SUMMARY RECORD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
10 and 12 November 2021

I. Adoption of the agenda
13551/1/21 REV 1 OJ CRP1 39
13639/1/21 REV 1 OJ CRP2 39

The Committee adopted the agenda.

II. Approval of the "I" items

The Committee approved the "I" items as set out in the Annex.

III. Discussion items

COREPER (PART 1)

WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2021

Employment and Social Policy

2. Revision of Directive on carcinogens and mutagens at work (fourth batch) 13299/21 + ADD 1
   Preparation for the trilogue

   The Committee prepared a revised mandate for the forthcoming trilogue.
Health

3. Regulation on a reinforced role for the European Medicines Agency in crisis preparedness and management for medicinal products and medical devices 13505/21
Analysis of the final compromise text with a view to agreement 13307/21

The Committee endorsed the text of the final compromise and mandated the Presidency to inform the European Parliament that, should the European Parliament adopt its position at first reading in accordance with this compromise (subject to revision by the legal linguists), the Council would approve the European Parliament's position and the act shall be adopted.

Statement by Hungary

“Hungary recognizes and promotes equality between men and women in accordance with the Fundamental Law of Hungary, and the primary law, principles and values of the European Union, as well as the commitments and principles stemming from the international law. Furthermore, equality between women and men is enshrined in the Treaties of the European Union as a fundamental value. In line with these and its national legislation, Hungary interprets the concept of ‘gender’ as reference to ‘sex’, in the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a reinforced role for the European Medicines Agency in crisis preparedness and management for medicinal products and medical devices.”

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport

4. Meeting of the Council (Education, Youth, Culture and Sport) on 29 and 30 November 2021: Agenda

The Presidency presented the main items on the agenda.

Competitiveness

5. Meeting of the Council (Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)) on 25 and 26 November 2021: Preparation

1. Conclusions on Space for everyone 13361/21 + COR 1
   Approval

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

2. Space Traffic Management 13407/21
   Presentation of the Presidency Report

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.
3. Long-term sustainability, sustainable development and financing of “New Space”
   *Policy debate*

   The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

4. Regulation on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector (Digital Markets Act)
   *General approach*

   The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

**Joint statement by Italy, Portugal and Spain**

“We support the Presidency’s compromise text in order to reach the General Approach at the COMPET Council on 25 November 2021.

However, we strongly underline the need for improvements in order that the DMA is not watered down in the course of negotiations during the further procedure.

For instance, we believe that the scope of Article 6(1)(k) on FRAND conditions of access for business users has been unambitiously limited to software application store. Recent cases have highlighted the persistence of a strong imbalance in the contractual relations between gatekeepers and business users also in relation to access to search engines and social network services, leading to unbalanced, unfair and potentially unjust conditions. These practices have shown a negative direct impact on business partners, undermining both the long-term contestability and the possibility of users’ choice, as well as the full accessibility and quality of content.

We support therefore the enlargement of the scope of Article 6 (1) (k) to search engines and social network services.

We are confident that such request will be taken in due and serious account in the course of future negotiations.”
Youth

6. Decision on a European Year of Youth 2022  
   Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament

   The Committee agreed on a mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament.

   **Statement by Poland**
   “Rzeczpospolita Polska rozumie sformułowanie „równość płci” (ang. „gender equality”) jako odnoszące się do równości kobiet i mężczyzn, stosownie do art. 2 i art. 3 TUE. Ponadto Rzeczpospolita Polska rozumie termin „płeć” (ang. „gender”) jako „płeć” (ang. „sex”) zgodnie z art. 10, art. 19 ust. 1 oraz art. 157 ust. 2 i 4 TFUE.”

   **Courtesy translation**
   “The Republic of Poland understands wording “gender equality” as referring to “equality between women and men”, in line with art. 2 and art. 3 of the Treaty on European Union. Also the Republic of Poland understands wording “gender” as referring to “sex” in line with art. 10, art. 19 para 1 and art. 157 para 2 and 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.”

Transport, Telecommunication and Energy

7. Meeting of the Council (Transport, Telecommunication and Energy) on 2 and 3 December 2021: Agenda
   The Presidency presented the main items on the agenda.

Transport

   Analysis of the final compromise text with a view to agreement

   The Committee endorsed the text of the final compromise and will inform the European Parliament.

