

Priorities and key dates of the Latvian Presidency January – June 2015

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| Policy Area | Work Programme | Key Dates |
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| Budget | EU Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete budgetary discharge procedure for 2013 • Adopt budget guidelines for 2016 • Revise MFF following new management rules for the 2015 budget • Progress with EU Own Resources assessment • Progress with procedural measures to meet cash requirements | Feb 17 – ECOFIN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharge procedure 2013 budget • Budget guidelines 2016 • High level group on own resources May 12 – ECOFIN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) Draft general budget 2016 June 19 – ECOFIN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) Draft general budget 2016 |
| Economic Governance and Economic Growth | Investment Plan for Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast track procedures aimed at unlocking public and private investment • Reduce administrative obstacles to enhance entrepreneurial activity | Jan 27 – ECOFIN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment Plan for Europe • Presidency work programme |

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| | <p>European Semester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline process to secure proper involvement of Member States, national parliaments and stakeholders • Use goals of renewed Europe 2020 strategy <p>Economic and Fiscal Governance Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the six-pack and two-pack legislation • Ensure the implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact and the Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure • Strengthen the EMU <p>Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open discussions on harmonised indices of consumer prices regulation • Achieve progress in the balance of payments, international trade in services and origin direct investment regulation | <p>Feb 3-4 - Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the EMU</p> <p>Feb 17 – ECOFIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment Plan for Europe • Annual Growth Survey 2015 • (poss.) Economic Governance <p>March 9 – EPSCO Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Europe 2020 Strategy • European Semester 2015 <p>March 10 – ECOFIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) Investment plan for Europe • Europe 2020 strategy review • (poss.) European Semester • (poss.) Implementation of Growth and Stability Pact <p>March 17 – General Affairs Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment Plan for Europe • Europe 2020 mid-term strategy • European Semester 2015 <p>April 21 – General Affairs Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) Europe 2020 • (poss.) European Semester 2015 <p>May 12 – ECOFIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) Investment plan for Europe • Macroeconomic Imbalances Procedure • (poss.) Stability and Growth Pact <p>June 19 – ECOFIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Semester <p>June 23 – General Affairs Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Semester 2015 |
| Financial Affairs | <p>Capital Markets Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue work on financial sector regulation to improve resilience, | <p>Feb 17 – ECOFIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) Savings Directive |

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| | <p>transparency and supervision</p> <p>Banking Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise relevant mechanisms with the assistance of stakeholder institutions <p>Banking Structural Reform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve resilience of banks through calibration of proposed measures • Ensure banks finance economic activities and growth • Increase transparency of certain transactions as per recent reforms <p>Retail Banking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards finalising discussions on the revised Payment Services Directive (PSD2) <p>Insurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further work on the Insurance Distribution Directive, with an aim to reach an agreement with the European Parliament | <p>March 10 – ECOFIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of SRB <p>April 24-25 - Informal Meeting of Ministers for Economic and Financial Affairs (ECOFIN)</p> <p>May 12 – ECOFIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilience of EU credit institutions • (poss.) Payment services • (poss.) Insurance mediation • (poss.) Reporting and transparency of securities financing transactions <p>June 19 – ECOFIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and contracts |
| <p>Taxation</p> | <p>Direct Taxation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceed with the proposed Interest/Royalties Directive amendment • Continue work on a proposed Council Directive on a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB) • Initiative discussions to commence work on BEPS, including the automatic exchange of information on tax rulings in the EU <p>Indirect Taxation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek progress on VAT treat of vouchers rules • Reduce administrative burden and increase tax compliance through the Standardised VAT Return • Support work enhancing cooperation on a FTT | <p>March 10 – ECOFIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) Financial Transaction Tax • (poss.) Standard VAT return <p>May 12 – ECOFIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) CCCTB • (poss.) Interest and Royalty Directive <p>June 19 – ECOFIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) Treatment of vouchers (VAT) • (poss.) Administrative cooperation • (poss.) ECOFIN report on tax issues • (poss.) Euro Plus Pact (Tax) • (poss.) Code of conduct (Business Taxation) |
| <p>Internal Market, Corporate governance, Company law and Consumers</p> | <p>Single Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress with the Single Market Act II • Launch discussions on the expected Internal Market Strategy for goods and services • Better utilise the “Better Regulation” principle and engage in more competitiveness proofing | <p>March 2-3 – Competitiveness Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Single Market • REFIT <p>April 21 – General Affairs Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) Inter-institutional agreement on better law making |

