



EUROPEAN SEMESTER 2026

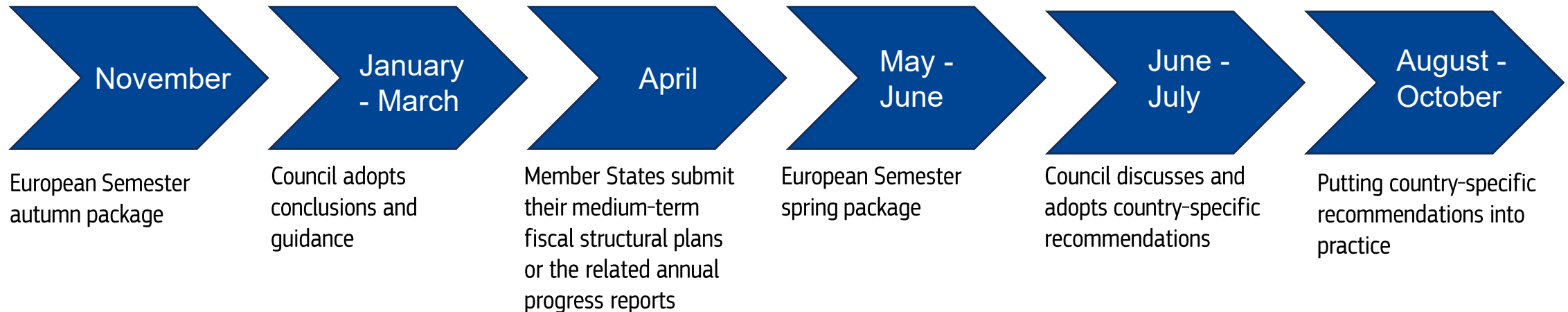
Spring Package

TSI Coordinating Authorities Workshop
Adopted by the Commission on 3 June 2026

1. Overview of the package and process

The European Semester

- Annual EU cycle coordinating economic, fiscal, employment and social policies.
- Aligns national budgets and reforms with EU priorities and common rules.
- Supports sustainable growth, job creation, macroeconomic stability and sound public finances.
- Provides regular monitoring, guidance and country-specific recommendations.



2026 European Semester Spring Package Overview

Chapeau Communication

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY COORDINATION

- **Country reports** identifying Member States' main competitiveness challenges
- **Country-specific recommendations (CSR)** for reforms and investments

FISCAL POLICY COORDINATION

- **2026 Fiscal CSRs** (net expenditure path, defence, energy measures, MTFSP-related reforms/investments)
- **EDP Report under Art. 126(3) TFEU** (excessive deficit procedure)
- **Other fiscal deliverables** (assessment of compliance (Chapeau), MTFSP of NL, closing MT's EDP)
- **Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedures** (7 in-depth reviews)
- Communication on **Post-Programme Surveillance Assessments** of Spring 2026

EMPLOYMENT POLICY COORDINATION

- Proposal for an update of the **guidelines for the employment policies** of the Member States

