

Council of the European Union

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#### NOTE

Subject:

## MONTHLY SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTS - JANUARY 2018

This document lists the acts<sup>1</sup> adopted by the Council in January 2018.<sup>2 3</sup>

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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For easy reference, the "short titles" as mentioned in the Council's agendas are also indicated (see in *italics*).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 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: <u>Monthly summaries of Council acts (acts) - Consilium</u>

Documents listed in the summary may be obtained from the public register of Councilw documents at: <u>Documents and publications - Consilium</u>

It should be noted that this document is exclusively for information purposes - only Council minutes are authentic. These are available on the Council's website at: <u>Council Minutes - Consilium</u>

| INFORMATION ON THE ACTS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL IN JANUARY 2018  |                       |  |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Written procedure completed on 8 January 2018   |                       |  |
| NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS  |                       |  |
| ACT   | DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS |  |
| Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2018/16 of 8 January 2018 implementing Decision (CFSP) 2016/849 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea OJ L 4, 9.1.2018, p. 16–19   | 16025/17              |  |
| Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/12 of 8 January 2018 implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea OJ L 4, 9.1.2018, p. 1–4  | 16027/17              |  |
| Written procedure completed on 10 January 2018  |                       |  |
| NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS  |                       |  |
| ACT   | DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS |  |
| Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2018/36 of 10 January 2018 implementing Decision 2012/285/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies threatening the peace, security or stability of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau OJ L 6, 11.1.2018, p. 48–49                     | 5009/18               |  |
| Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/31 of 10 January 2018 implementing Article 11(1) of Regulation (EU) No 377/2012 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies threatening the peace, security or stability of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau OJ L 6, 11.1.2018, p. 1–2 | 5011/18               |  |

| Written procedure completed on 12 January 2018   |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS   |                       |
| ACT  | DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS |
| Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2018/58 of 12 January 2018 implementing Decision (CFSP) 2016/849 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea OJ L 10, 13.1.2018, p. 15–16   | 5124/18               |
| Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/53 of 12 January 2018 implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea OJ L 10, 13.1.2018, p. 1–2  | 5125/18               |
| 3591st meeting of the Council of the European Union (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) held in Brussels on 22 January 2018  |                       |
| NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS   |                       |
| ACT  | DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS |
| Council Conclusions on the Integrated Approach to External Conflicts and Crises  | 5413/18               |
| Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls - Decision<br>Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/101 of 22 January 2018 on the promotion of effective arms export<br>controls<br>OJ L 17, 23.1.2018, p. 40–47  | 14383/17              |
| Council Decision on the EU position in the EU-Ukraine Association Council and Association<br>Committee in Trade Configuration<br>Council Decision (EU) 2018/156 of 22 January 2018 on the position to be taken on behalf of the<br>European Union within the Association Council established by the Association Agreement between the<br>European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one<br>part, and Ukraine, of the other part, as regards supplementing Annex I-A to Chapter 1 of Title IV of that<br>Agreement, and within the Association Committee in Trade configuration, as regards recalculating the<br>schedule of export duty elimination set out in Annexes I-C and I-D to Chapter 1 of Title IV of that<br>Agreement<br>OJ L 29, 1.2.2018, p. 13–34 | 15244/17              |

| Council Conclusions on Zimbabwe  | 5169/18  |
|--|----------|
| Council Conclusions on Iraq  | 5285/18  |
| Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/90 of 22 January 2018 amending Decision (CFSP) 2017/2074 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela OJ L 16I, 22.1.2018, p. 14–16  | 16032/17 |
| Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/88 of 22 January 2018 implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2063 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Venezuela OJ L 16I, 22.1.2018, p. 6–8   | 16034/17 |
| Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/89 of 22 January 2018 amending Decision (CFSP) 2016/849 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea OJ L 16I, 22.1.2018, p. 9–13  | 5006/18  |
| Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/87 of 22 January 2018 implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea OJ L 16I, 22.1.2018, p. 1–5   | 5007/18  |
| <i>Council Decision on the participation of Switzerland in the European Rail Agency</i><br>Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations with the Swiss Confederation for an<br>agreement to amend the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on<br>the Carriage of Goods and Passengers by Rail and Road with a view to enabling the participation of the<br>Swiss Confederation in the European Union Agency for Railways | 15695/17 |
| <i>Euro-Mediterranean Aviation Agreement between the European Community and Morocco</i><br>Council Decision (EU) 2018/146 of 22 January 2018 on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the<br>Euro-Mediterranean Aviation Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of<br>the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part<br>OJ L 26, 31.1.2018, p. 4–5  | 15653/16 |

