



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 8 January 2024
(OR. en)

16970/23
ADD 1
LIMITE
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DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Environment)
18 December 2023

Any other business

6. a) Reports on main recent international meetings

- i) 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28) (Dubai, UAE, 30 November - 12 December 2023)**

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

- ii) Fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) (Bonn, Germany, 25 - 30 September 2023)**

16739/23

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

- iii) Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 5) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Geneva, Switzerland, 30 October - 3 November 2023)**

16740/23

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

- iv) Third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3) to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution (Nairobi, Kenya, 13 - 19 November 2023)**

16713/23

Information from the Presidency and the Commission

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

- g) Work programme of the incoming Presidency**
Information from the Belgian delegation

The Council took note of the information provided by Belgium.

Statements to the non-legislative "A" items set out in doc. 16672/23**Ad "A" item 1:**

Council Recommendation on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe
Adoption

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY

“Hungary recognises 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 commitments and principles stemming from international law. 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 term ‘gender’ as a reference to ‘sex’ in the *Council Recommendation on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe*.

Furthermore, Hungary declares that the Commission’s Communication on ‘the European Commission’s Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025’ mentioned in the *Council Recommendation on a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe* should be interpreted with due regard to the national competences and the specific circumstances in each Member State.”

Ad "A" item 2:

Future of Europe: proposal of the European Parliament pursuant to Article 48(2) TEU
Submission to the European Council and notification to national parliaments

STATEMENT BY POLAND

“Initiating a revision of the Treaties in the current geopolitical context would weaken the unity of the European Union and divert our political energy from other pressing challenges. In the face of unpredictable political dynamics in the Member States, engaging the EU in the arduous and divisive process of Treaties’ amendment may lead to a serious crisis within the EU. It might also delay the accession of new Member States, for which the EU made important commitments at the last European Council on December 14-15, 2023.

Poland points out that the proposals to amend the Treaties were adopted by the European Parliament on November 22 by a narrow majority and they do not address the real needs of the European Union. The radical institutional reform would not serve to improve nor strengthen the Union, but might be used to sow anti-EU and anti-Western resentment in the Member States and candidate countries, which are particularly exposed to disinformation from third countries.

The role of the European Council should be to dissipate these concerns and act responsibly in the face of current challenges, in particular Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine.”