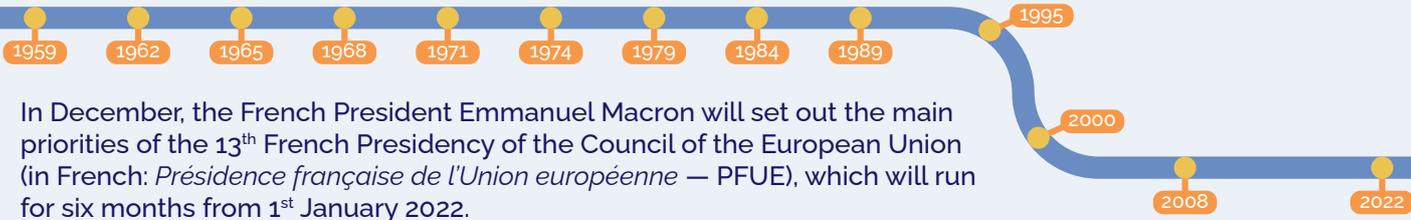


The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union: Short ride in a fast machine¹?

A history of French Presidencies of the Council of the EU



In December, the French President Emmanuel Macron will set out the main priorities of the 13th French Presidency of the Council of the European Union (in French: *Présidence française de l'Union européenne* – PFUE), which will run for six months from 1st January 2022.

What is a rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU?



A six-month presidency, held in turn by the governments of each of the 27 European Union Member States, of all configurations of the EU Council (Council of Ministers), except the Foreign Affairs configuration and the Eurogroup.



In 2007, the system of “**presidency trios**” was introduced in order to strengthen coordination between the Presidencies. Since then, three Member States must draw up a joint programme for the 18 months during which they will hold the Presidency of the Council successively. The two other Member States in the presidency trio kicked off by **France** are the **Czech Republic** and **Sweden**.



1. Based on John Adams' *Short Ride in a fast Machine* (1986), San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, Michael Tilson Thomas (dir.), San Francisco Symphony SFS 0053.

A much-anticipated French Presidency...



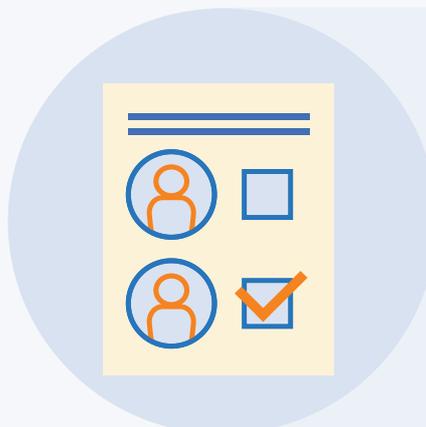
The French Presidency aims to be ambitious, as reflected in its motto: *"Recovery, Power, Belonging"*.

- **Recovery** to be achieved following the COVID-19 pandemic
- **Power** in response to current geopolitical challenges
- **Belonging** to be revived against a backdrop of a questioning of the rule of law by some Member States and the ambivalent relationship between France and Europe

As with any Presidency of the Council, it is an opportunity to put forward France's political agenda and priorities

...but a constrained Presidency

The French Presidency will last for one semester (**1st January - 30 June 2022**). This timeframe coincides with the French presidential election, for which the election period is set to start in mid-March and could disrupt the government's commitment and communication in the Presidency.

