Council of the European Union

Brussels, 11 November 2026
(OR. en)

13967/26
PV CONS 54
AGRI 725
PECHE 385
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

(Agriculture and **Fisheries)**

28 and 29 September 2026

MEETING ON MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2026

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 13265/26.

2. Approval of "A" items

a) Non-legislative list 13536/26

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) 13535/26

Employment and Social Policy

1. Revision of Regulations on coordination of Social Security systems (883/04 and 987/09) 1 C 12261/26
Adoption of the legislative act + ADD 1-3
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 23.09.2026 PE-CONS 29/26
EMPL
SOC

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 with Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Poland voting against and Hungary and Austria abstaining (legal basis: Article 48 TFEU).

Statements by the Commission, Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden are set out in the Annex.

Health

2. Regulation laying down Union procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human use and establishing rules governing the European Medicines Agency
Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 23.09.2026

1 C
12262/26 + ADD 1
7105/26 + ADD 1 + ADD 1 COR 1
SAN
PHARM

The Council adopted its position at first reading, in accordance with Article 294(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**,** with Malta abstaining, and the statement of the Council's reasons (legal basis: Articles 114 and 168(4)(c) TFEU).

Statements by Bulgaria and Malta are set out in the Annex.

3. Directive on the Union code relating to medicinal products for human use
Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 23.09.2026

1 C
12263/26 + ADD 1
7106/26 + ADD 1 + ADD 1 COR 1
SAN
PHARM

The Council adopted its position at first reading, in accordance with Article 294(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, with Malta abstaining**,** and the statement of the Council's reasons (legal basis: Articles 114(1) and 168(4)(c) TFEU).

Statements by Bulgaria and Malta are set out in the Annex.

AGRICULTURE

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

3. Regulation establishing the conditions for the implementation of Union support under the CAP
Policy debate

1 C
12978/26

Item 5 a) was taken together with item 3.

The Council held a policy debate on the CAP post-2027 Regulation.

The Council also took note of the information from Romania on behalf of Bulgaria, Cyprus, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, in relation to transitional national aid.

Non-legislative activities

4. Market situation, in particular following the invasion of Ukraine[1] 12891/26
Information from the Commission and Member States
Exchange of views

Any other business

5. Agriculture

a) **Current legislative proposals** (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

Request for the continuation of Transitional National Aid 13473/26
Information from Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia

Item 5 a) was taken together with item 3.

b) **Impact of the ongoing drought on Austrian and European agriculture** 13238/26
Information from Austria

c) **Impact of the historic drought on agricultural production, feed availability and animal welfare in Slovakia – need for a timely European response** 13470/26
Information from Slovakia

d) **Increasing impact of drought on Slovenian and European agriculture – need for coordinated EU response** 13542/26
Information from Slovenia

e) **Impact of drought on agricultural production in the Republic of Croatia and the EU: Considerations for potential European solutions** 13521/26
Information from Croatia

f) **Outcome of the MED9 meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers responsible for demography (Zadar, Croatia, 5-7 July 2026)** 13316/26
Information from Croatia

[1] In the presence of the Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine.

g) **Current legislative proposals** (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

The importance of the Common Market Organisation (CMO) for fruit and vegetables — 13527/26
Information from Belgium

h) **Activation of the agricultural reserve for the olive oil sector** — 13543/26
Information from Italy

Items 5 b) to h) were taken together.

The Council took note of the information from:

– Austria, on the impact of the ongoing drought on Austrian and European agriculture;
– Slovakia, on the impact of the historic drought on agricultural production, feed availability and animal welfare in Slovakia – need for a timely European response;
– Slovenia, on the increasing impact of drought on Slovenian and European agriculture – the need for a coordinated EU response;
– Croatia, on the impact of drought on agricultural production in the Republic of Croatia and the EU: considerations for potential European solutions, and on the outcome of the MED9 meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and Ministers responsible for demography in Zadar on 5- 7 July 2026;
– Belgium, on the importance of the CMO for fruit and vegetables; and
– Italy, on the activation of the agricultural reserve for the olive oil sector.

MEETING ON TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2026

FISHERIES

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

6. Regulation establishing the conditions for the implementation of Union support to the Common Fisheries Policy, the European Ocean Pact and of the Union maritime and aquaculture policy 2028-2034 1️⃣C 13108/26
Partial general approach

The Council supported the Presidency compromise text set out in the Annex to document 13108/26, including the modifications presented during the meeting[2], and reached the partial general approach for the proposal for a Regulation establishing the conditions for the implementation of Union support to the Common Fisheries Policy, the European Ocean Pact and of the Union maritime and aquaculture policy 2028-2034.

