



Council of the
European Union

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DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space))

27 and 28 February 2020

CONTENTS

Page

Non-legislative activities

INTERNAL MARKET AND INDUSTRY

3.	Conclusions on Better Regulation "Ensuring competitiveness and sustainable, inclusive growth"	3
5.	European Semester - Single Market Performance Report.....	3
6.	Any other business.....	3
a)	Commission Work Programme 2020 (Internal Market and Industry aspects)	
b)	The impact of COVID-19 on EU industry	
c)	Findings of the survey on barriers on the Single Market for Czech businesses and conclusions from international conference "The EU Single Market from the perspective of SMEs" (Prague, 16 January 2020)	
d)	Results of the business survey on the Single Market barriers	

RESEARCH

8.	Strategic approach to international cooperation in R&I.....	4
9.	Any other business.....	4
ANNEX - Statements for the Council minutes.....		5

MEETING ON THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2020

INTERNAL MARKET AND INDUSTRY

Non-legislative activities

- 3. Conclusions on Better Regulation "Ensuring competitiveness and sustainable, inclusive growth"** 5964/20 + ADD 1
Adoption

The Council adopted conclusions as set out in doc. 6232/20. The BE, FR and LU delegations entered a statement in the Council minutes.

- 5. European Semester - Single Market Performance Report** 5963/20
Policy debate 15321/19

The Council held a policy debate on the basis of the Presidency note set out in doc. 5963/20.

Any other business

- 6. a) Commission Work Programme 2020** 5652/20 + ADD 1
(Internal Market and Industry aspects)
Presentation by the Commission

The Council took note of the presentation of the European Commission Work Programme 2020.

- b) The impact of COVID-19 on EU industry** 6333/20
Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission as set out in doc. 6333/20.

- c) **Findings of the survey on barriers on the Single Market for Czech businesses and conclusions from international conference "The EU Single Market from the perspective of SMEs" (Prague, 16 January 2020)** 6309/20
Information from the Czech delegation

The Council took note of the information provided by the CZ delegation as set out in doc. 6309/20.

- d) **Results of the business survey on the Single Market barriers** 6200/20
Information from the Lithuanian delegation

The Council took note of the information provided by the LT delegation as set out in doc. 6200/20.

MEETING ON FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2020

RESEARCH

Non-legislative activities

8. **Strategic approach to international cooperation in R&I** 5798/20
Policy debate

The Council held a policy debate based on questions as set out in doc. 5798/20.

9. **Any other business**

No issues were raised under this item.

Statements to the non-legislative "B" items set out in 6156/20

Ad "B" item 3: **Conclusions on Better Regulation "Ensuring competitiveness and sustainable, inclusive growth"**
Adoption

STATEMENT BY BELGIUM, FRANCE AND LUXEMBOURG

"The Belgian, French and Luxembourg delegations:

- recall that the goals of simplifying European Union legislation should be pursued without prejudice to the achievement of the policy objectives of the Union or to safeguarding the integrity of the internal market, in accordance with the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016;
- stress the need to put in place an EU regulatory framework that is effective, coherent, simple, clear and of a high quality, which focuses on the areas where its added value is greatest and which seeks to cut the cost of non-Europe resulting from the fragmentation of national rules;
- highlight the importance of making use of the most efficient regulatory instruments, such as harmonisation and mutual recognition, in order to avoid overregulation and administrative burdens;
- take note of the Commission's intention to introduce a 'one-in, one-out' method at European level but consider that, in any event, such a new instrument should be contemplated with all necessary caution and introduced on a step-by-step basis, that it should respect the integrity of the Union acquis, that it should not be based on a purely mechanical logic of quantitative reduction, and that it should be subject to continuous evaluation;
- believe, in this regard, that it would be preferable to wait for the Commission's initiative, scheduled for April 2020, before deciding on an instrument which is not currently part of the better regulation toolbox."