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NOTE

Subject: MONTHLY SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTS - MARCH 2015

This document lists the acts adopted by the Council in March 2015.^{1 2}

It provides information on the adoption of legislative acts, including:

- the date of adoption,
- the relevant Council session,
- the number of the document adopted,
- the Official Journal reference,
- applicable voting rules, voting results and, where appropriate, explanations of vote and statements published in the minutes of the Council.

¹ With the exception of certain acts of limited scope such as procedural decisions, appointments, decisions of bodies set up by international agreements, specific budgetary decisions, etc.

² In the case of legislative acts adopted in the ordinary legislative procedure, there may be a difference between the date of the Council's meeting where the legislative act is adopted and the actual date of the act in question, since legislative acts adopted in the ordinary legislative procedure are only considered to have been adopted after signature by both the President of the Council and the President of the European Parliament and the Secretaries-General of the two institutions.

This document also contains information on the adoption of non-legislative acts that the Council has decided to make public.

This document is also available on the Council's website at:

[Monthly summaries of Council acts \(acts\) - Consilium](#)

Documents listed in the summary may be obtained from the public register of Council documents at: [Documents and publications - Consilium](#)

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INFORMATION ON THE ACTS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL IN MARCH 2015

3371st meeting of the Council of the European Union (COMPETITIVENESS (INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND SPACE) held in Brussels on 2 and 3 March 2015

LEGISLATIVE ACTS

ACT	DOCUMENT	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Regulation (EU) 2015/475 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on the safeguard measures provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland OJ L 83, 27.3.2015, p. 1–5	98/14	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Regulation (EU) 2015/476 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on the measures that the Union may take following a report adopted by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body concerning anti-dumping and anti-subsidy matters OJ L 83, 27.3.2015, p. 6–10	99/14	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Regulation (EU) 2015/477 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on measures that the Union may take in relation to the combined effect of anti-dumping or anti-subsidy measures with safeguard measures OJ L 83, 27.3.2015, p. 11–15	100/14	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Regulation (EU) 2015/478 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on common rules for imports OJ L 83, 27.3.2015, p. 16–33	101/14	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Regulation (EU) 2015/479 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on common rules for exports OJ L 83, 27.3.2015, p. 34–40	102/14	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

<p>Directive (EU) 2015/413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 facilitating cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences. (Text with EEA relevance) OJ L 68, 13.3.2015, p. 9–25</p>	<p>103/14</p>	<p>Qualified majority</p>	<p>All Member States in favour, except: Abstention: UK</p>
<p>Statement by Germany</p> <p>Concerning Article 4(3)(3):</p> <p>The paragraph, "The Member State of the offence shall, under this Directive, use the data obtained in order to establish who is personally liable for road safety related traffic offences listed in Article 2". is taken to mean that the person who is personally liable within the meaning of this provision can be none other than the driver as it is only he/she who has actually committed the offence. Any data on vehicle operators that is supplied may therefore, in the German delegation's view, be used solely to investigate who the driver is.</p>			
<p>Statement by the United Kingdom and Ireland</p> <p>The United Kingdom and Ireland fully support the road safety objectives of this revised proposed Directive and appreciates the additional two year transposition period that has been granted to the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark.</p> <p>However, the United Kingdom and Ireland are disappointed that they have not been given sufficient time in order to properly consider the impact of the proposal, including potential costs on courts which would have to enforce any subsequent prosecutions pursuant to the new measure. Although the United Kingdom and Ireland appreciate that the existing Directive 2011/82/EU (facilitating the cross-border exchange of information on road safety related traffic offences) is already in force in other Member States, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark did not participate in that measure following the application of Protocols 21 and 22 to the Treaties. Accordingly, following its annulment by the Court of Justice in its judgment in case C-43/12, the proposed Directive represents new requirements for the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark.</p> <p>The United Kingdom and Ireland note the judgment of the Court of Justice that Directive 2011/82/EU should have had a transport legal base (Article 91(1)(c) TFEU) rather than a police co-operation legal base (Article 87(2) TFEU), in light of its aim and content. It remains the view of the United Kingdom and Ireland that matters which do pertain to the enforcement of criminal offences should be considered as being brought forward pursuant to Article 87 TFEU. In this regard, we note the possibility of a future review of this measure considering such aspects as the harmonisation of road traffic rules and enforcement and would like to make clear that where a proposed measure contains content which would be an exercise of competence by the Union pursuant to Title V Part III TFEU, then Protocol 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice will apply.</p>			

