

EUROPEAN COUNCIL
Thursday 23 and Friday 24 October in Brussels

*Starting on Thursday afternoon the October European Council will dedicate its first working session to the main theme of the summit: **the 2030 climate and energy policy framework**. The climate and energy negotiations are expected to continue over the working dinner Thursday.*

*Thursday evening, the European Council will also discuss external relations and in particular in regard to **Ukraine/Russia** and the **Ebola outbreak** in West-Africa.*

*Friday morning, leaders will reconvene to discuss the **economic situation in the EU** on the basis of a presentation by the Commission and work undertaken by the Council.*

*A **euro summit** will be held Friday after the European Council to continue the discussion of the economic situation focusing on the euro area.*

Indicative programme:

Thursday:	9.30	tripartite social summit, followed by a press conference at 12.30
	16.30	exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament
	17.15	family photo
	17.30	first working session
	20.15	working dinner followed by press conference
Friday:	09.30	second working session
	12.30	euro summit
	13.30 (tbc)	press conference

Full media programme

[Invitation letter by President Herman Van Rompuy to the European Council](#)

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- Media accreditation: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/>
- Press conferences by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu/>
- Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4): <http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu>
- Photographic library on www.consilium.europa.eu/photo for photos in high resolution.

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

Climate and Energy

On the basis of the [Commission communication](#), and principles identified in the [March European Council conclusions](#), leaders are expected to reach agreement on a framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030. Such an agreed EU policy framework on greenhouse gas emissions, renewables and energy efficiency should provide the necessary stability and predictability for its economic operators and confirm the EU's role globally.

The European Council is expected to remain set on submitting its contribution to the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties in Paris 2015 at the latest by the first quarter of 2015. It is also expected to call on all other major economies to do the same.

The new EU framework should be based on the following principles:

- Further improve coherence between greenhouse gas emissions reduction, energy efficiency and the use of renewables to deliver the objectives for 2030 in a cost-effective manner, with a reformed and well- functioning Emissions Trading System (ETS)
- Develop a supportive EU framework for advancing renewable energies and ensure international competitiveness.
- Ensure security of energy supply for households and businesses at affordable and competitive prices.
- Provide flexibility for the Member States as to how they deliver their commitments in order to reflect national circumstances and respect their freedom to determine their energy mix.

Leaders are furthermore expected to reconfirm the priority of completing the internal energy market by 2014 and developing interconnections so as to achieving the existing electricity interconnections target of 10%.

The European Council should also endorse further actions to reduce the EU's energy dependence and increase its energy security for both electricity and gas, such as implementation of critical projects of common interest in the gas sector (north-south corridor), improve arrangements for better use of regasification and storage capacity and increasing EU's bargaining power in energy negotiations by establishing an information exchange mechanism with regard to intergovernmental agreements. Leaders are equally expected to recognise that having recourse to indigenous resources as well as safe and sustainable low carbon technologies can increase the EU's energy security.

The main elements of the Commission proposal, presented on 22 January 2014, include:

- a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 40 % below 1990 levels, to be achieved only through domestic measures (without the use of international credits);
- a renewable energy target of at least 27 % of energy consumption, with flexibility for member states to set national objectives;
- energy efficiency as a key component of the 2030 framework. On 23 July the Commission presented its energy efficiency communication with a new energy saving target of 30 % by 2030 (vs 2007 reference).

The Commission also outlines a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure and sustainable energy to be drawn up by member states. In addition, it proposes a set of indicators intended to assess progress over time and to provide a factual base for a potential policy response.

For more information on this topic, see also the Commission [website](#).

Economic issues

Leaders will, in the presence of the President of the European Central Bank Mario Draghi, discuss the overall economic agenda in the EU on the basis of a presentation by the Commission and work undertaken by the Council.

Despite the regained stability in the Euro area and the structural efforts made by Member States, the economic and unemployment situation remain the highest concerns in the EU.

The June European Council put forth a [strategic agenda for the Union in times of change](#), aiming to equip the European societies for the future and to return to growth. It made it clear that the EU still needs to do more to foster growth, increase investment, create more and better jobs and encourage reforms for competitiveness.

In this context, leaders are expected to focus their discussions on ways to spur private and public investments, and the link with structural reforms, in order to support growth and job creation.

Ebola

The European Council is due to express distress about the ongoing spread of the Ebola virus in West Africa and the increasing number of people being infected and dying from it.

The heads of State and government will discuss strategies to contain the spread of Ebola and adopt conclusions. The discussions will build on the work done at the Foreign Affairs Council on 20 October, where Ministers also agreed to explore a mandate for a special EU coordinator, with the task to ensure the most effective engagement between the European Union, member states and the UN.

To encourage additional health personnel to work on the ground, the EU is providing a guarantee that international health workers who volunteer will be provided with appropriate care, locally or through medical evacuation, within available resources, should they become infected.

Joining in the international effort, the EU and its member states have already committed over half a billion euros to provide urgent medical care and to support the affected governments in mitigating the side effects of the outbreak.

Humanitarian experts, mobile laboratories and teams of specialists on dangerous infectious diseases have been deployed, providing diagnostic support, monitoring the situation and liaising with partners. Funding and support will also go to the reinforcement of local and regional healthcare capacities and budget support to the affected countries.

In early October, the EU set up a humanitarian air bridge to West Africa: the Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre facilitates the transportation of relief items provided by member states to the affected countries. In addition, the EU will fund and coordinate if necessary the evacuation of international staff from Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

For more information; Foreign Affairs [Council Conclusions](#), [EU fact sheet](#) and [webpage](#) on Ebola.

Other items

The European Council is expected to adopt a European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region.

Subject to a vote of consent by the European Parliament on the President, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the other members of the Commission as a body, the European Council will adopt a decision appointing the European Commission.