

Brussels, 18 December 2025
(OR. en)

16618/25
PV CONS 68
COMPET 1320
IND 595
MI 1030
RECH 550
ESPACE 99
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space))
8 and 9 December 2025

MEETING ON MONDAY 8 DECEMBER 2025 (9:30)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 16081/25.

2. Approval of "A" items

a) Non-legislative list 16313/25

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) 16314/25

Foreign Affairs

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|---|--|
| <p>1. Regulation establishing the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP)
<i>Adoption of the legislative act</i>
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 03.12.2025</p> | <p>IC 15996/1/25 REV 1
+ REV 1 COR 1
(fr)
+ ADD 1
+ ADD 1 COR 1
+ ADD 2 REV 1
PE-CONS 52/25
INDEF</p> |
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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 Hungary abstaining (legal basis: Articles 114(1), 173(3), 212(2) and 322(1) TFEU).

Statements to this item are set out in the Annex.

INTERNAL MARKET AND INDUSTRY

Non-legislative activities

3. **Annual Overview Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement – Sustaining the momentum to reduce burdens** ☐ 14498/1/25 REV 1
15609/25
*Presentation by the Presidency and the Commission
Exchange of views*

The Council took note of the presentation by the Presidency and the Commission and held an exchange of views.

4. **Removal of internal market barriers** 15650/25
Exchange of views
5. **E-commerce: Challenges with product compliance and enforcement** ☐ 15782/25
Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views.

Any other business

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

European Competitiveness Fund 11770/1/25 REV 1
16045/25
Information from the Presidency

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

- b) **Strengthening Europe's energy-intensive industries and securing our industrial future** ☐ 16327/25
Information from France, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Spain

The Council took note of the information provided by France, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Spain.

- c) **Berlin Declaration by the Friends of Industry** 16328/25
Information from Germany

The Council took note of the information provided by Germany.


- d) **Nexperia update and next steps** 16325/25
Information from the Netherlands

The Council took note of the information provided by the Netherlands.

- e) **Repeated disruptions of civil aviation caused by unmanned aircraft (drones) and smuggling balloons originating from third countries** 16316/25
Information from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

The Council took note of the information provided by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, orally supported by Finland.

- f) European preference concept throughout EU initiatives 16329/2/25 REV 2
Information from Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Malta, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden
- g) 28th Regime: A simplified way forward – company law focus, digital first, via Regulation 16278/25
Information from Ireland
- h) RESourceEU Action Plan 16330/25
Information from the Commission
- i) Action Plan: Setting the course towards a Single Market driven by business data 16100/25
Information from the Presidency

j)	Current legislative proposals (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union))	
i)	State of play of the Omnibus packages	6595/25 6596/25 9317/1/25 REV 1 (en) 9318/25 + ADD 1 9327/25 + ADD 1 11433/25
ii)	Package Travel Directive	16338/23 + ADD 1
iii)	Regulation on a public interface connected to the Internal Market Information System for the declaration of posting of workers and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012	15620/24
iv)	Directive amending Directive 2014/32/EU on measuring instruments	16426/24 + ADD 1
v)	Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs) <i>Information from the Presidency</i>	8851/23 8869/23 + ADD 1-2 8894/23 + ADD 1-3 8887/23 + ADD 1

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

Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Romania and Sweden submitted a joint statement, as set out in the Annex.

k)	2025 Report of the Network of SME Envoys to the Competitiveness Council <i>Information from the Commission</i>	15791/25
l)	Work programme of the incoming Presidency <i>Information from Cyprus</i>	

MEETING ON TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2025 (10:00)

RESEARCH



Non-legislative activities

7. **Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1173 as regards EuroHPC**  15977/25
General approach

The Council reached a general approach on the Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1173 as regards EuroHPC.

Legislative deliberations

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


8. **Horizon Europe Package: Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2028-2034** 15959/25
15962/25
- a) **Framework Programme and its rules for participation and dissemination** 
- b) **Specific programme implementing Horizon Europe** 
Progress report
Policy debate

The Council took note of the progress report and held a policy debate.

SPACE

Legislative deliberations

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

9. **Regulation on the safety, resilience and sustainability of space activities in the Union (EU Space Act)¹**  15830/25
15867/25
Progress report
Policy debate

The Council took note of the progress report and held a policy debate.

¹ In the presence of the Executive Director of the European Union Space Programme Agency (EUSPA).

Any other business

10. Research

- a) **The European Universities Alliances: a key ecosystem for EU competitiveness** [2] 16191/25
Information from France, supported by Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain

The Council took note of the information provided by France, supported by Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

- b) **Scaleup Europe Fund implementation** [2] 16261/25
Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission.