Position (EU) No 3/2015 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 94/62/EC as regards reducing the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags. (Text with EEA relevance) OJ C 101, 26.3.2015, p. 1–5	5094/15	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
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Statement by the Commission

The Commission recalls the objectives of its proposal of 4 November 2013 to limit negative impacts on the environment from plastic bags consumption by reducing consumption and thereby reducing littering of these bags. The Commission, while welcoming agreement on its proposal, notes that the final text agreed between the co-legislators includes certain elements that are outside of the scope of the Commission's proposal and are not in line with the principles of better regulation. This could pose problems for the future application of the Directive, for Member States, the Commission, consumers and economic operators.

The issues that raise concerns are the following:

- the adoption of a label for biodegradable and home-compostable bags without the impacts thereof being assessed;
- additional administrative burden for the Member States and economic operators, including new reporting obligations and labelling requirements.
- provisions which could better be addressed in the context of the follow-up to the Commission Green Paper on plastic waste, such as the report on the use of "oxo-degradable" plastic bags;
- the possibility to vary the measures taken towards plastic bags based on their environmental impact or other properties could be problematic as regards the principles of non discrimination and proportionality and those of the Single Market;
- the possibility for setting national consumption objectives, at a level pre-determined by the Directive, in the absence of relevant statistical data for all Member States;
- too short deadlines for development and adoption in implementing acts of a methodology for reporting on consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags and of labels for biodegradable plastic carrier bags.

Position (EU) No 4/2015 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning type-approval requirements for the deployment of the eCall in-vehicle system based on the 112 service and amending Directive 2007/46/EC OJ C 134, 24.4.2015, p. 1–14	5130/15	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour, except: Against: UK
Directive (EU) 2015/412 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 amending Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in their territory. (Text with EEA relevance) OJ L 68, 13.3.2015	1/15	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour, except: Abstentions: BE, PT
Statement by the Commission			
When proceeding with the authorisation of GMOs for cultivation, the Commission will, in full respect of its obligation, take account of all elements at its disposal, including the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory provided for by this Directive.			
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS			
ACT		DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS	
Council Decision (EU) 2015/384 of 2 March 2015 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Senegal and the Implementation Protocol thereto OJ L 65, 10.3.2015, p. 1–3	12812/14		
Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the Union and of the Member States, of the Protocol amending the Agreement on maritime transport between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the government of the People’s Republic of China, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union	5081/15		
Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union and of the Member States, of the Protocol amending the Agreement on maritime transport between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the government of the People’s Republic of China, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union	5083/15		

Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/356 of 2 March 2015 authorising the United Kingdom to apply differentiated levels of taxation to motor fuels in certain geographical areas, in accordance with Article 19 of Directive 2003/96/EC OJ L 61, 5.3.2015, p. 24–25	5805/15
Council Decision (EU) 2015/354 of 2 March 2015 adopting the Rules of Procedure of the Investment Facility Committee set up under the auspices of the European Investment Bank OJ L 61, 5.3.2015, p. 10–16	5504/15
Council Decision (EU) 2015/438 of 2 March 2015 establishing the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Joint Committee set up under the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine on the facilitation of the issuance of visas, with regard to the adoption of common guidelines for the implementation of the Agreement OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 8–26	15902/14
Council Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations under Article XXIV:6 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 with the Republic of Armenia and other WTO members , which are relevant for the purposes of the WTO submission made by the Republic of Armenia on 23 October 2014	5801/15
Council Decision (EU) 2015/362 of 2 March 2015 establishing the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the General Council of the World Trade Organization on the United States' request for a WTO waiver to extend and expand the scope of the US Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) OJ L 62, 6.3.2015, p. 22–23	5804/15
Council Decision (EU) 2015/355 of 2 March 2015 adopting the rules of procedure of the European Development Fund Committee OJ L 61, 5.3.2015, p. 17–23	5992/15
Council Regulation (EU) 2015/323 of 2 March 2015 on the financial regulation applicable to the 11th European Development Fund OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17–38	10178/14

**Statement by the Commission
on the use of EU trust funds**

Union trust funds for thematic actions shall only be created if they are embedded in a coherent policy framework and if the intention of other donors to co-finance the trust fund is demonstrated.

The creation of Union trust funds for thematic actions shall be duly justified in terms of added value of the Union and additionality when compared to other existing funding channels, such as other types of financing in the EDF, and also with regard to the existence of comparable trust funds managed by international organisations.