| 3592nd meeting of the Council of the European Union (ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS) held in Brussels on 23 January 2018   |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS   |                       |
| ACT  | DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS |
| <i>De-Listing of certain jurisdictions from the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes</i><br>EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes<br>OJ C 29, 26.1.2018, p. 2–2   | 5086/18               |
| Council Decision on the EU position regarding the adoption of rules of procedure Joint Committee EU-<br>Azerbaijan Visa facilitation agreement (VFA)<br>Council Decision (EU) 2018/201 of 23 January 2018 on the position to be taken on behalf of the Union<br>within the Joint Visa Facilitation Committee set up under the Agreement between the European Union<br>and the Republic of Azerbaijan on the facilitation of the issuance of visas with regard to the adoption of<br>its rules of procedure<br>OJ L 38, 10.2.2018, p. 13–18                   | 15721/17              |
| <i>ETS linking Switzerland on the conclusion of an Agreement</i><br>Council Decision (EU) 2018/219 of 23 January 2018 on the conclusion of the Agreement between the<br>European Union and the Swiss Confederation on the linking of their greenhouse gas emissions trading<br>systems<br>OJ L 43, 16.2.2018, p. 1–2   | 13076/17              |
| <i>Directive on Maritime Labour Convention (implementing a Social Partner Agreement)</i><br>Council Directive (EU) 2018/131 of 23 January 2018 implementing the Agreement concluded by the<br>European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA) and the European Transport Workers'<br>Federation (ETF) to amend Directive 2009/13/EC in accordance with the amendments of 2014 to the<br>Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as approved by the International Labour Conference on 11 June<br>2014 (Text with EEA relevance)<br>OJ L 22, 26.1.2018, p. 28–33 | 15647/17              |

| Regulation on Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking<br>Council Regulation (EU) 2018/121 of 23 January 2018 amending Regulation (EU) No 560/2014<br>establishing the Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (Text with EEA relevance)<br>OJ L 22, 26.1.2018, p. 1–2  | 15757/17 |
|--|----------|
| Statement by Croatia, Greece, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain   |          |
| The Commission proposal sets out substantial changes. However, no impact assessment has been carried out, nor public consultation either, on it.<br>Therefore, there is no evidence that the proposed changes will be welcome by all stakeholders, in particular, by those who are not members of the Bio-<br>Based Industries Consortium (BIC).   |          |
| Without the in-cash contribution of industry at programme level, the value added of this Joint Technological Initiative (JTI) is notably less. A set of open calls in the societal challenge 2 of Horizon 2020 would very probably provide more EU added value per euro spent, as open calls are the best way to implement the principle of excellence, and they can tap into the whole potential available in Europe (not only in the BIC members). |          |
| For all the above-mentioned reasons, we expect that this proposal does not set a precedent for future unilateral requests of changes in the regulations of other JTIs, nor for industrial financial contributions in future JTIs.  |          |
| <i>Decision on the EU position in the EU-CH Joint Committee</i><br>Council Decision on the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union, in the EU-Switzerland<br>Joint Committee concerning a technical revision of the Agreement on direct insurance other than life<br>insurance  | 15069/17 |
| Council Conclusions on the Annual Growth Survey 2018   | 5545/17  |
| Council Conclusions on the Alert Mechanism Report 2018   | 5542/18  |

| Written procedure completed on 23 January 2018  |                       |  |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS  |                       |  |
| ACT   | DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS |  |
| Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120 of 23 January 2018 fixing for 2018 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/127 OJ L 27, 31.1.2018, p. 1–168 | 15858/17              |  |