7. Regulation amending the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund 1️⃣C 13245/26 13386/26
Policy debate

Item 10 a) was taken together with item 7.

The Council held a policy debate.

The Council also took note of the information from France, on behalf of Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Spain, on the call for a legislative package enabling the modernisation of the EU fishing fleet.

[2] The consolidated text of the partial general approach reached at the meeting is set out in document 13729/26.

Non-legislative activities

8.	EU-UK: annual consultations on fishing opportunities for 2027 *Exchange of views*	13099/26
9.	EU-Norway, EU-Norway-UK and coastal states: annual consultations for 2027 *Exchange of views*	13046/26 + COR 1

Any other business

10. Fisheries

a) **Call for a legislative package enabling the modernisation of the EU fishing fleet** — 13432/26
Information from France, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Spain

Item 10 a) was taken together with item 7.

b) **Strengthening the external dimension of EU fisheries in the context of the 2040 vision for fisheries and aquaculture** — 13436/26
Information from Spain, France, Latvia, Lithuania and Portugal

The Council took note of the information provided by Spain, on behalf of France, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal and Spain, about strengthening the external dimension of EU fisheries in the context of the 2040 Vision for fisheries and aquaculture.

Agriculture

c) **African swine fever in Finland** 🅿2 13534/26
Information from Finland

d) **The need for urgent action in the sheep and goat sector in view of the challenges arising from disease outbreaks** 🅿2 13538/26
Information from Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Greece

Items 10 c) and d) were taken together.

The Council took note of the information from Finland on African Swine Fever, and from Romania on behalf of Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece and Romania, on the need for urgent action in the sheep and goat sector in view of the challenges arising from disease outbreaks.

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❶ First reading

C Item based on a Commission proposal

🅿2 Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 13535/26

Ad "A" item 1: **Revision of Regulations on coordination of Social Security systems (883/04 and 987/09)**
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION

on Control, Activation and Job Placement

"During the negotiations on the revision of Regulations (EC) No 883/2004 and (EC) No 987/2009, a number of Member States underlined the importance of control, activation or job placement measures for unemployed persons who go to a Member State other than the competent one to seek employment there. These are cases where, in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 64 and 65 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004, a wholly unemployed person makes use of the possibility to retain unemployment benefits from the competent Member State for a limited period of time, while seeking employment in another Member State. During this period the person concerned must register as a person seeking work with the employment services of the other Member State, be subject to the control procedure organised there and adhere to the conditions laid down under the legislation of that Member State, as if he or she were receiving unemployment benefits from there.

During that period the institution of the receiving Member State must provide to the competent Member State relevant information on a monthly basis concerning the follow-up of the unemployed person's situation, in particular whether the latter is still registered with the employment services and is complying with the activation or job placement procedures in place there.

The Commission acknowledges the importance that persons exporting their unemployment benefit fully comply with all control, activation or job placement measures in place in the receiving Member State, under the same conditions as unemployed persons receiving benefits from that Member State. The Commission also acknowledges the importance of mutual cooperation to support the monitoring and control of unemployed persons when complying with the procedures and measures in the other Member State as to increase their chances of re-integration into the labour market and the need to further enhance monitoring and control by means of a structural automatic data exchange on, at least, work resumption and other income or benefit. To achieve that objective, the Commission will foster the mutual cooperation, support the Member States in the implementation of the provisions on the exchange between institutions, where needed, within the revised legal framework and closely monitor that implementation with the Member States.

In the context of the work on the Fair Labour Mobility Package, the Commission will explore how to further modernise and simplify social security coordination rules. This will include – inter alia – a proposal for solutions to strengthen cooperation and data exchange on control, activation or job placement measures between Member States in the framework of the reporting obligation of the receiving Member States. It could also include data exchange in case of work resumption, or the receipt of other sources of income or other benefits. Overall, this would aim at enhancing the

responsibility and ensure full compliance of persons exporting their benefits with the control, activation or job placement measures in the receiving Member State as if he or she were receiving unemployment benefits from that Member State. This would not only increase the likelihood of an integration of an unemployed person in the labour market but also enhance the mutual trust among Member States in the system of coordination. For the short term, the Commission will already start exploring under the revised legal framework possible improvements in the digitalised and standardised information exchange between Member States with regard to the control and monitoring of the activities of unemployed persons exporting their benefits. To this end, the Commission will propose enhancements of the data exchanges between the institutions within the Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information system (EESSI) through the regular change management process. The Commission will propose that the standardised data fields confirming the person's active job-seeking, work resumption will be fully operational by the date of application of the relevant provisions."

STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION

on Seasonal Workers

"The Communication from the Commission "Guidelines on seasonal workers in the EU in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak" of 17 July 2020, the Council conclusions on improving the working and living conditions of seasonal and other mobile workers approved on 9 October 2020 and the European Parliament resolution of 19 June 2020 on European protection of cross-border and seasonal workers in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, among other initiatives, recognised that seasonal workers are often more vulnerable to precarious working and living conditions than other mobile workers. Regulations (EC) No 883/2004 and its implementing Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 on the coordination of social security systems contribute to facilitating the exercise of social security rights for mobile seasonal workers as well and are without prejudice to specific national income support schemes for seasonal workers, where they exist. It is however important that additional efforts are made in other policy areas as regards working and living conditions, including occupational health and safety, adequate minimum wages, equal treatment and access to social protection. To adequately support the protection of social security rights of seasonal workers, it is particularly important to provide them with relevant information regarding their rights and obligations under these Regulations in a clear and understandable language."

STATEMENT BY BELGIUM

"The free movement of workers is a key principle of the EU single market and requires robust EU coordination of national social security systems.

Improving the coordination of social security systems in the European Union and modernising the rules are important: Social security coordination needs to be regularly assessed and also aligned with an evolving labour market to ensure fair and effective mobility of the workforce.

The modernisation of European social security coordination rules requires taking into account new forms of work, in particular the growing demand for remote working, the emergence of digital nomads, and the increase in the number of people working in several countries at the same time, such as seasonal workers, whose employers must in some cases be registered with one or more foreign social security institutions. In this context, we call for strengthening administrative cooperation and enforceability of the applicable rules.

On many aspects, the proposed revision makes a significant contribution to clarifying the rules, strengthening legal certainty and improving coordination between Member States. This is the case, in particular, regarding family benefits, the fight against fraud, long-term care, the prior notification system in the case of postings and the exchange of data between competent institutions, including via bulk data exchange.

However, in the chapter on unemployment benefits, some challenges remain and will need to be further addressed. The impact of the rule on the aggregation period set at one month, the transfer of competence to the Member State of employment after a 22-week affiliation period, and the extension of the export period from 3 to 6 months still give rise to some concerns as provisions to facilitate reintegration to work and for monitoring, activation and control are insufficient. Belgium welcomes Commission's statement underlining the importance of control, activation or job placement measures and announcing further actions to modernise and simplify social security coordination rules.

Today's Belgian support to the provisional agreement is conditional to Commission's commitments on **additional measures relating to activation and control**. It is crucial that persons exporting their unemployment benefit fully comply with all control, activation or job placement measures in place in the receiving Member State, under the same conditions as unemployed persons receiving benefits from that Member State.

In the short term, actions to strengthen the principle of sincere cooperation, which is fundamental to the successful implementation of the regulations. In addition, the enhancement of data exchanges is key for control and monitoring of the activities of the unemployed persons exporting their benefits. In this regard, we also call on all Member States to support these changes for a rapid implementation into the existing EESSI-system.

In the medium term: investing in robust data exchange between public administrations is essential, with a view to strengthening administrative cooperation and improving efficiency and trust. To this end, we call the Commission to ensure, in the framework of the upcoming Fair mobility package and a forthcoming revision of social security coordination regulations, that those extended rights to unemployment benefits be secured by improved administrative cooperation on the control, monitoring, and activation to facilitate rapid reintegration to work and the possibility for the competent institutions to apply sanctions, if necessary."

STATEMENT BY LUXEMBOURG

"Luxembourg remains fully committed to the free movement of persons and the free provision of services. Luxembourg's commitment to those principles materializes in the engagement for a strong and robust legal framework that emphasizes simplicity, clarity and the right balance between rights and obligations for citizens, employers and public institutions.

Luxembourg has a unique labour market, where frontier workers represent nearly 47% of the workforce.

Hence, its undertakings operate in an integrated cross-border region and depend strongly on the smooth functioning of the internal market. Luxembourg's unique situation was acknowledged in the revision of the Regulations on the coordination of social security systems with a specific additional transition period.

Regarding the overall revision itself, Luxembourg welcomes the positive developments particularly the creation of a clear and much-needed framework for the coordination of long-term care benefits.

However, from the outset of the negotiations, Luxembourg has consistently expressed serious concerns regarding the chapters on unemployment benefits and applicable legislation.

The changes made in the unemployment chapter notably the extension of the initial export period from three to six months, call for a robust and legally binding framework, allowing efficient control and activation of unemployed persons as well as an equivalent reinforcement of administrative cooperation.

