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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

Subject: MONTHLY SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTS
December 2007

This document contains:

- in **Annex I**, a summary of definitive legislative acts adopted by the Council in December 2007. This is accompanied by statements in the minutes which may be released to the public (**Annex II**). The summary also mentions any votes against and abstentions, explanations of vote, and the voting rules applicable;
- in **Annex III**, a list of the other acts¹ adopted by the Council in December 2007, with a reference, where appropriate, to voting results, explanations of vote and statements which the Council has decided to make public.

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>).

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", then "Council Minutes"). Extracts from the minutes in question may also be obtained from the Transparency Department (transparency@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.

DECEMBER 2007				
TITLE OF DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTING RULE	VOTES
2836th meeting of the Council of the European Union (ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS) on 4 December 2007				
Council Regulation fixing for the 2008 fishing year the guide prices and Community producer prices for certain fishery products pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 104/2000	15281/07 + COR 1 (da) + COR 2 (lv)		Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
2838th meeting of the Council of the European Union (JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS) on 6 and 7 December 2007				
Council Decision concerning cooperation between Asset Recovery Offices of the Member States in the field of tracing and identification of proceeds from, or other property related to, crime	6262/07 + COR 1 (da)		Unanimous	All Member States in favour

DECEMBER 2007				
TITLE OF DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Council Decision on the full application of the provisions of the Schengen acquis in the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic	14598/07 + COR 1 (fi)		Unanimous	All Member States in favour
Council Decision amending Part 1 of the Schengen consultation network (technical specifications)	15202/07		Unanimous	All Member States in favour
Written procedure completed on 10 December 2007				
Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 on budgetary discipline and sound financial management as regards the multiannual financial framework	16265/07		Qualified majority	All Member States in favour, except: against: DE, PL
2841st meeting of the Council of the European Union (AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES) on 17, 18 and 19 December 2007				

DECEMBER 2007				
TITLE OF DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Council Regulation on information provision and promotion measures for agricultural products on the internal market and in third countries	14219/07		Qualified majority	
Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 386/90 on the monitoring carried out at the time of export of agricultural products receiving refunds or other amounts	13495/07 + COR 1		Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Council Regulation amending Regulations (EC) No 2015/2006 and (EC) No 41/2007, as regards fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks	15585/07 + REV 1 (lv)	196/07 (COM)	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Council Regulation establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and amending Regulation (EC) No 520/2007	15688/07 + REV 1 (sv) + REV 2 (lv)	197/07 (Council, COM) 198/07 (COM) 199/07 (COM)	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2505/96 opening and providing for the administration of autonomous Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products	15418/07 + REV 1 (lt) + REV 2 (mt)		Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

DECEMBER 2007				
TITLE OF DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1255/96 temporarily suspending the autonomous common customs tariff duties on certain industrial, agricultural and fishery products	15419/07 + COR 1 (bg) + REV 1 (lt) + REV 1 COR 1 (lt) + REV 2 (mt)		Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1925/2006 on the addition of vitamins and minerals and of certain other substances to foods	PE-CONS 3629/2/07 REV 2		Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission	PE-CONS 3628/3/07 REV 3		Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (codified version)	PE-CONS 3652/2/07 REV 2		Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

DECEMBER 2007				
TITLE OF DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the field of vision and windscreen wipers for wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors (codified version)	PE-CONS 3653/1/07 REV 1		Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Community energy-efficiency labelling programme for office equipment (recast version)	PE-CONS 3646/1/07 REV 1		Qualified majority	All Member States in favour, except: abstention: DE
Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/54/EC as regards the application of certain provisions to Estonia	PE-CONS 3687/1/07 REV 1		Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 on the regulations governing political parties at European level and the rules regarding their funding	PE-CONS 3688/2/07 REV 2		Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

DECEMBER 2007				
TITLE OF DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1576/89	PE-CONS 3631/7/07 REV 7	200/07 (COM, Council) 201/07 (COM) 202/07 (PL) 203/07 (SE)	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour, except: abstention: LT against: SE, PL
Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 as regards the date of introduction of electronic identification for ovine and caprine animals	16290/07 + COR 1 (it) + REV 1 (es) + REV 1 COR 1 (es)	204/07 (IT, ES) 205/07 (UK supp by SK+ IE + DE)	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour, except: against: ES, IT
2842th meeting of the Council of the European Union (ENVIRONMENT) on 20 December 2007				
Council Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities and the conditions relating thereto for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Black Sea for 2008	15863/07	206/07 (COM) 207/07 (BU)	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Council Regulation temporarily suspending customs duties on imports of certain cereals for the 2007/2008 marketing year	15840/07		Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

DECEMBER 2007				
TITLE OF DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 as regards the entitlement to file an application for a Community plant variety right	14695/07		Unanimous	All Member States in favour
Council Decision authorising France to apply a reduced rate of taxation to unleaded petrol used as motor fuel and consumed in the Corsican departments in accordance with Article 19 of Directive 2003/96/EC	15285/07		Unanimous	All Member States in favour
Council Directive on the exemption from valued added tax and excise duty of goods imported by persons travelling from third countries	16490/07 + REV 1 (pt) + REV 2 (lv) + REV 3 (mt)	211/07 (Council) 212/07 (COM)	Unanimous	All Member States in favour
Council Directive amending Directive 2006/112/EC with regard to certain temporary provisions concerning rates of value added tax	16172/07 + COR 1 (lv)	213/07 (Council, COM) 214/07 (MT)	Unanimous	All Member States in favour, except: abstention: FR

DECEMBER 2007				
TITLE OF DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Council Decision authorising the United Kingdom to continue to apply a measure derogating from Articles 26(1)(a), 168 and 169 of Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax	16446/07 + REV 1 (hu)		Unanimous	All Member States in favour
Council Regulation on the establishment of the "ARTEMIS Joint Undertaking" to implement a Joint Technology Initiative in Embedded Computing Systems	15969/4/07 REV 4	220-221/07 (COM) 222/07 (DE) 223/07 (FR, DE)	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Council Regulation setting up the Clean Sky Joint Undertaking	15970/07 + REV 1 (en) + REV 2 (hu) + REV 3 (es) + REV 4 (ro) + REV 5 (bu) + REV 6 (pl) + REV 7 (el) + REV 8 (fi) + REV 9 (sl) + REV 10 (pt)	224/07 (COM) 225/07 (DE) 226/07 (COM) 227/07 (ES, DK)	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

DECEMBER 2007				
TITLE OF DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACT	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTING RULE	VOTES
Council Regulation setting up the "ENIAC Joint Undertaking"	15974/1/07 REV 1 + REV 2 (fi)	228-229/07 (COM) 230/07 (DE) 231/07 (DE, FR)	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour
Council Regulation setting up the Joint Undertaking for the implementation of the Joint Technology Initiative on Innovative Medicines	15977/07	232/07 (COM) 233/07 (DE)	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour

2839th meeting of the Council of the European Union (GENERAL AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS) on 10 December 2007**STATEMENT 194/07****Statement by Germany**

"Germany notes with regret that translations of the EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child into the official languages of the EU, including German, were not submitted within the deadline for scheduled adoption of the Guidelines at the Council meeting on 10 December. Germany expects a German translation to be made available as soon as possible. Agreement to the adoption of these Guidelines is without prejudice to future cases in which documents for discussion in Council have not been fully translated into German in good time for the beginning of the Council meeting."

