

Brussels, 31 August 2026
(OR. en)

12076/26
PV CONS 49
AGRI 609
PECHE 302
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Agriculture and Fisheries)
13 July 2026

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 10449/26 + COR 1.

2. Approval of "A" items

a) Non-legislative list

11670/26

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 Addendum.

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

11671/26

Agriculture and Fisheries

1. Regulation amending the CAP strategic plans and horizontal regulations as concerns fertilisers 11393/26 + ADD 1

Adoption of the legislative act

PE-CONS 43/26

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

AGRI

AGRIFIN

approved by SCA, on 06.07.2026

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 114 and 207(2) TFEU). The Council also decided to derogate from the eight-week period provided for in Article 4 of Protocol 1 on the role of national parliaments in the EU.

A statement by Slovakia is set out in the Annex.

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy

- 2. Decision empowering Austria to amend its existing bilateral road transport agreement with Switzerland authorising cabotage operations in road passenger transport services by coach and bus**



11391/26
PE-CONS 37/26
TRANS
CH

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 08.07.2026

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 114 and 207(2) TFEU).

- 3. Regulation on air passenger rights**



11389/26
+ ADD 1-2
PE-CONS 39/1/26
REV 1
AVIATION
CONSOM

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 08.07.2026

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at third 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 114 and 207(2) TFEU), with Spain and Latvia voting against and Austria and Finland abstaining.

Statements by Latvia, France, Portugal and Austria are set out in the Annex.

AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES

Non-legislative activities

3. **Work programme of the Presidency**
Presentation by the Presidency



The Chair presented the Work Programme of the Irish Presidency concerning the Agriculture and Fisheries sectors.

AGRICULTURE

Non-legislative activities

4. **EU Livestock Strategy and Protein Plan**
Presentation by the Commission
Exchange of views



11527/26
11376/26 + ADD 1
11410/26

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission and by the Presidency. It also held an exchange of views.

5. **Women in agriculture**
Exchange of views



11334/1/26 REV 1

The Council held an exchange of views.

6. Trade-related agricultural issues
Information from the Commission
Exchange of views

11373/26

Any other business

7. **Agriculture**

- a) **The appearance of the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) in Hungary**
Information from Hungary



11619/26

The Council took note of the information provided by Hungary, and of delegations' comments.

- b) Commission’s draft 2027 Work Programme for the EU’s promotion policy for agri-food products**
Information from Italy

 11598/26
- c) Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group and Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania on the effective management of agricultural crisis situations within the CAP framework and in the wider context**
Information from Hungary, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia

 11605/26
- d) Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group and Croatia and Romania on the cooperation in the field of bioeconomy and tackling weather extremes**
Information from Hungary, Croatia, Czechia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia

 11604/26

Items 7 b), c) and d) were taken together.

The Council took note of the information provided by Italy on the draft 2027 Work Programme of the Commission for the EU promotion policy for agri-food products, supported by Czechia, France, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Spain. The Council also took note of the information provided by Hungary on the Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group and Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania on the effective management of agricultural crisis situations within the CAP framework and in the wider context, on behalf of Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

The Council took note of the information provided by Hungary on the Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad Group and Croatia and Romania on the cooperation in the field of bioeconomy and tackling weather extremes, on behalf of Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. It took note of comments made by delegations for all items.

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- ❶ First reading
 - ❸ Third reading
 - ❷ Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)
 - Ⓒ Item based on a Commission proposal
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Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 11671/26**Regulation amending the CAP strategic plans and horizontal regulations as concerns fertilisers****Ad "A" item 1:***Adoption of the legislative act**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***STATEMENT BY SLOVAKIA**

“Slovakia supports the adoption of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 as regards a specific type of intervention to provide exceptional temporary support under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the possibility to adapt direct payments allocations for the 2027 calendar year and Regulation (EU) 2021/2116 as regards more flexible rules on payments of advances in response to the increased fertiliser prices due to the Middle East crisis.

