

Brussels, 21 January 2025  
(OR. en)

16809/24  
ADD 1  
LIMITE  
CRS CRP 44

## SUMMARY RECORD

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE

11, 13 and 16 December 2024

**DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (23.07.2025)**

### COREPER (PART 1)

#### Statements to the “I” items set out in doc. 16718/24

#### Environment

17. Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 as regards  
provisions relating to the date of application  
*Adoption of the legislative act*  
*Decision to use the written procedure*

  15632/24  
 ENV

#### Statement by the Commission

“The Commission remains committed to easing the burden on businesses by reducing administrative requirements and eliminating unnecessary bureaucratic burdens.

To achieve this in relation to Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, the Commission will provide further clarifications and explore additional simplifications, and streamline reporting and documentation obligations, to keep them to a necessary minimum, in full compliance with the objectives of the Regulation. To this effect and to address these issues, the Commission will publish an updated edition of the Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions. The Commission will also continue responding to feedback from stakeholders and Member States, assisting the traders and operators in implementation, in particular with regard to the obligation to submit due diligence statements throughout the value chain.

In order to allow traders and operators, in collaboration with competent authorities, to be in a position to meet the requirements of the Regulation, the Commission is prioritising the operationalization of the Information System. The benchmarking risk categorisation is also key to ensure predictability in the application of the Regulation for operators, traders, producing countries and competent authorities. The Commission strongly commits to ensure that both the Information System and the proposal for the risk classification should be available as soon as possible but no later than six months before the Regulation enters into application.

In the context of the general review of the Regulation, expected no later than 30 June 2028, the Commission will analyse, based where appropriate on an impact assessment, additional measures to simplify and reduce the administrative burden. This analysis will include the need for and the feasibility of reduced requirements in relation to sourcing from countries and parts thereof that have achieved positive results in line with the objectives of the Regulation.”

#### Statement by Austria

“Austria shares the overall objectives of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), to halt deforestation and forest degradation worldwide. These objectives must be achieved through proportionate and efficient measures, focusing resources and enforcement efforts on regions where deforestation is actually taking place. This would constitute minimal administrative burden for both businesses and authorities alike and must especially apply to countries with low deforestation risk, while providing legal certainty for all actors along the value chain. Austria was thus amongst the first to call for a postponement of the date of application of the EUDR and refers to its note submitted as an AOB to the AGRIFISH Council on March 26, 2024.

Austria welcomes, that an agreement could be reached that foresees a postponement of the application date of the EUDR by one year, as well as the envisaged review by the Commission by June 2028 to analyse additional measures to simplify and reduce the administrative burden and will thus vote in favour of the text. At the same time, Austria regrets that there was insufficient time to discuss further administrative simplifications. During the extended transition period, work must continue on improving and developing a simple and practical solution for implementing the regulation, particularly considering SMEs and ensuring a fair level playing field. Unfair competitive conditions for European companies must be prevented especially through a well-functioning EUDR Information System that is tailored to the needs of businesses along the value chain.

Austria calls on the Commission to further improve the FAQs and Guidelines, in close cooperation with the Member States and the economic sectors affected by the EUDR.”

#### **EU positions for international negotiations**

20. Council Decision on the EU position in the Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community as regards the adoption of the budget of the Transport Community for 2025  
*Adoption*

☒ 16119/24  
14868/24 + ADD 1  
TRANS

#### Statement by the Commission

“The Commission considers that the Council Decision should be addressed to the Commission, and therefore considers the changes to Article 2 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.“

## COREPER (PART 2)

WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2024

Statements to the “I” items set out in doc. 16712/1/24 REV 1

### General Affairs

55. Regulation on establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for Moldova  16525/24 +COR 1  
ELARG  
*General approach*

Statement by The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Sweden

“The above signed express their full support for the objectives of the Reform- and Growth Facility for Moldova, as part of the Growth Plan, in particular in light of the significant challenges arising for Moldova from Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and hybrid attacks against Moldova itself.

The above signed reiterate, however, that as a matter of general principle borrowing by the EU on the capital markets should not be used to finance regular EU programs within the EU budget.”

61. Recommendation for a Council Decision as regards Youth Experience Scheme 9419/24 + COR 1  
UK  
*Approval*

**DELETED**

**DELETED**

**PUBLIC**

## **Justice and Home Affairs**

65. Regulation on advance passenger information (API):  
enforcement  
*Adoption of the legislative act*



16520/24  
PE-CONS 69/24  
IXIM

### **Statement by Denmark**

“Denmark does not take part in the adoption of the two Regulations on Advance Passenger Information.

As the regulation on API information for enhancing and facilitating external border checks builds upon the Schengen acquis Denmark, as a Schengen state, shall, within a period of six months after the Council has decided on the proposal, decide whether it will implement the measure in its national law thus creating an obligation under international law between Denmark and the other Member States bound by the measure. This mechanism ensures Danish participation on an intergovernmental basis according to the Protocol on the position of Denmark (Protocol 22), Article 4.