Written procedure completed on 14 December 2007

STATEMENT 195/07**Statement by the Commission**

"The Commission notes that its proposal had as the legal basis Article 133 (1) and (5) in conjunction with the second subparagraph of Article 300 (2). The Council has added paragraph 6 of Article 133, and Articles 71 and 80 (2) and in addition the Representatives of the Governments of Member States meeting within the Council have adopted a separate decision approving the accession of Cape Verde to the WTO. The Commission considers that its proposal included the correct legal basis and is of the view that the separate decision of the Representatives of the Governments of Member States meeting within the Council was not necessary. Consequently the Commission reserves its right to make use of all legal means at its disposal."

2841st meeting of the Council of the European Union (AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES) on 17, 18 and 19 December 2007**STATEMENT 196/07****Statement by the Commission**

"The Commission regrets that the proposal to ban all fishing in order to protect deep-water habitats in four proposed Natura 2000 sites off the South and West coast of Ireland was not accepted by the Council in this amendment of Regulation 41/2007.

The Commission reiterates its commitment to implement measures under the CFP whenever needed in order to protect sensitive deep-water habitats from detrimental effects of fishing techniques. The Commission will include the ban on all fishing activities in these areas in the proposal for the Regulation fixing for 2008 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Community waters and, for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required, since there is urgency to legislate on the protection of these sites as part of the NATURA 2000 network, and since scientific advice has been sought and the relevant bodies (RACs) have been consulted. Subsequently these measures will be included in the forthcoming proposal on technical measures."

STATEMENT 197/07

Statement by the Council and the Commission

"The Council and the Commission are aware that the provisions foreseen by Article 4 of the current Regulation reinforce the provisions adopted in the framework of the Bluefin Tuna Recovery Plan. The Council invites the Commission to submit proposals to the Council with a view to promote the adoption of these provisions at ICCAT level by its Contracting Parties at the time of the revision of the Plan in 2008.

In addition, in the context of the preparatory work for the ICCAT annual meeting in November 2008 regarding the possible revision of the Bluefin Tuna Recovery Plan, the Commission will evaluate the means of implementation, in particular the technical measures foreseen in the Plan, and, if necessary, will present appropriate proposals to the Council to adapt the Plan.

Furthermore the recommendations contained in the report of the European Parliament will be taken into consideration by the Commission in the context of the 2008 review which will be undertaken on the basis of new scientific advice."

STATEMENT 198/07

Statement by the Commission

Re: Article 29 - "Financing"

"Given the specific framework established under this Regulation, the Commission will examine favourably, pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 24(2), the possibility of exceeding the thresholds for the financial contribution from the EFF to the measures referred to in Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006."

STATEMENT 199/07

Statement by the Commission

Re: Article 22 - "Control in port or in farm"

"The Commission considers that in accordance with Article 25 it is clear that the observers are responsible to observe and monitor the farming operation compliance. It is the responsibility of the observers to validate the caging report. In addition this Regulation provides that each Member State under whose Jurisdiction the fattening or farming farm of bluefin tuna is located shall ensure an observer's presence during all transfer of bluefin tuna to the cages and all harvest of fish from the farm."

STATEMENT 200/07

Statement by the Commission and the Council

on labelling for sweetening

"The Commission and Council agree on the need for the rules for labelling ingredients for spirit drinks as referred to in Directive 2000/13/EC to be adopted as soon as possible."

STATEMENT 201/07

Statement by the Commission

regarding the level of permissible hydrocyanic acid and ethyl carbamate content in relation to the discussion on the proposal regarding spirit drinks

"The Commission considers that the question regarding the permissible content of hydrocyanic acid and ethyl carbamate in spirit drinks is a matter of Public Health.

The Commission services will undertake an investigation of this matter as soon as possible with a view to coming forward with scientific data and possible proposals to reconsider the maximum content for hydrocyanic acid and establish a maximum content for ethyl carbamate in stone-fruit marc spirits and stone-fruit spirits."

STATEMENT 202/07

Statement by Poland

on vodka

"Protecting the reputation of the sales denomination of every spirit drink of importance to the European Union is in the wider interests of both consumers and undertakings which sell products on the internal market and export products to third countries. It is also essential for ensuring that raw materials originating within the territory of the European Union are used in the production of such drinks.

"Vodka" is the sales denomination of a spirit drink the sale of which accounts for a significant proportion of sales of alcoholic drinks. The spirit drink marketed under the sales denomination "vodka" is currently enjoying a marked increase in popularity among consumers, in particular in OECD countries.

Permission under EU law for the use of the sales denomination "vodka" to describe products manufactured from raw materials other than the cereals and potatoes traditionally employed would undermine the reputation of vodka and have a negative impact on its quality and future market position. Poland regrets the fact that the definition's distinction between two groups of raw materials is not linked to any special and effective legal protection for the sales denomination "vodka" in the case of products manufactured from traditional raw materials, which is after all the fundamental objective of the legal act with regard to all other spirit drinks.

Departing from the sales denomination methodology adopted in the Regulation and simply referring to the horizontal provisions of Directive 2000/13/EC, which apply to all foodstuffs, as regards indicating the name of a non-traditional raw material on the label – Article 13(2) – frustrates the basic aim of the Regulation, which is to lay down special provisions for spirit drinks in a separate legal act. This approach will lead to the possibility of consumers being given inaccurate or indirect information on the raw materials used to produce the alcohol; as a result, consumers could be misled. Such a solution has not been applied to any other spirit drink or to the sales denomination of any other product whose name is specially protected and specifically regulated at Community level.