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| | <p>Consumer protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to reach a Council agreement on the Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package <p>Company Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the company law and corporate governance package • Seek a mandate to engage with trilogues on the Shareholders' Rights Directive | <p>May 19 – General Affairs Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) Inter-institutional agreement on better law making <p>May 28-29 – Competitiveness Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer product safety • Market surveillance of products • Single member private limited companies • Corporate governance statement <p>June 15-16 – Justice and Home Affairs Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Small Claims Procedure <p>June 23 – General Affairs Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) Inter-institutional agreement on better law making |
| <p>Agriculture and Fisheries</p> | <p>Common Agricultural Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further CAP simplification • Revise aid schemes to supply produce to schools • Simplify administrative procedures <p>Veterinary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afford a high level of protection to human and animal health • Introduce the principle of biosecurity as a measure to prevent transmissible disease <p>Official controls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards a Member State compromise to launch negotiations with the European Parliament on the regulation on the zoo-technical and genealogical conditions for trade in breeding animals and germinal products <p>Food Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strive to finalise work on novel foods • Reach agreement with the European Parliament on caseins and caseinates <p>Phytosanitary standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue discussions on plant health • Start an examination of fertiliser legislation | <p>Jan 26 - Agriculture and Fisheries Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Russian ban for agricultural products • Multiannual plan for cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic sea • (poss.) Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands <p>March 16 – Agriculture and Fisheries Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labelling of organic products • (poss.) Implementation of the CAP • (poss.) Simplification of the CAP • UN Forum on Forests • Food origin information for consumers • Trans fats <p>April 20 – Agriculture and Fisheries Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjustment rate for direct payments • Animal health • GMOs • Multiannual plan for cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic sea • Fishing authorisations • Scientific advice for CFP |

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| | <p>Forest management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the European model of forest management globally <p>Fisheries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve maximum sustainable yields for all stocks | <p>(Poss.) May 11 – Agriculture and Fisheries Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labelling of organic products (poss.) Simplification of the CAP Climate and Energy Framework 2030: agricultural aspects <p>June 15 – Environment Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (poss.) GMOs <p>June 16 – Agriculture and Fisheries Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade and import of breeding animals and germinal products Zootechnical legislation Veterinary medicinal products Medicated feed Protective measures against plant pests (poss.) EU membership rights of FAO (poss.) Fishing opportunities for 2016 |
| Energy and Climate Change | <p>Energy Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build an energy policy built on solidarity, trust and security Work on a better integrated energy infrastructure grid and improved governance, as well as exploiting regional governance Solid energy diplomacy with external suppliers Increase use of renewables and implement energy efficiency <p>Wider Energy Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach second reading agreement on the Indirect Land Use Change (ILUC) proposal Improve Energy Labelling Directing and the Eco-Design regulations Further multilateral cooperation formats such as the Energy Community and the Energy Charter <p>Nuclear</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support initiatives strengthening radiation protection and nuclear safety at the international level Elaborate EU position for the Diplomatic Conference of the Convention on Nuclear Safety, 5th Review Meeting of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management | <p>Jan 19 – Foreign Affairs Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change <p>March 5 – Energy Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy infrastructure Energy Union Implementation of the Energy Security Strategy <p>March 6 – Environment Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNFCCC Conference, Paris Global post-2015 agenda (poss.) Climate and Energy Package 2030 <p>May 19 – ECOFIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Financing <p>June 8 – Energy Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (poss.) Security of gas supply Labelling of energy-related products (poss.) Implementation of the Energy Security Strategy (poss.) Draft Council conclusions on Energy |

