

Comparative information on openness of Cabinet Meetings

In Spain the agendas of cabinet meetings are secret until after the meeting has taken place, at which point a press conference is held to inform the media and the public of the main points of the meeting.

In many other countries, the agenda of upcoming meetings and the information about what will be discussed is available in advance. A few examples gathered by Access Info in the past week are given in the chart below, including the EU.

It is reasonable that agendas are not published far in advance because cabinet meetings always respond to current events. Nevertheless, knowing in advance when a certain issue will be discussed and having access to the materials helps the media, civil society and the general public follow what the government is doing and participate in public debate about the issues being discussed.

Country	Details
✓ Armenia	The agenda of the Armenian Government is available on-line at www.egov.am 2-3 days prior to a meeting.
✓ Estonia	Agendas of government meetings in Estonia are public and are published some days before the meetings (http://www.valitsus.ee/brf/index.php?id=1196). Additionally, agendas of "working meetings" of government members, meetings where various issues are discussed but no binding decisions are taken, are published: http://www.valitsus.ee/brf/index.php?id=1223 .
✓ European Union	The EU Commission publishes both its meeting agendas at least one day in advance of the meeting (http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/ojOverview.cfm?CL=en)
✓ Germany	In Germany, the governmental press office publishes every week a short agenda. Users can subscribe to receive this by e-mail.
✓ Israel	Government meetings in Israel are held on a Sunday and the agenda is normally made available to the press on the Thursday before.
✓ Italy	Agendas of Council of Ministers in Italy are published at least one day before the meeting takes place. http://www.governo.it/Presidente/Comunicati/
✓ Latvia	The Latvian Cabinet publishes the agenda and almost all of the documents that will be reviewed at the Cabinet meeting. Here is the official text in English describing the procedure: http://www.mk.gov.lv/en/mk/mksedes/
✓ Romania	In Romania, agendas are provided at least 20 hours before the meeting will take place. An example can be found here: http://www.gov.ro/informatie-de-presa-privind-actele-normative-care-ar-putea-fi-incluse-pe-agenda-de-lucru-a-sedintei-guvernului-romaniei-din-18-august-ora-10-00_11a110116.html . There is an e-mail and an

	RSS subscription service to receive the agendas.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Russia	The Russian government publishes cabinet agendas at least one day in advance. For example a recent agenda: http://government.ru/docs/11801/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slovakia	Cabinet meeting agendas are public in Slovakia in advance of the meetings.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Slovenia	In Slovenia, the agendas are published one or two days before the meeting, along with the materials to be discussed (with the exception of classified documents). For example http://www.vlada.si/si/delo_vlade/seje_vlade/dnevni_redi/dnevni_redi/article/24/11488/f60d8968f2/ . This information is also available by RSS feed.