



Brussels, 22 May 2014

BACKGROUND¹

Informal dinner of Heads of State or Government

Tuesday 27 May in Brussels

At the European Council meeting in March the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, informed member states that he intended to convene an informal meeting of EU heads of state or government on Tuesday 27 May 2014. At the meeting leaders are expected to discuss the outcome of the European elections and exchange views on the situation in Ukraine.

*As regards the **European elections**, there will be a discussion of the outcome of the elections, a discussion of the process leading to the European Council proposing a candidate for the future Presidency of the European Commission and reflections on the challenges and priorities for the European Union the next years.*

*In light of the latest developments the leaders will also **address the situation in Ukraine, especially following the Presidential elections to be held on 25 May 2014 and ahead of the G7 meeting on 4-5 June**, and discuss the EU's continued reaction to unfolding events.*

Indicative programme:

18.15	Arrival of participants
19.00	Dinner of heads of state or government
Time TBC	Press conference by the European Council President and the President of the European Commission

[Invitation letter](#)

- 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

Nominations

The leaders will discuss the process which will lead, in due time, to the European Council proposing a candidate for the future President of the European Commission.

The procedure for nominating the President of the Commission, is laid down in the Treaty on European Union Art. 17.7: *"Taking into account the elections to the European Parliament and after having held the appropriate consultations, the European Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall propose to the European Parliament a candidate for President of the Commission. This candidate shall be elected by the European Parliament by a majority of its component members. If he does not obtain the required majority, the European Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall within one month propose a new candidate who shall be elected by the European Parliament following the same procedure."*

Furthermore, Declaration 11 to the Treaty notes that *"the European Parliament and the European Council are jointly responsible for the smooth running of the process leading to the election of the President of the European Commission. Prior to the decision of the European Council, representatives of the European Parliament and of the European Council will thus conduct the necessary consultations in the framework deemed the most appropriate."*

Additional background:

According to the Treaties (Article 15.5), the European Council elects its President by a qualified majority.

The European Council also appoints by qualified majority, and with the agreement of the President of the Commission, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (Article 18.1).

Declaration 6 to the Treaty also makes it clear that in choosing persons to hold the above mentioned offices due account is to be taken of the need to respect the geographical and demographic diversity of the Union and its Member States.

Ukraine

The European Union has repeatedly expressed its support for the holding of free and fair presidential elections in Ukraine on 25 May in order to overcome the crisis and allow the Ukrainian people to choose their own future. At the same time, the EU has said that it will pay particular attention to all parties' attitude and behaviour towards the holding of free and fair presidential elections in Ukraine when deciding about possible future sanctions.

The EU Heads of State or Government are expected to exchange views on the situation in Ukraine in light of the Presidential elections on 25 May and ahead of the upcoming G7 Summit in Brussels on 4-5 June 2014.

For more details, see [European Council conclusions](#), Foreign Affairs Council conclusions and [factsheet](#) on EU-Ukraine relations.