2. Chapeau Communication

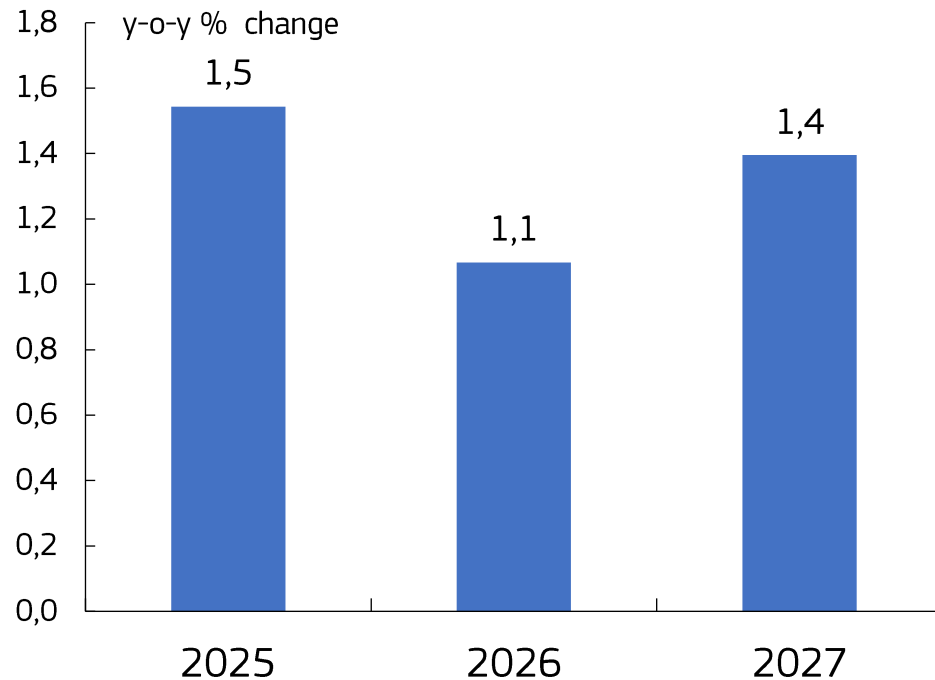
Chapeau Communication

- Focus on addressing the **energy crisis** and bolstering **economic security**
- **Competitiveness Compass** remains the guiding framework
- Some progress on the **implementation of 2025 CSRs**, comprehensive set of **2026 CSRs**
- Significant **progress achieved for CSR implementation through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**, which delivered investments and reforms, e.g.:
 - Energy market (e.g. PL, BG, CZ)
 - Modernisation and digitalisation of public administration (e.g. DE, EL)
 - Labour market, skills, and education (e.g. ES, HR, SK)
- Update on **surveillance under the Stability and Growth Pact** and decisions on **macroeconomic imbalances**
- Outcome of the analysis on **upward social convergence** in line with **the Social Convergence Framework**

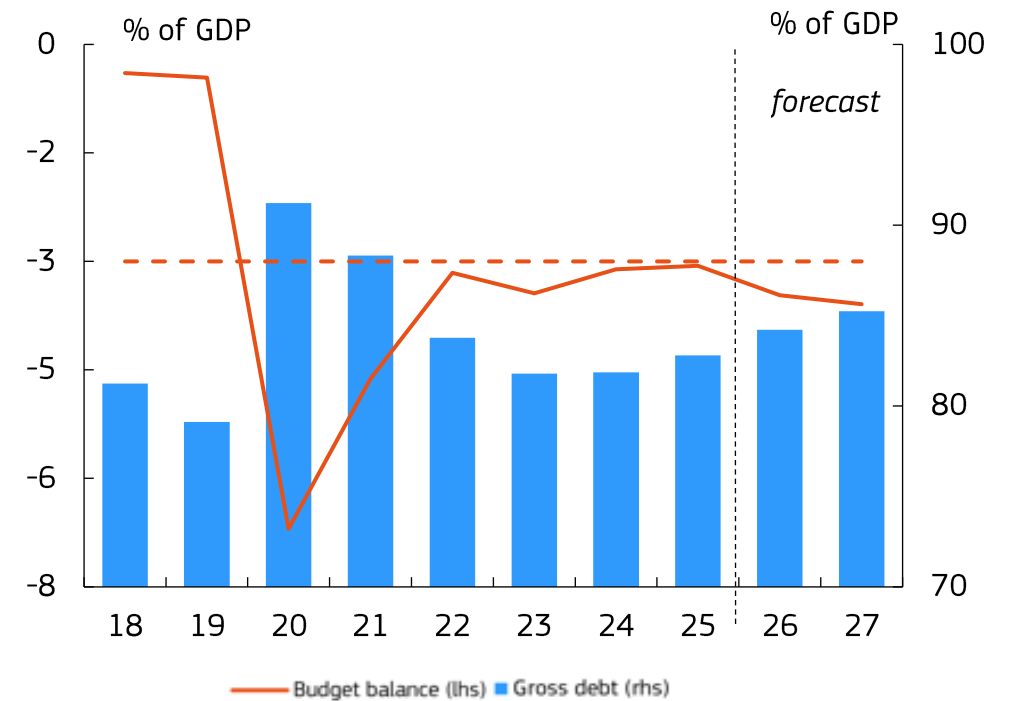
2. Macro-fiscal elements of the package

Real GDP growth and government balance

EU real GDP growth



Government balance and gross debt - EU



Source: Commission 2026 Spring Forecast

Macro-fiscal elements

Medium-Term Fiscal-Structural Plans (MTFSPs)

Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP)

- Member States currently in EDP (BE, FR, HU, IT, MT, AT, PL, RO, SK, FI)

