



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 4 August 2008

12383/08

PUBLIC 99

NOTE

Subject: MONTHLY SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTS MARCH 2008

This document consists of the following:

- ANNEX I containing a list of acts adopted by the Council in March 2008.^{1 2}
- ANNEX II containing further details on the adoption of these acts. PART I provides information on the adoption of legislative acts, such as the date of adoption, the relevant Council session, the number of the document adopted, and where appropriate, applicable voting rules, voting results, explanations of vote and statements published in the minutes of the Council. PART II provides information that the Council has decided to make public on the adoption of other acts.

This document is also available via the Internet (<http://consilium.europa.eu>); see under "Documents", "Legislative Transparency", "Summary of Council Acts". Documents listed in the summary may be obtained from the public register of Council documents (<http://register.consilium.europa.eu>).

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 codecision, 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 in codecision 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.

It should be noted that only the minutes concerning the definitive adoption of legislative acts are authentic (available via the Internet: <http://consilium.europa.eu>, see under "Documents", "Legislative Transparency", "Council Minutes").

**LIST OF ACTS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL
IN MARCH 2008**

**2856th meeting of the Council of the European Union (ENVIRONMENT),
held in Brussels on 3 March 2008**

Council Decision 2008/206/JHA of 3 March 2008 on defining 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP) as a new psychoactive substance which is to be made subject to control measures and criminal provisions
OJ L 63, 7.3.2008, p. 45–46

Common Position (EC) No 12/2008 of 3 March 2008 adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2004/49/EC on safety on the Community's railways (Railway Safety Directive)
OJ C 122E, 20.5.2008, p. 10–18

Common Position (EC) No 5/2008 of 3 March 2008 adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 881/2004 establishing a European Railway Agency (Agency Regulation)
OJ C 93E, 15.4.2008, p. 1–12

Directive 2008/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission
OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 60–61

Directive 2008/33/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission
OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 62–64

Directive 2008/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission
OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 65–66

Directive 2008/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2002/95/EC on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission
OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 67–68

Directive 2008/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2005/32/EC establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-using products, as well as Council Directive 92/42/EEC and Directives 96/57/EC and 2000/55/EC, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission
OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 48–50

Directive 2008/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2006/43/EC on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 53–56

Regulation (EC) No 297/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1606/2002 on the application of international accounting standards, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 97, 9.4.2008, p. 62–63

Regulation (EC) No 299/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 97, 9.4.2008, p. 67–71

Directive 2008/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Council Directive 92/49/EEC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to direct insurance other than life assurance, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 69–70

Directive 2008/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Council Directive 91/675/EEC setting up a European insurance and occupational pensions committee, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 76, 19.3.2008, p. 48–49

Directive 2008/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2004/109/EC on the harmonisation of transparency requirements in relation to information about issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 76, 19.3.2008, p. 50–53

Directive 2008/23/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2006/49/EC on the capital adequacy of investment firms and credit institutions, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 76, 19.3.2008, p. 54–55

Directive 2008/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2006/48/EC relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 38–39

Directive 2008/10/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2004/39/EC on markets in financial instruments, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 76, 19.3.2008, p. 33–36

Directive 2008/25/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2002/87/EC on the supplementary supervision of credit institutions, insurance undertakings and investment firms in a financial conglomerate, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 40–41

Directive 2008/26/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2003/6/EC on insider dealing and market manipulation (market abuse), as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 42–44

Directive 2008/11/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2003/71/EC on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 76, 19.3.2008, p. 37–38

Directive 2008/19/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2002/83/EC concerning life assurance, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 76, 19.3.2008, p. 44–45

Directive 2008/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2005/60/EC on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 76, 19.3.2008, p. 46–47

Directive 2008/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 98/8/EC concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 57–59

Regulation (EC) No 296/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 97, 9.4.2008, p. 60–61

Directive 2008/27/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 45–47

Directive 2008/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2001/83/EC on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 51–52

Regulation (EC) No 298/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 97, 9.4.2008, p. 64–66

Directive 2008/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2005/68/EC on reinsurance, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 71–72

Directive 2008/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Council Directive 85/611/EEC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS), as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission

OJ L 76, 19.3.2008, p. 42–43

Council Recommendation of 3 March 2008 adapting Recommendation 98/376/EC on a parking card for people with disabilities, by reason of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic

OJ L 63, 7.3.2008, p. 43–44

Council Decision on the signature and provisional application of the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Armenia on certain aspects of air services

5760/1/08 REV 1

Council Common Position 2008/186/CFSP of 3 March 2008 amending Common Position 2003/495/CFSP on Iraq

OJ L 59, 4.3.2008, p. 31–31

Council Regulation (EC) No 195/2008 of 3 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1210/2003 concerning certain specific restrictions on economic and financial relations with Iraq

OJ L 59, 4.3.2008, p. 1–5

Council Common Position 2008/187/CFSP of 3 March 2008 concerning restrictive measures against the illegal government of Anjouan in the Union of Comoros

OJ L 59, 4.3.2008, p. 32–35 (

Council Conclusions on the Contribution of the Council (Environment) to the Spring European Council (13-14 March 2008)

7251/08

Council Conclusions on the Preparation for the ninth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

(Bonn, 19 to 30 May 2008)

7250/08

Council Conclusions on the Preparation for the fourth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP 4)
(Bonn, 12 to 16 May 2008)
6346/08

2857th meeting of the Council of the European Union (ECONOMIC and FINANCIAL AFFAIRS), held in Brussels on 4 March 2008

Regulation (EC) No 300/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 on common rules in the field of civil aviation security and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2320/2002
OJ L 97, 9.4.2008, p. 72–84

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated stability programme of Ireland, 2007-2010
OJ C 74, 20.3.2008, p. 10–14