The definition of vodka which has been adopted does not safeguard the interests of those who produce vodka from traditional raw materials, who produce 98 % of all the vodka produced in the EU (in conformity with other world producers such as Russia, Ukraine and Canada). This means that future producers of new vodkas made from non-traditional raw materials will automatically be able to draw the benefits of the reputation acquired over many years by vodkas produced from traditional raw materials.

This constitutes a licence to experiment and seek out cheap raw materials in the territory of the European Union, or in third countries. The effects of this decision will therefore be felt not only by producers and consumers, but also by producers of ethyl alcohol and by EU farmers who have been supplying the raw materials used to make vodka for many years.

In view of the foregoing, Poland opposes adoption by the Council of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1576/89."

STATEMENT 203/07

Statement by Sweden

on *brännvin* and flavoured vodka

Brännvin:

"Sweden opposes the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks for the following reasons: the Regulation fails to take account of Swedish traditions and Swedish linguistic usage, and does not follow the common position which Sweden supported concerning the use of the terms "spirit, spirit drink and *brännvin*".

Since the term "*brännvin*" does not appear in the Regulation, we consider that, in accordance with Swedish tradition and Swedish linguistic usage, we are free to use the word "*brännvin*" in the labelling, presentation and description of spirit drinks and other foodstuffs.

Flavoured vodka:

Sweden also considers that the same rules should apply to the labelling of raw materials for both the category of vodka and the category of flavoured vodka, since the purpose of such labelling is to provide clear information to the consumer."

STATEMENT 204/07

Statement of the Italian and Spanish delegations

"The Italian and Spanish delegations wish to express their dissatisfaction with the content of the proposal for amendment of Regulation No 21/2004 as regards the date of introduction of electronic identification for ovine and caprine animals and with the reasoning behind the technical discussions in that connection.

The Regulation, which set the date of 1 January 2008 for the introduction of compulsory electronic identification of sheep and goats, provided for a four-year transition period during which Member States were to have adopted all the measures necessary to meet that obligation.

In order to prepare for that date as well as possible, Italy and Spain committed considerable financial and human resources to the project. For all those efforts, the effectiveness of their national measures has been reduced by failure to achieve the same result at Community level.

Even taking into account the difficulties reported by some Member States in adopting electronic identification by the deadlines laid down in the Regulation, the reasons given for the technical and economic problems standing in the way of the introduction of electronic identification by 2008 appear hard to accept and in particular cannot be addressed by allowing the timetable to slip as proposed.

Postponement of the introduction of electronic identification until 31 December 2009 also means putting off until that date the fulfilment of other obligations under the Regulation, thus making it in practice difficult to apply (and of little use), with the inevitable consequences for the registration of sheep and goats overall.

For these reasons, Italy and Spain are voting against the adoption of the proposal for amendment of Regulation No 21/2004."

STATEMENT 205/07

Statement by the United Kingdom supported by Slovakia and Ireland

"The UK supports a deferment of the introduction of compulsory Electronic Identification for sheep and goats. However, given the period of time that has elapsed since the agreement of the original Regulation, the UK calls on the Commission to revise its impact assessment, taking into account the cost to industry and enforcement bodies, and the impact of Regulation (EC) 21/2004 on the competitiveness of the EU sheep & goat industry, in order to confirm, before the entry into force of EID, whether the objectives of the Regulation are being met in the most cost-effective way."

STATEMENT 206/07

Statement by the Commission

"This Regulation is the first step in establishing conditions for sustainable exploitation of fisheries in the Black Sea, thus improving the long-term stability of the catching sector in Bulgaria and Romania. Following the accession of Bulgaria and Romania, fishing opportunities and transitional technical measures are being fixed for 2008 for the first time, on the basis of data presented for consideration by both Member States and taking into account the STECF comments of 9 October 2007. Cooperation in fisheries matters with third countries bordering the Black Sea should be promoted and the possibility of establishing a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation should be explored."

STATEMENT 207/07

Statement by the Bulgarian delegation

"Bulgaria welcomes the statement by the Commission underlining once again that this Regulation is only the first step to a lengthy process of establishing sound Community rules for the Black Sea. It is clear that more scientific studies will have to be launched in order to fill in the missing research data. Therefore, and in the context of the future negotiations on fisheries issues with non-Member States bordering the Black Sea, we attribute to this Regulation a transitional character with no precedents-setting function for the future."

STATEMENT 208/07

Statement by the Council

"The Council calls upon the Court to provide, in the information note on national courts' referrals for preliminary ruling procedures, useful pointers for them as to cases in which to apply for an urgent preliminary ruling procedure, in particular in view of tight timelimits imposed by national or Community law or serious consequences for the person concerned. The Council calls upon the Court to apply the urgent preliminary ruling procedure in situations involving deprivation of liberty.

The Council notes the Court's intention of ensuring, with due regard for the urgency of the case concerned, that Member States are allowed the time and translations necessary for drafting written observations and preparing oral arguments in order to guarantee effective and useful participation in the procedure. The Council calls upon the Court to ensure that deadlines in this regard are not, in principle, less than 10 working days, and to adapt the oral procedure to the requirements of the urgent procedure. The Council notes that the urgent preliminary ruling procedure should be concluded within three months.

Lastly, the Council notes the Court's intention of ensuring, as in the case of any procedure before it, transparency in applying the urgent preliminary ruling procedure, and requests it to submit, no later than three years following its entry into force, a report – the data for which will be updated annually – on its use and, in particular, the Court's practice for deciding whether or not to launch it."

STATEMENT 209/07

Statement by the Belgian delegation

"Belgium considers that the fact that provision is made, in the statement to be annexed to the Council minutes, for the Court to submit to the Council, no later than three years after the entry into force of the new emergency procedure, a report on the latter's implementation clearly entails taking the necessary steps, where appropriate, to enable the provisions to be reviewed."

STATEMENT 210/07

Statement by Italy

"Italy considers that the Council Decision amending the Council's Rules of Procedure in order to implement Article 205(4) of the Treaty establishing the European Community, Article 118(4) of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community and the third subparagraph of Article 23(2) and Article 34(3) of the Treaty on European Union is not to be regarded as a precedent for the definition or interpretation of the notion of "population" with reference to the qualified majority in the framework of the new Lisbon Treaty.

Italy therefore stresses the need to start, in due time, a debate on the criteria on the basis of which the notion of "European population" is to be determined once the new Treaty enters into force."

