

# [EU-NATO cooperation: Council welcomes progress in the implementation of the common 74 actions](#)

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## **Council conclusions on the third progress report on the implementation of the common set of proposals endorsed by the EU and NATO Councils on 6 December 2016 and 5 December 2017**

1. Reaffirming its Conclusions of 6 December 2016 and of 19 June 2017 and 5 December 2017, the Council, considering that EU and NATO continue to face common security challenges, welcomes the continued close and mutually reinforcing co-operation with NATO. This co-operation takes place in areas of shared interest, both strategically and operationally, in crisis management in support of international peace and security as well as on defence capability development where requirements overlap working with and for the benefit of all Member States. For the EU, the implementation of the Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw in July 2016 by the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization remains a key political priority with the overall objective of building a true organisation-to-organisation relationship. It constitutes an essential element of broader efforts aimed at strengthening the Union's ability to act as a security provider and strengthen its ability to cooperate with partners and to protect its citizens.

2. With regards to the ongoing EU initiatives aiming at strengthening security and defence, the Council recalls all relevant Conclusions, in particular those of November 2016, March, May and November 2017. The Council stresses that security and defence efforts of the EU and NATO substantially contribute, in a coherent manner, to a secure Europe, entailing both benefits and responsibilities, and for those Member States concerned, fostering an equitable sharing of the burden.

3. Recalling that the common set of proposals is not a standalone document and must be read in conjunction with the relevant Council conclusions, the Council welcomes further progress made in the implementation of the common set of proposals (a total of 74 actions). In this regard, it acknowledges the third progress report submitted jointly by the High Representative/Vice President/Head of the European Defence Agency and the Secretary General of

NATO in accordance with paragraph 7 of the Council Conclusions of 5 December 2017.

4. The Council acknowledges ongoing work and stresses the importance of ensuring demonstrable progress, and communicating it to the public where relevant, in all areas listed in the Joint Declaration signed in Warsaw and specified in the common set of proposals, including the new topics, such as military mobility, counter-terrorism, and women, peace and security.

5. The Council reaffirms that EU-NATO cooperation will continue to take place in the spirit of full openness and transparency, in full respect of the decision-making autonomy and procedures of both organisations and in close cooperation with and full involvement of Member States. It is based on the principles of inclusiveness and reciprocity without prejudice to the specific character of the security and defence policy of any Member State.

6. The Council recalls that NATO cooperation with the non-NATO EU Member States is an integral part of EU-NATO cooperation. In this regard, the Council welcomes the positive contribution of non-NATO EU Member States to NATO activities. Such activities are an integral part of EU-NATO cooperation and the Council strongly supports their continuation.

7. The Council invites the High Representative/Vice President/Head of the European Defence Agency to continue progress on implementation, in close cooperation with Member States, ensuring their full involvement and transparency, and looks forward to receiving the next report, to be submitted jointly in June 2019.

[Visit the meeting page](#) [Download as pdf](#)

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## **CALENDRIER du 11 juin au 17 juin 2018**

*(Susceptible de modifications en cours de semaine)*

### ***Déplacements et visites***

#### **Lundi 11 juin 2018**

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Energy)

Mr Frans **Timmermans** in Bonn, Germany: takes part in a discussion with Mr Sigmar Gabriel, former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, and with University staff; delivers a lecture and discusses the topic 'Werte, Normen Interessen – Was hält die europäischen Völker zusammen?' with University students and staff.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** participates in a [Stakeholder Conference on the Second REACH \(European Regulation on registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals\) Review](#), in Brussels.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** in Mannheim, Germany: visits Förderband Mannheim, an EU-funded project.

Mr Phil **Hogan** in Rosslare, Ireland: addresses a conference organised by the Irish Road Haulage Association (IRHA).

Ms Violeta **Bulc** meets Mr Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); and addresses the plenary meeting of the North Atlantic Council, in Brussels.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** receives Mr Stephen Toope, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge.

M Julian **King** participe à un débat autour d'un déjeuner avec le Club des représentants des grandes entreprises françaises, à Bruxelles.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Germany: in Bonn: delivers a keynote speech at the [Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum](#); and in Hannover: delivers keynote speeches and participates in a panel discussion in [CEBIT Fair 2018](#).

