



Corporate content on communication for outreach networks

European Commission, Directorate General for Communication, unit C.4

To keep you in the big picture

European Council meeting (19 December 2024) – Conclusions

Our first headline of the year concerns the [Conclusions](#) of the last European Council of 2024. On Ukraine, the leaders called for stepping up of efforts, in particular on the delivery of air defence systems, ammunition and missiles, as well as, on the financial front, the steadfast implementation of the Ukraine Facility. Leaders also strongly condemned support by third countries, which enable Russia to sustain its war. On Syria after the fall of Assad's criminal regime, don't miss Europe's reaction on the historic opportunity to reunite and rebuild the country and the importance of an inclusive and Syrian-led political process that meets the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people. Following the Niinisto report on preparedness, do not overlook the call, *inter alia*, for enhanced and coordinated military and civil preparedness. Last but not least, on the various facets of migration, see how the European Council welcomes the Commission's intention to put forward a legislative proposal on returns in early 2025.

Heads up! Strategic Dialogue on the Future of the European Automotive Industry to start in January

You may recall that, back on 27 November 2024, in a speech to the European Parliament, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced her decision **to convene a Strategic Dialogue on the Future of the Automotive Industry in Europe**. The Dialogue will be officially launched already in January 2025, with a view to swiftly proposing and implementing measures the sector urgently needs. As the European automotive and supplier industry goes through a deep and disruptive transition, the Strategic Dialogue will design concrete strategies and solutions to support the global competitiveness of automotive manufacturing in Europe. [Here](#) you can find detailed information about the specific focus areas of the Dialogue.

Commission opens formal proceedings against TikTok for suspected breach of Digital Services Act

The Commission has opened **formal proceedings against TikTok** for a suspected breach of the Digital Services Act (DSA) in relation to TikTok's obligation to properly assess and mitigate systemic risks linked to election integrity, notably in the context of the Romanian presidential elections on 24 November. For more information click [here](#).

New EU rules to improve gender balance in corporate boards enter into application

The [gender balance on Corporate Boards Directive](#) entered into application at the end of 2024, aiming for **a more balanced gender representation** on the boards of listed companies across all EU Member States. The Directive sets a target for EU large listed companies of 40% of the underrepresented sex among their non-executive directors and 33% among all directors. The deadline for the transposition by Member States was 28th December 2024, and companies must meet the targets by 30 June 2026. Find out [more](#).

Two European Capitals of Culture in 2025

From 1 January 2025, the cities of Chemnitz in Germany and Nova Gorica in Slovenia are European Capitals of Culture. The motto for Chemnitz 2025 - "**C the Unseen**" is an invitation to all to come and discover the history of the eastern German area at the heart of Europe. Chemnitz and its surrounding region are linked by a vibrant shared cultural and industrial heritage. Under the title "**GO! Borderless**", Nova Gorica wants to use the title-year as a vehicle to give visibility to the combined heritage of a modernist city and a thousand-year-old city, transcending their boundaries on a journey of reconciliation. This city was built from scratch after World War II, once the dividing border between Italy and Slovenia was drawn. [Here](#) you can explore the two European capitals!