STATEMENT 211/07

Statement by the Council

"The Council states that Articles 1 to 16 of this Directive and the provisions on travellers' allowances of the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 918/83 setting up a Community system of relief from customs duty shall apply from the same date."

STATEMENT 212/07

Statement by the Commission

"The Commission is prepared, in the unlikely event that no agreement is reached by the end of March 2008 on the customs regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 918/83, to adapt its proposal in such a way as to allow for an adoption of the part concerning travellers' allowances, in order to give Member States sufficient time to transpose the present Directive into national law."

STATEMENT 213/07

Statement by the Council and the Commission

Re the Directive as a whole

"The Council and the Commission declare that the extension of the transitional rules with regard to certain temporary provisions concerning rates of value added tax does not prejudice the general discussions still to be held on the redefinition of the scope of application of the reduced rates of value added tax and on that basis they affirm that the transitional rules that are included in the Accession Treaties will not be extended further."

STATEMENT 214/07

Statement by Malta

Concerning Article 127

"Malta recalls Declaration 37 of its Treaty of Accession and underlines that its acceptance of a transition period until 31 December 2010 for the maintenance of its VAT 0 % rate instead of the reduced rate of 5 % on the supplies of foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals, and its acceptance of the Minute Statement on Council Directive amending Council Directive 2006/112/EC with regard to certain temporary provisions concerning rates of value added tax approved by the Council and Commission on 4 December 2007, is based on the premise that the transitional period referred to in Article 28(1) of the Sixth VAT Directive and Article 402 of Directive 2006/112/EC would expire on that day."

STATEMENT 215/07

Statement by the Commission

"The Commission notes the Council proposal/decision to contribute € 3,2 billion in 2008 to finance the EDF. Based on the latest forecasts made by the Commission and the EIB, this will lead to a cash flow shortage of up to € 400 million, depending on the precise date of entry into force of the revised Cotonou Agreement.

Since 2001, with the support of the Member States, the Commission has undertaken a radical reform of the management of EC external aid to address the challenge of improving effectiveness, speed and quality. The Commission has met this challenge. The 9th EDF will be fully committed by end 2007. This is the first time ever that an EDF has been committed before the entry into force of the next EDF. Major new initiatives have been launched in infrastructure, water, energy and the maintenance of peace in Africa. The annual level of aid disbursements has steadily increased, in line with international commitments on scaling up aid. The level of 2008 EDF contributions requested by the Commission is fully consistent with this trend.

The Council proposal/decision will put at risk these achievements by depriving the Commission of the necessary financial resources to sustain the above progress. The Commission will therefore not be in a position to fulfil part of its contractual and legal obligations towards third parties by the end of 2008.

This will coincide with the entry into force of the revised Cotonou Agreement as well as the launch of implementation of the EU-Africa Strategy which will be agreed in Lisbon this week. Such a situation, in which the Commission cannot deliver on its commitments, will be politically indefensible vis-à-vis our ACP partners.

The Commission calls on the Council to provide the necessary financial resources to enable the Commission to meet its political and legal obligations. The Commission urges individual Member States to meet the full amount of their 2008 contribution requested by the Commission."

STATEMENT 216/07

Statement by France

"The French authorities wish to reaffirm the importance they attach to programmes financed by the EDF. They reiterate their support for the development cooperation policy carried out through this financial instrument in relation to ACP and OCT countries.

However, they highlight the need to adopt contributions which are sustainable in budgetary terms for Member States and within time periods compatible with their internal budgetary procedures.

The French authorities note that the amount of the call for contributions in respect of the EDF programmes in 2008 has been set at EUR 3,2 billion.

In any event, this amount constitutes an expenditure ceiling which cannot be revised."

STATEMENT 217/07

Statement by the Commission

on Rules of Origin

"The Commission's proposal for the EPA Market Access regulation, in line with the EPA negotiating directives, incorporates improvements in specific areas of the current rules of origin laid down in the protocol on rules of origin in the Cotonou Agreement. These improvements are in the areas of agriculture, fisheries and textiles/clothing. Improvements in these areas have been requested by ACP partners in negotiations on EPAs and have been included within the initialed stepping-stone agreements.

The Commission takes full account of the specific ACP situation and their particular need to develop and diversify their economies by encouraging a wider use of competitive, imported inputs. Therefore these rules will not prejudice future proposals for preferential rules of origin by the Community toward other geographical areas. Future proposals for the reform of Rules of Origin by the Commission will be elaborated in close cooperation with MS.

The Commission further recognises the need for improved Rules of Origin in EPAs, making them simpler, more transparent, easier, improved and offering greater predictability. This will ensure that ACP States fully benefit from preferential market access, providing the necessary legal certainty whilst preventing circumvention so as to ensure the benefits from improvements accrue to the ACP.

The Commission will make appropriate proposals as soon as possible to maintain the possibility for cumulation of origin with the Overseas Countries and Territories."

STATEMENT 218/07

Statement by the Commission

on implementation of Chapter IV

"EPAs offer an unprecedented opening of the EU market towards third-country exporters. The related safeguard measures are also more specific than those in other regional trade agreements whilst not lowering the existing threshold for such measures. They reflect the specific situation and interests of the ACP and do not prejudice future proposals for safeguard clauses by the Community.

The safeguard provisions are bilateral in nature. This bilateral safeguard is an important tool to accompany trade liberalisation for all parties by protecting our ACP partners and providing the necessary safety net for those Community producers who will have to adapt to this new liberalised market set-up.

To follow a balanced approach, the agreements establishing or leading to the establishment of EPAs also foresee that, in the selection of bilateral safeguard measures, priority be given to those which least disturb the operation of the agreements.

The Commission considers that the same priority has to be given when applying bilateral safeguard measures in the context of the EPA Market Access Regulation.

This is without prejudice to the right of the EC to apply bilateral safeguard measures where they are warranted, as per Chapter IV of the Regulation."

STATEMENT 219/07

Statement by the Council

on sugar

"The Council recalls the Commission Statement on the Safeguard Clause for sugar imports into the Community from a third country under the EBA arrangements, entered in the minutes of its 2708th meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries), held in Brussels on 20 February 2006 ¹, which reads as follows:

"If in any given year from the marketing year 2008/2009 onwards, sugar imports into the Community from a third country under the EBA arrangements increase by more than 25 % in comparison with the imports from that country in the previous marketing year, the Commission will automatically open the procedure to decide whether measures such as suspension or temporary withdrawal of trade concessions, surveillance or other safeguard measures need to be applied.""

