

Based on the first five trilogues, further informal discussions, and feedback from Member States, the Council makes the following assessment of the route towards the landing zone.

On multiple elements of discussion (common priorities, the role of the EP, access to information, and the pre-dialogue) considerable and positive progress was made towards the mandate of the European Parliament. From the Council's view, we could swiftly find final agreements on these elements.

In political terms, a final agreement on the package will depend on progress on common safeguards (quantitative aspects), reference to the social dimension, and further increasing the room for investments. A final and necessary agreement on the whole text will thus depend on the way these political elements can be brought into balance.

The Council's position on the interplay of these elements is as follows:

- **On the Common safeguards and control account:**

After further consulting with Member States, the Presidency cannot deviate from the delicate balance on the safeguards that was found in the General Approach.

Therefore, the 'Debt Sustainability Safeguard', the 'Deficit Resilience Margin', and the 'Control Account' shall stay in the text as in Council mandate.

- **On the Social dimension**

The Council understands the importance of this dimension for the Parliament. The Council stresses however that final texts should be legally sound. The Council is willing to constructively look into a proposal to strengthen the social dimension through the European Pillar of Social Rights and to add a reference to the European Social Convergence Framework in the recitals, provided that the outcome is legally sound.

- **On the Room for investments**

The Council takes note of the strong position of the European Parliament on the need to look into options for more room for investments within the EGR framework. The Council is ready to consider the Commission's non-paper on investments, especially the option to exclude an additional element from the definition of the net expenditure benchmark.

The Council stands ready to discuss these options in further detail during the trilogue on Friday and believes this can constitute a crucial element to come to a final agreement.