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| | <p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move forward with the Market Stability Reserve and strengthen the EU ETS <p>Climate Financing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate preparations for a 2015 agreement on a climate change regime for the post-2020 period | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Union • Renewables • External energy relations <p>June 15 – Environment Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas emission trading scheme • (poss.) Climate and Energy 2030 package |
| <p>Environment</p> | <p>Resource efficiency and green growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate environmental aspects into the European Semester • Promote the circular economy and waste management • Achieve better EU air quality • Discuss green issues with a view to the Biodiversity Strategy mid-term review <p>International environmental processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on issues such as the sound management of chemicals, waste, biodiversity, biosafety and species protection | <p>March 6 – Environment Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greening the European Semester • Europe 2020 • Environment Report <p>April 14-16 Informal Meeting of Environment and Energy Ministers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of 2030 Energy and Climate Package <p>May 26-27 – Conference on the “EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 – implementation”</p> <p>June 15 – Environment Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollutants from medium combustion plants <p>June 15-16 – Justice and Home Affairs Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychoactive substances |
| <p>Innovation, Research and Space</p> | <p>Research and Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster networks without barriers and optimise national research and innovation systems • Enhance the European Research Area • Facilitate implementation of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap and European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) <p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of Science 2.0 • Advance the dossiers on scientific and technological research in specific region • Facilitate work on the final evaluation of the Seventh Framework Programme | <p>Feb 12 – Conference “Smart Specialization Strategies: New Approaches for Partnerships among Education, Research and Industry in Regions”</p> <p>March 2-3 – Competitiveness Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Research Area • Data-intensive research (Unlocking Europe’s digital potential) • Science 2.0 <p>May 28-29 – Competitiveness Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Research Area • Science 2.0 <p>June 15-19 – 10th Baltic Sea Science Congress</p> |

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| | <p>Space Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow discussion on relations between the EU and European Space Agency • Develop an integrated EU Space Strategy • Further work on regarding high resolution Earth observation satellite data (HSRD) | |
| Education, Sport and Audiovisual | <p>Vocational education and training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen cooperation among EU Member States, candidate countries and EEA countries • Provide skills necessary to succeed in the labour market <p>International cooperation in education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the internationalisation of higher education between EU and Asian countries <p>Primary education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strive to adopt Council conclusions on the importance of primary education <p>Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the EU Work Plan for Youth 2014-15 • Host the second Eastern Partnership Youth Forum <p>Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek ways to further enhance cultural accessibility and participation in the digital age <p>Audiovisual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rethink European approach including through review of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive <p>Sport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement EU Work Plan for Sport 2014-2017 • Continue encouragement of active lifestyles among all age groups | <p>February 16 – EU Sport conference “Physical activities for development of human resources”</p> <p>March 9-10 – Conference on “Strengthening the European Audiovisual Media Market for the Development of the European Identity”</p> <p>March 11-12 – Conference on “Cultural and Creative Industry Crossovers”</p> <p>March 13 – European e-Skills Conference</p> <p>May 18 – Education and Youth Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework for EU cooperation in education and training • Childhood and primary education • Recognition and transparency of silks and qualifications <p>May 19 – Culture and Sport Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural and creative cross-over to stimulate growth • European Capital of Culture 2019 • Europe 2020 • Digital Single Market and Future of European Audiovisual Policy • Grassroots sport skills • (poss.) Manipulation of sports competitions • Physical activity as part of quality education |
| Telecoms and Information Society | <p>Digital Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitalise the public sector • Prioritise internet governance • Increase safety and security in the digital environment • Strengthen the data protection framework | <p>May 28-29 – Competitiveness Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Single Market policy <p>June 10-12 – EuroNanoForum 2015</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek agreement on the General Data Protection Regulation and Directive • Implement the EU Cyber Security Strategy and finalise negotiations on the Network and Information Security Directive (NIS) <p>Telecommunications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek a compromise on the TSM proposal • Finalise work on the Web Accessibility Directive • Progress with ISA <p>Digital Single Market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Digital Single Market • Anticipate the Digital Single Market Strategy <p>Telecommunications Market Package</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balance high-quality services and reasonable costs for consumers • Move towards the EU becoming digital by default <p>Cybersecurity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase common efforts to combat cybercrime and preserve citizens privacy • Strengthen cross border cooperation on fraud <p>Data-Driven Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness and foster open data policies and e-infrastructure | <p>June 12 – Telecommunications Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interoperability solutions for European Public administrations • Connectivity • Digital Single Market Strategy • Internet Governance • Accessibility of public sector bodies websites • Network and Information Security |
| <p>Employment and Social Affairs</p> | <p>Inclusive and sustainable labour market participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay attention to long-term unemployment, the situation of young people and persons with disabilities • Note the initial results of the Youth Guarantee <p>The social dimension of the EMU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasise the role of social dialogue and take into account national circumstances <p>Labour legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise the Undeclared Work platform and aim to reach a first reading with the European Parliament • Progress discussions with the European Parliament to reach an agreement on the EURES regulation • Launch negotiations with the European Parliament to reach an | <p>Jan 12-13 – Workshop on “Needs of persons with disabilities throughout disaster management cycle”</p> <p>March 2 – Conference: Women’s Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Development – the Synthesis for Success</p> <p>March 9 – EPSCO Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political guidance on employment and social policies 2015 • Association between EU and Morocco, Montenegro, FYROM (social security systems) • Draft Joint Employment Report • SPC report on the social situation in the EU • SPC-EPC report on social protection systems |