¹ See 6538/06 ADD 1 PV/CONS 6 AGRI 51 PECHE 47.

STATEMENT 220/07

Statement by the Commission

"The Commission remains attached to the principle that the procedure for selecting the Executive Director should be transparent, professional and well-organised so as to guarantee equal treatment of all candidates, and to ensure the separation of duties between the selection authority and the appointing authority, so that the candidate who best meets the selection criteria is appointed.

As a member of the Governing Board, the Commission is committed to ensuring that such a procedure is put in place and that the abovementioned principles are adhered to."

STATEMENT 221/07

Statement by the Commission

"In determining the order in which Community funding will be provided to projects under the Joint Technology Initiatives where the Member States are founding members, the representative of the Commission in the Joint Undertaking will defend the principles established in the FP7 Rules for participation, notably that proposals shall be ranked according to the evaluation by independent experts.

National eligibility criteria may apply to participants in the ranked list, on condition that these criteria are objective and specific and are clearly and openly set out in the related calls for proposals. Furthermore, it must be ensured that national criteria do not contradict the principles of transparency, excellence and equality of treatment.

Furthermore, it should be noted that if a particular national eligibility criterion is not met, this will not affect the ranking of projects according to the independent evaluation unless the absence of national funding would undermine the overall viability of the project."

STATEMENT 222/07

Statement by Germany

"Germany observes with concern the process of progressive inclusion of decentralised Community bodies into the scope of the Protocol of the Communities concerning the Immunities and Privileges of 8 April 1965 and regrets that through the inclusion of the Joint Technology Initiatives a further step is taken in this direction.

Already at the time of establishment of the Joint Undertaking on ITER, Germany has made critical remarks and recalls the declaration to the minutes made in this context. In the ITER Joint Undertaking, private sector participation was excluded and a certain comparability to executive agencies could be arguable. This is, however, not the case with regard to the present Joint Technology Initiatives.

Germany recalls the need for conducting a general exchange of views concerning the appropriateness of granting privileges and immunities in the united Europe, in particular with regard to decentralised Community bodies. Germany has asked for such a general exchange of views already on several occasions, together with other Member States. The Commission has given its agreement to the holding of such a debate within an appropriate time span already in connection with the establishment of the European Border Protection Agency in March 2004.

Germany also maintains the view that the application of the EC Staff Regulations to all persons employed by Community establishments should be handled restrictively. Germany very much criticises that the EC Staff Regulations will now be applied to public-private partnerships which will to a large part be financed, not by EU funds, but by private funds. Therefore, Germany asks the Commission to proceed to a re-evaluation in principle of the more and more extensive, and in part not any more functional, application of the EC Staff Regulations, including possible alternative approaches."

STATEMENT 223/07

Statement by France and Germany

"Concerning the joint technology initiatives ARTEMIS and ENIAC, the French Republic and Germany underline the importance of the procedure of Article 13(5)(b) of the statutes which foresees that "the prospective Participants and their contribution to the Project proposals shall be verified by the Joint Undertaking, on the basis of verifications provided by the respective public authorities, against the pre-defined national and Joint Undertaking eligibility criteria for funding.

In this framework, these eligibility criteria and the verification procedure conducted by the national authorities and the Joint Undertaking may include the impact on competitiveness, growth and employment.

In addition, these Member States recall that the evaluation and selection procedure will be based on the principles of equal treatment, excellence and competition, in conformity with Article 13(5)(c) of the statutes."

STATEMENT 224/07

Statement by the Commission

"The Commission remains attached to the principle that the procedure for selecting the Executive Director should be transparent, professional and well-organised so as to guarantee equal treatment of all candidates, and to ensure the separation of duties between the selection authority and the appointing authority, so that the candidate who best meets the selection criteria is appointed.

As a member of the Governing Board, the Commission is committed to ensuring that such a procedure is put in place and that the abovementioned principles are adhered to."

STATEMENT 225/07

Statement by Germany

"Germany observes with concern the process of progressive inclusion of decentralised Community bodies into the scope of the Protocol of the Communities concerning the Immunities and Privileges of 8 April 1965 and regrets that through the inclusion of the Joint Technology Initiatives a further step is taken in this direction.

Already at the time of establishment of the Joint Undertaking on ITER, Germany has made critical remarks and recalls the declaration to the minutes made in this context. In the ITER Joint Undertaking, private sector participation was excluded and a certain comparability to executive agencies could be arguable. This is, however, not the case with regard to the present Joint Technology Initiatives.

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STATEMENT 226/07

Statement by the Commission

"The partnership structure of the Clean Sky JTI has been developed on the basis of in-depth discussions with industry and Member States over more than two years. The selection process was based on the criteria of excellence, openness and transparency, and the Commission will ensure that these criteria will continue to be applied in the implementation of the JTI.

In line with the main principles of the Framework Programme, the Commission's role in all Joint Technology Initiatives will always be to ensure the highest level of excellence through competitive procedures."

STATEMENT 227/07

Statement by Spain and Denmark

"Spain and Denmark consider that the basic principles of openness and transparency should be strictly respected in all JTIs. In particular, and with regard to Clean Sky, Spain and Denmark have defended the need to implement open and competitive calls for proposals to ensure equitable access for participants from all Member States on the basis of excellence.

In the light of all the above mentioned, Spain and Denmark wish to make clear that Clean Sky should not be a precedent for future JTIs or for other instruments of the FP7 and consider essential that participation on an equal footing by all Member States be guaranteed."

STATEMENT 228/07

Statement by the Commission

"The Commission remains attached to the principle that the procedure for selecting the Executive Director should be transparent, professional and well-organised so as to guarantee equal treatment of all candidates, and to ensure the separation of duties between the selection authority and the appointing authority, so that the candidate who best meets the selection criteria is appointed.

As a member of the Governing Board, the Commission is committed to ensuring that such a procedure is put in place and that the abovementioned principles are adhered to."

STATEMENT 229/07

Statement by the Commission

"In determining the order in which Community funding will be provided to projects under the Joint Technology Initiatives where the Member States are founding members, the representative of the Commission in the Joint Undertaking will defend the principles established in the FP7 Rules for participation, notably that proposals shall be ranked according to the evaluation by independent experts.

National eligibility criteria may apply to participants in the ranked list, on condition that these criteria are objective and specific and are clearly and openly set out in the related calls for proposals. Furthermore, it must be ensured that national criteria do not contradict the principles of transparency, excellence and equality of treatment.