## **Mardi 12 juin 2018**

College meeting

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in Strasbourg, France (until 13/06):addresses the Plenary of the European Parliament on the Commission preparations for the June European Council; and receives Ms Maria Gabriela Zoană, Member of the European Parliament.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Strasbourg, France: meets representatives of Women's European Council (WEUCO).

## **Mercredi 13 juin 2018**

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in Strasbourg, France:participates in a debate on the future of Europe in the Plenary of the European Parliament with Mr Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of The Netherlands.

Mr Valdis **Dombrovskis** in Greece (until 15/06): delivers a keynote speech at the Annual Economist Government Roundtable; and attends bilateral meetings with the authorities.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** delivers a keynote speech at the [Talanoa Dialogue for Climate Ambition](#), in Brussels.

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** receives representatives of environmental groups.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** delivers the opening speech for the launching [event of GAN \(Global Apprenticeship Network\) Belgium](#), with Mr Alain Dehaze, Chair and CEO, in Brussels.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** in Luxembourg: meets members of the Bureau and of the Committee for foreign and European affairs, defence, cooperation and immigration of the National Parliament of Luxembourg; and Ms Bettina Jakobsen, member of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and Dean of Chamber III "External action, security and justice".

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Leipzig, Germany: takes part in the Awarding Ceremony of the European Heritage Label for Leipzig's Musical Heritage Sites.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in the Czech Republic: meets Mr Robert Plaga, Minister for Education Youth and Sports in resignation of the Czech Republic; visits the International Laser Research Centre 'ELI Beamlines'; meets members of the EU Committees of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate; Mr Jan Řídký, Deputy Head of the Czech Academy of Science; holds a [Citizens' dialogue](#) with young scientists and researchers at the Academy of Science; and meets representatives of the Czech Rectors' Conference.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Vienna, Austria: meets members of the Austrian Parliament; Mr Wolfgang Sobotka President of the National Council of Austria; Ms Juliane Bogner-Strauß, Chancellery Minister for Women, Family and Youth; Mr Gernot Blümel, Chancellery Minister for European Affairs, Art, Culture and Media; Mr Heinz Faßmann, Minister for Education, Research and Science; and Ms Margarete Schramböck, Minister for Digitalisation and Economy; and visits a Horizon2020 flagship project "Quantum research project centre".

## **Jeudi 14 juin 2018**

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of Croatia.

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** in Munich, Germany: addresses the Plenary of the Bavarian Landtag.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** receives Ms Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Mr Andrus **Ansip** in London, the United Kingdom: participates in the [Founders Forum](#).

Mr Maroš **Šefčovič** receives Ms Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Jouko Niinimäki, Rector of the University of Oulu, Finland; and the Vice-Rectors of the University.

Mr Jyrki **Katainen** receives Mr Dacian Cioloş, leader of "Romania Together Movement", and former European Commissioner.

Mr Johannes **Hahn** receives Ms Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** receives Mr Markus Beyrer, Director-General of BusinessEurope.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** delivers a speech at the Business Luncheon "[Hong Kong – Europe Strategic Partnership for Scaling New Heights](#)", organised by the European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, in Brussels.

Ms Cecilia **Malmström** meets Ms Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, in Brussels.

Mr Karmenu **Vella** in Cherbourg, France: delivers a keynote speech at the [International Conference on Ocean Energy \(ICOE\)](#); participates in a panel session on "The future of the industry"; visits the Nutrifish transformation plant; delivers a speech at the inauguration of the Naval Energies tidal-turbine plant; meets Mr Hervé Morin, President of the Regional Council of Normandy, President of the Association of French Regions.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** in Plovdiv, Bulgaria: delivers a speech at the "Research and innovation for food and nutrition security – transforming our food systems" high-level conference, organised by the Bulgarian Presidency; and holds a [Citizens' dialogue](#) at the Medical University of Plovdiv.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** in Berlin, Germany: meets Ms Franziska Giffey, Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth; Ms Andrea Nahles, Leader of the Social Democratic Party (SPD); Mr Hubertus Heil, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs; members of the EU and Social Affairs Committees of the Bundestag and representatives of the Christian Democratic and Christian Social Unions (CDUC/CSU) Parliamentary Group.

