

Brussels, 8 January 2025
(OR. en)

16990/24
PV CONS 69
TRANS 551
TELECOM 385
ENER 609

DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Transport, Telecommunications and Energy)

16 December 2024

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 16716/24.

2. Approval of 'A' items

a) Non-legislative list

16782/24

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

A statement to these items is set out in the Addendum.

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

16783/24

Transport

1. Directive amending Directive (EU) 2015/413 facilitating cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences



16534/1/24 REV 1
+ REV 1 ADD 1
PE-CONS 77/24
TRANS

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 11.12.2024

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 Germany and Luxembourg abstaining (legal basis: Article 91(1)(c) TFEU).

A statement to this item is set out in the Annex.

Economic and Financial Affairs

2. Firearms Regulation (recast)



16477/24 + ADD 1
PE-CONS 87/24
UD


Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 11.12.2024

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 Czechia and Slovakia abstaining (legal basis: Articles 33 and 207 TFEU).

A statement to this item is set out in the Annex.


Environment

3. **Regulation on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC**  16533/24 + ADD 1
PE-CONS 73/24
ENV
Adoption of the legislative act
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 11.12.2024


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 Malta and Austria abstaining (legal basis: Article 114 TFEU).

Statements to this item are set out in the Annex.

Internal Market and Industry

4. **Regulation on non-road mobile machinery**  16483/24
Adoption of the legislative act
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 11.12.2024
PE-CONS 71/24
MI

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 Slovakia voting against (legal basis: Article 114 TFEU).

5. **Directive amending Directives 2009/102/EC and (EU) 2017/1132 as regards further expanding and upgrading the use of digital tools and processes in company law**  16479/24
Adoption of the legislative act
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 11.12.2024
PE-CONS 74/24
DRS

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 (legal basis: Articles 50(1), 50(2) and 114 TFEU).

Non-legislative activities

3. Geothermal Energy

- a) **Report on the Future of Geothermal Energy by the International Energy Agency (IEA)¹** [2] 16797/24
Presentation by the Executive Director of IEA

The Council took note of the presentation by the Executive Director of IEA of the report on the Future of Geothermal Energy by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

- b) **Conclusions on the promotion of geothermal energy** [2] 16248/24
Approval

The Council approved the conclusions on the promotion of geothermal energy.

4. **The future of energy policy in view of a genuine Energy Union** [2] 16291/24
Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views on the future of energy policy in view of a genuine Energy Union.

Any other business

5. a) **Follow up to the Action Plan on Grids** [2] 16690/24
Information from the Commission and the Presidency 16730/24

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

- b) **Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) Conference (Budapest, 14-15 November 2024)** [2] 16691/24
Information from the Presidency

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

¹ In the presence of the Executive Director of IEA.

- c) **Towards the export of cleaner fuels: a commitment to public health and the environment** [2] 16729/24
Information from Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands

The Council took note of the information provided by Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

- d) The impacts of the gas storage neutrality charge and the need for better coordination at the European level 16688/24
Information from Austria, Czechia and Slovakia
- e) Winter preparedness 2024/2025 and security of supply 16731/24
Information from the Commission
- f) Recent developments in the field of external energy relations 16723/24
Information from the Commission
- g) Work programme of the incoming Presidency
Information from Poland

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

Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 16783/24

Ad "A" item 1: **Directive amending Directive (EU) 2015/413 facilitating cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences**
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY GERMANY

“Germany is very much in favour of the aim of the Directive to improve road safety. In particular, the future possibility of cross-border cooperation in identifying people who have committed road traffic offences will lead to improved enforcement and prosecution of traffic offences.

The reason for Germany’s abstention is that the arrangements for mutual assistance in the enforcement of fines were regrettably not discussed in the bodies competent for judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the existing legal framework (Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA). As a result, the arrangements for enforcement assistance now contain unjustified divergences and shortcomings in the level of protection for the persons concerned. When implemented, this will unfortunately generate a substantial additional burden in enforcement.”

Ad "A" item 2: **Firearms Regulation (recast)**
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY CZECHIA AND SLOVAKIA

“The Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic have been continuously supporting the Proposal with the few exceptions regarding the scope, digitalization, simplification regimes and the duration of authorisations etc. The Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic welcome that most of their proposals were accepted also during the trilogues. Both Member States also expressed their openness to compromise.

On the other hand, we called for the change of the scope of the Proposal, to exclude all firearms listed in the Common Military List of the European Union from out of the scope of the regulation as we have already expressed during negotiations. To reach legal certainty and save both public and private expenses, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic proposed that import and export of firearms listed both in Annex I and in the Common Military List shall be excluded out of the scope of the Proposal.

The Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic consider the idea of different procedures for import and export shall cause confusion for the industry and businesses. An applicant dealing with the same goods would face a situation where it will be necessary to apply for an export authorisation under national legislation on the export of military goods, which will be further regulated by Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, and for an import authorisation under the Regulation. The obligations connected with different procedures would differ, which could add burdens on businesses. The authorities would face problems with inspection and data collection, as well as certificate issuing/confirmation.

In the view of the Czech Republic and of the Slovak Republic, there should be a strict boundary between the international trade in military firearms (considered as military equipment and regulated under national legislation) and the international trade in civilian firearms (regulated by the Regulation). The Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic would like to emphasize that the exclusion of firearms listed on the Common Military List would not affect the existing authorization procedures in the Member States. These procedures are functioning and may be even more stringent considering the sensitivity of military goods.

Based on the above mentioned statement, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic cannot support the compromise text of the proposal as it stands now. Therefore we abstain from the voting on the proposed text.”

Ad "A" item 3: **Regulation on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC**
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY MALTA

“Malta recognises the importance of this legislative proposal, aimed at accelerating sustainability of packaging and reducing the impact of packaging waste. Malta would like to acknowledge the significant progress made on various aspects, such as the exemption for certain micro-enterprises from the conformity assessment procedure and the tourism correction factor.

Malta however regrettably notes the discriminatory nature of the exemption from the reuse targets, which is now based on Member States’ waste management performance rather than the performance of the targeted economic operators.

The obligation for Deposit and Return Systems to have a national label is also problematic for Malta, as it will increase logistical and administrative burdens for local distributors that are highly dependent on imported beverages.

Finally, Malta has concerns as to how Member States, especially smaller Member States, will be able to attain the legally binding packaging waste reduction targets, notably the 2030 one, particularly since certain harmonised requirements on Economic Operators in Annex V have been diluted and their implementation deadline extended till 2030.”

STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA

“Austria supports the objective of setting clear, ambitious and enforceable measures in the area of packaging and providing legal certainty. The packaging regulation does not, however, fully meet that objective. The balance between environmental protection, administrative burden and competitiveness is missing.

There are concerns over:

- a high administrative burden and cost increases with no discernible environmental benefits, for example in the area of reuse,
- the complex implementation measures required by the regulation and
- enforcement problems, e.g. in relation to producer responsibility in relation to third countries.

The specific content of the rules should be reserved for the legal form of a directive.

As a result of these concerns, Austria will abstain from the final vote.”