Furthermore, it should be noted that if a particular national eligibility criterion is not met, this will not affect the ranking of projects according to the independent evaluation unless the absence of national funding would undermine the overall viability of the project."

STATEMENT 230/07

Statement by Germany

"Germany observes with concern the process of progressive inclusion of decentralised Community bodies into the scope of the Protocol of the Communities concerning the Immunities and Privileges of 8 April 1965 and regrets that through the inclusion of the Joint Technology Initiatives a further step is taken in this direction.

Already at the time of establishment of the Joint Undertaking on ITER, Germany has made critical remarks and recalls the declaration to the minutes made in this context. In the ITER Joint Undertaking, private sector participation was excluded and a certain comparability to executive agencies could be arguable. This is, however, not the case with regard to the present Joint Technology Initiatives.

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STATEMENT 231/07

Statement by France and Germany

"Concerning the joint technology initiatives ARTEMIS and ENIAC, the French Republic and Germany underline the importance of the procedure of Article 13(5)(b) of the statutes which foresees that "the prospective Participants and their contribution to the Project proposals shall be verified by the Joint Undertaking, on the basis of verifications provided by the respective public authorities, against the pre-defined national and Joint Undertaking eligibility criteria for funding.

In this framework, these eligibility criteria and the verification procedure conducted by the national authorities and the Joint Undertaking may include the impact on competitiveness, growth and employment.

In addition, these Member States recall that the evaluation and selection procedure will be based on the principles of equal treatment, excellence and competition, in conformity with Article 13(5)(c) of the statutes."

STATEMENT 232/07

Statement by the Commission

"The Commission remains attached to the principle that the procedure for selecting the Executive Director should be transparent, professional and well-organised so as to guarantee equal treatment of all candidates, and to ensure the separation of duties between the selection authority and the appointing authority, so that the candidate who best meets the selection criteria is appointed.

As a member of the Governing Board, the Commission is committed to ensuring that such a procedure is put in place and that the abovementioned principles are adhered to."

STATEMENT 233/07

Statement by Germany

"Germany observes with concern the process of progressive inclusion of decentralised Community bodies into the scope of the Protocol of the Communities concerning the Immunities and Privileges of 8 April 1965 and regrets that through the inclusion of the Joint Technology Initiatives a further step is taken in this direction.

Already at the time of establishment of the Joint Undertaking on ITER, Germany has made critical remarks and recalls the declaration to the minutes made in this context. In the ITER Joint Undertaking, private sector participation was excluded and a certain comparability to executive agencies could be arguable. This is, however, not the case with regard to the present Joint Technology Initiatives.

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STATEMENT 234/07

Statement by Denmark, Finland and Sweden

"Denmark, Finland and Sweden emphasise the importance of taking measures at EU level as well as at the global level to deal with the sources of transboundary pollution, especially as regards mercury. Therefore, Denmark, Finland and Sweden call upon the Commission to intensify its work on the Community Mercury Strategy and to put forward further measures to deal with the problem of mercury and transboundary pollution of airborne mercury. Denmark, Finland and Sweden also underline that the EU should be a strong force in establishing legally binding measures against sources of mercury at global level."

STATEMENT 235/07

Statement by Italy

"Italy considers this Directive a fundamental pillar for achieving good chemical status for bodies of surface water in the European Union. Italy is pleased that the compromise text proposed by the Presidency for a new Directive for environmental quality standards in the field of water includes some important elements, in particular the option for Member states to apply environment quality standards for sediment and/or biota for certain substances on the basis of their physico-chemical features. This will allow a real and appropriate control of chemical pollution from such substances. Nevertheless, Italy is not satisfied by the definition of certain environment quality standards which are not consistent with the specific Water Framework Directive provisions.

For the definition of the environmental quality standards for all the substances, Italy considers the application of the toxicological and ecotoxicological criteria established by the Water Framework Directive to be essential. Otherwise, the EU risks to fail to comply with the prescriptions of Decision 2455/2001/EC on the establishment of the list of priority substances, which requires for such substances the achievement of an approximately "zero" concentration in the marine environment by 2020. Therefore, Italy calls on the EU Council to undertake a constructively negotiation with the European Parliament during its the second reading in order to adopt an ambitious Directive coherent with the Water Framework Directive for all the relevant substances, in order properly to protect European waters and, at the same time, European citizens' health."

STATEMENT 236/07

Statement by the Commission

"The Commission recognises the need to assist Member States with the implementation of Article 4, Article 5 and Annex I, Part B (points 2 and 3). In order to assist the practical and technical implementation of these provisions, the Commission will therefore organise an exchange of information and experience between Member States on these issues. This process would aim to produce documents on guidance and best practice which the responsible Commission services will publish as soon as possible. This process will be organised as part of the established cooperation framework on implementation of the Water Framework Directive."

STATEMENT 237/07

Statement by the Council and the Commission

"The Council and the Commission agree that in future legislation for carbon dioxide capture and storage consideration will be given to the specific conditions required by such techniques in relation to the legislation on waste."

STATEMENT 238/07

Statement by the Commission

"In relation to the implementing powers conferred on the Commission under Article 24 of this Directive relating to the adoption of minimum standards for permits referred to in Article 20 and for registration referred to in Article 23, the Commission considers that an appropriate impact assessment would be necessary before the use of any of these powers."

The Commission notes that the exclusion of unexcavated contaminated soil from the Waste Framework Directive has not been made conditional on the existence of another EU regulatory regime covering the management of contaminated sites. It is the view of the Commission that this creates a gap in the level of environmental protection bestowed by the EU legislation. The Commission therefore stresses the need to fill in this gap as quickly as possible through the adoption of the framework Directive on soil protection."

STATEMENT 239/07

Statement by Spain and Italy

"Spain and Italy consider that the five-level waste hierarchy provided for in Article 11 should be applied as a general rule since this was unanimously agreed by the Council of Ministers at its meeting on 27 June 2006 (11103/06) concerning the Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste. The waste hierarchy is, in general, the best environmental option for legislation and policy concerning waste prevention and management. This should therefore be stated clearly and not just as a guideline or indication.

With a view to achieving a settlement, this proposal for a Directive has been approved at first reading. We await with interest the future discussions with the European Parliament."

STATEMENT 240/07

Statement by Ireland and the Czech Republic

"Ireland and the Czech Republic consider that incineration must always be defined as disposal. Its definition as recovery within this Directive will undermine efforts to promote a recycling society and the promotion of reduction and reuse within the waste hierarchy."