Council Regulation (EU) 2015/323 of 2 March 2015 on the financial regulation applicable to the 11th European Development Fund
OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17–38

10176/14

**Statement by the Commission
on Article 7(2) of the 11th EDF Implementation Regulation**

With regard to the establishment of a Performance Based Mechanism mentioned in Article 7(2), the Commission acknowledges that an incentive-based approach works best when a critical mass of funding is available, in order to generate significant impact and results, where allocations form part of a broader strategy of EU engagement. The Commission is fully committed to the development of such a mechanism and has initiated a reflection process with Member States to this end.

In relation to the volume, two major initiatives undertaken under the 10th EDF were (i) the Governance Incentive Tranche (a planned amount of 2.7 billion euros of which 2.3 billion euros were ultimately allocated to ACP countries) and the initiative in favour of the acceleration of the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (1 billion euros).

Moreover, in order to allow for sufficient leverage under the Performance Based Mechanism, the Commission will ensure that at least 2 billion euros will be available under the reserves of unallocated resources, for allocations to ACP countries in line with the criteria of this mechanism, for the period 2014-2017.

Unallocated resources are resources which have not been earmarked for allocations to countries or regions or Intra-ACP cooperation. In accordance with the Cotonou Agreement and as was the case under the 10th EDF, allocations to countries or regions can be increased from unallocated resources through ad hoc reviews. These allocations can also be revised upwards or downwards at the occasion of mid-term and end-of-term reviews. In case of decrease, the respective amounts are integrated in the reserves of unallocated resources.

In accordance with Article 9 of Council Decision of 26 July 2010 establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service, work on these issues is prepared jointly by the relevant services in the EEAS and in the Commission.

Council Decision (EU) 2015/334 of 2 March 2015 amending the Internal Agreement between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting within the Council, on the financing of European Union aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014 to 2020, in accordance with the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, and on the allocation of financial assistance for the Overseas Countries and Territories to which Part Four of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union applies OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 75–76	16104/14
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/332 of 2 March 2015 extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 70–73	5723/15
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/331 of 2 March 2015 extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative in Afghanistan OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 66–69	5715/15
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/335 of 2 March 2015 amending Decision 2010/231/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Somalia OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 77–78	17110/14
Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2015/336 of 2 March 2015 implementing Decision 2013/798/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Central African Republic OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 79–80	5631/15
Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/324 of 2 March 2015 implementing Article 17(3) of Regulation (EU) No 224/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in the Central African Republic OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 39–40	5633/15
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/335 of 2 March 2015 amending Decision 2010/231/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Somalia OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 77–78	5680/15

Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/325 of 2 March 2015 implementing Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 356/2010 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain natural or legal persons, entities or bodies, in view of the situation in Somalia OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 41–42		5683/15	
Council Conclusions on Single Market Policy		6197/15	
3372nd meeting of the Council of the European Union (TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY) held in Brussels on 5 March 2015			
LEGISLATIVE ACTS			
ACT	DOCUMENT	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Position (EU) No 6/2015 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide emissions from maritime transport, and amending Directive 2009/16/EC. (Text with EEA relevance) OJ C 134, 24.4.2015, p. 29–51	17086/14	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour, except: Against: EL, CY, MT Abstention: PL
Statement by the Commission			
The Commission underlines that it is contrary to the letter and to the spirit of Regulation 182/2011 (OJ L 55 of 28.2.2011, p. 13) to invoke Article 5, paragraph 4, second subparagraph, point (b) in a systematic manner. Recourse to this provision must respond to a specific need to depart from the rule of principle which is that the Commission may adopt a draft implementing act when no opinion is delivered. Given that it is an exception to the general rule established by Article 5, paragraph 4, recourse to second subparagraph, point (b) cannot be simply seen as a "discretionary power" of the Legislator, but must be interpreted in a restrictive manner and thus must be justified.			

Statement by Cyprus

Cyprus had clearly expressed preference for a broadly agreed international monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system under the aegis of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Within this context we also conveyed our view that an appropriately structured EU-level MRV regime could be acceptable. Our support was conditional on the mechanism being efficient and not distorting competition. Unfortunately, we have serious concern that certain provisions included in the text of the proposed Regulation, to be adopted, are problematic and the specificities of the maritime sector are not adequately taken into account.