Luxembourg regrets that those requirements are not fully accounted for in the actual revision of the Regulations.

For instance, the agreed framework does not mandate an automated mass data exchange to verify work resumption, receipt of income and compliance with activation measures in the receiving State. This jeopardizes paying institutions' ability to adequately verify the use and purpose of exported benefits.

Nonetheless, Luxembourg welcomes the Commission's statement and counts on the latter to honour its firm commitments particularly in terms of activation, control and reinforced data exchange in the short-term, as well as in the forthcoming round of legislative proposals in this area.

The chapter on the applicable legislation is equally of utmost importance for Luxembourg's open economy and the functioning of the internal market.

Hence, Luxembourg regrets that the revised regulation introduces a prior notification obligation for undertakings providing cross-border services, as well as a sector-specific approach for the construction sector facing stricter rules than other sectors. Fragmenting social security coordination by sector goes fundamentally against the spirit of successive revisions of the Regulations, which have consistently aimed to simplify the legal framework and deepen the internal market.

Additionally, the introduction of insufficiently defined sanctions on undertakings failing to comply with the mandatory prior notification will generate administrative complexity and legal uncertainty, ultimately hindering the freedom to provide cross-border services. This is not coherent with the high-level political calls for fostering European competitiveness.

Considering the significant administrative and financial impact of this revision on its social security system, as well as the fact that the above-mentioned systemic flaws outweigh the positive developments, Luxembourg is not in a position to support the revision of the Regulations."

STATEMENT BY THE NETHERLANDS

"The free movement of workers is a fundamental principle of the EU single market, which requires coordination of national social security systems. Modernising the EU's social security coordination legislation is essential. The road towards revising this legislation has been long. Although we recognise the extensive work carried out in these past years, the revision does not bring the modernisation and simplification we need. The provisions on unemployment are not balanced: the possibilities for exporting unemployment benefits will be extended, while this extension is not accompanied by the necessary safeguards for better control and activation. For these reasons, the Netherlands is not able to support the revision.

The Netherlands will continue to strive for rules that modernise and simplify the coordination of social security systems. A modern system of social security coordination requires that all unemployed persons under its scope are subject to proper rules on control, activation and job placement measures. Also, simplification of rules and procedures is needed to relieve the growing burden on implementing organisations.

We encourage the Commission to come forward with ambitious tools for effective activation and job placement, as well as monitoring and control measures covering all unemployed persons, including cross-border workers. For example, structural automatic data exchange between institutions – especially data on work and income – is needed to be able to verify the information required for assessing entitlement to unemployment benefits. These data exchanges should not only apply to individual cases, but should also allow for the comparison of data on multiple persons simultaneously.

In this regard, the Netherlands welcomes the ambitions set out in the Fair Labour Mobility Package, notably the announcement to publish in 2027 proposals for simplification and modernisation of EU rules on the coordination of social security systems. We stand ready to work with the Commission and other stakeholders to align these proposals with our requirements."

STATEMENT BY POLAND

"Poland has consistently raised significant concerns regarding the chapter on the applicable legislation. Poland's key demands, in particular those concerning the definition of an undertaking's registered office in cases where work is carried out in several Member States, have not been taken into account.
The text of the legislative act submitted for adoption contains a number of provisions that are unfavourable to businesses, employees and social security institutions. Linking an undertaking's registered office to the volume of its turnover may lead to frequent changes in the applicable legislation, particularly in highly mobile sectors, such as international transport.
Furthermore, the obligation for prior notification – without making adequate provision for emergency situations – combined with the difference in treatment of the construction sector and the absence of any clear indication of the legal framework applicable to the imposition of national measures, runs counter to the objective of simplifying legislation, improving the functioning of the single market and strengthening the European Union's competitiveness.
For the reasons set out above, Poland does not support the adoption of the legislative act."

STATEMENT BY SWEDEN

"Sweden can accept the revised Regulations, agree with the Commission that the amended provisions regarding long-term care benefits do not entail any change in the scope of the Regulation and thank several Presidencies for all the work they have done to clarify this. Accordingly, the revised provisions are corresponding to the scope in Sweden's declaration on the scope of this Regulation pursuant to Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004."

Ad "A" item 2: **Regulation laying down Union procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human use and establishing rules governing the European Medicines Agency**
Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons

STATEMENT BY BULGARIA

"Bulgaria supports a balanced and sustainable legislation towards a coherent EU regulatory framework, ultimately ensuring timely access for patients to medicinal products that are safe, effective and affordable.