STATEMENT 241/07

Statement by France

"France reaffirms its strong attachment to the "polluter pays" principle and, in particular, to the original producer's or holder's responsibility until final treatment of the waste has been carried out. Experience has often - and recently - shown that diluting responsibilities in the treatment chain can undermine the sense of responsibility and thus cause problems and that, in cases where treatment is inadequate, it can give rise to unacceptable health and environmental situations. This can also have the end result that the burden of eliminating badly-treated waste is passed on to the public body concerned. Involving the waste producer through to the final treatment stage is beneficial since it creates an incentive for the producer to seek and choose high-quality and safe forms of treatment. This principle also helps to prevent the development of illicit waste trafficking.

Against this background, France reiterates that it will continue to apply this principle of the producer's responsibility in its legislation and will not make use of the option, afforded to Member States under Article 13, of specifying how this responsibility is to be divided among actors in the treatment chain. France would like the Commission and Member States to remain extremely vigilant on this issue and monitoring of the implementation of the Directive and of Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 on shipments of waste, which enters into force on 12 July, to focus on this issue in particular."

STATEMENT 242/07

Statement by Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Italy and Portugal

"Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Italy and Portugal maintain concern regarding the uncertainties with permanent storage of metallic, i.e. liquid, mercury. However, with the objective of an early agreement with the European Parliament, we have accepted the compromise in Council. We will engage actively in the coming process to further develop the regulation and reach an agreement on an effective export ban and safe storage of mercury waste."

DECEMBER 2007	
OTHER ACTS	Votes made public
2836th meeting of the Council of the European Union (ECOFIN) on 4 December 2007 Council Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of silico-manganese originating in the People's Republic of China and Kazakhstan and terminating the proceeding on imports of silico-manganese originating in Ukraine 14945/07 + REV 1 (ro) Council Decision implementing Joint Action 2007/749/CFSP on the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) 15049/07 Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters on the provisional application of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau for the period 16 June 2007 to 15 June 2011 14389/07 + COR 1 (It) Council conclusions on multilateral surveillance of the 2007 Lisbon National Reform Programmes 15432/07 Council conclusions (ECOFIN) – The economic impact of migration into the EU 15536/07 Council conclusions on the 2007 Lamfalussy review 15552/07 + COR 1 Council conclusions on the FSC's 2007 progress report on key remaining barriers to the development of the European risk capital markets 15551/07	abstention : IT

Council conclusions on VAT rates other than standard VAT rates
15671/2/07 REV 2

Council conclusions on combating tax fraud
15666/2/07 REV 2

Council conclusions on "Code of Conduct Group (Business Taxation)"
15721/2/07 REV 2

**2837th meeting of the Council of the European Union
(EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMERS)
on 5 and 6 December 2007**

Council Decision concerning the rules applicable to national experts and
military staff on secondment to the General Secretariat of the Council and
repealing Decision 2003/479/EC of 16 June 2003
15273/07

Council conclusions towards common principles of flexicurity
15497/07 + COR 1 (es) + COR 2 (sk) + COR 3 (pt)

Council conclusions on the future prospects for the European Employment
Strategy in the context of the new cycle of the Lisbon Strategy
15813/07 + REV 1 (pt)

Council conclusion concerning protection and empowerment in the
framework of active inclusion
15191/07 + REV 1 (lv) + REV 2 (hu)

Council conclusion on review of the implementation by the Member States
and the EU institutions of the Beijing Platform for Action
"Indicators in respect of Women and Poverty"
13947/07 + COR 1 (de) + REV 1 (fi) + REV 2 (pt) + ADD 1
+ ADD 1 COR 1

Council Resolution on the follow-up of the European Year of Equal
Opportunities for All (2007)
15383/07 + REV 1 (lv)

Council conclusions on "Balanced roles of women and men for jobs, growth and social cohesion"
14136/07 + COR 1 +REV 1 (fi) + REV 3 (pt)

Council conclusions on Health and Migration in the EU
15609/07 + REV 1 (sl)

Council conclusions on the Commission White Paper
"Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU, 2008-2013"
15611/07 + REV 1 (sl)

Council conclusions on organ donation and transplantation
15332/07 + REV 1 (sl)

Council conclusions on putting an EU strategy on nutrition, overweight and obesity related health issues into operation
15612/07 + REV 1 (sl)

2838th meeting of the Council of the European Union (JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS) on 6 and 7 December 2007

Council conclusions on addressing chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks and on bio-preparedness
15127/07 + COR 1 (el)

Council conclusions on the establishment of an Early Warning System for tsunamis in the North East Atlantic and the Mediterranean region
15479/07 + COR (el) + REV 1 (ro)

Council conclusions on the development and establishment of Early Warning Systems in the EU
15473/07 + COR 1 (el) + REV 1 (ro)

Council conclusions adopting Strategic Orientations and Priorities on the security enhancement of explosives
15618/07

Council conclusions adopting the work programme on further measures designed to maximise safety and security in connection with football matches with an international dimension
15615/07

Council Recommendation concerning a Handbook for police and security authorities concerning cooperation at major events with an international dimension

14143/3/07 REV 3

Council Decision concerning the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the Convention, drawn up on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, the Protocol of 27 September 1996, the Protocol of 29 November 1996 and the Second Protocol of 19 June 1997

14549/07 + COR 1

Council Decision concerning the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the Convention of 18 December 1997, drawn up on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on mutual assistance and cooperation between customs administrations

14546/07 + COR 1 (es) + COR 2 (it)

Council conclusions on drug trafficking along the cocaine route

15483/07

Council Joint Action amending Joint Action 2007/108/CFSP extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative for Sudan

15327/07

Council Joint Action amending Joint Action 2005/797/CFSP on the European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS)

14628/07

Council Joint Action amending Joint Action 2005/889/CFSP on establishing a European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point (EU BAM Rafah)

14805/07 + COR 1 + COR 2 (da) + REV 1 (ro)

Council Decision amending Decision 2006/807/CFSP on the European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories

15028/07

Council Joint Action appointing a European Union Special Representative to the African Union (AU)