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated stability programme of Greece, 2007-2010
OJ C 74, 20.3.2008, p. 33–37

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated stability programme of Spain, 2007-2010
OJ C 75, 26.3.2008, p. 5–8

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the stability programme of Cyprus, 2007-2011
OJ C 73, 19.3.2008, p. 10–13

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the stability programme of Malta, 2007-2010
OJ C 74, 20.3.2008, p. 28–32

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated stability programme of Austria, 2007-2010
OJ C 74, 20.3.2008, p. 1–4

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated stability programme of Portugal, 2007-2011
OJ C 73, 19.3.2008, p. 6–9

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated stability programme of Slovenia, 2007-2010
OJ C 74, 20.3.2008, p. 5–9

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated convergence programme of Bulgaria, 2007-2010
OJ C 73, 19.3.2008, p. 1–5

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated convergence programme of the Czech Republic, 2007-2010
OJ C 74, 20.3.2008, p. 24–27

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated convergence programme of Denmark, 2007-2010
OJ C 74, 20.3.2008, p. 15–18

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated convergence programme of Estonia, 2007-2011
OJ C 73, 19.3.2008, p. 14–17

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated convergence programme of Latvia, 2007-2010
OJ C 73, 19.3.2008, p. 18–22

Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated convergence programme of Lithuania, 2007-2010
OJ C 74, 20.3.2008, p. 19–23

Council Conclusions on the budget guidelines for 2009
6704/08

2858th meeting of the Council of the European Union (GENERAL AFFAIRS and EXTERNAL RELATIONS), held in Brussels on 10 March 2008

Common Position (EC) No 6/2008 of 10 March 2008 adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common authorisation procedure for food additives, food enzymes and food flavourings
OJ C 111E , 6.5.2008, p. 1–9

Common Position (EC) No 7/2008 of 10 March 2008 adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on food additives
OJ C 111E , 6.5.2008, p. 10–31

Common Position (EC) No 8/2008 of 10 March 2008 adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on food enzymes and amending Council Directive 83/417/EEC, Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999, Directive 2000/13/EC, Council Directive 2001/112/EC and Regulation (EC) No 258/97
OJ C 111E , 6.5.2008, p. 32–45

Common Position (EC) No 9/2008 of 10 March 2008 adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on flavourings and certain food ingredients with flavouring properties for use in and on foods and amending Council Regulations (EEC) No 1576/89 and (EEC) No 1601/91, Regulation (EC) No 2232/96 and Directive 2000/13/EC
OJ C 111E , 6.5.2008, p. 46–67

Council Conclusions on Afghanistan
7376/08

Council Conclusions on Pakistan
7379/08

Council Regulation (EC) No 229/2008 of 10 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 533/2004 on the establishment of partnerships in the framework of the stabilisation and association process
OJ L 73, 15.3.2008, p. 1–2

Common Position of the European Union in view of the twelfth meeting of the EU-Ukraine Cooperation Council (Brussels, 11 March 2008)
6332/08

Common Position of the European Union in view of the third meeting of the EU-Algeria Association Council (Brussels, 10 March 2008)
7134/08

Council Conclusions on the Mechanism on Cooperation and Verification for Bulgaria and Romania
7017/08

Council Regulation (EC) No 238/2008 of 10 March 2008 terminating the partial interim review pursuant to Article 11(3) of Regulation (EC) No 384/96 of the anti-dumping duty on imports of solutions of urea and ammonium nitrate originating in Russia
OJ L 75, 18.3.2008, p. 14–21

Council Regulation (EC) No 236/2008 of 10 March 2008 concerning terminating the partial interim review pursuant to Article 11(3) of Regulation (EC) No 384/96 of the anti-dumping duty on imports of ammonium nitrate originating in Russia
OJ L 75, 18.3.2008, p. 1–7

Council Regulation (EC) No 237/2008 of 10 March 2008 terminating the partial interim review pursuant to Article 11(3) of Regulation (EC) No 384/96 of the anti-dumping duty on imports of ammonium nitrate originating, inter alia, in Ukraine
OJ L 75, 18.3.2008, p. 8–13

Council Regulation (EC) No 221/2008 of 10 March 2008 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed on imports of certain manganese dioxides originating in South Africa
OJ L 69, 13.3.2008, p. 1–7

2859th meeting of the Council of the European Union (GENERAL AFFAIRS and EXTERNAL RELATIONS), held in Brussels on 10 March 2008

Council Conclusions on WTO/DDA
7375/08

Council Conclusions on Zimbabwe
7459/08

Council Conclusions on the Western Balkans
7136/1/08 REV 1

Written procedure completed on 13 March 2008

Council Common Position 2008/223/CFSP of 13 March 2008 renewing measures in support of the effective implementation of the mandate of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

OJ L 70, 14.3.2008, p. 22–22

Adoption of legislative acts following the European Parliament's second reading under the co-decision procedure (Strasbourg, 10 to 13 March 2008)

Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology

OJ L 97, 9.4.2008, p. 1–12

2860th meeting of the Council of the European Union (AGRICULTURE and FISHERIES), held in Brussels on 17 March 2008

Council Regulation (EC) No 247/2008 of 17 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation)

OJ L 76, 19.3.2008, p. 1–5

Council Regulation (EC) No 301/2008 of 17 March 2008 adapting Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules

OJ L 97, 9.4.2008, p. 85–86

Council Regulation (EC) No 274/2008 of 17 March 2008 amending Regulation (EEC) No 918/83 setting up a Community system of relief from customs duty

OJ L 85, 27.3.2008, p. 1–2

Council Regulation (EC) No 275/2008 of 17 March 2008 amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff

OJ L 85, 27.3.2008, p. 3–4

Council Regulation (EC) No 248/2008 of 17 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards the national quotas for milk

OJ L 76, 19.3.2008, p. 6–7

Council Regulation (EC) No 242/2008 of 17 March 2008 on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

OJ L 75, 18.3.2008, p. 51–52

Council Regulation (EC) No 241/2008 of 17 March 2008 on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

OJ L 75, 18.3.2008, p. 49–50

Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 17 March 2008 on the situation of persons with disabilities in the European Union

OJ C 75, 26.3.2008, p. 1–4

2008/274/EC: Council Decision of 17 March 2008 on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco on certain aspects of air services

OJ L 87, 29.3.2008, p. 9–9

2008/275/EC: Council Decision of 17 March 2008 on the conclusion of a Protocol amending Annexes I and II to the Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco on certain aspects of air services, in order to take account of the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania

OJ L 87, 29.3.2008, p. 10–10

2008/268/EC: Council Decision of 17 March 2008 amending Decision 1999/70/EC concerning the external auditors of the national central banks, as regards the external auditor of Suomen Pankki

OJ L 85, 27.3.2008, p. 8–8

2008/306/EC: Council Decision of 17 March 2008 on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Community and Ukraine in relation to export duties

OJ L 106, 16.4.2008, p. 14–14

Council Joint Action 2008/229/CFSP of 17 March 2008 amending Joint Action 2007/369/CFSP on the establishment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN)

OJ L 75, 18.3.2008, p. 80–80

Council Joint Action 2008/228/CFSP of 17 March 2008 amending and extending Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP on the establishment of an EU Planning Team (EUPT Kosovo) regarding a possible EU crisis management operation in the field of rule of law and possible other areas in Kosovo

OJ L 75, 18.3.2008, p. 78–79

Council Regulation (EC) No 243/2008 of 17 March 2008 imposing certain restrictive measures on the illegal authorities of the island of Anjouan in the Union of the Comoros

OJ L 75, 18.3.2008, p. 53–59

Council Joint Action 2008/230/CFSP of 17 March 2008 on support for EU activities in order to promote the control of arms exports and the principles and criteria of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports among third countries

OJ L 75, 18.3.2008, p. 81–85

Council Regulation (EC) No 261/2008 of 17 March 2008 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain compressors originating in the People's Republic of China

OJ L 81, 20.3.2008, p. 1–20

Council Regulation (EC) No 239/2008 of 17 March 2008 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed on imports of coke of coal in pieces with a diameter of more than 80 mm (Coke 80+) originating in the People's Republic of China

OJ L 75, 18.3.2008, p. 22–32

Council Regulation (EC) No 240/2008 of 17 March 2008 repealing the anti-dumping duty on imports of urea originating in Belarus, Croatia, Libya and Ukraine, following an expiry review pursuant to Article 11(2) of Regulation (EC) No 384/96
OJ L 75, 18.3.2008, p. 33–48

Council Regulation (EC) No 249/2008 of 17 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1425/2006 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain plastic sacks and bags originating in the People's Republic of China and Thailand
OJ L 76, 19.3.2008, p. 8–12

Council Conclusions on the Commission Communication "preparing for the "health check" of the CAP reform"
7150/08

INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS			
MARCH 2008			
TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
2856th meeting of the Council of the European Union (ENVIRONMENT) on 3 March 2008			
Council Decision 2008/206/JHA of 3 March 2008 on defining 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP) as a new psychoactive substance which is to be made subject to control measures and criminal provisions	6573/08	Unanimous	All Member States in favour
Common Position (EC) No 12/2008 of 3 March 2008 adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2004/49/EC on safety on the Community's railways (Railway Safety Directive)	16133/3/07 REV 3	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Common Position (EC) No 5/2008 of 3 March 2008 adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 881/2004 establishing a European Railway Agency (Agency Regulation)	16138/3/07 REV 3	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3647/3/07 REV 3	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS
MARCH 2008**

TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Directive 2008/33/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3648/3/07 REV 3	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3649/3/07 REV 3	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/35/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2002/95/EC on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3650/3/07 REV 3	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS

MARCH 2008

TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
<p>Directive 2008/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2005/32/EC establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-using products, as well as Council Directive 92/42/EEC and Directives 96/57/EC and 2000/55/EC, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission</p>	<p>PE-CONS 3651/12/07 REV 12</p>	<p>Qualified majority</p>	<p>All Member States in favour</p>
<p>Statement by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission Given the importance of swiftly adopting new implementing measures in the context of Directive 2005/32/EC, in the interest of energy efficiency and the environment, the three institutions should implement the regulatory procedure with scrutiny as soon as possible, working quickly, flexibly and efficiently and paying particular attention to effective coordination and communication between their respective secretariats.</p>			
<p>Directive 2008/30/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2006/43/EC on statutory audits of annual accounts and consolidated accounts, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission</p>	<p>PE-CONS 3683/1/07 REV 1</p>	<p>Qualified majority</p>	<p>All Member States in favour</p>
<p>Joint Council and Commission Statement The provision stating that the Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure has been deleted from the Articles establishing the committees for the sake of legal clarity but that in no way changes the legal situation insofar as the same obligation is laid down in Article 7(1) of Decision 1999/468/EC. In particular, its deletion is without prejudice to the rules of procedure of existing committees and the possibility of derogating from the standard rules of procedure.</p>			
<p>Statement by the Commission Where the regulatory procedure with scrutiny applies, the Commission considers that any possible measure adopted under Article 47(3) should not affect national decisions taken by Member States as to whether or not to admit personnel from the competent authorities of third countries on their national territory.</p>			

INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS

MARCH 2008

TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Regulation (EC) No 297/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1606/2002 on the application of international accounting standards, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3684/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
<p>Joint Council and Commission Statement The provision stating that the Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure has been deleted from the Articles establishing the committees for the sake of legal clarity but that in no way changes the legal situation insofar as the same obligation is laid down in Article 7(1) of Decision 1999/468/EC. In particular, its deletion is without prejudice to the rules of procedure of existing committees and the possibility of derogating from the standard rules of procedure.</p>			
Regulation (EC) No 299/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3694/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
<p>Statement by the Commission The standard time-limits for the regulatory procedure with scrutiny are laid down in Article 5a(3) and (4) of Decision 1999/468/EC. Derogation from paragraphs 3 and 4 may be provided in duly substantiated exceptional cases. The objective of curtailment of time-limits under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny included in the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission is to complete the process from application for a maximum residue level to adoption within less than one year. These adaptations are necessary to ensure consistency with the proposed one year deadline for authorisation of plant protection products included in the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market. The European Commission will examine the appropriateness of curtailment of time limits under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny after two years' experience with the authorisation procedure in the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, taking into account experience gained in the application of these procedures in the European Parliament and the Council.</p>			

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS
MARCH 2008**

TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Directive 2008/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Council Directive 92/49/EEC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to direct insurance other than life assurance, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3679/2/07 REV 2	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Council Directive 91/675/EEC setting up a European insurance and occupational pensions committee, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3669/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2004/109/EC on the harmonisation of transparency requirements in relation to information about issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3670/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/23/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2006/49/EC on the capital adequacy of investment firms and credit institutions, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3671/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/24/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2006/48/EC relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3672/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS MARCH 2008			
TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Directive 2008/10/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2004/39/EC on markets in financial instruments, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3675/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/25/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2002/87/EC on the supplementary supervision of credit institutions, insurance undertakings and investment firms in a financial conglomerate, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3673/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/26/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2003/6/EC on insider dealing and market manipulation (market abuse), as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3674/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/11/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2003/71/EC on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3676/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/19/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2002/83/EC concerning life assurance, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3677/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS
MARCH 2008**

TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Directive 2008/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2005/60/EC on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3678/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 98/8/EC concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3682/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Regulation (EC) No 296/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 562/2006 establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3680/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/27/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3681/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2001/83/EC on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3692/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS
MARCH 2008**

TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Regulation (EC) No 298/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3693/2/07 REV 2	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Directive 2005/68/EC on reinsurance, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3685/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive 2008/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 amending Council Directive 85/611/EEC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS), as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3689/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS MARCH 2008			
TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
<p>2857th meeting of the Council of the European Union (ECONOMIC and FINANCIAL AFFAIRS) on 4 March 2008</p> <p>Regulation (EC) No 300/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 on common rules in the field of civil aviation security and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2320/2002</p> <p>Statement by the Commission on Article 4 The Commission declares its intention to put forward general measures as per current Article 4(1a) and detailed measures for implementation as per current Article 4(2). The Commission intends to apply Article 251 of the EC Treaty to propose any addition of essential elements to the common basic standards foreseen by this Regulation. The Commission notes the importance of enabling detailed implementing measures to be developed in ways which not only ensure effective detection and deterrence, but can also be framed with the necessary flexibility and timeliness, while fully respecting the confidentiality of sensitive material, in order to protect the travelling public. The Commission also notes that continuity of implementing regulations is maintained until they are replaced by new measures made under this Regulation.</p> <p>Statement by Vice-President Barrot on financing "I intend to submit to the Commission a draft legislative proposal on the distribution of the costs, between taxpayers and users, of the more stringent aviation security measures that Member States may adopt, further to the common basic standards provided in this new Regulation. This does not prejudice the Commission's right of initiative and the respect of internal procedures, including the appropriate impact assessment prior to any legislative proposal."</p> <p>Statement by Denmark and Luxembourg Denmark and Luxembourg support a revision of Regulation (EC) No 2320/02 and can in general support the compromise text. Denmark and Luxembourg are, however, of the opinion that the question of financing of security measures is a prerogative for Member States in line with the principle of subsidiarity. For this reason Denmark and Luxembourg vote against.</p>	<p>PE-CONS 3601/12/08 REV 12</p>	<p>Qualified majority</p>	<p>All Member States in favour except: against: DK, LU abstention: UK</p>

INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS MARCH 2008			
TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
2858th meeting of the Council of the European Union (GENERAL AFFAIRS and EXTERNAL RELATIONS) on 10 March 2008			
Common Position (EC) No 6/2008 of 10 March 2008 adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common authorisation procedure for food additives, food enzymes and food flavourings	16673/2/07 REV 2	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Common Position (EC) No 7/2008 of 10 March 2008 adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on food additives	16675/2/07 REV 2	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Common Position (EC) No 8/2008 of 10 March 2008 adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on food enzymes and amending Council Directive 83/417/EEC, Council Regulation (EC) No 1493/1999, Directive 2000/13/EC, Council Directive 2001/112/EC and Regulation (EC) No 258/97	16676/1/07 REV 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS

MARCH 2008

TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
<p>Common Position (EC) No 9/2008 of 10 March 2008 adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on flavourings and certain food ingredients with flavouring properties for use in and on foods and amending Council Regulations (EEC) No 1576/89 and (EEC) No 1601/91, Regulation (EC) No 2232/96 and Directive 2000/13/EC</p>	<p>16677/3/07 REV 3</p>	<p>Qualified majority</p>	<p>All Member States in favour</p>
<p>Joint Statement by the Council and the Commission The Council and the Commission undertake to reconsider the maximum levels for coumarin set out in Annex III B as soon as the advice (expected in the first half of 2008) of the European Food Safety Authority becomes available. To this end, the Council invites the Commission to convene a meeting of experts without delay after the advice of the Authority is issued in order to examine the technical aspects.</p> <p>Statement by the German Delegation Germany considers it necessary to set uniform EU-wide limits for coumarin in foodstuffs containing cinnamon, at levels which ensure consumer health protection while being feasible in practice. We therefore welcome the fact that maximum levels for coumarin have now been laid down for certain foodstuffs. In the interest of preventive consumer health protection, Germany would have preferred a lower coumarin limit for traditional and seasonal bakery ware containing cinnamon than the one now provided for but, in a spirit of compromise and given that the matter is currently being examined by the European Food Safety Authority, can nevertheless support the proposed maximum level</p>			
<p>Adoption of legislative acts following the European Parliament's second reading under the co-decision procedure (Strasbourg, 10-13 March 2008)</p> <p>Regulation (EC) No 294/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2008 establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology</p>			
	<p>PE-CONS 3609/08</p>	<p>(Not applicable)</p>	<p>(Not applicable)</p>

INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS			
MARCH 2008			
TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
2860th meeting of the Council of the European Union (AGRICULTURE and FISHERIES) on 17 March 2008			
Council Regulation (EC) No 247/2008 of 17 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation)	6152/08 + COR 1	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Council Regulation (EC) No 301/2008 of 17 March 2008 adapting Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules	6224/08	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS

MARCH 2008

TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
<p>Council Regulation (EC) No 274/2008 of 17 March 2008 amending Regulation (EEC) No 918/83 setting up a Community system of relief from customs duty</p>	<p>6850/08 + COR 1 (sv) + REV 1 (lt) + REV 2 (sk)</p>	<p>Qualified majority</p>	<p>All Member States in favour except: against: LV, PL</p>
<p>Joint Statement by the Council and the Commission</p>			
<p>The Council and the Commission state that the increase in the threshold in Article 27 of Regulation No 918/83 is without prejudice to alignment of the threshold for VAT on imports in Article 22 of Directive 83/181/EEC.</p>			
<p>Statement by the Polish, Hungarian, Latvian, Romanian, Lithuanian, Estonian, Danish and Slovak delegations on the implementation of the Regulation</p>			
<p>The management of the European customs union requires clear, coherent, understandable and easy to apply customs and tax provisions - especially those directly applicable to travellers and small and medium-sized enterprises. The Polish, Hungarian, Latvian, Romanian, Lithuanian, Estonian, Danish and Slovak delegations are of the opinion that the latest changes in the area of customs and tax relieves for travellers do not always seem to be fully in line with the above mentioned principles.</p>			
<p>Different limits in the areas of customs and tax, limits relating to modes of transport, limits for small consignments which are not aligned, absence of harmonised special provisions applicable for frequent travellers and new legislative techniques may lead to serious difficulties in application, both for travellers and customs services sides – in particular at the external frontiers of the EU.</p>			
<p>Therefore, the European Commission is invited to present a report on the implementation of the Regulation, two years after the new provisions have become applicable, and to propose, if necessary, a revision of Regulation No 918/83 and related tax provisions.</p>			
<p>Council Regulation (EC) No 275/2008 of 17 March 2008 amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff</p>	<p>6851/08 + COR 1 (es) + COR 2 (it) + COR 3 (nl) + COR 4 (sv) + REV 1 (lt) + REV 3 (hu) + REV 4 (sk)</p>	<p>Qualified majority</p>	<p>All Member States in favour except: against: PL</p>

INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS

MARCH 2008

TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Council Regulation (EC) No 248/2008 of 17 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards the national quotas for milk	6757/08	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour except: against: DE, AT abstention: FR

Statement by the Commission

In the context of the Council's adoption of the proposal to increase milk quotas by 2 % as of 1 April 2008, the Commission will take this into account, including all other relevant factors, when preparing its health check proposals relating to the dairy sector in connection with the discussion about a soft landing with quotas in place until 2014/15. In addition to the issue of quotas, other aspects like super levy, fat correction, etc. are elements which may be looked at. In this connection the Commission takes note of the Council's conclusions on the health check communication being adopted at this Council meeting and in particular of paragraphs 18 and 19.

Statement by the Portuguese delegation

The Portuguese delegation agrees to the Commission proposal on the assumption that discussions on the CAP health check and the future of the milk sector after 2015 will bring suitable special arrangements for regions adversely affected by the liberalisation then to be introduced. The assessments carried out by the Commission confirm the adverse effects in many parts of the Community, including Portugal, thus entailing a need to adopt suitable accompanying measures making for structural improvements in the sector so as to improve its competitiveness there by way of regional cohesion.

INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE ACTS

MARCH 2008

TITLE OF LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	VOTING RULE	VOTES
<p>Statement by the German, French and Austrian delegations</p> <p>After a short term recovery of prices in 2007, markets for milk and milk products in the EU have noticeably weakened again since last autumn. This shows that the market development achieved in 2007 may not be sustainable. The decision on a quota increase must thus avoid wrong signals to the markets and negative impacts on producer prices.</p> <p>In its communication concerning the preparation for the CAP health check, the Commission states that the reasons for which the EU dairy quotas were introduced are no longer valid. It announces that the milk quota system will expire on 31 March 2015. Such a step must be made in a responsible and well prepared manner. A soft landing, which is aspired to by the Commission, must therefore not only include measures which increase quotas.</p> <p>Three measures are necessary to achieve a real soft-landing scenario:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Considering the strong sensitivity of the market for dairy products, any increase in quotas should be subject to a precise evaluation concerning its relevance and its impacts, in order to avoid any destabilisation of the dairy sector. – Accompanying measures must have as a first objective to further strengthen the competitiveness of the European milk producers and dairy industry. In many regions of Europe, milk production and the dairy industry are characterised by structures which cannot withstand significantly increased competitive pressure without problems. One of the elements of an accompanying programme should therefore, for example, be to strengthen investment promotion. A second key objective must be to help areas which have no alternatives to milk production. Special support measures are needed here. These are key measures in an accompanying programme that needs appropriate financing. – The dairy markets have to be permanently monitored until 2015 and market tools must be kept and used whenever necessary. A mid-term report should assess the impacts of the soft landing, in order to propose, if necessary, other measures, taking into account the alternative instruments suggested by Member States. <p>The proposed quota increase of 2 % from 1 April 2008 is part of an overall strategy for the phasing out of the quota system and must therefore be included, together with the abovementioned accompanying measures, within the health check process.</p>			

INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS MARCH 2008	
OTHER ACTS	Votes/Statements made public
<p>2856th meeting of the Council of the European Union (ENVIRONMENT) on 3 March 2008</p> <p>Council Recommendation of 3 March 2008 adapting Recommendation 98/376/EC on a parking card for people with disabilities, by reason of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic 5758/08</p> <p>Council Decision on the signature and provisional application of the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Armenia on certain aspects of air services 5760/1/08 REV 1 +COR (fi) +REV 2 (el) +REV 3 (it)</p> <p>Joint Statement by the Council and the Commission</p> <p>Inter alia for pragmatic reasons, it is preferable that the Community alone should conclude the Agreement with the Republic of Armenia on certain aspects of air services. The same considerations would apply in respect of similar agreements as long as they are concluded in accordance with and within the limits of the mandate on the replacement of certain provisions in existing bilateral agreements adopted by the Council Decision of 5 June 2003. This Decision does not constitute a precedent as to the exercise of the respective competencies of the Community and its Member States in respect of agreements other than those referred to above, such as, for example, agreements of the type envisaged by the Council Decision of 5 June 2003 authorising the Commission to open negotiations with the United States in the field of air transport, which shall be concluded as mixed agreements. This Decision does not create any new Community competences as far as external agreements on air services are concerned, nor does it affect the division of competences between the Community and its Member States.</p>	

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS
MARCH 2008**

OTHER ACTS	Votes/Statements made public
<p>Council Common Position 2008/186/CFSP of 3 March 2008 amending Common Position 2003/495/CFSP on Iraq 6465/08</p> <p>Council Regulation (EC) No 195/2008 of 3 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1210/2003 concerning certain specific restrictions on economic and financial relations with Iraq 6464/08</p> <p>Council Common Position 2008/187/CFSP of 3 March 2008 concerning restrictive measures against the illegal government of Anjouan in the Union of Comoros 6557/08</p> <p>Council Conclusions on the Contribution of the Council (Environment) to the Spring European Council (13-14 March 2008) 7251/08</p> <p>Council Conclusions on the Preparation for the ninth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Bonn, 19 to 30 May 2008) 7250/08</p> <p>Council Conclusions on the Preparation for the fourth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP 4) (Bonn, 12 to 16 May 2008) 6346/08</p>	

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS
MARCH 2008**

OTHER ACTS	Votes/Statements made public
2857th meeting of the Council of the European Union (ECONOMIC and FINANCIAL AFFAIRS) on 4 March 2008	
Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated stability programme of Ireland, 2007-2010 7116/08	
Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated stability programme of Greece, 2007-2010 7057/08	
Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated stability programme of Spain, 2007-2010 7062/08	
Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the stability programme of Cyprus, 2007-2011 7052/08	
Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the stability programme of Malta, 2007-2010 7056/08	
Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated stability programme of Austria, 2007-2010 6522/08 + REV 1 (mt)	
Council opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated stability programme of Portugal, 2007-2011 7050/08 + REV 1 (pt)	

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS
MARCH 2008**

OTHER ACTS	Votes/Statements made public
Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated stability programme of Slovenia, 2007-2010 7115/08	
Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated convergence programme of Bulgaria, 2007-2010 7048/08	
Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated convergence programme of the Czech Republic, 2007-2010 7055/08	
Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated convergence programme of Denmark, 2007-2010 7117/08	
Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated convergence programme of Estonia, 2007-2011 7053/08	
Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated convergence programme of Latvia, 2007-2010 7054/08	
Council Opinion of 4 March 2008 on the updated convergence programme of Lithuania, 2007-2010 7118/08	
Council Conclusions on the budget guidelines for 2009 6704/08	

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS
MARCH 2008**

OTHER ACTS	Votes/Statements made public
<p>2858th meeting of the Council of the European Union (GENERAL AFFAIRS and EXTERNAL RELATIONS) on 10 March 2008</p> <p>Council Conclusions on Afghanistan 7376/08</p> <p>Council Conclusions on Pakistan 7379/08</p> <p>Council Regulation (EC) No 229/2008 of 10 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 533/2004 on the establishment of partnerships in the framework of the stabilisation and association process 6686/08</p> <p>Common Position of the European Union in view of the twelfth meeting of the EU-Ukraine Cooperation Council (Brussels, 11 March 2008) 6332/08</p> <p>Common Position of the European Union in view of the third meeting of the EU-Algeria Association Council (Brussels, 10 March 2008) 7134/08</p> <p>Council Conclusions on the Mechanism on Cooperation and Verification for Bulgaria and Romania 7017/08</p> <p>Council Regulation (EC) No 238/2008 of 10 March 2008 terminating the partial interim review pursuant to Article 11(3) of Regulation (EC) No 384/96 of the anti-dumping duty on imports of solutions of urea and ammonium nitrate originating in Russia 6606/08</p>	

