

**Agenda:**

**Geen formele agenda (informele VC): Discussiepaper van het vzschap noemt 1) gedachtewisseling over genomen nationale COVID-19 maatregelen, (economisch) herstel en de rol van de conferentie over de toekomst van Europa, en 2) onder AOB een informatiepunt van de CIE over het jaarrapport inzake de rechtsstaat in de EU.**

**COVID-19**

*Aandachtspunten*

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- Het Frugal-4 paper (NL, DK, OOS, ZWE) over MFK/herstelfonds is in het weekend openbaar geworden.

**Spreekpunten**

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*[Economic and Social recovery]*

- The crisis is hitting EU Member States hard, both socially and economically. I have had bilateral contacts with many of you to exchange thoughts on the way forward.
- It is clear that the EU needs a common recovery strategy to overcome this unprecedented crisis, to tackle growing divergences and to restore economic growth in all Member States. Only together are we able to come out stronger.
- In coordination with Austria, Denmark and Sweden we have put forward a proposal for a one-off temporary Emergency Fund to support economic recovery. For a sustainable recovery, investments should be based on a clear needs assessment. Furthermore, to come out stronger, it is crucial that recovery efforts are coupled to a strong commitment by Member States to implement relevant structural reforms.
- Recovery support should be temporary and focused on growth-enhancing investments, including research, innovation, and the green and digital transition. In addition, as part of the recovery package, we should restore and deepen the Single Market.
- On the financing side of the recovery package, we have strong concerns about proposals whereby the Commission would issue debt to finance EU budget expenditures. This would create a legacy of repayment obligations for all member states. Our proposal is based on the concept of “loans-for-loans”. This would ensure that Member States have access to financial resources, while avoiding steps towards debt mutualisation.
- We are committed to speeding up the recovery and restoring growth across the EU. We look forward to the CION proposals tomorrow and stand ready to engage constructively in the upcoming discussions.

*[Transparante en gestructuurde werkwijze Raad in tijden van COVID-19]*

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*[Passief: Future of Europe conference]*

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**AOB: Voortgang jaarrapport Rechtsstaat EU**

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**Achtergrond  
[COVID-19]**

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**[AOB: Voortgang jaarrapport Rechtsstaat EU]**

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15 May 2020

## **Informal videoconference of the Ministers of European Affairs 26 May 2020**

### **A comprehensive EU response to the COVID-19 pandemic: a coordinated approach to the de-escalation of containment measures and the economic recovery**

Ministers will be invited to exchange views on the progress achieved in the coordination of de-escalation measures in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, taking into account the epidemiological situation in Europe and other relevant factors.

In this context, Ministers will be invited to share best practices and provide comments on how to ensure the right balance between the resumption of economic and social activities and protecting the health of European citizens, both at EU and national levels.

Following up on the videoconference of Members of the European Council of 23 April, Ministers will also be able to provide their views on a comprehensive economic and social recovery of the EU, including an adjusted MFF and the accompanying recovery instrument, reflecting the new realities of the current crisis and its aftermath. The framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe to discuss these new challenges with EU citizens and other stakeholders could also be relevant.

### **Any other business**

#### **Information by the European Commission on the preparation of the Annual Report on the Rule of Law in the Union**

The Commission will be invited to share information on the latest state of play in the preparation of the first Annual Report, as a follow-up to the initial information it provided to the Ministers in February. The Commission will also be invited to address further steps, which were presented at the technical level, and other issues that might be relevant for the preparation of the Annual Report.