13814/07

Joint European Union/Council of Europe Declaration establishing a "European Day against the Death Penalty" 12007/07 Council conclusions on the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the role of Eurojust and the European Judicial Network in the fight against organised crime and terrorism in the European Union 15176/1/07 REV 1 2839th meeting of the Council of the European Union (GENERAL AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS) on 10 December 2007 European Union's position for the Association Council's sixth meeting (Jordan) 15714/07 EU common position on the draft ministerial declaration on the Euro-Mediterranean energy partnership 16039/07 Position of the European Union for the fourth EU–Russia Permanent Partnership Council 16026/07 Council conclusions on the Operation ALTHEA 16179/07 Council conclusions on Afghanistan 16237/07 + COR 1 Council conclusions on Somalia 16051/07 + COR 1 (fi) Council conclusions on a legally binding international Arms Trade Treaty 15850/07 Council conclusions on the implementation of the EU policy on human rights and democratisation in third countries 15855/07 Council conclusions on the EU Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child 16058/07	Statement: 194/07 (DE)
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Council Decision providing Community macro-financial assistance to Lebanon
13172/07

Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1858/2005 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of steel ropes and cables originating, inter alia, in South Africa
15564/07

Council Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of gas-fuelled, non-refillable pocket flint lighters originating in the People's Republic of China and consigned from or originating in Taiwan and on imports of certain refillable pocket flint lighters originating in the People's Republic of China and consigned from or originating in Taiwan
15166/07 + COR 1 (de)

Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Community and the Republic of Belarus amending the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Belarus on trade in textile products
14964/07

Council Regulation on trade in certain steel products between the European Community and the Republic of Kazakhstan
14644/07

Council Decision on a Community Position concerning a Decision of the EC – the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Stabilisation and Association Council amending Protocol 2 (on steel products) to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement
14066/1/07 REV 1

Council conclusions on Mobility Partnerships and Circular Migration in the Framework of the Global Approach to Migration
16283/07

European Community position within the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community (Belgrade, 18 December 2007)
15459/1/07 REV 1 + REV 1 COR 1

Council conclusions on Enlargement strategy
16365/07

2840th meeting of the Council of the European Union (GENERAL AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS) on 10 December 2007

Council conclusions on Sudan/Chad
16395/07

Council conclusions on the Western Balkans
16003/3/07 REV 3

Council conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process
16178/07

Council conclusions on Lebanon
16204/1/07 REV 1

Written procedure completed on 13 December 2007

Council Decision relating to the implementation of Article 9C(4) of the Treaty on European Union and Article 205(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union between 1 November 2014 and 31 March 2017 on the one hand, and as from 1 April 2017 on the other
16013/07

Written procedure completed on 14 December 2007

Council Decision establishing the Community position within the General Council of the World Trade Organisation on the accession of the Republic of Cape Verde to the World Trade Organisation
16263/07

Statement:
195/07 (COM)

2841st meeting of the Council of the European Union (AGRICULTURE and FISHERIES) on 17, 18 and 19 December 2007

Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3491/90 on imports of rice originating in Bangladesh
14891/07 + REV 1 (en, el, es, fi, ee, hu, nl, sv, lv, lt, mt, pl, bu)
+ REV 1 COR 1 (ee, nl) + REV 2 (fi)

Council conclusions on the Commission communication on a New Animal Health Strategy for the European Union (2007-2013): "Prevention is better than cure"
15481/07 ADD 1

Council conclusions on implementing sustainability in EU fisheries through maximum sustainable yield 15321/07 + COR 2 (da) + COR 3 (lv)	
Council Regulation adjusting with effect from 1 July 2007 the remuneration and pensions of officials and other servants of the European Communities and the correction coefficients applied thereto 15556/07	
2842nd meeting of the Council of the European Union (ENVIRONMENT) on 20 December 2007	
Council Decision on the position to be taken by the Community concerning the proposal to amend the Customs Convention on the International Transport of goods under cover of TIR carnets (TIR Convention 1975) 15471/07	
Council Decision amending the Rules of Procedure of the Court of Justice 15885/07	Statements: 208/07 (Council)
Council Decision amending the Protocol on the Statute of the Court of Justice 15945/07	Statements: 209/07 (BE)
Council Decision amending the Council's Rules of Procedure 15895/07	Statements: 210/07 (IT)
Council Decision amending Decision 1999/70/EC concerning the external auditors of the national central banks, as regards the external auditors of the Central Bank of Malta 16131/07	
Council Decision amending Decision 1999/70/EC concerning the external auditors of the national central banks, as regards the external auditors of the Central Bank of Cyprus 16130/07	
EU common positions with a view to the Accession Conferences with Croatia and Turkey 16672/07	

Council Decision laying down, for the financial year 2008, the schedule of calls for contributions from the Member States to the 9th European Development Fund 15986/07 + COR 1 (el)	Statements: 215/07 (COM) 216/07 (FR)
Council Regulation applying the arrangements for products originating in certain states which are part of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States provided for in agreements establishing, or leading to the establishment of, Economic Partnership Agreements 14970/07 + COR 1 + REV 1 (en) + REV 1 COR 1 (en)	abstention: PL Statements: 217-218/07 (COM) 219/07 (Council)
Council Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Community and New Zealand pursuant to Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994 relating to the modification of the WTO tariff quota for New Zealand butter provided for in EC Schedule CXL annexed to the GATT 1994 15930/07	
Council conclusions the Special Report No 5/2007 concerning the Commission's Management of the CARDS programme 16036/07	
Council Joint Action amending Joint Action 2007/405/CFSP on the European Union police mission undertaken in the framework of reform of the security sector (SSR) and its interface with the system of justice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUPOL RD Congo) 16226/07	
Council Joint Action repealing Joint Action 2005/557/CFSP on the European Union civilian-military supporting action to the African Union missions in the Darfur region of Sudan and in Somalia 16169/07	
Council Common Position updating Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism and repealing Common Position 2007/448/CFSP 16092/07 + ADD 1 REV 1	
Council Decision implementing Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism and repealing Decision 2007/445/EC 16093/07 + ADD 1 REV 1	

Council conclusions on cooperation with West Africa in the field of drugs 15656/07	
Common Position adopted by the Council on 20 December 2007 with a view to the adoption of a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy and amending Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC, 86/280/EEC and 2000/60/EC 11486/3/07 REV 3 + REV 3 ADD 1	Statements: 234/07 (DK, FI, SE) 235/07 (IT) 236/07 (COM)
Common Position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste and repealing certain Directives 11406/4/07 REV 4 + REV 4 ADD 1	Statements: 237/07 (Council, COM) 238/07 (COM) 239/07 (ES, IT) 240/07 (IE, CZ) 241/07 (FR)
Common Position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the banning of exports and the safe storage of metallic mercury 11488/1/07 REV 1 + REV 1 ADD 1	Statement: 242/07 (SE, BE, DK, EL, IT, PT)
Council conclusions on "Environment and Health" 16154/07	

