



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 6 June 2024
(OR. en)

10431/24
PV CONS 28
AGRI 445
PECHE 205

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(**Agriculture** and Fisheries)
27 May 2024

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 10045/24.

2. Approval of 'A' items

Legislative list (public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union) 10279/24


The Council adopted all "A" items listed in the document above including all linguistic COR and REV documents presented for adoption. Statements to these items are set out in the Annex.

Health

1. **Regulation on standards of quality and safety for substances of human origin intended for human application**  9779/24
Adoption of the legislative act PE-CONS 8/24
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 22 May 2024 SAN

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Article 168(4), point (a) TFEU).

Internal Market and Industry

2. **Regulation on establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's net-zero technology manufacturing ecosystem (Net Zero Industry Act)**  9275/1/24 REV 1
Adoption of the legislative act + ADD 1
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 22 May 2024 PE-CONS 45/24
COMPET

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, with Belgium abstaining (legal basis: Article 114 TFEU).

A statement to this item is set out in the Annex.

3. Regulation establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for sustainable products and repealing Directive 2009/125/EC

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 22 May 2024



9266/24
+ COR 1 (fr)
+ ADD 1
PE-CONS 106/23
COMPET

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, with Italy abstaining (legal basis: Article 114 TFEU).

A statement to this item is set out in the Annex.

Energy

4. Regulation on methane emissions reduction in the energy sector

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 22 May 2024



9832/24
PE-CONS 86/23
ENER

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, with Hungary voting against (legal basis: Article 192(1) TFEU).

Justice and Home Affairs

5. Directive amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 22 May 2024



10047/24
PE-CONS 14/24
DROIPEN

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Articles 82(2) and 83(1) TFEU). In accordance with the relevant Protocols annexed to the Treaties, Denmark did not participate in the vote.

Non-legislative activities

3. Crisis situation in the agricultural sector: 9877/24
- Follow-up on responses already provided and new measures envisaged
 - Crisis management – reflection on future measures to be considered
- Information from the Presidency and the Commission*
Exchange of views
4. Market situation, in particular following the invasion of Ukraine 10245/24
- Information from the Commission and the Member States*
Exchange of views

Any other business

5. a) Rising large carnivore populations in Europe: Challenges 10248/24
for agriculture and rural areas
Information from the Austrian delegation
- b) Difficult situation of fruit producers due to expected 10186/24
decline in yields caused by unfavourable weather
conditions
Information from the Polish delegation
- c) **Severe drought situation in Cyprus** 10256/24
Information from the Cypriot delegation

The Council took note of the information provided by the Cypriot delegation. It also took note of the Commission's reply as well as of delegations' comments.

- d) Country of Origin Labelling for foodstuffs** 10321/24
*Information from the German and Austrian delegations,
supported by the Estonian, Finnish, French and
Portuguese delegations*

The Council took note of the information provided by the German and Austrian delegations, supported by the Estonian, Finnish, French and Portuguese delegations, on the need to extend mandatory origin labelling to other foodstuffs. The Council also took note of the reactions of several delegations and of the Commission.


- e) Simplification and Innovation-Friendly Regulation in the Agri-Food Sector** 10218/24
*Information from the Danish delegation, supported by the
Czech, Estonian, Finnish, Irish, Lithuanian, Portuguese
and Spanish delegations*

The Council took note of the information provided by the Danish delegation, supported by the Czech, Estonian, Finnish, Irish, Lithuanian, Portuguese and Spanish delegations, on simplification and innovation-friendly regulation in the agri-food sector. The Council also took note of the reactions of several delegations and of the Commission.

- f) Placing Animal Welfare at the core of the Next European Commission's agenda** 10208/24
*Information from the Slovenian delegation on behalf of the
Bulgarian, French, Portuguese, Slovenian and Swedish
delegations*


The Council took note of the information provided by the Slovenian delegation, on behalf of the Bulgarian, French, Portuguese, Slovenian and Swedish delegations, on animal welfare. The Council also took note of the comments made by several delegations and the Commission.

g) Dual quality of foodstuffs: An issue that persists
Information from the Slovak delegation

 10287/24

The Council took note of the information provided by the Slovak delegation on the issue of dual quality of foodstuffs. The Council also took note of the comments made by certain other delegations and the Commission.

h) The need to review Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) 2018/783, 784, 785 and to introduce as an exception the use of neonicotinoid substances as seed treatment, until replacements are discovered
Information from the Romanian delegation

 10314/24

The Council took note of the information provided by the Romanian delegation on its request for a revision of Commission Regulations (EU) 783/2018, 784/2018 and 785/2018 in order to allow the temporary placing on the market of plant protection products containing 3 neonicotinoids (imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam, respectively). The Council also took note of the comments made by certain other delegations, as well as of the intervention by the Commission.



Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 10279/24

Ad "A" item 2: **Regulation on establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's net-zero technology manufacturing ecosystem (Net Zero Industry Act)**
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA

“Austria sees the Net Zero Industry Act as a key milestone for accelerating the green transition, strengthening competitiveness and achieving the common European climate neutrality target. Austria supports the objective of this proposed regulation to accelerate the development and expansion of production capacity, particularly for renewable energy in the EU, and therefore agrees with this compromise proposal.

However, Austria will not support a transformation which is based on nuclear technology, promotes it even further and focuses on it as a technology of the future. Nuclear technology is neither sustainable, nor cost-effective, nor safe. For Austria, nuclear technologies are certainly not among the technologies that serve the green transformation. Austria therefore regrets that nuclear technology has been included and is given equal treatment in the regulation.

As regards Chapter III on CO₂ injection capacity, Austria notes that a national ban on CO₂ storage (the Federal Act on the Prohibition of Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide) is currently in force, and is being evaluated. In this context, we are in favour of a rapid regional extension of the CO₂ injection obligation to the EEA area. We would also emphasise that the development of storage capacity must go hand in hand with the expansion of the CO₂ infrastructure, which is currently lacking.”

Ad "A" item 3:

Regulation establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for sustainable products and repealing Directive 2009/125/EC

Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA

“Austria still sees the need for greater clarity in some areas of the proposed regulation, but is able to accept the current text in a spirit of compromise. However, the following points must once again be highlighted:

Austria has serious reservations regarding Article 65 (Green public procurement). In view of the established case-law of the CJEU, according to which the choice of award criteria and their weighting for each procurement procedure lies with the respective contracting authority (see, for example, Case C-19/00, *SIAC*, paragraph 36; Case C-448/01, *EVN and Wienstrom*, paragraph 37), Austria expects the establishment of binding award criteria with binding weighting and targets at national level to be considered by the Commission only as a last resort when adopting implementing acts under Article 65.

In addition, Austria is of the opinion that the definition of green criteria in public procurement should be integrated into a coherent and horizontal approach that is incorporated in the procurement directives.

Austria is also in favour of ensuring that the requirements for digital product passports are designed in such a way as to limit the burden on businesses to a feasible level and that an evaluation of the impact of the digital product passport in terms of its additional administrative burden and associated costs, particularly for SMEs, is carried out in a timely manner.”
