



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 18 July 2012

12077/12

CRS/CRP 25

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 2415th meeting of the PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
held in Brussels on 3 and 4 July 2012**

SUMMARY

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5. Draft Commission Regulation (EU) No .../.. of XXX amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 1234/2008 concerning the examination of variations to the terms of marketing authorisations for medicinal products for human use and veterinary medicinal products
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 - d) 3150th meeting of the Council of the European Union (General Affairs), held in Brussels on 28 February 2012
 - e) 3153rd meeting of the Council of the European Union (Economic and Financial Affairs), held in Brussels on 13 March 2012
 - f) 3154th meeting of the Council of the European Union (Foreign Affairs), held in Brussels on 16 March 2012
 - g) 3157th meeting of the Council of the European Union (Foreign Affairs), held in Brussels on 22 and 23 March 2012
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19. Financial assistance to Ireland: Adoption of linguistic versions not available at the time of adoption of the act by the Council
 - Council Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2011/77/EU on granting Union financial assistance to Ireland
20. Draft Council Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 5/2012 "The Common External Relations Information System"
21. Anti-dumping
 - Proposal for a Council Implementing Regulation terminating the partial interim review and the expiry review concerning the anti-dumping measures applicable on imports of certain plastic sacks and bags originating in the People's Republic of China and Thailand imposed by Regulation (EC) No 1425/2006
22. Council Decision on the position to be taken by the European Union in the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms
23. Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation on specific fields outside the four freedoms (concerning Internal Market related EU Budget lines)
24. Draft Council Decision extending the period of application of the appropriate measures laid down for the Republic of Guinea by Decision 2011/465/EU and amending that Decision
25. Council Decision on the European Union CSDP mission in Niger (EUCAP Sahel Niger)
26. Concept of Operations "Plus" (CONOPS "PLUS") for the CSDP mission EUCAP SAHEL Niger
28. Council Decision extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative to the African Union
29. Restrictive measures against Iran

30. Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Iraq, of the other part
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1. Adoption of the provisional agenda and "I" items

doc. 12050/12 OJ/CRP1 25 + ADD 1

12053/1/12 REV 1 OJ/CRP2 25 COMIX 424

The above-mentioned agendas are approved with the following changes :

The following items are **added** :

(Coreper Part 2, under I)

44. Council Decision on the position to be taken by the European Union in the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (concerning Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES))

11412/1/12 REV 1 EEE 78 ESPACE 30 RECH 288

11413/12 EEE 79 ESPACE 31 RECH 289

(Coreper Part 2, under II)

45. Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020)

- **Organisation of work within the Council in the second semester 2012**

12076/12 CADREFIN 340 POLGEN 125

(Coreper Part 1, under II)

46. 64th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) (Panama City, Panama, 2-6 July 2012): Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (ASW) - Quotas for Greenland

- **Position of the European Union and Member States**

12116/12 ENV 593 PECHE 261

The following item is **withdrawn** :

(Coreper Part 2, under I)

27. Somalia

7764/1/12 REV 1 PESC 363 RELEX 244 COAFR 79 CONUN 50 COARM 92 FIN 209

a) Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 147/2003 concerning restrictive measures in respect of Somalia

7611/1/12 REV 1 PESC 323 RELEX 224 COAFR 73 CONUN 44 COARM 81

FIN 196 OC 127

- b) **Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 356/2010 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain natural or legal persons, entities or bodies, in view of the situation in Somalia**
7609/1/12 REV 1 PESC 322 RELEX 223 COAFR 72 CONUN 43 COARM 80
FIN 195 OC 126
- c) **Council Decision amending Council Decision 2010/231/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Somalia**
7599/1/12 REV 1 PESC 320 COAFR 70 CONUN 42 COARM 79 FIN 193
OC 125

The Committee approved the "I" items as set out in the summary. Details are contained in the document quoted under item 1.

Coreper Part 1

II

2. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council implementing enhanced cooperation in the area of the creation of unitary patent protection (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)

- **Approval of an amendment to the final compromise text**
11959/12 PI 80 CODEC 1789

The Committee received a briefing by the Presidency on the state of play following the suggestion by the Heads of State and Government on 29 June 2012 to remove Articles 6-8 from the Regulation.

The Committee agreed to return to this file at its next meeting.

9. Working programme of the Cyprus Presidency

- **Information from the Presidency**

Presidency presented to the Committee its Working programme "Working towards a better Europe" which is focused on 4 pillars :

- more efficient and sustainable Europe including notably the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform, the cohesion policy, the energy policy, the maritime policy ;
- Europe with a better performing and growth-based economy including notably the internal market and its digital dimension and the Small and Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) ;
- Europe more relevant to its citizens, with solidarity and social cohesion including notably youth employment, active ageing, health and children's wellbeing ;
- Europe in the world, closer to its neighbours.

10. Preparation for the Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 16 July 2012

- **Communication from the Commission to the Council concerning a consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2013**
 - **Presentation by the Commission**
 - **Exchange of views**
 - 10746/12 PECHE 204
 - 11954/12 PECHE 252

The Committee prepared the exchange of views on the Communication on Fishing Opportunities. The French delegation emphasised that the Committee should fully play its role when it comes to preparing the Fisheries Council. In addition, the French, Spanish and Portuguese delegations underlined their disagreement with the Commission's intention to continue splitting the internal and external TAC and quota proposals.