## Joint Declaration on strengthening the recovery for European eel (Commission and Member States)

The Commission and Member States

Acknowledging that the stock of European eel is in critical condition, as confirmed again by ICES' latest advice of 7 November 2017;

Taking note of the listing of European eel in CITES Appendix II and in CMS Appendix II;

Recognizing that urgent action is needed to ensure the recovery of the stock across its natural range and that measures that further reduce eel mortality caused by human influences during all eel life stages need to be in place as from 2018;

Considering that a temporary closure of fisheries of eel of an overall length of 12 cm or longer in Union Waters of ICES areas including in the Baltic Sea has been agreed in the context of the Regulation for Fishing opportunities for 2018 and that the potential interaction with national eel management plans will have to be monitored;

Noting the need to work with third countries including through the Joint Baltic Sea Fisheries Commission to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to the recovery of the stock among all stakeholders;

Welcoming the GFCM decision to develop and implement a management plan for European eel in the Mediterranean together with non EU States and underlining that the EU has committed to table a proposal to that end at the 2018 GFCM Annual Session;

Understanding that the recovery of the stock requires measures in all natural eel habitats in the EU and during all stages of the eel life-cycle from the glass eel to the silver eel stage;

Supporting that the Commission will launch an external evaluation of the Eel Regulation early 2018 to assess its effectiveness and its contribution to the recovery of the stock of European eel, with a view to its possible revision, and will present the results of the evaluation and its conclusions to the Council in the first quarter of 2019;

Noting that the Commission will submit Member States' progress reports on the implementation of their national eel management plan due by 30 June 2018 to an external review to verify the accuracy and appropriateness of the data provided and the methods used to calculate them and thus ensure a level playing field;

Agree to strengthen the protection of the stock of European Eel

To this effect:

- 1. Member States will fully implement their national eel management plans and reinforce them as appropriate by further decreasing anthropogenic mortality factors during all stages of the eel lifecycle by a combination of measures such as reducing commercial fishing activity, restricting recreational fishing, putting in place structural measures to make rivers passable, improving river habitats, and transporting silver eels from inland waters to waters from which they can escape freely to the Sargasso Sea.
- 2. Where national eel management plans are not achieving their own targets in terms of fishing mortality and biomass escapement or where Member States do not provide sufficient data to calculate these fishing mortality and escapement targets, Member States concerned will apply as soon as possible to their internal eel fisheries measures with equivalent effect to those agreed in the fishing opportunities regulation.
- 3. Member States will review current restocking practices to ensure that publicly funded restocking contributes to increasing the escapement levels of silvers eels in line with the objectives of the Eel regulation.
- 4. Member States will improve the control of eel fisheries as appropriate and further increase their efforts with respect to fighting against illegal eel fishing and illegal trade of eels in particular of glass eels and ensure compliance with the CITES ban of extra-European trade. This may include the use of existing appropriate IT tools to ensure the traceability of eels at all life stages and to the final trade destination of the eels, both when they are used for human consumption directly or after rearing in aquaculture and when they are used for restocking, assisted migration or trap and transport purposes.
- 5. Member States will provide the progress reports foreseen under Article 9 of Regulation 1100/2007 on the implementation of their eel management plans by 30 June 2018
- 6. Furthermore, Member States will inform about the measures they are taking to abide with their commitments under points 1-4 at the latest by 30 September 2018.
- 7. Member States will, within the limits of their institutional set-up, endeavour to provide progress reports on the implementation of their eel management plans every three years, until there is a strong scientific evidence of recovery signs for the eel population across Europe.

# Eel (DK and SE)

Denmark and Sweden support the final compromise on the Regulation on Fishing Opportunities for 2018 in acknowledgement of the many positive elements and the importance of the whole package including the implementation of the EU-Norway agreement.