In particular Cyprus believes that the provisions included in Article 21 of the Regulation that are related to the publication of information relevant to the energy efficiency of ships will result in distortionary competitive effects. Also, the information to be published regarding the energy efficiency of ships are not uniformly comparable and thus will lead to inappropriate conclusions and affect the market and the decision making for new rules.

Another important issue that will be generated by the publication of information relevant to the energy efficiency of ships is the disclosure of commercially sensitive operational information such as the ships' fuel consumption, volume of cargo handled, and distance travelled.

Cyprus, therefore, is not in a position to consent to the adoption of the Regulation.

Statement by the Hellenic Republic and Malta

1. The Hellenic Republic and Malta consider that the text of the final agreement on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide emissions from maritime transport and amending Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 fails to take fully under consideration concrete practices of the global shipping industry and, to that extent, it is rather questionable as to its suitability to achieve the desired purpose, namely the facilitation of the development of international rules within the IMO for the monitoring, reporting and verification of CO₂ emissions from international transport.
2. We consider that not all data required for each ship to be monitored and reported are relevant for the purpose of monitoring, reporting and verifying CO₂ emissions from ships, thus increasing the administrative burden and costs for both the flag States and the shipowners with no evident benefit to the marine environment. For these reasons, Greece and Malta have, from the beginning of the deliberations for the proposed Regulation, supported that the focus should be on the collection of data from ships' fuel consumption in combination with distance travelled, i.e. data already available on ships.
3. In addition, the Hellenic Republic and Malta are not convinced about the proportionality and added value of publishing commercially sensitive data, especially those related to "transport work" and "cargo carried", taking especially into account that ships operate in an environment subject to many variables which are not under the control of any party and influence their performance.
4. Furthermore, we still consider that the technical parts of the proposed Regulation have not been given the necessary consideration and sufficient time for elaboration, in order to enable the development of an MRV system which shall be workable both for the industry and for the authorities.
5. At the same time, the Hellenic Republic and Malta question the added value of the proposed EU MRV system, as included in the text of the final agreement, to serve as a model and promote the adoption of a global system, given that the ongoing discussions within the IMO follow a less complex and easy to implement approach towards the development of a global data collection system for fuel consumption of ships. It is of significant importance to ensure that, as soon as an international system is established through the IMO, the Regulation is reviewed, in order to be fully aligned to the global system.

Bearing in mind the above, the Hellenic Republic and Malta are not in a position to consent to the final agreement on the proposed Regulation.

Statement by Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden

Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden are in favor of monitoring maritime CO₂ emissions and support the outcome reached in the negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament.

All sectors need to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to keep efforts in line with the global objective of limiting increases in global temperatures to 2 °C. In view of the international nature of shipping, the most effective method of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in international maritime transport will be by a global agreement in the International Maritime Organization (IMO). It is therefore crucial that the EU MRV Regulation contribute to the development of international rules in IMO.

The EU MRV Regulation lays down a system for monitoring CO₂ emissions and other relevant data, while preserving the confidentiality of commercial and industrial information. The Regulation can among other things contribute to the removal of market barriers and help setting goals by providing reliable data.

In order to ensure a level-playing field for ships operating in less favorable climate conditions, it is also important that specific information relating to the ship's ice class and the navigation through ice can be added to the data monitored according to the Regulation.

We would like to stress that there is a need for further work on some of the elements of the regulation. In particular it will be important to further elaborate the calculation of transport work and the energy efficiency of ships so as to allow for a fair and robust comparison between different ship types. This will be challenging for all ship types, especially for ship types like general cargo, Ro-Pax and Ro-Ro ships. Specifying the parameters to be used in the calculation of cargo carried for all ship types is essential, both including those in the category of implementing acts and those in the category of delegated acts.

We would also like to underline the importance that the EU Member States continue to play a constructive role in the discussions at the IMO on the development of international rules.

Statement by Poland

Poland supports efforts to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from maritime transport but is of the opinion that such efforts should be made within the forum of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) because of the international nature of shipping and the global effects of climate change. Therefore, any legislative solutions should be of a global rather than a regional nature.

Poland takes the view that the International Maritime Organization is the most appropriate forum for the establishment of legal standards for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from international maritime transport. The IMO's decisions do not pose a risk of reactive measures being introduced by non-EU States in response to provisions introduced on the basis of EU requirements. Poland actively supports and promotes measures undertaken within the IMO forum which aim to establish appropriate global instruments.