M. Pierre **Moscovici** à Paris, France: rencontre M. Edouard Philippe, Premier ministre de la République française.

Mr Phil **Hogan** addresses representatives of the European Farmers (Copa) and European Agri-Cooperatives (Cogeca) Praesidia, in Brussels.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** in The Hague, the Netherlands: meets Ms Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); takes part in a high-level meeting of the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA), the European Association of Automobile Suppliers (CLEPA) and *Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile* (FIA).

Ms Věra **Jourová** in Malta (until 15/06): meets Mr Owen Bonnici, Minister for Justice, Culture and Local Government; Mr Joseph Azzopardi, Chief Justice of Malta; Ms Helena Dalli, Minister for European Affairs and Equality; speaks at a [consumers' dialogue "Main points of the New Deal for Consumers Proposal: What is the European Commission doing for Consumers?"](#); and meets representatives of the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit (FIAU) of Malta and of the Association of Judges, Magistrates and Chamber of Advocates.

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Rønne, Denmark (until 15/06): participates in a

series of on-stage debates, conversations and a [Citizens' dialogue](#) at the "[Folkemødet](#)" meeting.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Prague, the Czech Republic: meets Mr Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Bulgaria (until 15/06): in Sofia: visits Sofia Tech Park; delivers a speech at the "Financial instruments fostering research and innovation" conference during the closing session of the Innovative Enterprise Week, organised by the Bulgarian Presidency; and holds a joint press conference with Mr Krasimir Valchev, Minister for Education and Science of Bulgaria.

Mr Julian **King** in London, the United Kingdom: appears before the House of Lords EU Home Affairs Sub Committee.

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Sofia, Bulgaria: delivers a keynote speech at the conference [SEMIC 2018: Linked Digital Public Administrations](#).

### **Vendredi 15 juin 2018**

President Jean-Claude **Juncker** receives Ms Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Mr Frans **Timmermans** delivers the opening speech at the [Second Annual Conference on Regulatory Scrutiny in the EU](#), in Brussels.

Ms Federica **Mogherini** in Rome, Italy: on official visit.

Mr Johannes **Hahn** in Göttweig, Austria: participates in the [Europa-Forum Wachau](#).

Mr Neven **Mimica** co-hosts, together with Ms Joanne Rowling, founder and president of NGO Lumos, the conference "Ending Institutionalisation of Children", co-organised by the European Commission and the NGO Lumos, in Brussels.

Mr Vytenis **Andriukaitis** meets representatives of industry organisations on Health Technology Assessment.

Ms Marianne **Thyssen** delivers the opening speech at the [European Validation Festival](#), in Brussels.

Mr Christos **Stylianides** delivers a speech at the conference "Ending Institutionalisation of Children", co-organised by the European Commission and the NGO Lumos, in Brussels.

Ms Violeta **Bulc** receives Mr Johan Lundgren, CEO of Easyjet.

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Sofia, Bulgaria: delivers the opening speech at public procurement conference "Improving access to procurement markets".

Ms Elżbieta **Bieńkowska** in Krakow, Poland: meets with Mr Wojciech Nowak,

Rector of Jagiellonian University.

Ms Věra **Jourová** in Malta: meets Mr Edward Scicluna, Minister for Finance; representatives of the Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA); officers investigating the murder of Ms Daphne Caruana Galizia; Mr Jonathan Cardona, CEO of Identity Malta; and Mr Adrian Delia, Opposition Leader (PN/EPP).

Mr Tibor **Navracsics** in Budapest, Hungary: participates in a roundtable discussion with the working group of Pact4Youth, organised by the National Youth Council.

Ms Margrethe **Vestager** in Rønne, Denmark (until 15/06): participates in a series of on-stage debates, conversations and a [Citizens' dialogue](#) at the "[Folkemødet](#)" meeting.

Mr Carlos **Moedas** in Plovdiv, Bulgaria: visits the "Food Village"; and delivers a speech at the "Research and innovation for food and nutrition security – transforming our food systems" high-level conference, organised by the Bulgarian Presidency.

### **Samedi 16 juin 2018**

### **Dimanche 17 juin 2018**

Mr Miguel **Arias Cañete** in Berlin, Germany (until 19/06): participates in Petersberg Climate Dialogue IX).

Ms Mariya **Gabriel** in Sofia, Bulgaria: participates in the official dinner of the plenary meeting of the European Affairs Committee of the Bulgarian National Assembly.