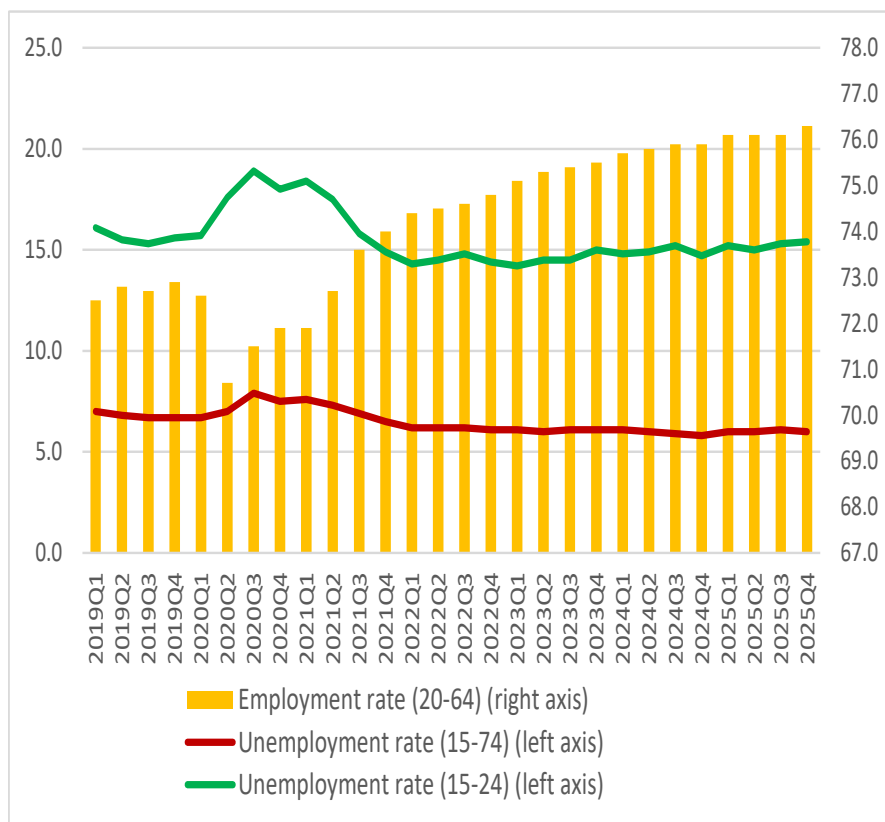
Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP)

- 7 in-depth reviews in this cycle (EL, NL, SE, HU, IT, SK, RO)

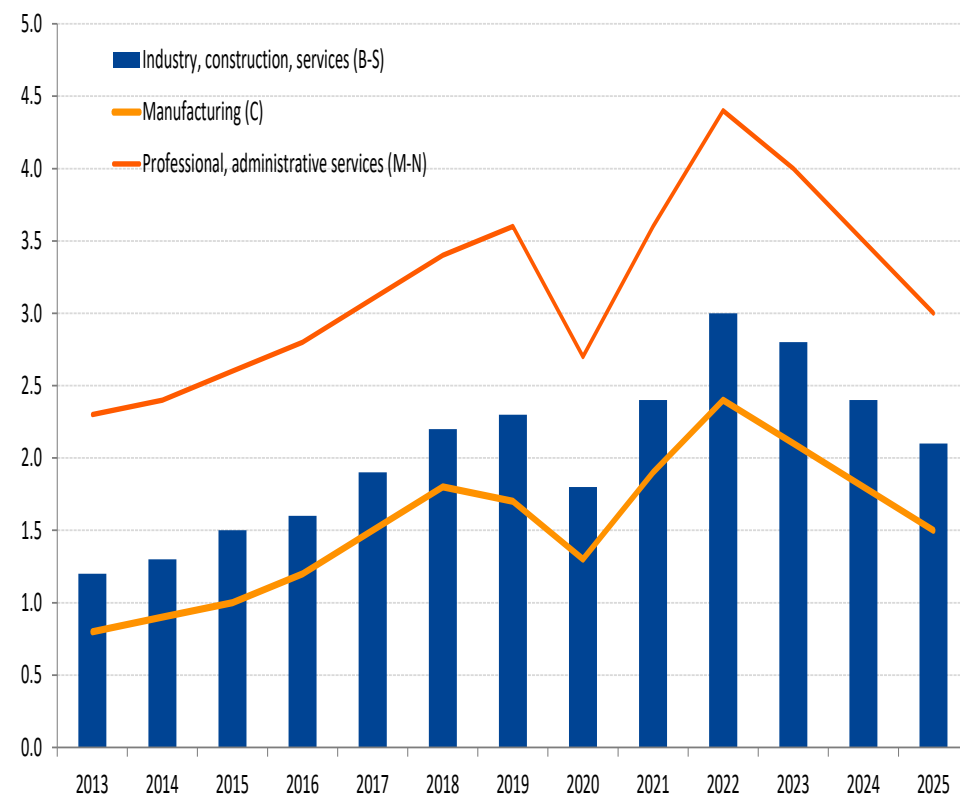
3. Employment, Social and Skills Policies