In Poland's opinion, the adoption of the proposed regulation in its current form will not facilitate negotiations and efforts by the IMO to establish global solutions since the draft regulation contains elements on which a consensus in the IMO is unlikely to be achieved in the short term (for example on the issue of reporting quantitative information about cargo).

Poland cannot support the draft regulation. However, since in the course of work on the draft some aspects have been taken into account in such a way as to make the regulation more acceptable and bring it closer to solutions proposed within the forum of the IMO, Poland is abstaining from voting.

Position (EU) No 5/2015 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics. (Text with relevance for the EEA and for Switzerland) OJ C 134, 24.4.2015, p. 18–26	6582/15	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour, except Against: AT, UK Abstentions: NL, PT
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Statement by the United Kingdom, Finland and Lithuania

With reference to the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) no. 223/2009 on European Statistics, the United Kingdom, Finland and Lithuania consider that, while Article 338(1) TFEU is the legal basis for Regulation 223/2009, it does not constitute an appropriate legal basis for Article 12(5) of the proposed regulation. The latter Article provides for a competence of the European Commission to initiate and conduct an investigation where sectoral legislation provides for fines in cases where Member States misrepresent statistical data. The United Kingdom, Finland and Lithuania underline that Article 338 TFEU does not provide for the imposition of fines or other sanctions in the field of statistics in sectoral legislation, therefore article 12(5) is not considered as a legally permissible basis for future sectoral legislation.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
Council Decision (EU) 2015/397 of 5 March 2015 establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union in the relevant Committees of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe as regards the proposals for amendments to UN Regulations Nos 3, 7, 13, 19, 23, 37, 38, 41, 43, 45, 48, 50, 51, 53, 55, 59, 75, 78, 86, 98, 99, 106, 107, 110, 112, 113, 117, 119, 123, 128, 129, on Amendment 2 to UN GTR No 3 with regard to motorcycle braking, and on Amendment 3 to UN GTR No 4 with regard to the Worldwide Heavy-Duty Certification procedure OJ L 66, 11.3.2015, p. 12–15	6289/15
Council Regulation (EU) 2015/373 of 5 March 2015 amending Regulation (EC) No 2533/98 concerning the collection of statistical information by the European Central Bank OJ L 64, 7.3.2015, p. 6–7	5576/15
<p>Statement by the Austrian, Finnish and German delegations</p> <p>Germany, Austria, Finland are subject to national constitutional provisions requiring swift and comprehensive submission of information regarding ESM activities to their national parliaments. In this context it is to be understood that the provisions regarding submission of information between ESM members and their respective parliaments as stated in Article 8, paragraph 4a, subparagraph 4 are without prejudice to constitutional obligations to transmit information without any delay.</p>	

Statement by the Slovenian delegation

Slovenia generally supports the aim of the Recommendation to minimise the reporting burden on reporting agents and to enable proper performance of supervision of financial institutions, markets and infrastructures conferred on all competent authorities as well as a proper performance of the tasks conferred on authorities responsible for the protection of the stability of the financial system.

However, it has to be noted that the Recommendation is not clear regarding the transmission of confidential statistical information as defined in paragraph 4a of Article 8. Paragraph 4a states a legal basis for the transmission of confidential statistical information from the ESCB to authorities or bodies of the Member States and the Union responsible for the supervision of financial institutions, markets and infrastructure or the stability of the financial system, and to the European Stability Mechanism (ESM). Moreover, paragraph 4a also states a legal basis for further transmission of confidential statistical information from the ESM to national parliaments to the extent required under national law.

To be explicit, according to national rules governing the statistical confidentiality, confidential statistical information is to be used solely for statistical purposes, meaning the exclusive use for the development and production of statistical results and analyses, and prohibition of its use for non-statistical purposes (i.e. administrative, tax, judicial, inspection, etc.). National rules are in line with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics. The national central bank forms, besides its particular sphere of competence, a part of the national statistical system, and is therefore obliged to conform to the rules on statistical confidentiality. In our opinion, paragraph 4a represents a “grey area” for the transmission of confidential statistical information. Although the Recommendation does not apply to confidential statistical information collected according to Regulation 223/2009 on European statistics, there should be a clear division between using confidential statistical information according to Regulation 2533/98 and in the sphere of the competences of the ESCB and authorities responsible for financial supervision, and using confidential statistical information in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 and national statistical legislation.

To conclude, we are of the opinion that the Recommendation is not clear enough in the limitation of using confidential statistical information and it could contribute to lower standards of statistical confidentiality.

Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/363 of 5 March 2015 concerning the temporary reception by Member States of the European Union of certain Palestinians
OJ L 62, 6.3.2015, p. 24–24

5913/15

Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/364 of 5 March 2015 amending Decision 2014/119/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Ukraine
OJ L 62, 6.3.2015, p. 25–28

6459/15

Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/357 of 5 March 2015 implementing Regulation (EU) No 208/2014 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Ukraine OJ L 62, 6.3.2015, p. 1–4	6460/15
3373rd meeting of the Council of the European Union (ENVIRONMENT) held in Brussels on 6 March 2015	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
Council Decision (EU) 2015/423 of 6 March 2015 establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union within the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention as regards the amendments of Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade OJ L 68, 13.3.2015, p. 48–49	5878/15
Council Decision (EU) 2015/451 of 6 March 2015 concerning the accession of the European Union to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) OJ L 75, 19.3.2015, p. 1–3	9412/14
<p>Statement by the Commission</p> <p>The Commission considers that the Council Decision should be based on two substantive legal bases, i.e. Article 207 TFEU on trade and Article 192 TFEU on environment. In accordance with well-established case law, the legal basis of an act depends on its main or predominant purpose or component. While the ultimate purpose of the CITES Convention is the protection of the environment, CITES undoubtedly directly regulates international trade in the species concerned and has a direct and immediate effect on such trade. Trade is therefore clearly the main component of the CITES Convention and of the Council decision for the EU accession to this Convention.</p> <p>On that basis, the Commission regrets that the Council has departed from the Commission proposal on the legal basis and reserves its right to avail itself of the legal remedies provided by the Treaty</p>	
Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2015/383 of 6 March 2015 implementing Decision 2013/255/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria OJ L 64, 7.3.2015, p. 41–45	6256/15

Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/375 of 6 March 2015 implementing Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria OJ L 64, 7.3.2015, p. 10–14	6257/15
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/382 of 6 March 2015 amending Decision 2011/137/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya OJ L 64, 7.3.2015, p. 38–40	6481/15
Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/376 of 6 March 2015 implementing Article 16(2) of Regulation (EU) No 204/2011 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya OJ L 64, 7.3.2015, p. 15–16	6483/15
Council Regulation (EU) 2015/374 of 6 March 2015 amending Regulation (EU) No 204/2011 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya OJ L 64, 7.3.2015, p. 8–9	6485/15
3374th meeting of the Council of the European Union (EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS) held in Brussels on 9 March 2015	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
Council Conclusions on the Court of Auditors' Special Report No 15/2014 "The External Borders Fund has fostered financial solidarity but requires better measurement of results and needs to provide further EU added value"	5688/15
Decision (EU) 2015/468 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund in accordance with Point 13 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management (application EGF/2013/007 BE/Hainaut steel (Duferco-NLMK), from Belgium) OJ L 76, 20.3.2015, p. 52–53	6339/15

Decision (EU) 2015/471 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (application EGF/2014/011 BE/Caterpillar, from Belgium) OJ L 76, 20.3.2015, p. 58–59	6338/15
Decision (EU) 2015/472 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (application EGF/2014/012 BE/ArcelorMittal, from Belgium) OJ L 76, 20.3.2015, p. 60–61	6340/15
Decision (EU) 2015/473 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (application EGF/2014/014 DE/Aleo Solar, from Germany) OJ L 76, 20.3.2015, p. 62–63	6341/15
Decision (EU) 2015/469 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund in accordance with Point 13 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management (application EGF/2013/009 PL/Zachem, from Poland) OJ L 76, 20.3.2015, p. 54–55	6342/15
Decision (EU) 2015/470 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund in accordance with point 13 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management (application EGF/2013/011 BE/Saint-Gobain Sekurit, from Belgium) OJ L 76, 20.3.2015, p. 56–57	6343/15
Council Conclusions on the 2015 Annual Growth Survey and Joint Employment Report: political guidance on employment and social policies	7007/15
Council Conclusions on Moving towards more inclusive labour markets	7017/15