- c) **Creating a European cooperation space for research security: updates on EU-level initiatives** 16306/25
Information from the Commission

- d) **Work programme of the incoming Presidency**
Information from Cyprus

Space

- e) **Space implementation dialogue – state of play and next steps** [2] 16101/25
Presentation by the Commission

The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission.

f) Work programme of the incoming Presidency
Information from Cyprus

g) Presentation on ESA ministerial²
Information from the Presidency

16272/25

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- ❶ First reading
 - ❷ Special legislative procedure
 - ❸ Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)
 - ❹ Item based on a Commission proposal
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² Presentation by the Director General of the European Space Agency (ESA).

Statements to the legislative "A" item set out in doc. 16314/25

Ad "A" item 1: **Regulation establishing the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP)**
Adoption of the legislative act

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL on the financing of the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP) and the Ukraine Support Instrument under the EDIP Regulation

“The European Parliament and the Council acknowledge the imperative need to support the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base and the Ukrainian Defence Technological and Industrial Base to increase their competitiveness by accelerating the adjustment of industry to structural changes, including through the ramp up of production capacities and the increase of cooperation in the procurement of defence products, in particular in light of the challenges created by Russia’s illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine.

Without prejudice to the prerogatives of the budgetary authority in the framework of future annual budgetary procedures, the European Parliament and the Council invite the Commission to explore as a matter of priority, while taking into account prior political commitments of the budgetary authority, including to cover the EURI interest cost, options to reinforce the budget for the European Defence Industry Programme and the Ukraine Support Instrument in line with point 18 of the IIA on budgetary discipline without reducing similar EU programmes and funds.”

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION on the financial contributions from third countries for their participation in the SAFE Instrument as additional financial resources to the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP) and the Ukraine Support Instrument (USI) under EDIP Regulation

“The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission acknowledge the imperative need to support the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base and the Ukrainian Defence Technological and Industrial Base to increase their competitiveness by accelerating the adjustment of industry to structural changes, including through the ramp up of production capacities and the increase of cooperation in the procurement of defence products, in particular in light of the challenges created by Russia’s illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine.

In accordance with Article 17(4) of the SAFE Regulation, the financial contributions to be provided by third countries for their participation in the SAFE instrument shall be used for programmes supporting the Union defence industry, the Ukrainian defence industry and Ukraine in accordance with the rules of those programmes. The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agree that such contributions should be used to reinforce EDIP, including USI.”

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION relating to additional financial resources for the EDIP Regulation

“The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission share the view that the EDIP Regulation should be equipped with additional financial resources.

To this end, the EDIP Regulation specifically foresees the possibility of additional financial contributions from Member States, Union institutions, bodies and agencies, third countries, international organisations, international financial institutions or other third parties and expressly refers to the Fund Accelerating the defence Supply Chains Transformation (FAST) in this regard.

In view of this and taking into account the pivotal role of FAST in enhancing the defence manufacturing capacities of SMEs and small mid-caps which are in particular need of investments, such additional contributions should be allocated as a priority to FAST and complement the amounts allocated from the envelope of €1.200 million referred to in Article 3(1), with the aim that the overall indicative amount for that particular fund under the Programme will reach at least EUR 150 million, respecting the prerogatives of the budgetary authority.”

STATEMENT BY GREECE

“Greece remains firmly committed to strengthening the European Union’s defence readiness, resilience, and capability development. In this context, we have consistently supported the establishment of a strong European defence industry, to strengthen the EU’s strategic autonomy, without dependencies from third non like-minded parties.

In this regard, we wish to underline that, in the absence of a comprehensive and robust control framework in place, the existing text may allow for the participation of third countries, or third country entities, which could affect the defence and security interests of the Union and its Member States.

Nonetheless, in a spirit of flexibility and constructive approach, Greece **will not vote against - nor abstain** from - the final draft of the EDIP Regulation, provided that our relevant concerns be properly addressed in the course of its implementation.”

STATEMENT BY CYPRUS

“Cyprus supports all actions that would contribute to consolidating, augmenting and strengthening the European defence industrial base as this is indispensable for reaching the ulterior Union objective of strategic autonomy and readiness by 2030.

In this regard, Cyprus considers that cooperation with entities controlled by like-minded third countries can be beneficial for the Union defence industry, provided that the Union’s and the Member States’ interests are protected and not contravened. This should be appropriately addressed in the course of EDIP’s implementation.

Given that EDIP is a pilot/emergency programme aiming at strengthening the European Defence Industry in the current geopolitical context whilst setting the first basis for the future MFF, Cyprus supports its adoption and acknowledges its added value and benefits for the defence industry and Union autonomy.

However, Cyprus also considers that in the future MFF framework, a robust procedure should be established, under which the security interests of the Union and its Member states are assessed, to ensure that such collaboration would not contravene the security and defence interests of the EU and its MS. This is in line not only with the strategic objective of EDIP or the future defence programs but also with the fact that EDIP is a Union program funded with the Union’s and citizens’ money and hence it should be used to support primarily the European defence industry.”

