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European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	European Semester 2024 - Updated roadmap

Delegations will find attached the revised European Semester roadmap, as prepared by the Presidency in consultation with the incoming Presidency.

The Presidency has prepared this roadmap to outline the key steps of the 2024 European Semester cycle.

The objective of the roadmap is to ensure that all relevant Council configurations, and their preparatory bodies, work in a coordinated and consistent manner towards a thorough preparation of the European Council discussions on the European Semester and to enable Coreper and the General Affairs Council to oversee the process.

The Commission announced its intention to present the European Semester spring package, country-specific recommendations (CSRs), on 19 June 2024. This means that the approval by ECOFIN and EPSCO Councils of their respective contributions to the CSRs cannot take place in time for the preparation of the June General Affairs Council and the June European Council meetings.

FIRST PHASE

Run-up to the March European Council

9 October 2023: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

- Key employment challenges: Key messages from the Employment Committee based on the Annual Employment Performance Report and the Employment Performance Monitor - *endorsement*
- Key social challenges: Key messages from the Social Protection Committee based on the Annual Review of the Social Protection Performance Monitor – *endorsement*
- Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States - *adoption*

15 October 2023

- Submission of Draft Budgetary Plans by euro area Member States

9 November 2023: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- European Semester: Lessons learnt and the way forward – *exchange of views*

21 November 2023: 2024 European Semester Autumn package

- Presentation by the Commission of:
 - The Annual Sustainable Growth Survey 2024, the Alert Mechanism Report 2024, the recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area, and the Joint Employment Report
 - The Communication and Opinions on the Draft Budgetary Plans for euro area Member States

27-28 November 2023: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

- European Semester 2024 – *policy debate*
 - 2024 Annual Sustainable Growth Survey, Alert Mechanism Report, draft Joint Employment Report and draft Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area - *presentation by the Commission*
 - Key Messages from Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality – *endorsement*
- Opinion of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee on the value added of social investment and the role of the EPSCO Council *filière* in the governance of the European Semester – *endorsement*

End of November, mid-December 2023

- Economic Policy Committee (EPC) in Eurogroup format and Eurogroup Working Group (Alternates) prepare the draft Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area, including the joint contribution covering the employment and social aspects by the Employment Committee (EMCO) and the Social Protection Committee (SPC)

7 December 2023: Eurogroup

- Assessment of euro area Member States' Draft Budgetary Plans and of the euro area budgetary situation and prospects – *Eurogroup statement*
- Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area - *presentation by the Commission*

8 December 2023: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- European Semester 2024 - Annual Sustainable Growth Survey 2024, Alert Mechanism Report 2024, and recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area - *presentation by the Commission and exchange of views*

12 December 2023: General Affairs Council

- European Semester 2024 - Roadmap - *presentation by the Presidency and the incoming Presidency*

15 January 2024: Eurogroup

- Draft Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area - *discussion*

16 January 2024: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- Conclusions on the Annual Sustainable Growth Survey 2024 - *approval*
- Conclusions on the Alert Mechanism Report 2024 - *approval*
- Council Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area - *approval*

23 January 2024: Agriculture and Fisheries Council

- European Semester 2024 Council Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area – *approval of the employment and social aspects*

12-13 February 2024 - European Parliament: European Semester Parliamentary Week 2024

- Debate between members of relevant committees from the European Parliament and national parliaments

11 March 2024: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (Social)

- European Semester 2024 – The implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in the context of European Semester 2024 and the future social agenda – *policy debate*
- Joint Employment Report 2024 – *adoption*
- Conclusions on the 2024 Annual Sustainable Growth Survey and Joint Employment Report – *approval*
- Key Messages from Employment Committee on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on A Bridge to Jobs - reinforcing the Youth Guarantee – *endorsement*

13 March 2024: European Parliament plenary session

- Joint debate on the European Semester

19 March 2024: General Affairs Council

- Preparation of the March European Council:
 - Synthesis report on Council contributions on the European Semester 2024 - *exchange of views*
 - Updated roadmap on the European Semester 2024 - *presentation by the Presidency*
 - 2024 Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area - *transmission to the European Council*

21-22 March 2024: European Council

- Exchange of views on the economic and employment situation of Member States
- Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area – *endorsement*

SECOND PHASE

Run-up to the European Council

12 April 2024: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area - *adoption*

7 May 2024

- Staff Working Document Country analysis on social convergence in line with the features of the Social Convergence Framework (SCF) - *publication by the Commission*

19 June 2024: European Semester Spring package

- Presentation by the Commission of:
 - Recommendations for Council Recommendations (country-specific recommendations); country reports
 - (poss.) Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact: Proposals for Council Decisions on the existence of an excessive deficit
 - Proposal for a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States

20 June 2024: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

- European Semester 2024: Spring package – *presentation by the Commission*
- Key Messages from Employment Committee on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market – *endorsement*
- (poss.) EMCO-SPC Opinion on the Social Convergence Framework ¹

¹ Exact title to be confirmed.

21 June 2024: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- European Semester 2024: Spring package – *presentation by the Commission*

Early July 2024

- Economic and Financial Committee, Economic Policy Committee, Economic and Financial Committee Alternates, Employment Committee and Social Protection Committee work on the 2024 country-specific recommendations

16 July 2024: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

- European Semester 2024: Labour and skills shortages in the EU - *policy debate*
- Contribution on the employment and social policies aspects of the country-specific recommendations - *approval*
- Assessment of the country-specific recommendations for 2024 and implementation of the country-specific recommendations for 2023: Opinion of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee – *endorsement*

16 July 2024: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- European Semester 2024: country-specific recommendations - *approval*
- Council conclusions on the 2024 in-depth reviews under the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure – *approval*
- (poss.) Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact: Council Decisions under the Excessive Deficit Procedure - *adoption*

p.m. 2024 General Affairs Council

- Preparation of the European Council
 - European Semester 2024: Integrated country-specific recommendations - *approval and transmission to the European Council*

p.m. 2024 European Council

- Conclusions
- European Semester 2024: Integrated country-specific recommendations – *discussion of a conclusion*

p.m. 2024 Council

- European Semester 2024: Integrated country-specific recommendations – *adoption*
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