At the same time, Slovakia would welcome an amendment to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1173, specifically Article 7(1), which would give Member States more flexibility in making advance payments by allowing for a derogation from the deadline or to allow for the advance payment to be made without a time limit in relation to the deadline for amending or withdrawing an application, provided that the Member State has an effective management and control system in place, including mechanisms for recovering amounts unduly paid.”

Ad "A" item 3:**Regulation on air passenger rights***Adoption of the legislative act***STATEMENT BY LATVIA**

“Latvia fully supports the objective of ensuring a high level of passenger protection and welcomes the significant efforts made to reach a balanced compromise on this proposal. At the same time, Latvia remains concerned that certain elements of the agreed text may create disproportionate financial and administrative burdens for air carriers, with potential consequences for ticket prices and air connectivity. These concerns are particularly relevant for peripheral Member States such as Latvia, where aviation plays a vital role in ensuring mobility, economic development and territorial cohesion.

Latvia also notes with concern the removal of provisions that would have provided greater legal certainty regarding operational decisions taken in the interest of aviation safety and remains cautious about the cumulative impact of new obligations on regional connectivity in an already challenging economic and geopolitical environment. While recognizing the overall progress achieved in the negotiations and supporting the objective of strengthening passenger rights, Latvia considers that the current compromise proposal does not strike a sufficiently balanced outcome between passenger protection and air connectivity. For these reasons, Latvia cannot support the proposed compromise proposal. Nevertheless, Latvia remains committed to constructive engagement in future efforts to ensure both strong passenger rights and sustainable air connectivity across the European Union.”

STATEMENT BY FRANCE

“France supports the proposed compromise, which represents a step forward in passenger rights, by providing more legal clarity, consolidating the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, and increasing the effectiveness of passenger rights.

However, France regrets that certain proposals of general interest have not been accepted, in particular those aimed at providing a better framework for the involvement of intermediaries in the handling of complaints. France remains convinced that preference should be given to a direct relationship between the carrier and the passenger, in particular by favouring the payment of compensation to the beneficiary, in order to restrict the abusive practices of certain intermediaries and to ensure that the rights recognised by the European legislator fully benefit passengers.

Subject to these reservations, France supports this Regulation.”

STATEMENT BY PORTUGAL

“Portugal thanks the Cyprus Presidency and its predecessors for their work in negotiating the revision of the Air Passenger Rights Regulation and in their contacts with the European Parliament.

Portugal has always argued that any revision of the Regulation should not only make it simpler to implement, but also preserve and/or strengthen air passenger rights, so that passengers continue to benefit from protection that sets the standard for other regions of the world.

At the end of this lengthy negotiation process, we would have expected a more ambitious revision in terms of simplifying the application of the Regulation, striking a more favourable balance between its purpose and feasibility, and better identifying and distributing the responsibilities of each of the aviation stakeholders, with a view to ensuring genuinely sustainable air transport.

We maintain that certain situations should already be classified as extraordinary circumstances, namely the death or sudden illness of crew members while off base, safety shortcomings, widespread power cuts at airports, and the increasingly frequent drone interference at airports. We regret that the agreement does not include these elements.

However, in a spirit of compromise and recognising the difficulty of the negotiations, Portugal is voting in favour of the proposal so that the positive aspects of the revision can enter into force and improve the passenger rights protection regime.

We call for efforts to be made within multilateral institutions to ensure that this passenger protection regime can be extended globally, thereby creating a level playing field between EU airlines and carriers from other regions, to the benefit of global aviation.”

STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA

“For Austria, a balanced development of Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 (Air Passenger Rights Regulation) is important in ensuring both a high level of protection for consumers as well as the economic viability and competitiveness of European aviation.

Austria therefore supports the fundamental objectives of the European Commission’s proposal to revise the Air Passenger Rights Regulation.

It should be noted that, in Austria’s view, the compromise text leads to a deterioration in the current legal position of passengers in a number of key areas.

Finally, Austria points out that the text raises many new questions of interpretation. Austria therefore abstains.”