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS
MARCH 2008**

OTHER ACTS	Votes/Statements made public
<p>Council Regulation (EC) No 236/2008 of 10 March 2008 concerning terminating the partial interim review pursuant to Article 11(3) of Regulation (EC) No 384/96 of the anti-dumping duty on imports of ammonium nitrate originating in Russia 6597/08 + REV 1 (en) + COR 1 (de)</p> <p>Council Regulation (EC) No 237/2008 of 10 March 2008 terminating the partial interim review pursuant to Article 11(3) of Regulation (EC) No 384/96 of the anti-dumping duty on imports of ammonium nitrate originating, inter alia , in Ukraine 6602/08</p> <p>Council Regulation (EC) No 221/2008 of 10 March 2008 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed on imports of certain manganese dioxides originating in South Africa 6512/08</p> <p>2859th meeting of the Council of the European Union (GENERAL AFFAIRS and EXTERNAL RELATIONS) on 10 March 2008</p> <p>Council Conclusions on WTO/DDA 7375/08</p> <p>Council Conclusions on Zimbabwe 7459/08</p> <p>Council Conclusions on the Western Balkans 7136/1/08 REV 1</p>	

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS
MARCH 2008**

OTHER ACTS	Votes/Statements made public
<p>Written procedure completed on 13 March 2008</p> <p>Council Common Position 2008/223/CFSP of 13 March 2008 renewing measures in support of the effective implementation of the mandate of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) 6927/08</p> <p>2860th meeting of the Council of the European Union (AGRICULTURE and FISHERIES) on 17 March 2008</p> <p>Council Regulation (EC) No 242/2008 of 17 March 2008 on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire 16680/07</p> <p>Council Regulation (EC) No 241/2008 of 17 March 2008 on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau 14394/07</p> <p>Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 17 March 2008 on the situation of persons with disabilities in the European Union 6941/08 SOC 133 + REV 1 (bg) + REV 2 (lv) + REV 3 (pl)</p>	

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS
MARCH 2008**

OTHER ACTS	Votes/Statements made public
<p>2008/274/EC: Council Decision of 17 March 2008 on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco on certain aspects of air services 5102/07</p> <p>Joint Statement by the Council and the Commission Inter alia for pragmatic reasons, it is preferable that the Community alone should conclude the Agreement with the Kingdom of Morocco on certain aspects of air services. The same considerations would apply in respect of similar agreements as long as they are concluded in accordance with and within the limits of the mandate on the replacement of certain provisions in existing bilateral agreements adopted by the Council Decision of 5 June 2003. This Decision does not constitute a precedent as to the exercise of the respective competencies of the Community and its Member States in respect of agreements other than those referred to above, such as, for example, agreements of the type envisaged by the Council Decision of 5 June 2003 authorising the Commission to open negotiations with the United States in the field of air transport, which shall be concluded as mixed agreements. This Decision does not create any new Community competences as far as external agreements on air services are concerned, nor does it affect the division of competences between the Community and its Member States.</p> <p>2008/275/EC: Council Decision of 17 March 2008 on the conclusion of a Protocol amending Annexes I and II to the Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco on certain aspects of air services, in order to take account of the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania 13246/1/07 REV 1 + COR 1 (cs) + COR 2 (fi)</p> <p>2008/268/EC: Council Decision of 17 March 2008 amending Decision 1999/70/EC concerning the external auditors of the national central banks, as regards the external auditor of Suomen Pankki 6347/08</p>	

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS
MARCH 2008**

OTHER ACTS	Votes/Statements made public
<p>2008/306/EC: Council Decision of 17 March 2008 on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Community and Ukraine in relation to export duties 6402/08 + REV 1 (sl)</p>	
<p>Council Joint Action 2008/229/CFSP of 17 March 2008 amending Joint Action 2007/369/CFSP on the establishment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL AFGHANISTAN) 6892/08</p>	
<p>Council Joint Action 2008/228/CFSP of 17 March 2008 amending and extending Joint Action 2006/304/CFSP on the establishment of an EU Planning Team (EUPT Kosovo) regarding a possible EU crisis management operation in the field of rule of law and possible other areas in Kosovo 6819/08</p>	
<p>Council Regulation (EC) No 243/2008 of 17 March 2008 imposing certain restrictive measures on the illegal authorities of the island of Anjouan in the Union of the Comoros 7111/08</p>	
<p>Council Joint Action 2008/230/CFSP of 17 March 2008 on support for EU activities in order to promote the control of arms exports and the principles and criteria of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports among third countries 7270/08</p>	
<p>Council Regulation (EC) No 261/2008 of 17 March 2008 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain compressors originating in the People's Republic of China 7090/08 + COR 1 (es) + REV 1 (en)</p>	

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS
MARCH 2008**

OTHER ACTS	Votes/Statements made public
<p>Council Regulation (EC) No 239/2008 of 17 March 2008 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed on imports of coke of coal in pieces with a diameter of more than 80 mm (Coke 80+) originating in the People's Republic of China 6670/08</p> <p>Council Regulation (EC) No 240/2008 of 17 March 2008 repealing the anti-dumping duty on imports of urea originating in Belarus, Croatia, Libya and Ukraine, following an expiry review pursuant to Article 11(2) of Regulation (EC) No 384/96 6760/08</p> <p>Council Regulation (EC) No 249/2008 of 17 March 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1425/2006 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain plastic sacks and bags originating in the People's Republic of China and Thailand 7133/08</p>	