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY

“While supporting the objective of the Regulation, Hungary considers it essential to record the following in relation to the Ukraine Support Instrument (USI):

Hungary supports all efforts aimed at launching substantive negotiations toward a sustainable, stable peace that guarantees the long-term security of the European continent. Hungary believes that with the start of the peace negotiations, led by the United States, the conflict has entered a new phase to which the EU needs to adapt its policy-making.

In light of the above, and in line with its longstanding commitment to peace, Hungary does not support the creation of new EU financial instruments that contribute militarily to the war in Ukraine and endangers the success of peace negotiations, therefore Hungary abstains from the adoption of the EDIP Regulation.”

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE NETHERLANDS, BULGARIA, CZECHIA, ESTONIA, FINLAND, CROATIA, ITALY, LITHUANIA, LATVIA, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA AND POLAND

“The Netherlands, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, Croatia, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia and Poland remain committed to strengthening the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB). We fully support the goal of enhancing European security and resilience through increased defence cooperation and investment. The adoption of the European Defence Industry Program (EDIP) is an important step towards achieving that goal.

We face an urgent threat to European territory and interests. We need to rapidly expand our defence investments and scale up production. European armed forces face critical shortfalls, particularly in air and missile defence. We therefore welcome the flexibility in EDIP for industrial cooperation with non-associated third countries, in particular regarding subcontractors for larger components and licensed production. In our view industrial cooperation with our allies strengthens - not weakens - the EDTIB. It reinforces supply chain resilience, fosters industrial expertise, enables life-cycle support, and deepens interoperability.

Therefore, we emphasize that future EU instruments strengthening the EDTIB must also demonstrate sufficient flexibility in this regard. Eligibility criteria should take into account existing supply chains and the industrial cooperation with non-EU partners as well as allow to meet the capability requirements. More flexibility will bridge the gap between immediate capability needs and Europe’s long-term strategic independence, while also safeguarding support to Ukraine, ensuring close cohesion with NATO capability requirements and increasing interoperability.”

Statement to the Any other business item set out in doc. 16081/25

Ad "AOB" item 6 j): Current legislative proposals (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union))
v) **Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs)**
Information from the Presidency

JOINT STATEMENT ON A JOINT CALL OF BULGARIA, CROATIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, FINLAND, FRANCE, GREECE, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, THE NETHERLANDS, ROMANIA AND SWEDEN for the introduction of the unitary supplementary protection certificate building on the success of the unitary patent system

“Since its introduction in mid-2023 the unitary patent system has been praised by users across the globe, reaching an uptake rate of over 34% in the EU in 2025. Its further development through the creation of the unitary supplementary protection certificate (USPC) would be a decisive lever for the completion and the competitiveness of the single market.

Both the conclusions of the Draghi Report and the Commission's strategy for the single market set a clear path: all Member States should join the unitary patent system and the Commission should ensure that it is promoted and attractive.

In this context, the swift creation of the USPC should be fully in line with these recommendations. As a necessary and long-awaited complement to the European patent with unitary effect, **this reform must therefore be fully aligned with it.**

Two guiding principles should underpin this reform:

- i) The USPC system must be **simple, predictable, legally sound and cost-effective at all stages** (application, examination, granting and definition of the associated litigation procedures) as well as based on quality.
- ii) The USPC must be **tailored in full alignment with the Unified Patent Court (UPC) and the Unitary Patent System. Therefore, the UPC should be competent for both the appeal of and the invalidity action.** It is worth recalling that the UPC, in turn, can refer to the ECJ regarding the interpretation of EU law.

Against this background and after more than two years of discussion in the Council, **we believe that the time has come to proceed with an institutional setup built on the current players of the European patent landscape, namely the UPC and the European Patent Office (EPO).** As in the original proposal and at the request of industry, it is essential to involve the experts from the national offices in the examination process. This would be the most efficient system with regard to regulatory burdens and costs compared to building a new system from scratch. This also appears to be the best option for ensuring a high level of expertise and quality, as well as guaranteeing the consistency of the European patent system.

Therefore, we call the Presidency and the incoming Presidency to consider promptly inviting the EPO to express its views **on the interpretation of the European Patent Convention as regards SPCs** and to have an exchange with that Office on **how to entrust it with a potential new competence on unitary SPCs in full compliance with the EU legal framework.** Such an exchange could in particular focus on the setup of the examination procedure, the fees and the linguistic regime.

We are committed to support the Presidency and incoming Presidency in its endeavors to craft a solution – together with the Members States and the Commission – in this regard to meet industry needs and expectations.”
