

European Council **21-22 October 2021**

The European Council meeting will take place on the 21 and 22 of October in Brussels, Belgium.

On Thursday 21 October, the European Council will start at 15:00 with a working session on **energy prices** and **COVID-19**. Leaders will also touch upon recent developments related to the Rule of Law. Over dinner, EU leaders will hold a strategic discussion on **trade** and will discuss the preparation of several EU and international summits in the context of **external relations**.

On Friday, EU leaders will reconvene at 10:00 to discuss **migration** and **digital transition**.

A press conference with Presidents Michel and von der Leyen is foreseen at the end of each day (TBC for Thursday).

[Invitation letter](#)

[European Council webpage](#)

*Public events and press conferences by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu>
Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on:*

Programme (local time)

Thursday 21 October

14.00 - Arrivals

15.00 - Working session of the members of the European Council focusing on energy prices and COVID-19

TTBC - Working dinner of the members of the European Council covering trade and external relations

TTBC - Family photo of members of the European Council

TBC - Press conference by President Michel and President von der Leyen

Friday 22 October

09.00 - Arrivals

10.00 - Working session of the members of the European Council focusing on migration and digital transition

TTBC - Press conference by President Michel and President von der Leyen

Energy prices

EU leaders will discuss the recent hike in energy prices impacting European citizens and businesses. Assisting the discussion, the European Commission recently published a communication on how to tackle rising energy prices, including a toolbox with suggested measures. Leaders will touch upon possible short-term but also medium to long-term measures for energy affordability.

[Tackling rising energy prices: a toolbox for action and support \(European Commission\)](#)

[The EU energy policy](#)

COVID-19

The European Council members will take stock of the epidemiological situation and will exchange views on vaccine campaigns, including the topics of vaccine hesitancy and disinformation. Leaders will also discuss coordination around travel and will focus on preparedness efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The European Council will also address international solidarity and the need to ensure access to vaccines for all, by removing obstacles hampering the global roll-out of vaccines. The EU has already delivered 1 billion of vaccine doses worldwide.

[COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic: the EU's response](#)

Trade

EU leaders will hold a strategic discussion on trade. When it comes to global influence, trade is the EU's most effective instrument. The discussion will evolve around how to best make use of this instrument, both in terms of the set objectives and involvement of member states, also in light of experiences over the last few years.

[EU trade policy](#)

External relations

The European Council will discuss the preparation of four important upcoming summits:

- the ASEM summit to be held virtually on 25-26 November 2021
- the Eastern Partnership summit on 15 December 2021
- the meeting of COP26 on climate change on 31 October-12 November 2021 in Glasgow
- the meeting of COP15 on biological diversity in Kunming

[Meeting calendar](#)

Migration

The EU leaders will come back to the European Council conclusions of 24 and 25 June 2021 focusing on the external dimension of migration and particularly on financing. Leaders will also touch upon controls of EU's external borders.

[Council conclusions, 24-25 June 2021](#)

[New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#)

Digital transition

The leaders' discussion will focus on the EU's goal to ensure Europe's digital transformation. The European Council is expected to take stock of the progress on key legislative files such as the Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act. The European Council will also address the increase in malicious cyber activities and the importance of digital connectivity.

[A Europe fit for the digital age](#)