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| | <p>agreement on the Seafarers’ Directive</p> <p>Health and Safety at work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stress the need to reduce workplace accidents • Emphasise necessity of implementing EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work (2014-2020) <p>Social Protection Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the issue of deinstitutionalisation in Member States <p>Equal Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay attention to challenges raised by disability, from a social and medical model viewpoint • Encourage implementation of EU Disability Strategy 2010-2020 <p>Gender Equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage work on gender mainstreaming and boosting female participation in the labour market | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) Guidelines for the Employment Policies of Member States • Inclusive labour markets • EU Strategic framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 <p>April 20-22 Informal Meeting of the Ministers for Employment, Social Affairs and Health</p> <p>May 12 – ECOFIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing Report 2015 <p>May 18 – Education and Youth Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-economic challenges of young people • Europe 2020 • Political participation of young people <p>June 15 – Conference on Deinstitutionalization and the Further Development of Social Care Policy in Europe</p> <p>June 18-19 – EPSCO Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (poss.) Association between EU and Morocco, Montenegro, FYROM (social security systems) • (poss.) Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment • (poss.) Guidelines for the Employment policies of Member States • Gender Balance among NEDs • Implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons • National Reform Programmes 2015 • Employment Performance Monitor and Benchmarks • Gender gap in pensions • (poss.) Youth employment |
| <p>Health and Food (Nutrition)</p> | <p>Pharmaceuticals and medical devices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek a Council mandate to negotiate and reach agreement with the European Parliament on medical devices, and in vitro medical devices, proposals • Allow for innovative and competitive medical device industry | <p>Feb 22 – High Level Conference “Healthy lifestyles: nutrition and physical activity for children and young people at schools”</p> <p>April 27-28 – Presidency Conference on Occupational</p> |

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| | <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight healthy childhood lifestyles and personal responsibility for own health • Pay attention to patient-centred health care • Promote activity on nutrition and alcohol at Member State level • Advocate healthcare innovations in eHealth/mHealth, the cross border exchange of health data and patient data protection • Pay attention to the risks of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis | <p>Safety and Health</p> <p>May 11-13 – High Level Conference on eHealth</p> <p>June 15-16 – Justice and Home Affairs Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Drug Report 2015 <p>June 19 – EPSCO Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical devices • In vitro diagnostic medical devices • (poss.) European Semester |
| <p>Transport and Tourism</p> | <p>Harmonisation of technical standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the internal market function better with regard to motor vehicles whilst maintaining high safety and environmental protection levels • Work on proposals relating to emission limits and type-approval for non-road machinery <p>Land Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote efficient, safe and secure travel for passengers and goods • Strengthen the European railway network • Progress with the Fourth Railway Package technical pillar discussions • Maintain high levels of road safety • Enable ministerial discussion that focuses on developing the TEN-T network <p>Aviation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue work on the SESII+ • Start political discussions on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems <p>Maritime transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the right international environment for maritime transport • Promote growth and competitive European shipping • Further progress to establish a framework for market access to port services and the financial transparency of ports <p>Inland waterway transport sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start work on revised proposal laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels | <p>March 5 – Conference on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)</p> <p>March 13 – Transport Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passenger compensation • Eurocontrol • Fourth railway package • (poss.) TEN-T contribution to EU Competitiveness • Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems <p>April 21-22 – European Traffic Police Network (TISPOL) High-Level Workshop</p> <p>May 28-29 – Competitiveness Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted travel arrangements <p>June 11 – Transport Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aviation passenger compensation • Remotely Piloted Aircraft system • Fourth railway package • Market opening for rail services • (poss.) Road Safety policy orientations • Inland waterway vessels • Intelligent Transport Systems |

