



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 8 January 2024
(OR. en)

16970/23
PV CONS 71
ENV 1526
CLIMA 664

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Environment)
18 December 2023

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 16668/23.

2. Approval of 'A' items

a) Non-legislative list

16672/23

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

Statements to these items are set out in the Addendum.

Legislative deliberations

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

3. Regulation on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC



16706/23
+ COR 1 REV 1
+ COR 2

General approach

The Council reached a general approach on the Regulation on Packaging and packaging waste as reflected in the outcome of proceedings (16946/23).

A statement by Finland is set out in the Annex to these minutes.

4. Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience (Soil Monitoring Law)



16075/23 + COR 1

Policy debate

The Council held a policy debate based on questions prepared by the Presidency, as set out in the document above.

5. Regulation on a monitoring framework for resilient European forests



16206/23

Presentation by the Commission

Policy debate

The Council held a policy debate based on questions prepared by the Presidency, as set out in the document above.

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)
Information from the Presidency and the Commission

- b) **High-level event dedicated to Youth and Climate Action (COP 28)**  16869/23
Information from the Bulgarian delegation

The Council took note of the information provided by Bulgaria.

- c) **Assessment of the draft updated National Energy and Climate Plans**  16523/23
Information from the Commission

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

- d) **Horizon Europe EU Missions as a tool for local climate action**  16524/23
Information from the Commission

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

- e) **Current legislative proposals**  
(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

- i) **Regulation establishing a Union certification framework for carbon removals** 15557/22
+ ADD 1-2

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

- ii) **Directive on air quality (recast)** 14217/22 + ADD 1
Information from the Presidency

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

f) The Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI)
Information from the Dutch and French delegations

 16498/23

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

- a) (continuation) Reports on main recent international meetings
- ii) Fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5)
(Bonn, Germany, 25 - 30 September 2023) 16739/23
- 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
- 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
- g) Work programme of the incoming Presidency
Information from the Belgian delegation



First reading



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



Item based on a Commission proposal

Statement to the legislative "B" item set out in doc. 16668/23

Ad "B" item 3: **Regulation on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC**
General approach

STATEMENT BY FINLAND

“Finland endorses the general approach agreed by Member States in the Environmental Council of 18 December 2023.

Finland agrees with the targets and objectives of the packaging and packaging waste regulation and with the necessity of reducing the amount of packaging waste in order to reach the EU’s overall circular economy targets.

Finland considers that while overall the general approach provides a good basis for further negotiations with the co-legislators, there are still some concerns related to the text. Finland believes that the most notable shortcoming in the general approach relates to the lack of derogation possibility on reuse targets in articles 22 and 26 based on assessment of overall environmental impacts.

Prioritising reuse over single use should be based on reliable and scientific evidence. Finland sees that single use with appropriate recycling should be taken into account as environmentally sound option for reuse when justified by a life cycle analysis. Finland regrets that the Council has not addressed this issue in its general approach and will continue working for this to be taken into consideration in further negotiations between the co-legislators.”