However, the situation is different for the Regulation on API information for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime. As this regulation does not build on the Schengen acquis Denmark does not have the same option to take part in this measure on an intergovernmental basis. Denmark has throughout the negotiations of the regulations underlined the potential benefits for both Denmark and for European air transporters to be able to use the new router to transfer API information to Denmark – also for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime as Denmark believes this to be in the interest of both Denmark and the Union. Denmark regrets that so far it has not been possible to find a solution.

While Denmark welcomes the wording in the agreement that allows for the use of the router on the basis of international agreements enabling the transfer of PNR data via the router, concluded by the Union with third countries that have concluded an agreement providing for their association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis, this also raises serious concerns for Denmark. A solution for non-EU states to conclude agreements with the Union enabling the transfer of PNR data via the router, without an equivalent solution for Denmark, will have as consequence that Denmark – an EU and Schengen Member State – would be in a less favourable position than Schengen associated states as regards cooperation with the Union in this field.

Denmark will continue to seek a pragmatic solution between the European Union and Denmark to remedy this important matter.”

## **EU positions for international negotiations**

93. Council Decision on the EU position within the Association  
Council with Lebanon set up by the Euro-Mediterranean  
Agreement as regards the amendment of Protocol 4  
*Adoption*



16382/24  
15701/24 + ADD 1  
UD

#### Statement by the Commission

“The Commission considers that the Council Decision should be addressed to the Commission, and therefore considers the changes to Article 2 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.”

94. Council Decision on the EU position within the Association Council with Algeria set up by the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement as regards the amendment of Protocol 6  
*Adoption*

☐ 16386/24  
15692/24 + ADD 1  
UD

#### Statement by the Commission

“The Commission considers that the Council Decision should be addressed to the Commission, and therefore considers the changes to Article 2 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.”

### **FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER 2024**

#### **EU positions for international negotiations**

101. Council Decision on the EU position to be taken in the Specialised Committee on the Multi-Region Loose Volume Coupling (MRLVC) Recommendation  
*Adoption*

☐ 16158/24  
16157/24 + ADD 1  
UK

#### Statement by the Commission

“The Commission considers that the Council Decision should be addressed to the Commission, and therefore considers the changes to Article 2 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.”

**Statements to the “I” items set out in doc. 16712/1/24 REV 1 ADD 1**

**MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2024**

**General Affairs**

99. Accession negotiations with Serbia 16029/24  
Fulfilment of opening benchmarks on cluster 3: competitiveness ELARG  
and inclusive growth  
*Approval*

Statement by Germany

The approval of the Council letter does not prejudice the decision to open Cluster 3. Before a decision on the opening of Cluster 3 can be made, visible reform and implementation steps are required namely in the following areas: justice (in particular the prosecution of all perpetrators of Banjska and the implementation of the judicial reform); electoral law (in particular the implementation of the ODIHR recommendations); media freedom and pluralism; normalization dialogue and normalization agreements as well as CFSP alignment.

**Statements to the “II” items set out in doc. 16712/1/24 REV 1 ADD 1**

**MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2024**

**General Affairs**

35. Meeting of the Council (General Affairs) on 17 December 2024:  
Preparation

**Continuation from Friday’s meeting**

- d) Conclusions on enlargement 16309/2/24 REV 2  
*Approval*

Statement by Croatia

“Regarding the Council Conclusions on Enlargement, and with reference to paragraphs 66 and 67 thereof, which call for an inclusive process of limited constitutional and electoral reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina and state the need to respect the principles of equality and non-discrimination of all constituent peoples and others, the Republic of Croatia recalls its position that this reform needs to address the longstanding issue of ensuring legitimate representation of Croats in the tripartite Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in this regard ensure full implementation of the relevant Constitutional Court decision.”

### Statement by the Commission

#### “Statement on the Accession Negotiations with Serbia

The Commission reiterates its assessment that Serbia has fulfilled the benchmarks to open cluster 3 (Competitiveness and inclusive growth). The Commission welcomes that the Council reached agreement to send a letter from the Presidency inviting Serbia to submit its negotiating positions to the Accession Conference for chapter 16 and chapter 19, which are part of this cluster. The Commission remains of the view that cluster 3 should be opened. The Commission is ready to submit draft common positions for these chapters and invites the Council to finalise the preparations for the Accession Conference, based on further progress, as a matter of priority.

To this end, the Commission, taking note of the Council Conclusions on Enlargement, notably paragraph 34, intends to inform the Council by the end of January 2025 on relevant progress made by Serbia, including with the implementation of the measures set out in Serbia’s non paper circulated to the Member States at the end of November 2024. “

### Statement by the Committee

“Based on the provisions set out in paragraph 34 of the Council conclusions on Enlargement, the Committee reaffirmed its commitment to revert to the issue and discuss the Commission’s assessment on substantial concrete further results by Serbia, in line with Serbia’s non-paper of the end of November 2024.”



First reading



Procedural decision by Coreper (Article 19(3)&(7) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)



Item based on a Commission proposal