Council Conclusions on EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020: Adapting to new challenges	7013/15
3375th meeting of the Council of the European Union (ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS) held in Brussels on 10 March 2015	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
Council Conclusions on the Commission Communication on the EU Joint Transfer Pricing Forum	5967/15
Council Decision (EU) 2015/431 of 10 March 2015 amending Decision 1999/70/EC concerning the external auditors of the national central banks, as regards the external auditors of the Lietuvos bankas OJ L 70, 14.3.2015, p. 45–46	6178/15
Council Decision to make public the TISA negotiating directives	6828/15
<p>Statement by the Council</p> <p>The Council, having carefully considered the negotiating directives for the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), is of the view that making the negotiating directives public will have no impact on the ability of the EU to negotiate effectively and will not undermine the EU's negotiating position in these specific negotiations. Furthermore, in this specific case, the Council considers that release will not undermine the public interest as regards international relations, nor the Council's decision-making process.</p> <p>The Council recalls that the negotiation of international agreements justifies a certain level of confidentiality in order to ensure the effectiveness of the negotiations. As a result, negotiating directives should, as a matter of principle, remain outside the public domain. Any possible future proposal to make negotiating directives public shall therefore be decided on the basis of a careful analysis, based on the facts and merits of each specific case in line with the Council's Guidelines on downgrading and declassifying Council documents and can under no circumstances be seen as constituting a precedent for the future.</p>	
Council Recommendation with a view to bringing an end to the excessive government deficit in France	6704/15

3376th meeting of the Council of the European Union (JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS) held in Brussels on 12 and 13 March 2015			
LEGISLATIVE ACTS			
ACT	DOCUMENT	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Position (EU) No 7/2015 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on insolvency proceedings (recast). OJ C 141, 28.4.2015, p. 1–54	16636/14	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour, except: Not participating: DK
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS			
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS		
Council Conclusions on disability-inclusive disaster management	6450/15		
3377th meeting of the Council of the European Union (TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY) held in Brussels on 12 and 13 March 2015			
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS			
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS		
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/432 of 13 March 2015 amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine OJ L 70, 14.3.2015, p. 47–57	6455/15		
Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/427 of 13 March 2015 implementing Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine OJ L 70, 14.3.2015, p. 1–11	6456/15		

3378th meeting of the Council of the European Union (AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES) held in Brussels on 16 March 2015	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
Decision (EU) 2015/642 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 April 2015 on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (application EGF/2014/015 GR/Attica publishing from Greece) OJ L 106, 24.4.2015, p. 25–26	6491/15
Decision (EU) 2015/644 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 April 2015 on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (application EGF/2014/018 GR/Attica broadcasting from Greece) OJ L 106, 24.4.2015, p. 29–30	6492/15
Decision (EU) 2015/643 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 April 2015 on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (application EGF/2014/016 IE/Lufthansa Technik from Ireland) OJ L 106, 24.4.2015, p. 27–28	6493/15
3379th meeting of the Council of the European Union (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) held in Brussels on 16 March 2015	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Association Council established by the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part, with regard to the adoption of a Recommendation on the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association	6411/15
Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Association Council set up by the Euro – Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Tunisia, of the other part, with regard to the adoption of a recommendation on the implementation of the EU-Tunisia Action Plan (2013-2017)	6529/15

Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations with a view to concluding a Framework Agreement on Cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations in the context of their respective crisis management operations	13025/14
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/441 of 16 March 2015 amending and extending Decision 2010/96/CFSP on a European Union military mission to contribute to the training of Somali security forces OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 37–38	5875/15
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/440 of 16 March 2015 extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative for the Horn of Africa OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 32–36	5722/15
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/439 of 16 March 2015 extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative for the Sahel OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 27–31	5717/15
Council Conclusions on Bosnia and Herzegovina	6990/15
Council Conclusions on the EU Regional Strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as the ISIL/Da'esh threat	7247/15
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/442 of 16 March 2015 launching the European Union CSDP Military Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic (EUMAM RCA) and amending Decision 2015/78/CFSP OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 39–40	5919/15
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/659 of 16 March 2015 on the signing and conclusion on behalf of the Union of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Central African Republic on the status in the Central African Republic of the European Union CSDP Military Advisory Mission in the Central African Republic (EUMAM RCA) OJ L 108, 28.4.2015, p. 1–2	6607/15
Council Conclusions on the political situation in Burundi in the pre-electoral context	7170/15
Council Conclusions on the Gulf of Guinea Action Plan 2015-2020	7168/15