### **Prévisions du mois de juin:**

18/06 Agriculture and Fisheries Council

21/06 Eurogroup

21/06 EU-Bosnia and Herzegovina Stabilisation and Association Council

21/06 EU-Armenia Partnership Council

21-22/06 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council  
(Social policy and health)

22/06 Economic and Financial Affairs Council

25/06 Foreign Affairs Council

25/06 Environment Council

26/06 General Affairs Council

28-29/06 European Council

29/06 Euro Summit

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## [New data collected by citizens: Cigarette butts and filters the most common pieces of litter on Europe's beaches](#)

Image © Andrei Ciobanu on Unsplash

A [new EEA analysis on marine litter](#) showcases data collected by volunteer groups at beaches across Europe's four regional seas – the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the North-East Atlantic Ocean.

Using the EEA's [Marine LitterWatch mobile app](#), volunteer groups collected litter data at 1,627 beach clean-up events between 2014 and 2017. The EEA has been responsible for controlling the quality of the data and analysing the results.

Based on the new data, the most common items found on beaches include cigarette butts and filters, pieces of plastics and polystyrene, fragments of glass and ceramics, plastic cups and lids, cotton bud sticks, shopping bags, crisp packets, strings and cords, and drink bottles. As for materials, disposable plastics are by far the biggest contributor to marine litter across all four regional seas.

The new data recorded with the EEA app is consistent with official data released, for example, under the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive's Technical Group on Marine Litter](#) and the first ever [Europe-wide strategy on plastics](#). This finding shows that data recorded by volunteers can complement official data on marine litter and thus help tackle the problem.

The EEA's Marine LitterWatch app is available for Android and iOS devices. The app can be downloaded, free of charge, from [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#).

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# Press statement by Michel Barnier following this week's round of negotiations

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very happy to be here to debrief you on the round of negotiations which has just ended, less than three weeks from the European Council.

I would like to frankly present to you today, as I usually do, the three points of this negotiation:

- The separation issues;
- The major question of Ireland and Northern Ireland, in light of the UK paper presented yesterday;
- The future partnership and the conditions to succeed.

First of all, a general remark:

It is now time to take decisions and make choices.

Time is short. In less than 10 months, the United Kingdom is leaving the European Union, as it so wished. And, I repeat, we must conclude an agreement on the orderly withdrawal by autumn to give the necessary time on both sides for ratification – which was always my objective.

We continue to work intensely and, on our side, we will continue to explain calmly and clearly our positions, as well as recalling – as is sometimes necessary – what the European Union, the Single Market and the Customs Union are.

And, seeing as time is short, I also recall that we are always available and ready to intensify the rhythm of our meetings and negotiations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I – First, a few words on this week's work and on the separation topics.

We progressed over the past days on a certain number of subjects linked to the orderly withdrawal. These are called "other separation issues".

We think that these subjects can be resolved before the next European Council, which means that, in the document you know well, we will probably change some yellow parts into green and some white parts into green.

Each of these subjects is obviously important to provide legal certainty where there is currently no legal certainty because of Brexit.

But there is a lot of work to be done on the three other separation issues,

which are important, even very serious, for our businesses and citizens:

- The protection of the personal data of EU citizens. We want that the data that has already been exchanged remains protected as it is today.
- The protection of geographical indications, on which we still do not have any UK position. This subject is important for a lot of producers, for consumers, as much in the UK as in the 27 other countries of the European Union.
- The infringement and administrative procedures concerning the UK which will be ongoing at the end of the transition, for example in the area of state aid. This is not a bureaucratic point. This is a point which concerns the financial interests of the Union.

Beyond these three points – on which we have worked a lot – there remain two major points of divergence:

- The governance of the Withdrawal Agreement. I won't elaborate further on this point today because I spoke at length on this a few days ago in Lisbon.
- And obviously questions related to Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Ladies and gentlemen,

II – On Ireland and Northern Ireland, we also worked this week with the UK team on two important elements.

First, regulatory alignment.

This is about very concrete subjects: goods, agriculture, electricity, certain parts of environmental policy.

On these subjects, I would like to call for pragmatism from all sides, as I did recently during my trip to Ireland and Northern Ireland. On these concrete everyday topics, we need common rules to preserve the free movement of goods on the island and to preserve and encourage North-South cooperation.