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| | <p>Consumer protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek an agreement with the European Parliament on the Package Travel Directive | |
| Competitiveness and Industrial Policy | <p>Industrial policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop proactive and integrated policy which responds to the needs of Europe's changing economic situation <p>SMEs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor actions conducted during the Small Business Act review Promote enhancing access to finance <p>Europe 2020 Strategy mid-term review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster growth and competitiveness <p>Intellectual Property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise negotiations with the European Parliament on the Trade Mark Package Work towards an agreement with the European Parliament on the Trade Secret Directive Initiate discussions seeking to facilitate creativity, innovation and the completion of the Digital Single Market Contribute to the advancement of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for the visually impaired | <p>Feb 12 – Conference “Smart Specialization Strategies: New Approaches for Partnerships among Education, Research and Industry in Regions”</p> <p>Feb 12 – International Conference: “Entrepreneurship in Regions to Straighten the EU Competitiveness”</p> <p>March 2-3 – Competitiveness Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Growth Survey 2015 EU Industrial Competitiveness Trade mark package Small Business Act Europe 2020 strategy Unitary patent <p>March 2-3 – Conference on Intellectual Property Rights Protection</p> <p>March 26-27 - Informal Meeting of Competitiveness Ministers</p> <p>April 23-24 – European Consumer Protection Conference</p> <p>May 7 – European Competition Day</p> <p>June 15-17 – EU Latvian Presidency Conference “First Innovative Enterprise week “Access to Finance for Research, Innovation and SMEs 2015””</p> |
| Justice and Home Affairs | <p>Data Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforce rights of citizens regarding personal data processing Seek agreement on Data Protection package to aid the 2015 completion of the Digital Single Market <p>European Public Prosecutor's Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make further progress in establishing the EPPO <p>Fraud to the Union's financial interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen sanctions by means of criminal law | <p>January 29-30 Informal Meeting of Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss personal data protection and e-justice strategy <p>March 12-13 – Justice and Home Affairs Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing migratory flows Fight against terrorism (poss.) Schengen enlargement Smart Borders Package |

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| | <p>Criminal Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen procedural rights in criminal proceedings <p>Fight against crime, corruption and tax evasion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise negotiations with the European Parliament on Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing files <p>Schengen area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue work on the Smart Borders Package Work towards an agreement on the revised Visa Code, aimed at simplifying the procedure for short stays Promote dialogue with third countries about visa policy <p>Migration, Asylum and Border Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimise benefits of legal migration and offer protection to those in need Tackle irregular migration and manage external borders effectively <p>Internal Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update the new Internal Security Strategy to fight organised crime Address phenomenon of foreign fighters Progress with European Passenger Name Record (PNR) system <p>New psychoactive substances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare EU and Member State position ahead of the UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Data Protection Regulation European Public Prosecutors Office EUROJUST European Arrest Warrant (Legal Aid) International Child Abduction EU-US data transfer (poss.) Accession of EU to ECHR <p>May 28-29 - EU-US Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Meeting</p> <p>June 15-16 – Justice and Home Affairs Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Data Protection Regulation European Public Prosecutors Office European arrest warrant proceedings (Legal Aid) E-Justice Code on Visas Smart Borders Package Registered Traveller Programme Renewed EU Internal Security Strategy Fight against terrorism Managing migratory flows Schengen Governance E-Justice |
| <p>Regional Policy</p> | <p>Territorial Agenda 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen small and medium sized urban areas Recognise the value of macro-regional strategies Implement strategy for the Baltic Region, Danube, Adriatic and Ionian Regions | <p>June 3-4 - Seminar of the European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON) / European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON) Seminar</p> <p>June 9-10 - Informal Meeting of Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy and Territorial Development</p> |