However, Denmark and Sweden regret the outcome with respect to eel. While recognizing the poor state of the European eel stock and that appropriate actions are needed for all stages of the eel life-cycle, Denmark and Sweden find the temporary closure unbalanced. The efforts already carried out are not taken into account in an appropriate way. Denmark and Sweden do not see any logic why eel below 12 cm, eel in the Mediterranean and recreational fisheries are not covered by the measures.

Furthermore, the provisions on eel shows a need for an in-depth analysis of the data on eel. Denmark and Sweden are ready to work together with the Commission and other Member States in that respect.

We appreciate the evaluation of the Eel Regulation and review of Member States' progress reports on the implementation of their national eel management plans in 2018. Furthermore, we emphasize the commitment of the EU to table a proposal for a Mediterranean management plan for European eel in 2018. These initiatives can – in combination with more reliable data – provide an improved basis for any future decisions.

# Improvements in selectivity in the Celtic Sea gadoid fishery (The North Western Waters Group of Member States (UK, IE, FR, BE, NL and ES))

The Member States recognise that in the gadoid fishery in the Celtic Sea further improvements in selectivity are required to reduce unwanted catches of cod, haddock and whiting.

Such measures, which may include increases in cod-end mesh size, selective trawl designs or the use of selectivity devices such as square mesh panels, will be developed by the Member States in the North Western Waters regional group in partnership with the Advisory Council. Recommendations on the appropriate measures to be taken will be submitted by the North Western Waters Group to the Commission by the end of May 2018.

### Improvements in selectivity in the Nephrops fisheries in Irish Sea (UK and IE)

Ireland and the United Kingdom recognise that in the *Nephrops* fishery in the Irish Sea further improvements in selectivity are required to reduce unwanted catches of whiting. These measures should build on the significant work already carried out by Ireland and the United Kingdom over the last years.

Such measures which may include increases in cod-end mesh size, selective trawl designs or the use of selectivity devices such as square mesh panels and sorting grids, will be developed by Ireland and the United Kingdom in partnership with the Advisory Council. In the framework of the North Western Waters Group, the recommendations on the appropriate measures to be taken will be submitted to the Commission by the end of May 2018 by the North Western Waters Group.

<u>Appropriate conservation measures concerning plaice ICES division 7a (Irish Sea), plaice ICES divisions 7fg (Celtic Sea, Bristol Channel), plaice ICES divisions 7hjk (Celtic Sea, Southwest of Ireland), whiting ICES division 7a (Irish Sea), whiting 5b and 6 (Commission and Member States)</u>

The Commission and Member States recognise a need to take into account the effects of the landing obligation when setting fishing opportunities for different stocks. This also includes situations where a very low TAC or zero TACs could lead to premature closure of fisheries due to choke situations.

To this end, Member States working with the Advisory Council within the regional groups undertake to apply all appropriate measures to mitigate choke situations and to include such measures within their joint recommendations for discard plans for 2019.

In cases where, even after applying all appropriate measures, residual choke issues still remain a major concern, the Member States will propose alternative conservation measures to alleviate the choke risk. Where necessary, the Commission will seek scientific advice either from ICES or STECF on appropriate measures for those stocks.

## Hague Preferences (BE, DE, DK, FR and NL)

Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France and the Netherlands are of the opinion that the scales for the allocation of quotas for Member States were agreed upon in 1983. These scales constitute the basis of relative stability, which is a principle established by the Basic Regulation governing the Common Fisheries Policy. It is our opinion that Hague preferences are contrary to the principle of relative stability.

### Support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in relation to the provisions for eel (Commission and DE)

When adopting national emergency measures referred to in Article 13 of Regulation 1380/2013 in the specific context of the implementation of the ICES advice on European eel, Member States may consider using temporary cessation in accordance with Article 33 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014.

### Sustainable management of Irish Sea cod (UK and IE)

Considering the very high TAC increase decided for 2018 for Irish Sea cod, Ireland and the United Kingdom commit to agree in December 2018 to a TAC for this stock in line with MSY level for 2019, based on ICES advice, including if it leads to a significant decrease.