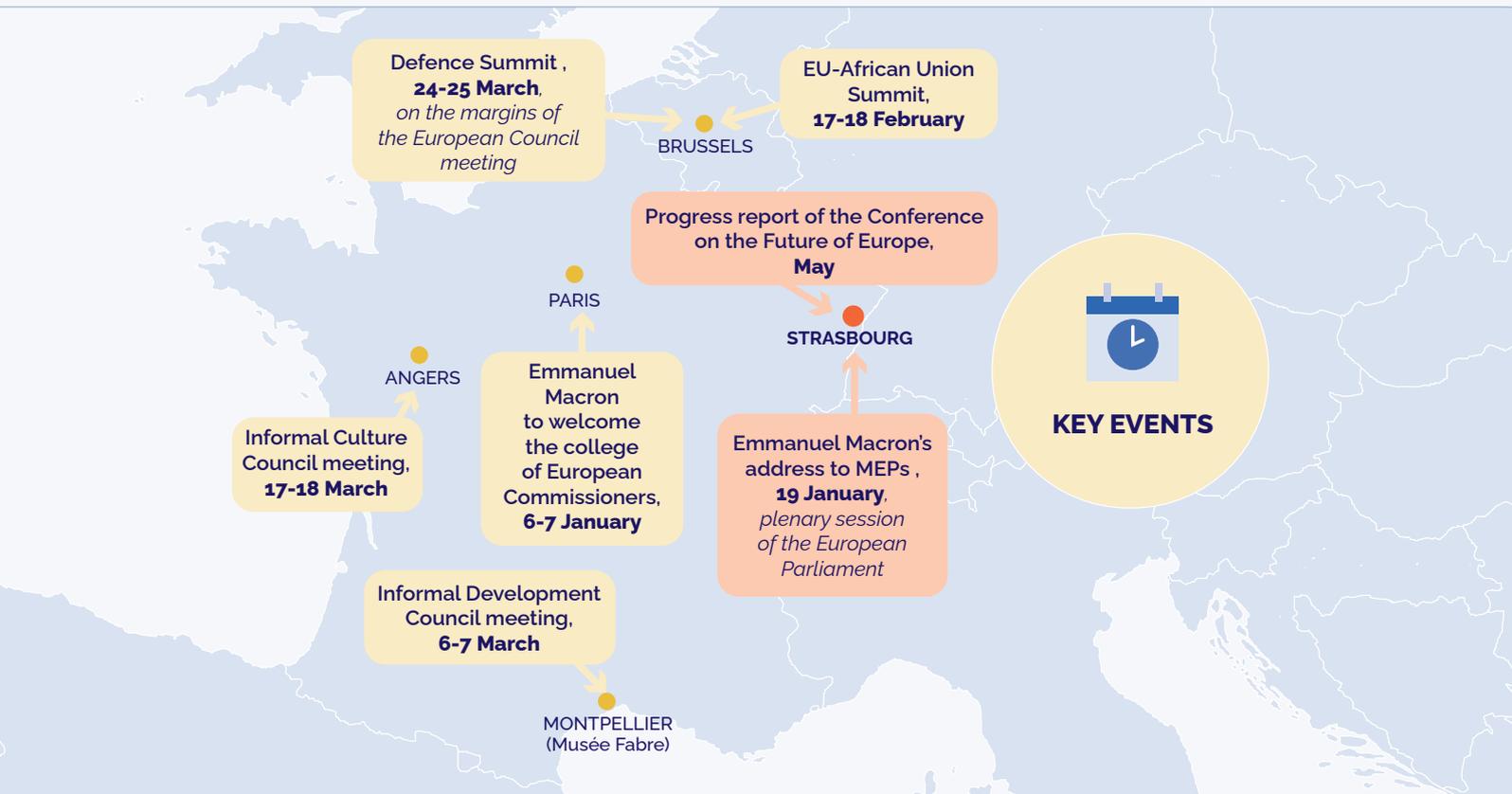


Moreover, the June French parliamentary elections and the uncertainties related to the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic could disrupt the organisation of this Presidency.

In the various configurations under its chairmanship, the French government is bound by the current European legislative calendar.



Priorities, key events and major players of the French Presidency





Clément Beaune,
French Minister of State
for European
Affairs



Alexandre Adam,
Europe Adviser
to the French
President



Sandrine Gaudin,
Secretary General
for European
Affairs



**MAJOR
PLAYERS**



Philippe Léglise-Costa,
Permanent Representative
of France to
the European
Union



Xavier Lapeyre de Cabanes,
Secretary General
of the French Presidency
of the Council of
the European
Union