The references to 'gender-based equity' are to be understood strictly as a biological (women and men) category, ensuring equal rights, opportunities, representation and participation of men and women in clinical trials and robust sex-specific data, without implications for concepts of 'gender' as a social construct that exceeds the constitutional framework of the Republic of Bulgaria.

In this context, Bulgaria interprets the use of gender-related terminology in light of our constitutional binary model (women and men) and recognises, interprets and applies the translation of the term 'gender' for the purposes of translation and implementation of EU law, exclusively and strictly as 'sex'."

STATEMENT BY MALTA

"Malta welcomes the adoption of the revised pharmaceutical legislation which represents a significant improvement when compared to the current framework.

The legal obligations to supply innovative products to all Member States on the fulfilment of certain conditions, which have been included in both the directive and the regulation, are clearly a step in the right direction. The effectiveness of these obligations in practice is, however, yet to be seen, considering the complex triggers and that the sanctions for the non-fulfilment of these obligations are rather weak. The proposed extension of the SPC through the biotech act may also further weaken this obligation if retained within final text.

However, Malta would like to recall that the EU is built on the principles of equality amongst the Member States and on solidarity. These principles are entrenched in the Treaty of the European Union, more specifically in Article 4 and Article 2 respectively.

The revised framework falls short in providing the conditions for equal access to medicines to the populations of all Member States.

This fragmentation also trickles down to the implementation of the framework, such as the European Medicines Verification System, which further fragments the market and introduces additional barriers and costs, in particular on smaller markets.

Malta has persistently argued in favour of eliminating barriers within the internal market for patients at all levels, including within the European Council, and it regrets that the new framework is built on 27 distinct markets, rather than on the EU single market. Most of the existing barriers for patients have been retained, and new barriers have been introduced. Article 120(1a) of the regulation is a case in point. We would have liked to see a more European approach across the board, including when it comes the shortages chapter, where the focus should have been that the EU is adequately supplied, and not on the individual markets of the Member States.

It is therefore difficult for Malta to endorse a framework that does not address, fully and equally, all the barriers being faced by all the 27 Member States. However, considering the improvements on the current framework, Malta opts to abstain on the Regulation."

Ad "A" item 3: **Directive on the Union code relating to medicinal products for human use**
Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons

STATEMENT BY BULGARIA

"Bulgaria supports a balanced and sustainable legislation towards a coherent EU regulatory framework, ultimately ensuring timely access for patients to medicinal products that are safe, effective and affordable.
The references to 'gender-based equity' are to be understood strictly as a biological (women and men) category, ensuring equal rights, opportunities, representation and participation of men and women in clinical trials and robust sex-specific data, without implications for concepts of 'gender' as a social construct that exceeds the constitutional framework of the Republic of Bulgaria.

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STATEMENT BY MALTA

"Malta welcomes the adoption of the revised pharmaceutical legislation which represents a significant improvement when compared to the current framework.

The legal obligations to supply innovative products to all Member States on the fulfilment of certain conditions, which have been included in both the directive and the regulation, are clearly a step in the right direction. The effectiveness of these obligations in practice is, however, yet to be seen, considering the complex triggers and that the sanctions for the non-fulfilment of these obligations are rather weak. The proposed extension of the SPC through the biotech act may also further weaken this obligation if retained within final text.

Malta also welcomes the attempts of the co-legislators to improve access to generic medicines, in particular through the introduction of the opt-in mechanism and the digital labelling.

Malta appreciates the Malta specific transitional arrangements which will make it easier for it to transit to this new framework. In this regard, it is important that the necessary work is carried out for the framework to be implemented as soon as possible.

However, Malta would like to recall that the EU is built on the principles of equality amongst the Member States and on solidarity. These principles are entrenched in the Treaty of the European Union, more specifically in Article 4 and Article 2 respectively.

The revised framework falls short in providing the conditions for equal access to medicines to the populations of all Member States.

The revised framework retains the unfettered access across the internal market for the market authorisation holders, and the fragmented market with several barriers for patients. The latter approach is being justified on public health grounds. Patients in smaller Member States which are either not supplied, or are supplied at unjustified higher prices, are being disproportionately impacted by this asymmetrical approach. Fragmentation on public health grounds should be accompanied by strong public service obligations which are, however, lacking.

Malta has persistently argued in favour of eliminating barriers within the internal market for patients at all levels, including within the European Council, and it regrets that the new framework is built on 27 distinct markets, rather than on the EU single market. Most of the existing barriers for patients have been retained, and new barriers have been introduced.

It is therefore difficult for Malta to endorse a framework that does not address, fully and equally, all the barriers being faced by all the 27 Member States. However, considering the improvements on the current framework, Malta opts to abstain on the Directive."