## <u>Anchovy 9a (ES and PT)</u>

Spain and Portugal recognise that the scientific basis for managing Anchovy 9a needs to be significantly improved in order to achieve full analytical assessment of the stock. In particular, carrying out biomass surveys and collecting age composition data for all 9a areas is vital to improve the knowledge of the stock. Spain and Portugal therefore commit to achieving a considerable improvement in scientific data collection and assessment in 2018 by:

- Making greater investment in terms of human resources and expertise to expedite the required research;
- Carrying out timely and comprehensive biomass survey campaigns in 2018, including in the autumn.

### Southern hake (ES and PT)

Spain and Portugal undertake to support all necessary measures needed to achieve MSY in 2019 at the very latest. In addition, Spain and Portugal will take all appropriate measures to effectively control the southern hake fishery, with the aim to ensure that there are no unallocated landings of southern hake in the future.

#### European seabass (Commission)

After the ICES benchmark exercise in 2018, the Commission will consider if there is a basis for reviewing the measures in place for seabass and allowing for any landings of seabass in recreational fisheries.

#### Inter-area flexibility for horse mackerel from ICES division 8c to subarea 9 (Commission and ES)

The Commission will submit a request to ICES to provide scientific advice on whether an increase from 5 % to 15 % in the inter-area flexibility from division 8c to subarea 9 would be sustainable, also in the long term, noting that the current scientific advice indicates that this flexibility would apply to two different stocks.

### **Undulate ray (Commission)**

In the beginning of 2018, the Commission will ask the ICES to provide earlier scientific advice on all stocks of undulate ray. If the advice allows, the Commission will consider to propose a corresponding in year amendment for the TAC as soon as possible.

## Recreational fishing of European seabass in the north (4bc, 7a-h) (Commission, FR, NL and UK)

Taking into account the importance of recreational European seabass fishing for the economy of the coastal regions;

Acknowledging the critical state of the European seabass stock in the northern zone;

Taking note that recreational fishery catches are estimated to have exceeded professional fishery catches;

Considering the limitations of estimates of mortality incurred by recreational fishing;

Bearing in mind the urgency of adopting suitable measures in the light of the state of the biomass;

France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, having agreed to drastic management measures for all categories of professional fisheries work, consider it justified to maintain a prudent recreational fishery management regime based on catch-and-release throughout the year.

In the light of the outcome of the review of the European seabass assessment model to be issued by ICES in March 2018, the possibility will be examined of permitting the landing of one European seabass per person per day for a limited period of time.

# Swordfish (IT)

Italy maintains its strong disagreement with the fishing opportunities fixed for Mediterranean swordfish, as reflected in the action for annulment brought in case C-611/17. However, in a constructive spirit, Italy will not oppose the final compromise as a whole, but reserves, in any case, its rights to challenge the provisions on Mediterranean swordfish.

## Proposal for inter-area flexibility for anglerfish and megrim in ICES area 7 (ES)

Spain cannot consent to the flexibility which would allow 25 % of the TAC for anglerfish and megrim in ICES area 7 to be caught in ICES areas 8a, 8b, 8d and 8e by Member States with a quota for those species in both areas, because this would fail to meet the expectations of the various Spanish sectors concerned.

## Snow crab fisheries in the Svalbard area in 2018 (LV)

Taking into account that there was no strong commitment provided from the European Commission in respect of immediate and concrete actions to ensure the possibility for Member States to use snow crab fishing opportunities in Svalbard for 2018, the negative experience on settlement of this issue in 2017 as well as the arrest of the Latvian fishing vessel in the Svalbard area when it started to fish for snow crab, Latvia abstains from voting for the regulation.

