



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 28 November 2023
(OR. en)

15848/23
PV CONS 57
AGRI 726
PECHE 532

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Agriculture and Fisheries)
20 November 2023

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 15121/23.

2. Approval of "A" items

- a) **Legislative list** (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union) 15362/23

Economic and Financial Affairs

1. **Joint text on the general budget of the European Union for 2024** [S] 15238/23 + ADD 1-5
Approval
Following Council (ECOFIN/Budget) on 11.11.2023

The Council approved the joint text on the budget for 2024 as set out in the Annex and addenda 1 to 5 of the above indicated document, with Sweden voting against (Legal basis: Article 314(5) TFEU).

Statements to this item are set out in the Annex.

- b) **Non-legislative list** 15361/23

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

Non-legislative activities

FISHERIES

3. Council Regulation fixing for 2024 the fishing opportunities in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea [C] 14967/23 13860/23 + ADD 1
Presentation by the Commission
Exchange of views
4. Council Regulation fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities in the Atlantic and the North Sea [C] 14968/23 14720/23 + ADD 1-2
Presentation by the Commission
Exchange of views

AGRICULTURE

5. **Conclusions on a long-term vision for the EU's rural areas (LTVRA)** 15252/23
Approval

The Council approved the text of the conclusions on the Long-Term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas, as set out in the document above. It also took note of the comments of the Commission and of Member States on the future development of rural areas.

Any other business

Agriculture

6. a) **Current legislative proposals** 1C
(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)
- i) **Regulation on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed products - state of play** 15301/23
Information from the Presidency

The Council took note of the information provided by the Spanish Presidency as set out in the document above on the state of play of the examination of the proposal on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques (NGT) and their food and feed, and of the information provided by the Croatian delegation as set out in document 15472/23 on that proposal. The Council took also note of the reactions of delegations and of the Commission.

- ii) **Regulation on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques and their food and feed products** 15472/23
Information from the Croatian delegation

Item 6 (a) (ii) was taken together with item 6 (a) (i).

b) Implementation of the EU Forest Strategy for 2030
Information from the Commission

 14476/23

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission as set out in the document above on the state of play of the implementation of the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030.

The Council also took note of the information provided by the Austrian delegation on the informal meeting of the forest ministers of the 'For Forest Group', as set out in document 15474/23 and of the information provided by the German delegation on the Strategic frameworks for cooperation with partner countries in the context of the implementation of the Regulation on deforestation, as set out in document 15468/23. The Council further took note of the Commission's and of delegations' reactions.

c) Informal meeting of Forest Ministers of the “For Forest Group” (Vienna and Stuhleck, Austria, 25-26 September 2023)

 15474/23 + ADD 1

Information from the Austrian delegation, on behalf of the Austrian, Finnish, Slovenian and Swedish delegations

Item 6 (c) was taken together with item 6 (b).

d) Importance of strategic frameworks for cooperation with partner countries (Implementation of the Deforestation Regulation)

 15468/23

Information from the German delegation

Item 6 (d) was taken together with item 6 (b).

e) A new role of farmers for vital and sustainable rural areas

 15465/23

Information from the Italian delegation, supported by the Austrian, Finnish, French, Greek, Latvian, Polish and Romanian delegations

The Council took note of the information provided by the Italian delegation set out in the document above on a new role of farmers for vital and sustainable rural areas. It also took note of the Commission's and of delegations' reactions.

f) Partial application of Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) no. 8 for the 2024 campaign

 15188/1/23 REV 1

Information from the French delegation, supported by the Bulgarian, Croatian, Cyprus, Estonian, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Slovak and Slovenian delegations

The Council took note of the information provided by the French delegation set out in the document above on the partial application of Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition number 8 for the 2024 campaign. It also took note of the Commission's and of delegations' reactions.



First reading



Item based on a Commission proposal



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



Special legislative procedure

Statements to the legislative "A" item set out in doc. 15362/23

Ad "A" item 1: **Joint text on the general budget of the European Union for 2024**
Approval

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL
on payment appropriations

“The European Parliament and the Council call on the Commission to continue closely and actively monitoring during the year 2024 the implementation of the programmes of the current and previous MFFs (particularly in sub-heading 2a and Rural Development). To that end, the European Parliament and the Council invite the Commission to present, in a timely manner, updated figures concerning the state of affairs and estimates regarding 2024 payment appropriations (taking into account the improved forecasts accuracy of the Member States where applicable). If the figures show that the appropriations entered in the 2024 budget are insufficient to cover the needs, the European Parliament and the Council invite the Commission to present as soon as possible an appropriate solution, inter alia a draft amending budget, with a view to allowing the European Parliament and the Council to take any necessary decisions as soon as possible without undue delay for justified needs. Where applicable, the European Parliament and the Council will take into account the urgency of the matter, shortening the eight-week period for a decision if deemed necessary. The same applies mutatis mutandis if the figures show that the appropriations entered in the 2024 budget are higher than needed.”

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION

on integrating the outcome of the MFF mid-term revision in the 2024 budget

“The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission take note of the ongoing discussions on the proposed revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. The Council has been invited by the European Council to take work forward, with a view to reaching an overall agreement on the proposed revised MFF by the end of the year, thereby enabling swift adoption having due regard to the role of the European Parliament in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Treaties. Therefore, the impact of such agreement for the financial year 2024 can only be introduced via a draft amending budget.

The European Parliament and the Council therefore invite the Commission to propose a draft amending budget immediately as soon as the revision of the MFF Regulation is agreed with a view to aligning the 2024 budget to a revised MFF Regulation.

The European Parliament and the Council commit to consider the proposal of the Commission without undue delay, taking into account the urgency of the matter.”

UNILATERAL STATEMENT OF THE COMMISSION

on the MFA+ interest rate subsidy for the financial year 2024

“The Commission undertakes to propose the appropriate budgetary measures for freeing the resources allocated for the MFA+ interest rate subsidy (budget Article 14 07 01) for the financial year 2024, should an alternative financing solution be found in due time.”

UNILATERAL STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

on the MFA+ interest rate subsidy

“The European Parliament takes note of the Commission statement. The European Parliament recalls that, under Regulation 2022/2463, the interest rate subsidy in relation to MFA+ for Ukraine should be financed from voluntary contribution from the Member States and that the EU budget may contribute subject to available resources. In that context, the European Parliament stresses that the provisional entry of appropriation on budget line 14 07 01 is a one-off exception and does not constitute a precedent for future budgetary procedures.”
