



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**PESC 887
RELEX 630
FIN 235
JAI 440**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Council Secretariat

to : Delegations

No. prev. doc. : 8557/09 PESC 466 RELEX 323 FIN 124 JAI 208

Subject : Summary of discussions of the Foreign Relations Counsellors "Sanctions"
formation Working Party meeting held on 17 June 2009

1. Informal Discussion Forum

The Presidency brought to the attention of the Group some statistics on subscriptions to the Informal Virtual Discussion Forum, set up following an agreement reached in the last meeting of RELEX "Sanctions" formation on 1 April 2009 (see doc. 5657/2/09 REV 2). So far a total of 162 registrations have been received for the general list and the three specialised fora. Those registrations were made by 72 officials coming from 18 Member States. For the time being, the three specialised fora will remain open for subscriptions but will not yet be operational.

The Presidency called upon Member States that have not yet registered, to join the Forum. It announced that it will pass over the administration of the Forum to the incoming Swedish presidency on 30 June.

The Commission presented to the Group its CIRCA Sanctions Forum¹. Certain delegations queried what criteria are applied for granting access to the forum. Commission replied by giving assurances that it applied the same criteria as are applied for giving access to the Informal Virtual Discussion Forum. Currently, CIRCA is only available in English. It was pointed out by some delegations that this is not in accordance with language regime in the field of RELEX Counsellors Group and, as far as certain sanctions-related issues included in the First Pillar are concerned, even less in line with the language regime in force therein.

2. Consultation on the content of the websites of competent authorities

As a result of “Consultation on the content of the websites of competent authorities”² and on the basis of information submitted through questionnaires distributed to Member States as part of the consultation, the Presidency prepared a draft “Summary paper on existing practices concerning the content of the websites of the competent authorities”³. The Presidency noted that situation regarding websites has generally improved, recognising that there is still room for improvements. Slovenia welcomed the approach of singling out good practices (see point 10 of the paper) and suggested that this could in the future serve as basis for preparing indicative guidelines on websites.

The Presidency invited delegations to submit their written comments on the paper until 30 June. The Czech Presidency together with the incoming Swedish Presidency will then prepare a revised version, including also the Dutch answers to the questionnaire that were left out by mistake.

3. DELETED

¹ <http://circa.europa.eu>

² Doc. 5782/1/09 REV 1.

³ Doc. 10863/09.

4. Certain international law aspects of EU autonomous sanctions

Swedish Delegation informed the Group that it renounced its intention to have a discussion on this issue during its Presidency.

5. DELETED

6. Brief introduction by the incoming Swedish Presidency

The incoming Presidency informed the Group of its planning for meetings of “Sanctions” formation of RELEX Counsellors Group. Four meetings are planned in the second semester of 2009, the first one for 22 July in the afternoon. Tentative dates for following meetings are 23 September, 21 October and 18 November.

The Swedish Presidency intends to concentrate on the review of Sanctions Guidelines. Delegations can expect to receive the first version of revised Guidelines one week before the meeting in July. All modifications will be in track-mode and will only consist of updating the references. No substantive discussion is planned for the meeting in July, its purpose being limited to a general introduction to the review exercise and identification of points to be addressed in the review.

The incoming Presidency expressed its readiness to continue discussions on new terminology in legal acts regarding sanctions and on certain aspects of Council Regulation (EC) No 423/2007 and to take over the administration of the Informal Virtual Discussion Forum.

7. Presentations of cases of practical implementation of sanctions

The Group listened to presentations prepared by the Czech Republic, Portugal, Romania and the United Kingdom on practical cases of implementation of sanctions by their competent authorities.

8. A. O. B.

- Romania debriefed the Group on a workshop on domestic implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on anti-terrorist sanctions that took place in Bucharest on 1-2 April.
- The Netherlands debriefed the Group on a seminar on improving the effectiveness and legitimacy of United Nations targeted sanctions that took place in The Hague on 25 May.

The next RELEX/"Sanctions" formation meeting will take place on 22 July.
