue doing so.

MIFID II: ESMA ISSUES LATEST DOUBLE VOLUME CAP DATA

Today's updates include DVC data and calculations for the period 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2019 as well as updates to already published DVC periods.

The number of new breaches is 70: 56 equities for the 8% cap, applicable to all trading venues, and 14 equities for the 4% cap, that applies to individual trading venues. Trading under the waivers for all new instruments in breach of the DVC thresholds should be suspended from 11 December 2019 to 10 June 2020. The instruments for which caps already existed from previous periods will continue to be suspended.

In addition, ESMA highlights that none of the previously identified breaches of the caps proved to be incorrect thus no previously identified suspensions of trading under the waivers had to be lifted.

As of 6 December 2019, there is a total of 418 instruments which are suspended.

Please be aware that ESMA does not update DVC files older than 6 months.

Background

MiFID II introduced the DVC to limit the amount of dark trading in equities allowed under the reference price waiver and the negotiated transaction waiver. The DVC is calculated per instrument (ISIN) based on the rolling average of trading in that instrument over the last 12 months.

Indicative programme – General Affairs Council of 10 December 2019

Place:

Europa building, Brussels

Chair:

Tytti Tuppurainen, Minister of European Affairs of Finland

All times are approximate and subject to change

from 09.00

Arrivals ([live streaming](#))

+/- 09.45

Doorstep by Minister Tuppurainen

10.00

Beginning of the Council meeting (Roundtable)

Adoption of agenda

Adoption non-legislative A items

Values of the Union in Hungary / Article 7(1) TEU Reasoned Proposal

Rule of Law in Poland / Article 7(1) TEU Reasoned Proposal

Preparation of the European Council on 12-13 December 2019: Conclusions

European Council follow-up

+/- 14.30

Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 ([public session](#))

+/- 16.45

Legislative programming – Commission's Work Programme for 2020 and multiannual programming ([public session](#))

+/- 18.00

European Semester 2020 – Roadmap

Any other business

+/- 18.30

Press conference ([live streaming](#))

In the margins of the Council meeting

Accession Conference with Serbia

19.30

Roundtable (Europa building)

20.20

Press conference ([live streaming](#), Justus Lipsius press room)

Forward look: 9 – 22 December 2019

Overview of the main topics and events at the Council of EU and European Council.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council, 9 and 10 December 2019

The Council will hold debates on access to medicines and on the future of gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the EU. It will also adopt conclusions on inclusive labour markets.

Foreign Affairs Council, 9 December 2019

The Foreign Affairs Council will have a debate on current affairs, and exchange views on EU-Africa relations and on promoting and protecting human rights in the world.

General Affairs Council, 10 December 2019

The Council will focus on the Article 7 procedures and preparations for the

December European Council. Ministers will also discuss the Commission's work programme for 2020 and plans for the new legislative term.

European Council, 12 and 13 December 2019

EU leaders will discuss the strategy on climate change and the long-term budget, among other issues.

Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 16 and 17 December 2019

The Council is due to agree on 2020 fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and North Sea, and on a general approach on Eastern Baltic cod. Ministers will also exchange views on the CAP reform package.

Environment Council, 19 December 2019

The Council will adopt conclusions on biodiversity and discuss the EU environment and climate policy in the new legislative term.

Indicative programme – Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council of 9 and 10 December 2019

Place:

Europa building, Brussels

Chairs:

Krista Kiuru, Minister for Family Affairs and Social Services

Timo Harakka, Minister for Employment

All times are approximate and subject to change

MONDAY, 9 DECEMBER

from 07.30

Arrivals

+/- 9.00

Doorstep by Minister Kiuru

Health

+/- 10.00

Beginning of the Council meeting (roundtable)

Adoption of the agenda

Adoption of non-legislative A items

+/- 10.20

Economy of Wellbeing – next steps in investing in health ([public session](#))

+/- 12.00

Working lunch debate on EU role in global health

+/- 14.10

European pharmaceutical policy ([public session](#))

+/- 15.40

Any other business:

Regulation on health technology assessment

Current legislative proposals

State of health in the EU

State of play in the implementation of Regulation on medical devices

Outcomes of conferences organised by the Finnish Presidency

Work programme of the incoming Croatian Presidency

+/- 16.30

Press conference ([live streaming](#))

Place:

Justus Lipsius building, Brussels

TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER

from 08.00

Arrivals

+/- 8.15

Doorstep by Minister Harakka

Employment and Social Policy

+/- 10.00

Beginning of the Council meeting (roundtable)

The future gender equality policies and gender mainstreaming in the EU
([public session](#))

Gender-equal economies in the EU ([public session](#))

+/- 11.00

Press conference on artificial intelligence

+/- 12.00

Any other business

Preventing domestic violence with men and boys ([public session](#))

Housing situation in the EU ([public session](#))

+/- 12.15

A new EU Strategic Framework on health and safety at Work

+/- 12.25

Any other business

Access to social protection for workers and the self-employed

+/- 12.35

Working lunch debate on promoting social and employment policies within the European semester

+/- 14.10

Future of the EU social acquis relating to employment and industrial relations

Inclusive labour markets

Review of the implementation of the Youth Guarantee

+/- 16.25

Any other business

Current legislative proposals

Presidency conferences

Work programme of the incoming Croatian Presidency

+/- **17.00**

Press conference ([live streaming](#))