The current situation where the legal rights of the Member States of the European Union as regards the Treaty of Paris and related fishing opportunities of snow crab are not respected and unlawfully obstructed without immediate and strong action by the relevant authorities in order to remedy this situation, is unacceptable for Latvia.

| Written procedure completed on 25 January 2018   |                       |                    |                             |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS   |                       |                    |                             |
| ACT  | DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS |                    |                             |
| uncil Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2018/132 of 25 January 2018 implementing Decision (CFSP) 15/1333 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya L 22, 26.1.2018, p. 34–35  |                       | 5543/18            |                             |
| 3593rd meeting of the Council of the European Union (Agriculture) held in Brussels on 29 January 2018  |                       |                    |                             |
| LEGISLATIVE ACTS   |                       |                    |                             |
| АСТ  | DOCUMENT              | VOTING RULE        | VOTES                       |
| Additional customs duties on imports of certain USA products (codification)<br>Regulation (EU) 2018/196 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7<br>February 2018 on additional customs duties on imports of certain products<br>originating in the United States of America<br>OJ L 44, 16.2.2018, p. 1–8 | 60/17                 | Qualified majority | All Member States in favour |
| NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS   |                       |                    |                             |
| АСТ  |                       | DOCUMENT / STA     | ATEMENTS                    |
| <i>Fixing Regulation 2017 on skimmed milk powder</i><br>Council Regulation (EU) 2018/147 of 29 January 2018 amending Regulation (Fregards the quantitative limitation for buying-in skimmed milk powder<br>OJ L 26, 31.1.2018, p. 6–7  | EU) No 1370/2013 as   | 15436/17           |                             |

## Statement by Lithuania

Lithuania understands the complexity of the situation in the skimmed milk powder (SMP) sector. Huge stocks of almost 400 000 tonnes were accumulated through public intervention and only very small quantities were sold so far by the tender procedure. This still puts substantial pressure on the market. However, considering the effectiveness of the measure during the recent dairy crisis it has proved to be a very important safety net measure.

The primary objective on solving the problem in the SMP sector should be the quick realisation of accumulated stocks of SMP, rather than abeyance of the safety net measure. From Lithuania's point of view, the potential future purchase threshold of 109,000 t, which is fixed in the Council Regulation (EU) No 1370/2013, is a minimum safety net which can not in any circumstances be weakened or renounced.

Therefore, Lithuania is of the position that the current rules for the buying-in for SMP should be maintained. Lithuania urges the Commission to look for all the possibilities to sell or utilize the quantities of SMP accumulated in intervention stock.

| <i>European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 13/2017</i><br>Council Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 13/2017: "A single European rail traffic management system: will the political choice ever become reality?"  | 5584/18  |
|---|----------|
| <i>EU-USA - conclusion of the Air Transport Agreement</i><br>Council Decision on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union of the Air Transport Agreement<br>between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the United States of<br>America, of the other part | 13419/16 |
| <i>Council Decision approving the external auditors of the ECB</i><br>Council Decision amending Decision 98/481/EC approving the external auditors of the European<br>Central Bank  | 5015/18  |

| Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Iceland external border<br>Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the serious deficiencies<br>identified in the 2017 evaluation of Iceland on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of<br>management of the external border   | 5204/18  |
|--|----------|
| Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Denmark external border<br>Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified<br>in the 2017 evaluation of Denmark on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of<br>management of the external border   | 5206/18  |
| Council Decision within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Annex XI (Electronic communication, audiovisual services and information society) to the EEA Agreement<br>Council Decision (EU) 2018/180 of 29 January 2018 on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Annex XI (Electronic communication, audiovisual services and information society) to the EEA Agreement<br>OJ L 33, 7.2.2018, p. 1–4 | 15390/17 |
| Council Decision within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Annex XIII (Transport) to the EEA Agreement<br>Council Decision (EU) 2018/176 of 29 January 2018 on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Annex XIII (Transport) to the EEA Agreement<br>OJ L 32, 6.2.2018, p. 50–51   | 15399/17 |
| Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/141 of 29 January 2018 amending Decision 2011/72/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Tunisia OJ L 25, 30.1.2018, p. 38–39  | 15813/17 |
| Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/137 of 29 January 2018 implementing Regulation (EU) No 101/2011 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Tunisia OJ L 25, 30.1.2018, p. 1–2   | 15815/17 |