AOB: mackerel and the trade measures instrument

The Irish delegation, supported by the Spanish, Portuguese and French delegations, requested the inclusion of an AOB on the Council's agenda regarding the North-East Atlantic mackerel management. This request has been accepted by the Presidency.

- 46. 64th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) (Panama City, Panama, 2-6 July 2012): Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (ASW) - Quotas for Greenland**
- **Position of the European Union and Member States**
 - 12116/12 ENV 593 PECHE 261

After a discussion, the Committee could not give its support to option b) as set out in paragraph 10 of document 12116/12, that foresaw the possibility of combining elements of a roll-over of the ASW quotas from the previous period, with the introduction of some flexibility with regard to the new quotas presented by DK (on behalf of Greenland) to IWC 64 for the next 5-year period. The Committee only supported a roll-over of the ASW quotas for Greenland, i.e. an automatic extension of the quotas set for the previous 5-year period (2008-2012). A roll-over had been supported by the EU and its Member States and accepted by all at IWC 64 for the other three Parties to the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling that submitted a request for an ASW quota for the next period.

Coreper Part 2

II

34. Presidency priorities

- Presentation by the Presidency

Presidency presented its main priorities which can be summarised as follows :

- Europe, more efficient and sustainable ;
- Europe, with better performing and growth-based economy ;
- Europe, more relevant to its citizens, with solidarity and social cohesion ;
- Europe in the world, closer to its neighbours.

35. SIS II

- Outcome of the SIS II second milestone test

11894/12 JAI 482 CATS 49 SIRIS 52 SIS-TECH 63 COMIX 408

+ ADD 1

12000/12 CATS 51 SIS-TECH 66 COMIX 417

The outcome of the discussion on this item can be found in 12494/12.

36. Follow-up to the Council meeting (Foreign Affairs) on 25 June 2012

The Committee received a briefing on the follow-up to the Foreign Affairs Council of 25 June 2012.

The following items were highlighted :

- Southern neighbourhood: as to Syria, it is important to start work on broadening of sanctions without any delay; as to Egypt on the best way to support transition ;
- Bosnia - Herzegovina: positive developments ;
- Pakistan, the HR reported from her visit ;
- the new EUSR for Human Rights would be appointed soon.

No delegation intervened.

37. Presentation of the agenda of the Council meeting (Foreign Affairs) on 23 July 2012

The EEAS Executive Secretary General, Mr. Pierre Vimont, presented the agenda for the incoming Foreign Affairs Council on 23 July 2012.

The following items are expected to be included on July FAC:

Southern Neighbourhood (Syria and Libya), Sudan and South Sudan, Mali/Sahel, CSDP, (poss.) DRC, Energy and Foreign Policy, China, (poss.) Cuba, as well as A points regarding further restrictive measures against Syria and Council conclusions on Somalia.

No delegation intervened.

38. Follow-up to the Council meeting (General Affairs) on 26 June 2012

Presidency recalled the important decisions taken by the GAC, notably the decision to open accession negotiations with Montenegro, the partial approach on the Cohesion legislative package and the endorsement of the Country Specific Recommendations (CSR).

39. Presentation of the agenda of the Council meeting (General Affairs) on 24 July 2012

Presidency presented to the Committee the items which are expected to be included in the agenda of the July GAC :

- MFF ;
- Presidency's working programme ;
- follow-up to the June 2012 European Council.

40. Follow-up to the European Council (28/29 June 2012)

The Committee had an exchange of views on the results and expected follow-up of the EC on 28/29 June 2012, notably as regards the Country Specific Recommendations, the EMU report, the agreement on the patent, the compact growth and jobs.

41. Follow-up to the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 22 June 2012

- The Council approved the country-specific recommendations in the framework of the European semester applying for the first time the so-called "comply or explain" principle. This implies that the Council explains in a public report the cases in which it deviates from the Commission's recommendation.
- The Presidency concluded that support for a Financial Transaction Tax as proposed by the Commission was not unanimous. It noted that a significant number of delegations are open to considering enhanced cooperation.
- During the lunch, Ministers had an exchange of views on the well-known positions of Member States on the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework.
- After lunch, Ministers had an orientation debate on key questions related to the Energy Taxation Directive, with a particular focus on the structure of the tax, and provided some guidance for future work. Cyprus announced that it will take this file forward during its Presidency.
- The bank resolution item was moved to the July ECOFIN.

42. Preparation of the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 10 July 2012

- Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Committee finalised the provisional agenda for this Council meeting and reviewed the state of readiness of the agenda items listed.

43. Draft budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013

- **Council position**
11949/12 FIN 478
+ ADD 1
+ ADD 2
11950/12 FIN 479
+ ADD 1

The Committee took note of the state of discussion in the Budget Committee. It instructed the Budget Committee to continue its work to prepare an overall agreement on the Council's position on the draft general budget for 2013, and will come back to this issue at its meeting on 11 July 2012.

45. Multiannual Financial Framework (2014-2020)

- **Organisation of work within the Council in the second semester 2012**
12076/12 CADREFIN 340 POLGEN 125

The Committee was informed on the organisation of work within the Council under the Cyprus Presidency. The next Committee discussion on this file will take place on 19 July 2012 in view of the preparation of the General Affairs Council on 24 July 2012.

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