During this visit – a month ago – everywhere I went, from Dundalk, to Newry, Derry-Londonderry and Dungannon, I was very interested to meet groups of farmers, businesses, young people, and women, who all told me the same thing. They told me about the importance of being able to circulate and move freely. And this is what we want to preserve in the agreement.

It is in Northern Ireland's interest also to keep the same rules in these areas, and to avoid new barriers to the daily exchanges on the island.

It is in the interest of the farmers in Ireland and Northern Ireland that the same sanitary and phytosanitary rules apply, as is the case today.

The second points of discussions on Ireland and Northern Ireland this week concerned customs.

Ladies and gentlemen,

You have all seen the UK's customs paper, which we received yesterday.

I welcomed the publication of this paper. It is good to see the UK engaging with us by proposing text.

As I said yesterday, we are examining this paper objectively, looking at three questions:

1. First: Is this a workable solution to avoid a hard border?
2. Second: Does it respect the integrity of the Single Market and the Customs Union?
3. Third: Is this an all-weather backstop?

Allow me to come back to each of these questions, which in turn, raise more specific ones.

1) First: Is this a workable solution to avoid a hard border?

- The UK recognises that the proposals in its paper cannot qualify as a backstop since the issue of full regulatory alignment is not addressed. I repeat that we need regulatory alignment to avoid a hard border. How do we solve this issue?

2) Second question: Does the UK proposal respect the integrity of the Single Market and the Customs Union?

- The UK wants to continue benefiting from our free trade agreements. Does that mean that we will have to reopen, renegotiate or even re-ratify our existing agreements in order to keep the UK in our customs territory after the transition?
- The UK tells us that it wants to avoid any control. How does that fit with the requirements of our VAT system?

3) Third question: Is this an all-weather backstop?

- The UK calls this arrangement temporary. How does that fit with the need to secure the absence of a hard border in all circumstances?
- Moreover, we had agreed with the UK on the principle that public authorities and businesses would need to adapt only once to the new situation created by Brexit – only once. Does the temporary nature of the customs arrangement mean that several adaptations will now be needed?

Ladies and gentlemen,

These questions require further discussion. The UK itself recognises that these questions are relevant and difficult.

But let me recall that our backstop provides answers to each of these questions.

It provides specific solutions to the unique situation of Northern Ireland.

The UK is taking a different angle, however. It is looking for a UK-wide solution.

Let me be clear: our backstop cannot be extended to the whole UK.

Why? Because it has been designed for the specific situation of Northern Ireland.

What does it do?

- On customs, Northern Ireland would form part of our customs territory. What is feasible with a territory the size of Northern Ireland is not necessarily feasible with the whole UK.
- On regulatory alignment, we have been pragmatic and developed the least disruptive system for citizens and businesses on both sides.

Let's go back to pragmatism. Checks carried out on ferries are less disruptive than along a 500km-long land border.

In addition, these checks can build on arrangements and facilities which already exist – which already exist – between the rest of the UK and Northern Ireland.

Obviously, behind all these rules, we want to preserve the fluidity and ease of trade and agricultural production on the island of Ireland.

And once again, we need such a solution in the Withdrawal Agreement by autumn.

We will not leave this issue unresolved.

Ladies and gentlemen,

III – My third and last point concerns the future relationship with the United Kingdom.

Following the mandate I received from the European Council in March, and as outlined by the European Parliament in its resolution, we are now discussing the framework for the future relationship, which will include an economic partnership and strategic cooperation in the area of security.

In all the UK papers that we have been receiving until now – which I read carefully with my team – there has been a request to maintain the status quo, a form of continuity, which is paradoxical seeing as the country decided itself to leave the European Union.

The United Kingdom seems to want to maintain the benefits of the current relationship, while leaving the EU regulatory, supervision, and application framework.

When we respond to UK leaders saying that these benefits are not accessible outside the EU system – because of their decision – some people in the UK try to blame us for the consequences of this.

I simply want to say that we will not be swayed, I will not be swayed, by this blame game.

The United Kingdom decided to leave the Union. We respect this democratic decision and we will implement it. The United Kingdom must assume the consequences.

If we want to construct a new relationship, we need a basis of trust. We also need more realism about what is and is not possible.

Ladies and gentlemen,

There are now two weeks left before the June European Council. I hope we will use this time to consolidate and make new progress in this difficult and complex negotiation.

Thank you for your attention.