9. Fit for 55 package: Transport
   Guidance for further work

   The Committee held an exchange of views and provided guidance for further work.
COREPER (PART 2)

General Affairs

25. Meeting of the Council (General Affairs/Cohesion) on 18 November 2021: Preparation

a) Inclusion of the Republic of San Marino to the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) Adoption

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.

b) The contribution of cohesion policy programmes to recovery, competitive sustainability, green and digital transition, resilience and economic, social and territorial cohesion – challenges and opportunities in the coming years Policy debate

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.

c) Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Committee took note of the information provided by the Presidency.

26. Meeting of the Council (General Affairs) on 23 November 2021: Preparation

Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Committee took note of the information provided by the Presidency.

Foreign Affairs

27. Meeting of the Council (Foreign Affairs) on 15-16 November 2021: Preparation

a) Current Affairs

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.

b) Western Balkans Exchange of views

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.
c) Sahel

*Exchange of views*

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.

d) Strategic Compass

*Presentation of the first draft*

*Exchange of views*

13637/21

13638/21

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.

e) EU Training Missions

*Exchange of views*

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.

f) Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Committee took note of the information provided by the EEAS.

28. Meeting of the Council (Foreign Affairs/Development) on 19 November 2021: Preparation

a) Water in external action – Central Asia

*Exchange of views*

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.

b) Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Committee took note of the information provided by the EEAS.

29. Meeting of the Council (Foreign Affairs/Trade) on 29 November - 3 December 2021: Agenda

The Presidency presented the main items on the agenda.

30. Meetings of the International Seabed Authority

*Guidance for further work*

COMAR

13411/21

The Committee examined the file. It has been confirmed that the required qualified majority cannot be reached for the adoption of the proposed Council Decision. The Committee agreed on a statement to be entered into the Council minutes recording this fact. This will be done as an A item at an upcoming Council meeting.
Statement by the Commission

“The Commission regrets that so far the Council has not been able to adopt its proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the meetings of the International Seabed Authority Council and Assembly. While the Commission will continue to work constructively with the Council towards the adoption of an EU position, the Commission wishes to recall that in such circumstances where the Commission has made a proposal for an EU position which is still pending, in accordance with the case law of the Court (Judgement of the Court of Justice in Case C-246/07, Commission v. Sweden (‘PFOS’), ECLI:EU:C:2010:203) the Member States are subject to special duties of action and abstention and the proposal constitutes the point of departure for concerted action from which Member States cannot depart.”

Justice and Home Affairs

31. Situation at the EU’s external border with Belarus
   State of play

   The Committee took note of the information provided by Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Germany and exchanged views on the state of play.

Economic and Financial Affairs

32. Meeting of the Council (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 9 November 2021: Follow up

   The Committee agreed to postpone this item to next week.

33. Preparation Conciliation Committee and Ecofin/Budget Council on 12 November 2021

   The Committee prepared the Council meeting.
IV. **Any other business**

**COREPER (PART 1)**

None.

**COREPER (PART 2)**

None.
"I" items approved

COREPER (PART 1)

WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2021

Institutional Affairs

Appointments

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<td>Four members of the panel for the EU action for the European Heritage Label</td>
<td>12783/21</td>
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<td>Three experts of the selection and monitoring panel for period 2022-2024</td>
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<td>(European Capital of Culture action 2020-2033)</td>
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<td>One alternate member (FR) of the Management Board of the European Centre for the</td>
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<td>Development of Vocational Training</td>
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<td>One member (FR) of the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Social Security</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>One member (FR) of the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Social Security</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Attendance of a third party at the Working Party on Energy on 16 November 2021</td>
<td>13429/21</td>
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<td>ENER</td>
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Other

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<td>16</td>
<td>Decision establishing the 2030 Policy Programme &quot;Path to the Digital Decade&quot;</td>
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<td>Decision to consult an institution or body</td>
<td>TELECOM</td>
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</table>
17. Council Regulation on the allocation of fishing opportunities under the Protocol on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) with Mauritania

Adoption

12667/21 + ADD 1
12411/21

PECHE

18. Council Decision on the conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) with Mauritania and Implementing Protocol thereto

Request in principle

12667/21 + ADD 1
12208/21
12446/21

PECHE

Statement by the Commission

“By its judgement in joined cases C-103/12 and C-165/12 (European Parliament and the Commission v. Council) the Court of Justice clearly confirmed that decisions relating to the conclusion of external fisheries agreements fall fully within the scope of Article 43(2) TFEU (in conjunction with the applicable procedure of Article 218 TFEU, i.e. Article 218(6)(a)(v) for the decisions on the conclusion of the agreements) and rejected the position that such decisions could fall within the scope of Article 43(3) TFEU.