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS
MARCH 2008**

OTHER ACTS	Votes/Statements made public
<p>Council Conclusions on the Commission Communication "preparing for the "health check" of the CAP reform" 7150/08 + REV 1 (cs, da, de, el, et, lt, mt, nl, pt,sl, sv) + REV 1 COR 1 (lt)</p> <p>Statement by Denmark The Danish delegation acknowledges the efforts made to achieve consensus in the Council on the conclusions concerning the Commission's communication on preparing for the "health check" of the CAP reform. The Danish delegation has noted the views concerning the health check in the Council and regrets that the conclusions are not as ambitious and market oriented as Denmark would have wished in the light of the present favourable market situation. As regards capping and the text in paragraph 12, Denmark takes this conclusion in a positive manner to mean that the Commission will put forward a reasonable proposal on capping, which should be seen as a natural first step towards the further phasing out of direct agricultural aid.</p> <p>Statement by Greece Greece states that in the context of the Health Check, the sole adjustments to the new CAP as already being implemented must be ones which will not limit the support hitherto given to production sectors and regions, will rectify any injustices of the past and will maintain the existing financial balance and complementarity of the first and second pillars of the Common Agricultural Policy. It consequently expects the Commission to make progress in drawing up legislative proposals to that end.</p> <p>Statement by Cyprus Cyprus can support the Council Conclusions on the Health Check on the understanding that the text of paragraph 10 means that Member States applying the Single Area Payment Scheme may continue to do so until 2013, together with all accompanying measures applied at present.</p>	<p>Unanimity: abstention: CZ, LV</p>

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS
MARCH 2008**

OTHER ACTS

Votes/Statements made public

Statement by Latvia

REVIEW OF THE CRITERIA FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF DIRECT PAYMENTS

Latvia considers that the future CAP must continue to be a unified EU policy, but that of equal importance is the need for that policy to undergo substantial review. One of the main objectives of such a review is a timely solution to the issue of new, well-founded criteria for the distribution of financial resources in the future, whether for direct support or for rural development. The review should take place well before any discussion of the next Financial Perspective for the period after 2013.

Latvia therefore reiterates its previously expressed firm view on the need to establish, for all Member States, new, uniform rules and criteria for the grant of payments that meet the new challenges of the CAP and ensure equal treatment of all Member States.

Latvia cannot agree to continued granting of payments on the basis of the historical distribution criteria, for that does not serve the purpose of developing competitive, market-oriented agriculture in the EU.

Given that direct support is direct financing of Member States' economies from the Community budget, i.e. without the need for either national or private cofinancing, it is very important that such payments be based on strict, objectively determined, distribution criteria.

MODULATION

Latvia is not satisfied with the principles of modulation, whether voluntary or compulsory, whereby 80 % of the funds released by modulation goes to the Member States concerned. Latvia takes the view that modulation funds should serve as a means of reducing the disparities between the Community's rural areas, and that this could be done by applying criteria for distribution of part of the financial resources that are based on actual needs. Latvia is adamant that any increase in second pillar financial resources as a result of modulation cannot be taken as the basis for calculating the second pillar financing for the Member States concerned for the purposes of the next Financial Perspective.

Latvia considers that modulation between the first and second pillars affects a wider range of financing issues than just those within the remit of the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers and that this is therefore a matter which needs to be discussed and decided in parallel in the Council of Economics and Finance Ministers and the European Council, during examination of the entire EU Budget and the principles thereof, as well as in the framework of the new Financial Perspective.

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS
MARCH 2008**

OTHER ACTS

Votes/Statements made public

Statement by Austria

Austria wishes to make it perfectly clear that its agreement to the conclusions relates to the original English version only.

Austria would point out that the milk quota increase is only one of a number of possible measures to ensure a soft landing for the dairy sector. Given point 19 of the conclusions and the statement made by the Commission when Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 was adopted (2 % quota increase), Austria therefore assumes that measures such as EU-wide offsetting, reduction or abolition of the fat correction coefficient and flexible application of the super levy were at least considered during discussion of the legislative proposals.

Austria further assumes that in the event of expiry of the milk quota system accompanying measures will be taken for the vulnerable areas referred to in point 19 of the conclusions, and that they will include provision of the necessary additional financing.

Finally, Austria assumes that the "new and ongoing challenges" referred to in point 24 of the conclusions are to include the necessary accompanying measures in the event of expiry of the milk quota system.

Joint Statement by Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia

The CAP reform of 2003, by shifting away from product support, delivered what was expected of it and contributed to the better market orientation of farmers, facilitated their adaptation to the economic environment and improved the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. The focus of support is now increasingly placed on the multifunctional nature of the European agricultural model, and priority is given to the land managing role of farmers as providing a number of public goods beyond food supply.

In this context the historical references used in the 2003 reform process for determining the levels of direct support are now losing credibility and, as the Commission rightly concludes in its Communication, it will become more difficult to justify differences in individual levels of support.

Drawing on this, and bearing in mind that consumer demands as to what agriculture delivers are practically the same in all Member States, we adhere to an approach towards aligning the levels of direct support EU wide. We consider that the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament should take this into account during the CAP "health check" and use every possible tool for closing the gap between direct support levels among the Member States, thus creating an equal basis for competition. In this respect every examination of spending under the CAP should handle this issue as a priority.

**INFORMATION ON THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ACTS
MARCH 2008**

OTHER ACTS

Votes/Statements made public

Joint Statement by the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Romania and Slovakia on the issue of the degressivity of direct payments

The delegations of the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Romania and Slovakia regret that the Council Conclusions on the Commission Communication "Preparing for the 'health check' of the CAP reform" do not fully reflect the discussions so far held at Council level on the issue of degressivity and the progressive reduction of direct payments.

They recall that a significant number of delegations have repeatedly rejected the principle of such reductions in payments, irrespective of the mechanism chosen to implement them.

They further note that significant undesirable consequences would result from any proposals which put large undertakings or cooperatives at a disadvantage and lead to an erosion of their competitive structures, resulting in the artificial splitting of farms purely for support-related reasons. In addition, smaller farms would be discouraged from joining together to form a single legal entity in order to create economies of scale and become more competitive.