External Policies

- [Development, Humanitarian aid, Migration, Asylum and Border protection](#)
- [Foreign Affairs, Defence and Enlargement](#)
- [Trade](#)

| Policy Area | Work Programme | Key Dates |
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| Development, Humanitarian aid, Migration, Asylum and Border protection | <p><i>Sustainable Development Goals and Financing for Development</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight gender equality and female empowerment as a thematic issue for development cooperation • Advance EU contributions to international negotiations on globally applicable Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) • Advance reflections on relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) ahead of the Partnership Agreement 2020 expiration <p><i>EU Humanitarian Aid</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the Ebola epidemic • Advance EU humanitarian advocacy vis a vis third countries • Follow up preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit 2016 | <p>Jan 9 – Opening <u>event</u> of the European Year for Development 2015</p> <p>May 26 - Foreign Affairs Council (Development)</p> |
| Foreign Affairs, Defence and Enlargement | <p><i>European Neighbourhood Policy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in a comprehensive review process • Send a strong reaffirming signal of support for the ENP • Note the strategic importance of the enlargement policy in promoting political stability and economic prosperity in Europe <p><i>EU-Central Asia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase EU visibility in the region • Further promote energy, transport, sustainable development, the rule of law and education • Enhance cooperation on common terrorism, border security and drug trafficking challenges <p><i>Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underline the importance of progress in defence sharing for more efficient civilian and military capabilities • Draw attention to the challenges and opportunities faced by the European defence industry • Highlight crucial nature of NATO and pay attention to areas requiring close cooperation | <p>Jan 19 – Foreign Affairs Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russia • (poss.) Libya <p>Feb 9 – Foreign Affairs Council</p> <p>Feb 18-19 Informal meeting of Ministers for Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the efficiency and visibility of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), development of military capabilities and facilitate the competitiveness of the European defence industry. • Discuss cyber-attack threats <p>March 6-7 - Informal Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs (Gymnich)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss current international developments, crises and conflicts, especially in the EU's eastern and southern neighbourhoods |

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| | <p>Counter-terrorism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address issues of foreign fighters, terrorist financing and radicalisation <p>Status of Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate Member State positions ahead of UN Commission on the Status of Women session | <p>March 16 – Foreign Affairs Council</p> <p>April 20 – Foreign Affairs Council</p> <p>May 8 – Foreign Affairs Council (Defence)</p> <p>May 18 – Foreign Affairs Council</p> <p>June 22 – Foreign Affairs Council</p> |
| Trade | <p>Transatlantic partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the conclusion of TTIP negotiations by the end of 2015 • Conclude EU-Canada comprehensive economic and trade agreement <p>EU-Central Asia Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional enhancement by engaging in security, border management, energy supply and educational exchange discussions <p>EEA/EFTA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further discussions on the future financial contributions of Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein • Close cooperation will be given to EU-Switzerland relations • Continue discussions over EU relations with Andorra, Monaco and San Marino <p>External trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to furthering WTO progress and strengthen multilateral trading systems • Progress on the Doha Development Agenda • Encourage ongoing WTO accession negotiations with Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan and Serbia • Aim to conclude the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA), Environmental Goods Agreement and the finalisation of the Ministerial Declaration on Information Technology Agreement (ITA) <p>Free Trade Agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement • Prioritise FTA agreements with Japan and Vietnam • Proceed with the implementation of FTAs with Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine • Advance bilateral trade agreement with Singapore | <p>May 7 – Foreign Affairs Council (Trade)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparations for WTO Conference • EU-US TTIP • EU-Japan FTA negotiations • (poss.) EU-Vietnam FTA • Preparations for the Eastern Partnership Summit – Trade aspects |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor the effective implementation of the EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) <p>Customs Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine legal framework for customs infringements and sanctions• Pay special attention to relations with neighbouring EU countries | |
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