Council Conclusions on Mali	7203/15		
Council Conclusions on Ebola	7200/15		
Council Conclusions on Libya	7241/15		
3380th meeting of the Council of the European Union (GENERAL AFFAIRS) held in Brussels on 17 March 2015			
LEGISLATIVE ACTS			
ACT	DOCUMENT	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Council Regulation (EU) 2015/496 of 17 March 2015 amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 354/83 as regards the deposit of the historical archives of the institutions at the European University Institute in Florence OJ L 79, 25.3.2015, p. 1–5	6867/13	Unanimity	All Member States in favour
Council Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/457 of 17 March 2015 repealing Decision 2007/124/EC, Euratom establishing for the period 2007 to 2013, as part of General Programme on Security and Safeguarding Liberties, the Specific Programme ‘Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism and other Security related risks’ OJ L 76, 20.3.2015, p. 1–2	15187/13	Unanimity	All Member States in favour
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS			
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS		
Council Decision (EU) 2015/493 of 17 March 2015 amending Decision 1999/70/EC concerning the external auditors of the national central banks, as regards the external auditors of the Latvijas Banka OJ L 78, 24.3.2015, p. 16–17	6104/15		
Council Conclusions on Special Report No 21/2014 by the European Court of Auditors: "EU-funded airport infrastructures: poor value for money"	6784/15		
Council Conclusions on Special Report No 19/2014 by the Court of Auditors "EU Pre-accession Assistance to Serbia"	6934/15		

Council Conclusions on the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism	6308/15
Council Conclusions on the preparation of the European Council on 19-20 March 2015	5498/15
Written procedures completed on 20 March 2015	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/485 of 20 March 2015 extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative in Kosovo OJ L 77, 21.3.2015, p. 12–15	5724/15
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/486 of 20 March 2015 amending Decision 2011/172/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Egypt OJ L 77, 21.3.2015, p. 16–16	6862/15
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/487 of 20 March 2015 amending Decision 2011/173/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina OJ L 77, 21.3.2015, p. 17–17	7095/15
Written procedure completed on 24 March 2015	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
Council Decision (EU) 2015/541 of 24 March 2015 repealing Decision 2011/492/EU concerning the conclusion of consultations with the Republic of Guinea-Bissau under Article 96 of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement OJ L 88, 1.4.2015, p. 13–15	6866/15

Written procedure completed on 25 March 2015	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
Council Regulation (EU) 2015/523 of 25 March 2015 amending Regulations (EU) No 43/2014 and (EU) 2015/104 as regards certain fishing opportunities OJ L 84, 28.3.2015, p. 1–21	7069/69
Written procedures completed on 26 March 2015	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/521 of 26 March 2015 updating and amending the list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism, and repealing Decision 2014/483/CFSP OJ L 82, 27.3.2015, p. 107–110	6306/15
Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/513 of 26 March 2015 implementing Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) No 790/2014 OJ L 82, 27.3.2015, p. 1–4	6307/15
Written procedure completed on 27 March 2015	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/528 of 27 March 2015 establishing a mechanism to administer the financing of the common costs of European Union operations having military or defence implications (Athena) and repealing Decision 2011/871/CFSP OJ L 84, 28.3.2015, p. 39–63	14107/14

Written procedure completed on 31 March 2015

LEGISLATIVE ACTS

ACT	DOCUMENT	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Decision (EU) 2015/601 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 April 2015 providing macro-financial assistance to Ukraine OJ L 100, 17.4.2015, p. 1–7	10/15	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

Statement of the Council

In order to reflect the utmost importance of supporting the efforts of international community and international financial institutions with regard to an international assistance package designed to address further financing needs of Ukraine, including the total contribution from the EU that is currently estimated by the Council at EUR 2.5 Billion, and conditional on Ukraine's clear commitment to reforms, the Council invites the Commission to propose, at the appropriate moment, further macro-financial assistance to Ukraine, in order to further facilitate and support Ukraine's reform process.

Statement by Sweden

Swedish unilateral statement to the declaration of the Council in connection with a decision of the Parliament and of the Council providing macro-financial assistance to Ukraine

With the help of the EU and the international community, Ukraine has the opportunity to lay the basis for stability and growth over the medium term. Sweden therefore strongly support the third macro-financial assistance of EUR 1.8 billion and the declaration inviting the Commission to propose, at the appropriate moment, further macro-financial assistance to Ukraine. However, any additional MFA, above EUR 1.8 billion, needs to be financed through reallocation within the EU-budget.

Statement by Luxembourg

Luxembourg can accept the statement on macro-financial assistance to Ukraine. In Luxembourg's view, this statement cannot be considered a decision to bring the amount of macro-financial assistance to Ukraine up to 2.5 billion. In this context, Luxembourg will continue to monitor attentively the course of structural reforms in Ukraine and the compliance with conditions for granting such assistance.