

Media advisory – Competitiveness Council of 27 and 28 May 2021



Place:

Justus Lipsius building, Brussels

Chairs:

- Pedro Siza Vieira, Portuguese Minister of State for the Economy and Digital Transition
- Manuel Heitor, Portuguese Minister for Science and Technology and Higher Education

All times are approximate and subject to change

Thursday, 27 May 2021

Internal Market and Industry

From 08.30

Arrivals ([live streaming](#))

+/- 08.45

Doorstep by Minister Vieira ([live streaming](#))

+/- 09.30

Beginning of the Council meeting

Adoption of the agenda

+/- 09.40

Regulation on a single market for digital services (Digital Services Act) ([public session](#))

Regulation on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector (Digital Markets Act) ([public session](#))

+/- 10.00

Leveraging European Union's competitiveness and global influence through an ambitious Digital Services Package ([public session](#))

+/- 12.00

Any other business:

- Proposal for a Regulation laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence ([public session](#))
- Distortive Foreign Subsidies Regulation proposal ([public session](#))
- Essential building blocks for a competition law and state aid framework enabling European competitiveness

+/- 12.45

Conclusions on "Tourism in Europe for the next decade: Sustainable,

resilient, digital, global and social”

+/- 12.55

Conclusions on data technologies to improve “Better Regulation”

+/- 13.05

Approval of A-items (non-legislative)

+/- 13.10

Approval of A-items (legislative) ([public session](#))

+/- 13.15

Lunch debate on Economic recovery after the pandemic crisis

+/- 15.00

Updating the new industrial strategy for Europe – the critical importance of securing access to critical raw materials

+/- 17.00

Any other business:

- Trade Policy Review – An Open, Sustainable and Assertive Trade Policy
- EU industry competitiveness and effective harmonised standardisation
- Work programme of the incoming Presidency

+/- 18.00

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

Friday, 28 May 2021

Research

From 08.45

Arrivals ([live streaming](#))

+/- 09.00

Doorstep by Minister Heitor ([live streaming](#))

10.00

Beginning of the Council meeting (roundtable)

+/- 10.05

Council Regulation on establishing the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (HPC)

+/- 10.35

Conclusions on “Deepening the European Research Area: Providing researchers with attractive and sustainable careers and working conditions and making brain circulation a reality”

+/- 10.50

Renewing the ERA: how to prepare the roll-out of an ambitious ERA fit for the next decade

+/- 12.20

Any other business:

- Decision on the participation of the Union in the European Partnership on Metrology jointly undertaken by several member states ([public session](#))
- Council Regulation establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe
- Mission Innovation: Membership
- Communication from the Commission on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation
- Work programme of the incoming Presidency

+/- 13.00

Lunch debate on the contribution of the RRF plans to Horizon Europe's missions and partnerships

+/- 14.00

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

Space

+/- 15.05

Conclusions on "New Space for People"

+/- 15.20

Conclusions on "Space for People in European Coastal areas"

+/- 15.30

Towards a better positioning of the EU in Space Traffic Management

+/- 17.00

Any other business:

- Work programme of the incoming Presidency

+/- 17.15

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

Arrangements for the press conferences

Please note that the press conferences after each session will take place remotely. In order to participate and ask questions, EU accredited journalists should register using [this link](#).

Journalists who already registered for previous press events on Competitiveness Council do not need to do it again.

– Deadline for the registration: Thursday 27 May, 16.30

Further instructions will be sent to all registered participants after the deadline.

[Videos and photos from the event](#)

ESMA PUBLISHES GUIDELINES ON THE CALCULATION OF POSITIONS UNDER SFTR

The purpose of the Guidelines is to ensure that a uniform methodology is used under EMIR and SFTR, while taking into account the specificities of Securities Financing Transactions (SFT) Reporting. Consistency in position calculation produces high-quality position data, which is necessary for the assessment of systemic risks to financial stability.

The Guidelines aim to ensure consistency of position calculation across TRs, with regard to the time of calculations, the scope of the data used in calculations, the data preparation, the recordkeeping of data and the calculation methodologies. They contain relevant clarifications to Trade Repositories (TRs) as to:

- the calculations carried out by TRs and the format of provision of access to data pursuant to Article 80(4) of EMIR as referred to in Article 5(2) of SFTR and detailed under Article 5 of RTS on data aggregation
- the level of access to positions provided by TRs to the entities included in Article 12(2) of SFTR with access to positions in line with Article 3 of RTS on data access.

Next steps

The Guidelines will apply from 31 January 2022.

