

Brussels, 29 July 2025
(OR. en)

11807/25
PV CONS 43
AG 120
PARLNAT 97

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(General Affairs)
18 July 2025

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 11569/1/25 REV 1.

2. Approval of ‘A’ items

a) Non-legislative list

11128/1/25 REV 1

The Council adopted all "A" items listed in the document above, including all linguistic COR and REV documents presented for adoption.

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

11129/25

Economic and Financial Affairs

1. Directive on VAT rules for distance sales of imported goods and import VAT SC 10699/25
Adoption of the legislative act 9255/25
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 09.07.2025 FISC

The Council adopted the Directive.

General Affairs

2. Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 as regards battery due diligence policies (Omnibus IV)  11309/25
Adoption of the legislative act PE-CONS 28/25
Decision to derogate from the eight-week period provided for in Article 4 of Protocol 1 on the role of national parliaments in the EU SIMPL
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 16.07.2025

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 114 TFEU). The Council derogated, on the basis of the second subparagraph of Article 3(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, from the eight-week period referred to in the first subparagraph of that Article, in view of the urgency of the matter as set out in the preamble of the legislative act.

Justice and Home Affairs

3. Regulation on a progressive start of operations of the Entry/Exit System  11308/25
Adoption of the legislative act PE-CONS 17/25
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 16.07.2025 IXIM

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 77(2), points (b) and (d), and Article 87(2), point (a) TFEU). In accordance with the relevant Protocols annexed to the Treaties, Denmark and Ireland did not participate in the vote.

Energy

4. Regulation on gas storage  11329/1/25 REV 1
Adoption of the legislative act + REV 1 ADD 1
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 16.07.2025 PE-CONS 27/25
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 (legal basis: Article 194(2) TFEU), with Hungary voting against and Slovakia abstaining. A statement to this item is set out in the Annex.

Legislative deliberations

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

3. **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) post-2027**
Policy debate



The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission and held an exchange of views.

4. Any other business

Non-legislative activities

5. Council Regulation amending Regulation No 1 determining the languages to be used by the European Economic Community
Exchange of views

11302/25
+ ADD 1-2

6. Any other business

a) Handling of the simplification agenda during the Danish Presidency
Information from the Presidency

11580/25

b) Solidarity in unanimity files
Information from Germany

11764/25



First reading



Special legislative procedure



Item based on a Commission proposal

Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 11129/25**Ad "A" item 4:****Regulation on gas storage***Adoption of the legislative act***STATEMENT BY SLOVAKIA**

“Slovakia acknowledges the contribution of the measures proposed in the Regulation on gas storage towards increasing energy security of the Union and its Member States. The Regulation also increases the much-needed flexibility for the implementation of the gas storage obligation and provides useful clarification of its practical application, in particular for gas storages localized in other Member States.

However, the provisions in the recital 2 regarding the proposed REPowerEU Regulation and the declaration to progress quickly towards ending the import of gas from Russia are not acceptable for Slovakia for several reasons:

First, the link towards a proposal that is subject of an ongoing legislative process is highly unusual and can be seen as prejudging the results of its negotiation, while several key elements (e.g. liabilities resulting from cancelled long-term gas contracts and others) have to be clarified.

Second, the recital has no link towards any part of the legislative text itself and goes much beyond the aim of the Regulation on gas storage. Specifically, it cannot by any means determine or exclude the source of gas supply to fulfill the obligations under this Regulation.

Therefore, with regard to our consistent position towards the process of the phasing out of dependency on fossil fuels from Russia, which is in direct contradiction with recital 2 of this Regulation, Slovakia abstains from voting on this Regulation.”

Russian aggression against Ukraine

Ad "A" item 21: **a) Council Decision and Regulation concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine**

Adoption

STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION

“The Commission acknowledges the concerns regarding the ongoing pressures on the EU shipping sector, particularly in the context of sanctions implementation and the risk of circumvention through flag hopping and re-registration outside the Union.

To support the shipping industry and counter the risk of de-flagging, the Commission will, in particular, coordinate with partners in the oil price cap coalition to promote a joint approach to setting and implementing the price cap, thereby fostering a level playing field.

At the same time, the Commission will intensify its outreach to third-country flag states to encourage alignment with EU sanctions enforcement and to discourage that de-flagged EU vessels can obtain the flag of a third country to evade EU sanctions.

In close coordination with the Council and the Member States, the Commission will pursue these objectives, consistent with its role under the EU Treaties to oversee implementation and enforcement of Union law.

More specifically, to address the issue of re-registration outside the EU to circumvent EU sanctions, Member States should systematically inform the Commission about de-registrations from their flag registry. This information should be submitted in accordance with Article 3na of Regulation 833/2014, which obliges Member States and the Commission to share information with each other to identify vessels that may be or become part of the Russian shadow fleet. Taking this information into account and in close cooperation with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), the Commission will structurally monitor flag changes and vessel movements, with particular attention to the so-called shadow fleet.

The Commission will report relevant findings to the Council and its preparatory bodies to support the Union's capacity to assess and propose further listings. Vessels that have de-flagged and contributed to Russian energy revenues should be assessed in this context and may be prioritised for future listings.

The Commission will issue a notice to alert all vessel operators and owners to this procedure and its strict implementation and that due diligence obligations under EU law exist to make sure that vessels de-flagged from EU registries are not used to circumvent EU sanctions. The notice will also apprise vessel operators and owners that any de-flagging from EU flag registries for the purpose of carrying Russian oil in violation of EU sanctions entails a high risk of being proposed for listing under the relevant Union legal acts.”