In relation to the Decision on the signing and provisional application as well as on the conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and of the Implementing Protocol thereto, the Commission regrets the Council’s amendment replacing the substantive legal basis of Article 43(2) TFEU with Article 43 (without mentioning the paragraph).

While not opposing the adoption of the amendment by the Council by a qualified majority vote, the Commission reserves all its rights in this regard.”


Adoption

12667/21 + ADD 1
12392/21
12446/21

PECHE

Statement by the Commission

“The Commission considers that the Decision on the signing and provisional application of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and of the Implementing Protocol thereto, should refer to the person designated by the negotiator as the one to be empowered to sign the Protocol. Therefore, the changes to Article 2 that provide for the President of the Council to designate the person who is to sign the agreement on behalf of the Union are not in accordance with the Treaties.

The Decision on the conclusion of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and of the Implementing Protocol thereto, should indicate the Commission as responsible for the notification of the Union’s consent to be bound by the Protocol. The changes to Article 3 that provide for the President of the Council to make this notification are thus also not in accordance with the Treaties.

Both the signature of an international agreement and the subsequent notification of the consent to be bound by it are acts of external representation of the Union, which, in accordance with Article 17(1) TEU, is the institutional prerogative of the Commission.
The Court of Justice has emphasized that consistent practice by Union institutions that is not in accordance with the EU Treaties ‘cannot alter the rules of the Treaties that the institutions are obliged to respect’ (Case C-687/15 Commission v Council, EU:C:2017:803, para. 42).

While not opposing the adoption of the amendment by the Council by a qualified majority vote, the Commission reserves all its rights in this regard.”

20. Council Regulation on the allocation of fishing opportunities under the Protocol on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) with the Cook Islands

Adoption

21. Council Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) with the Cook Islands

Agreement in principle

Request for the consent of the European Parliament

Statement by the Commission

“By its judgement in joined cases C-103/12 and C-165/12 (European Parliament and the Commission v. Council) the Court of Justice clearly confirmed that decisions relating to the conclusion of external fisheries agreements fall fully within the scope of Article 43(2) TFEU (in conjunction with the applicable procedure of Article 218 TFEU, i.e. Article 218(6)(a)(v) for the decisions on the conclusion of the agreements) and rejected the position that such decisions could fall within the scope of Article 43(3) TFEU.

In relation to the Decision on the signing and provisional application as well as on the conclusion of the Protocol (2021-2024) on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the Cook Islands, the Commission regrets the Council’s amendment replacing the substantive legal basis of Article 43(2) TFEU with Article 43 (without mentioning the paragraph).

While not opposing the adoption of the amendment by the Council by a qualified majority vote, the Commission reserves all its rights in this regard.”

22. Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of the Protocol on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) with the Cook Islands

Adoption
Statement by the Commission

“The Commission considers that the Decision on the signing and provisional application of the Protocol (2021-2024) on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the Cook Islands, should refer to the person designated by the negotiator as the one to be empowered to sign the Protocol. Therefore, the changes to Article 2 that provide for the President of the Council to designate the person who is to sign the agreement on behalf of the Union are not in accordance with the Treaties.

The Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol (2021-2024) on the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the Cook Islands, should indicate the Commission as responsible for the notification of the Union’s consent to be bound by the Protocol. The changes to Article 3 that provide for the President of the Council to make this notification are thus also not in accordance with the Treaties.

Both the signature of an international agreement and the subsequent notification of the consent to be bound by it are acts of external representation of the Union, which, in accordance with Article 17(1) TEU, is the institutional prerogative of the Commission.

The Court of Justice has emphasized that consistent practice by Union institutions that is not in accordance with the EU Treaties ‘cannot alter the rules of the Treaties that the institutions are obliged to respect’ (Case C-687/15 Commission v Council, EU:C:2017:803, para. 42).