Media advisory – Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 26 and 27 May 2021



Indicative programme

Wednesday 26 May 2021

Place:

Europa building, Brussels

Chairs:

Ricardo Serrão Santos, Minister for Maritime Affairs of Portugal, **Maria do Céu Antunes** Minister for Agriculture of Portugal and **Rui Martinho** Secretary of State for Agriculture and Rural Development

All times are approximate and subject to change

from 08.00

Arrivals ([live streaming](#))

10.00

Beginning of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council

Adoption of the agenda

Approval of non-legislative list A items

10.10 Approval of A items ([public session](#))

Post 2020 CAP reform package: ([public session](#))

a) Regulation on CAP Strategic Plans

b) Regulation on financing, management and monitoring of the CAP

c) Regulation on common market organisation (CMO) of agricultural products

+/- 15.30

Press conference (maritime affairs) in [live streaming](#)

+/- 15.40

Plenary session ([public session](#))

– Study on the Union's options to update the existing legislation on the production and marketing of plant reproductive material

– Study on the status of new genomic techniques

– Conclusions on the EU's priorities for the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS)

Any other business:

- Bilateral EU-UK consultations for fishing opportunities for 2021 and, for deep-sea stocks, for 2021 and 2022
- Current situation in WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies

+/- 19.35

CAP debriefing ([public session](#))

Thursday 27 May 2021

from 08.00

Arrivals ([live streaming](#))

10.00

Plenary session

Post 2020 CAP reform package: ([public session](#))

a) Regulation on CAP Strategic Plans

b) Regulation on financing, management and monitoring of the CAP

c) Regulation on common market organisation (CMO) of agricultural products

14.00

Plenary session

Organic farming – action plan for the development of EU organic production

Any other business:

- Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) and Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania on the opportunities and challenges for farmers stemming from the Farm to Fork strategy
- Need to support agricultural sectors affected by recent frost events ([public session](#))

+/- 16.30

Press conference (agriculture) [live streaming](#)

16.35

(Tbc) Plenary session ([public session](#))

Arrangements for the press conferences

Please note that there will be no physical press conference. In order to participate and ask questions, EU accredited journalists should register using [this link](#).

Journalists who already registered for previous Agriculture and Fisheries Council press conferences do not need to register again.

Deadline for registration: Wednesday, 26 May 2021, 14.30

Further instructions will be sent to all registered participants approximately half an hour after the deadline.

[Videos and photos from the event](#)

[Visit the meeting page](#)

European Council conclusions on COVID-19, 25 May 2021



I. COVID-19

1. The pace of vaccinations has accelerated across the EU and should be sustained. This, along with an improvement in the general epidemiological situation, will allow for a gradual reopening of our societies. However, we need to stay vigilant regarding the emergence and spread of variants and to take action as necessary. Ongoing work to step up vaccine production and secure adequate supply throughout the EU will be key.
2. Efforts to ensure a coordinated approach should continue ahead of the summer. In that context, the European Council welcomes the agreement reached on the EU Digital COVID Certificate and calls for its rapid implementation. As a next step, with a view to facilitating free movement in the EU, it calls for the revision by mid-June of the Council Recommendation on travel within the EU. It welcomes the revision of the Council Recommendation on non-essential travel into the EU.
3. The impact of the pandemic will only be contained through a comprehensive global response. The EU is the largest exporter of COVID-19 vaccines to the world and will continue its efforts to increase global vaccine production capacities in order to meet global needs. The European Council calls for work to be stepped up to ensure global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and supports COVAX's leading role in that respect. The EU and its Member States are committed to accelerating vaccine sharing to support countries in need, with the aim of donating at least 100 million doses by the end of the year, and to helping to develop local manufacturing capacity in line with the Rome Declaration of the Global Health Summit.

[Visit the meeting page](#)

ESMA launches call for evidence on digital finance

Digital transformation and the application of innovative technologies in the EU financial sector bring a host of opportunities, including better financial services to a wider range of businesses and investors, possibly at a lower

cost.

These changes are not free of risks, for example in relation to cyber security, data management, concentration risk and competition. They also raise specific regulatory and supervisory challenges, including because of their global and cross-sectoral nature. ESMA's advice to the European Commission (EC) will assist them to address these challenges and propose, where relevant, changes to the existing legislative framework by mid-2022.

ESMA is requesting information on three topics:

1. more fragmented or non-integrated value chains, arising as a result of financial firms increasingly relying on third parties for the delivery of their services and of technology companies entering financial services;
2. digital platforms and bundling of financial services; and
3. mixed activity groups providing both financial and non-financial services.

Next steps

The call for evidence is open until 1 August and seeks feedback from all interested stakeholders. In particular, the call for evidence is of interest to (i) financial firms relying on third-parties, in particular technology firms, to fulfil critical or important functions; (ii) third-parties, in particular technology firms, on which financial firms rely to fulfil critical or important functions; (iii) technology firms providing financial services, either directly or through partnerships with financial firms; (iv) platforms marketing or providing access to different financial services; (v) mixed activity groups combining financial and non-financial activities; and (vi) investors.

ESMA will consider the information received through this call for evidence when drafting its advice to the EC. ESMA, together with the other European Supervisory Authorities, will deliver a report to the EC by 31 January 2022.