



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 2 July 2012**

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**NOTE**

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from:	Presidency
to:	Permanent Representatives Committee / Council
Subject:	Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020) - Organisation of work within the Council in the second semester 2012

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1. On 28-29 June 2012 the European Council welcomed the progress achieved under the Danish presidency, which provides a basis and orientations for the final stage of the negotiation during the incoming Cyprus presidency. In its conclusions, the European Council indicated that the Negotiating Box will be further developed with a view to reaching an agreement by the end of 2012, while respecting the principle that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. Work should also be accelerated on the relevant legislative texts with a view to rapid adoption, following the procedures enshrined in the Treaty. It invited, in this process, all competent institutions to cooperate closely, in line with Treaty competences.
2. In accordance with the mandate given to it by the European Council, the Presidency will continue the intensive work aiming at preparing the agreement to be reached by the end of 2012. Throughout the process, the Presidency will work hand in hand with the President of the European Council and all competent EU institutions.

3. The Presidency will continue to conduct work on the negotiations within the Council through the instrument of the Negotiating Box, by further developing it while respecting the principle that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.
4. The General Affairs Council (GAC) will continue to be responsible for this dossier, in line with its role, stipulated in the Council's rules of procedure, both in coordinating the work on the MFF and in preparing European Council meetings. Until the end of the negotiations, the GAC will revert to the MFF at each of its meetings. In addition, Ministers will have the opportunity to exchange views on the subjects at the informal meeting of Ministers and Secretaries of State responsible for European Affairs on 30 August in Cyprus.
5. Discussions in other Council configurations will not lead to conclusions or otherwise prejudice the outcome of the horizontal debate on the MFF. The particular interest of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council is recognized.
6. COREPER will have the responsibility for preparing the work of the GAC on the MFF, particularly when it comes to developing the "Negotiating Box".
7. COREPER will be supported by the Friends of the Presidency working party which will be also convened as necessary for a more in-depth examination and discussion on certain technical issues.
8. Throughout this process, the Presidency will cooperate closely with the European Parliament in order to facilitate a common understanding leading to the timely adoption of the relevant decisions. As part of this framework the Presidency will continue its cooperation with the European Parliament in accordance with provisions contained in the 6 June 2011 letter by Prime Minister Orban on behalf of the Hungarian, Polish, Danish and Cyprus Presidencies. In particular, it will organise briefings and debriefings of representatives of the European Parliament in the margins of each General Affairs Council meeting where the MFF is on the agenda. The Presidency will also inform the GAC of the outcome of its discussions with the EP. Meetings in accordance with article 324 TFEU at the initiative of the European Commission will also be held as appropriate.

9. Throughout the whole process, a strict demarcation will be kept between the financial and non-financial issues. Detailed examination of the Commission's sectoral legislative proposals will continue actively in the relevant working parties, leaving aside the financial and horizontal aspects. It is important to make as much progress as possible on the sectoral legislative proposals that should be adopted as soon as possible to allow successful implementation from 1 January 2014 and allow for a smooth transition to the next MFF. The Presidency will therefore continue intensive work on these proposals aiming at a partial general approach. At the same time informal dialogue with the European Parliament on all sectoral legislative proposals will be pursued.
  
  10. Once agreement is reached by the European Council, the Presidency will work to ensure that all legislative texts are adopted as soon as possible following the procedures enshrined in the Treaty and respecting the role of the different institutions.
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**PROVISIONAL WORK CALENDAR**

**July / September 2012**

3 July	<b>Coreper:</b> presentation by the Presidency of the MFF work calendar
11 July	<b>FoP:</b> presentation and examination of the revised proposals – technical update
10-19 July	<b>Bilaterals:</b> organised by the Presidency with each delegation
19 July	<b>Coreper:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- presentation by the Commission of the revised proposals – technical update</li><li>- information by the Presidency on the bilateral meetings</li><li>- preparation of the General Affairs Council</li></ul>
20 July	<b>FoP:</b> (possible)
24 July	<b>General Affairs Council:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- presentation by the Commission of the revised proposals – technical update</li><li>- information on organisation of work under the Cyprus Presidency</li><li>- information on the bilateral meetings with MS</li></ul>
30 August	<b>Informal meeting of Ministers and Secretaries of State for European Affairs</b>
12 September	<b>Coreper:</b> revised Negotiating Box
14 September	<b>FoP:</b> (possible)
17 September	<b>Working Party on Own Resources :</b> (possible)
18 September	<b>Coreper:</b> revised Negotiating Box - preparation of GAC meeting
24 September	<b>GAC:</b> revised Negotiating Box

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