While not opposing the adoption of the amendment by the Council by a qualified majority vote, the Commission reserves all its rights in this regard.”
FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2021

Fisheries


Adoption

Transport

24. IMO - Joint submission - SDC 8 for an emergency towing arrangement to all new ships over 20,000 gross tonnage

Endorsement

Statement by the Commission

“The Commission considers that Union submissions to be sent to the IMO are covered by EU exclusive competence. Submission of proposals to the IMO on issues of EU competence is an act of external representation, which, in accordance with Article 17(1) TEU, is the institutional prerogative of the Commission.

In the Commission’s view, the procedural arguments against presenting submissions to the IMO by the Commission on behalf of the EU are not convincing. This is because there is no evidence to suggest that the IMO, as a specialised agency of the United Nations, would be in a position to reject such a submission.

The Treaty provisions on external representation of the Union must be applied. It should therefore be made by the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and sent to the IMO by the Commission.

The Commission reserves all its rights in this regard.”

Institutional Affairs

Other

81. Attendance of CERT-EU, EUROPOL, ENISA, CSIRT Network, CyCLONe, EUISS, EDA and NATO at the Horizontal Working Party on Cyber Issues meeting on 17 November 2021

Approval

82. Attendance of third parties at the Security Committee meeting on 16 November 2021

Approval
COREPER (PART 2)

Judicial Affairs

34. Appeal against judgments of the EU General Court in Case T-279/19, Front Polisario v Council and Joined Cases T-344/19 and T-356/19, Front Polisario v Council

Approval

Statement by Denmark

“Denmark has taken careful note of the legal assessment and recommendation of the Council Legal Service. On this basis, Denmark supports an appeal of the judgment of the General Court handed down on 29 September 2021 in Case T-279/19 and in Joined Cases T-344/19 and T-356/19 in order to obtain full legal certainty. Denmark has consistently emphasised that the concerned agreements in these cases must be consistent with the judgment of the Court of Justice handed down on 21 December 2016 in Case C-104/16 P and do not prejudge the status of Western Sahara under EU and international law. Denmark continues to support the United Nations process to find a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution for Western Sahara.”

Statement by Sweden

"It is important to maintain the cooperation between the EU and Morocco. Sweden highly values this cooperation. However, questions pertaining to Western Sahara must be handled with respect for international law. Sweden notes that the General Court has annulled the agricultural and fisheries partnership agreements between the EU and Morocco, with reference to international law. The ruling on 29 September is in line with past rulings by the Court of Justice and with Sweden’s position. Sweden shares the assessment of the General Court and sees no need for an appeal, as proposed by the Council Legal Service. Sweden will thus vote against an appeal by the Council of the General Court’s ruling. Sweden can accept that the question of an appeal of the court ruling is treated as a I point by COREPER II, but wants its stated position recorded."

35. Case T-564/21 (Bremino-Grupp / Council)

Information note for the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)

Institutional Affairs

Appointments

36. An alternate member (DE) of the Committee of the Regions

Adoption

Other

37. Attendance of EDA at the Security Accreditation Board on 25 November 2021

Approval
38. Attendance of a third party at the informal videoconference of the members of the ACP Working Party on 16 November 2021
   Approval
   13404/21 ACP

   Approval
   13475/21 CONUN

40. Attendance of a third party at a meeting of the Budget Committee in November 2021
   Approval
   13416/21 FIN

41. Attendance of third parties at a meeting of the Budget Committee in November 2021
   Approval
   13427/21 FIN

42. Attendance of a third party at the Working Party on Development cooperation and international partnerships on 11 November 2021
   Approval
   13415/21 DEVGEN

43. Attendance of third parties at the Security Committee meeting on 16 November 2021
   Approval
   13453/21 CSC

44. Attendance of a third party at the PMG meeting on 17 November
   Approval
   13502/21 POLMIL

45. Attendance of a third party at the informal videoconference of the members of the Working Party on Public International Law on 24 November 2021
   Approval
   13513/21 COJUR

46. Attendance of a third party at the EUMC meeting on 10 November
   Approval
   13525/21 EUMC

47. Attendance of a third party at the EUMCWG/HTF meetings on 16, 18, 22, 24, 29 and 30 November 2021
   Approval
   13189/21 EUMC

48. Attendance of third parties at the EUMCWG/HTF meeting in military training format on 18 November 2021
   Approval
   13552/21 EUMC

77. Attendance of a third party at the Informal VTC of Africa Working Party members on 11 November 2021
    Approval
    13686/21 COAFR
**Transparency**