EU labour market developments

Employment and Unemployment Figures



Job vacancy rates in the EU by economic activity



Source: Eurostat, LFS (seasonally adjusted data)

Employment, Social and Skills Policies

Employment Guidelines

- Reflect the Human Capital Recommendation
- Job quality, in line with Quality Jobs Roadmap
- Alignment with the Anti-Poverty Strategy

Social Convergence Framework (SCF)

- SCF as integral part of the Semester entailing a two-stage analysis to assess risks and challenges to upward social convergence in Member States.

4. Country Reports and Country Specific Recommendations

2026 Country Reports and CSRs

Country Reports

- Provide a thorough **analysis of economic, structural, employment, and social developments** within Member States
- Identify key vulnerabilities, priority reforms, and challenges to competitiveness, **underpinning the 2026 CSRs**

Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs)

- Build on the comprehensive **set of 2025 CSRs**
- Focus on assessment of 2025 CSRs implementation
- Contain **targeted amendments and new CSRs** based on:
 - New policy developments,
 - Reinforced analytical basis (e.g. housing, territorial dimension, Single Market barriers)

CSR1: Fiscal sustainability, Defence, Energy Measures

Fiscal: Differs by Member State depending on its fiscal situation under the EU fiscal framework. Includes tailored macro-fiscal recommendations

All MSs

Defence: "Reinforce defence (**spending and**) readiness while ensuring spending efficiency and gradually adapting the budget to sustain structurally higher defence spending."

All MSs

Energy Measures: 'Ensure that any measures taken to mitigate the impact of the hike in energy prices are temporary, targeted at protecting vulnerable households or at addressing the needs of energy-intensive firms, preserve incentives for energy savings while ensuring that their fiscal cost is compatible with the commitments under the EU fiscal framework.'

All MSs, horizontal

CSR2: RRP implementation, EU funds, EBR

RRF: "Ensure continuity of reforms and investments implemented under the Recovery and Resilience Facility"

All MSs, horizontal

Cohesion policy: Recommendations reflecting the implementation pace of cohesion programmes (good / moderate / slow)

All MSs, three groups

Eastern border regions: "Address the unique socio-economic, security and civil preparedness challenges affecting regions on the EU's external eastern border"

Further CSRs: Boosting competitiveness (1/2)

Innovation and access to finance

- e.g. Boosting and targeting R&D investment; strengthening start-ups and scale-ups; improving access to innovation finance

Digitalisation, simplification and institutional framework

- e.g. Simplifying regulatory frameworks; delivering simple and digital public services; ensuring an effective institutional framework; improve coordination across levels of government, including with a view to regions

Single market

- e.g. Lowering Single Market barriers and reducing gold-plating

Further CSRs: Boosting competitiveness (2/2)

Affordable clean energy transition and decarbonisation

- e.g. Improving energy affordability and security by scaling up clean energy and investing in energy infrastructure, grids, including cross-border, and storage

Economic, social and territorial cohesion

- e.g. Reducing territorial disparities; improving local and regional administration; ensuring access to key services

Affordable housing

- e.g. Simplifying rules and procedures; boosting construction, renovation, and rental programmes; repurposing underutilised stock; making taxation more effective

Skills, quality jobs, social fairness

- e.g. Up- and reskilling to address labour and skills shortages; promoting quality employment; boosting social inclusion and reducing poverty



Thank you for your attention

European Semester Spring Package

Relevant links:

- [Reforms and Investments European Semester page](#)
- [Spring package communication](#)
- [Country Reports](#)
- [Country Specific Recommendations](#)
- [Employment Guidelines](#)
- [Excessive Deficit Procedure](#)
- [Post-programme Surveillance Report](#)
- [Macroeconomic Imbalance Reviews](#)