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EU-Informal Meeting of Ministers of Public Administration

Lisbon (Portugal), 22 June 2021



This meeting is taking place, in hybrid format, on invitation of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU, seven years after a similar initiative has been taken to bring together the responsible Ministers.

Two panel discussions have been planned. One on “Investing in people and management development”, aimed at fostering cooperation in the EU, as well as inclusion, diversity and new ways of working in European public administration. And a second one on “Exploring technology, reinforcing proximity and promoting interoperability”, focused on ways to achieve safe and secure digital transformation and leaving no one behind.

The intention has been expressed to adopt “Conclusions for close, innovative, participatory, open and transparent public administration”.



Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Budget and Administration, as well as Elisa Ferreira, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, have announced their participation in the event.

Press Conference

At the press conference following the event, Johannes Hahn thanked the Portuguese presidency for having reinstated the tradition of bringing together the Ministers of Public Administration. France has already confirmed that it will set up a follow-up meeting when it will assume the presidency in the first half of next year.

The pandemic has shown the importance of cooperation between public administrations in EU countries. Teleworking is the new way of working and this will only work if countries show confidence in their civil servants' ability to organise themselves. Hahn also congratulated the Portuguese presidency on introducing an Erasmus programme, in particular for middle-management civil servants, which gives civil servants the opportunity to learn from practices in other EU countries.

Public administrations should be aware that, in many countries, private entities are looking at the way in which public administrations manage to organise themselves and the informal meeting has reassured the Commissioner that there is common understanding about this exemplary role among the Ministers.