49. Complaint 717/2021/DL to the European Ombudsman - Solution

Approval of a letter

**Economic and Financial Affairs**

50. Preparation of the position for the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (MOP2)

Approval

51. Council Implementing Decision extending a special measure of Croatia derogating from Article 26(1), point (a), and Article 168 of the VAT Directive

Adoption

52. Council Implementing Decision authorising Estonia to apply a measure derogating from Article 26(1), point (a), and Articles 168 and 168a of the VAT Directive

Adoption

53. Transfer No DEC 22/2021 (Section III - Commission)

Approval

54. Transfer No DEC 23/2021 (Section III - Commission)

Approval

55. Transfer No DEC 28/2021 (Section III - Commission)

Approval

56. Decision on the mobilisation of the EGF (EGF/2021/002 IT/Air Italy)

Approval

57. Decision on the mobilisation of the EGF (EGF/2021/003 IT/Porto Canale)

Approval

58. Decision on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Croatia in relation to the series of earthquakes starting from 28 December 2020

Approval
General Affairs

59. Enlargement - Accession negotiations with Serbia
   Fulfilment of opening benchmarks on Chapter 15
   Approval
   13441/21 ELARG

60. EU Joining Paris Call
    Approval
    13541/21 CYBER

Foreign Affairs

61. Conclusions on water in the EU’s external action
    Approval
    13440/21 DEVGEN

Statement by Poland

“Equality between women and men is enshrined in the treaties of the European Union as a fundamental right. Poland ensures equality between women and men within the framework of the Polish national legal system in accordance with internationally binding human rights instruments and within the framework of fundamental values and principles of the European Union. For these reasons Poland understands gender equality in the text of the Conclusions as an equality between women and men, accordingly to Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union and Articles 8 and 157 para. 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. In the light of the above, the remaining expressions containing the term "gender" will be interpreted by Poland as "sex", in accordance with art. 10, art. 19 para. 1 and art. 157 para. 2 and 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.”

62. Conclusions on public sector expertise in external action
    Approval
    13445/21 DEVGEN

63. WTO: 12th Ministerial Conference in Geneva
    Decision to hold a Council meeting in a place other than Brussels or Luxembourg
    13414/21 WTO

64. Transmission of classified information to the European Parliament - Directives for trade and investment negotiations with India
    Approval
    13476/21 WTO

65. Council Guidelines for EDA’s work in 2022
    Approval
    13295/21 13294/21 CSDP/PSDC

    Approval
    13037/21 CONOP
67. Conclusions on the 10th Review Conference of the Treaty on
the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
Approval

68. Council Implementing Decision and Implementing Regulation -
Syria restrictive measures
Adoption

69. Council Decision establishing the list of projects to be
developed under PESCO - update
Adoption

70. Council Decision on a European Union action in support of the
United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism in
Yemen (UNVIM)
Adoption

71. Council Decision on an assistance measure under the European
Peace Facility to support military units trained by the EU
Training Mission in Mozambique
Adoption

72. Council Decision on the Biological and Toxin Weapons
Convention (BTWC) in the framework of the EU Strategy
against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
Adoption

73. Restrictive measures to combat terrorism - Common Position
2001/931/CFSP - pre-notifications of updated statement of
reasons
Adoption

78. Belarus Restrictive Measures - Council Decisions and
Regulations
Adoption

79. Council Recommendation concerning the sequencing of the
fulfilment of the more binding commitments undertaken in the
framework of PESCO and specifying more precise objectives,
and repealing Recommendation 2018/C 374
Adoption
80. Council Recommendation assessing the progress made by the participating Member States to fulfil commitments undertaken in the framework of the Permanent Structured Cooperation

Adoption

74. 16th EU-Uzbekistan Cooperation Council (Brussels, 16 November 2021)

Establishment of the EU position

EU positions for international negotiations

75. Council Decision on the EU position on trade standards - November 2021 session of the International Olive Council

Adoption

Statement by the Commission

“The Commission considers that the Council Decision should be addressed to the Commission, and therefore considers the changes to Article 3 to be inappropriate. The expression of the Union position in a body set up by an agreement is an act of external representation of the Union which, in accordance with Article 17(1) TEU, is the institutional prerogative of the Commission.

The Commission reserves all its rights in this regard.”

76. International Working Group on export credits

Information note for the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)