



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 7 March 2008

6677/08

CRS/CRP 7

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 2217th meeting of the PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
held in Brussels on 20 and 22 February 2008**

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1. Adoption of the provisional agenda and items "I"

doc. 6626/08 OJ/CRP1 7 + CM 720/08

6624/08 OJ/CRP2 7 COMIX 141

The above mentioned agenda is approved with the following changes :

The following items are **added** :

(Coreper Part 1, under II)

41. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the participation by the Community in a research and development programme aimed at enhancing the quality of life of older people through the use of new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), undertaken by several Member States (AAL) (First reading)

- **Approval of the Presidency compromise text**

6762/08 RECH 71 COMPET 72 TELECOM 17 SOC 122 MI 72 CODEC 247

(Coreper Part 1, under AOB)

- **Language regime of the European Institute for Gender Equality (request from the ES delegation)**

The following item is **withdrawn** :

(Coreper Part 1, under I)

25. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council setting emission performance standards for new passenger cars as part of the Community's integrated approach to reduce CO2 emissions from light-duty vehicles

- **Optional consultation of the Committee of the Regions**

6281/08 ENV 81 ENT 22 CODEC 176

The Committee approves the "I" items as set out in the summary. Details are contained in the document quoted under item 1.

Coreper Part 2

II

18. Preparation of the Council meeting (Justice and Home Affairs) on 28 February 2008
- Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Presidency informed the Committee on the topics that Ministers would discuss during lunch.

19. Follow-up to the Council meeting (General Affairs and External Relations) on 18/19 February 2008

Le Comité est informé par la Présidence des suites que celle-ci entend donner à certains points ayant fait l'objet des délibérations du Conseil.

20. Presentation of the agenda of the Council meeting (General Affairs and External Relations) on 10/11 March 2008

Le Comité prend acte de la liste des points susceptibles de figurer aux ordres du jour provisoires des sessions du Conseil susvisées.

21. Preparation of the European Council (13/14 March 2008)
- Draft conclusions
6646/08 POLGEN 14

The Committee examined the draft conclusions presented by the Presidency.

The Presidency took note of delegations' remarks and suggestions and announced that it would prepare a revised draft.

22. Preparation of the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 4 March 2008
- Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Committee reviewed the state of readiness of the agenda items listed.

Coreper Part 1

II

34. Preparation of the Council meeting (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs) on 29 February 2008

1. Preparation of the Spring European Council

(a) Key Messages based on (b) to (g)

- **Adoption**
- **Policy debate**
(Public debate, pursuant to Article 8(3) CRP)
5986/08 SOC 65 ECOFIN 42 EDUC 36

The Committee:

- agrees to submit to the Council the draft Key Messages, as set out in 6575/08 SOC 111 ECOFIN 75 EDUC 56 as the EPSCO Council's contribution to the preparation of the Spring European Council.

(b) Communication from the Commission to the European Council "Strategic report on the renewed Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs: launching the new cycle (2008-2010) - Keeping up the pace of change"

16714/07 ECOFIN 519 COMPET 442 SOC 543 ENV 721 EDUC 224
RECH 433 ENER 326 + ADD 1

The Committee:

- takes note of the Commission report on the renewed Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs as set out in 16714/07 ECOFIN 519 COMPET 442 SOC 543 ENV 721 EDUC 224 RECH 433 ENER 326 + ADD 1, and agrees to forward it to the Council.

(c) Joint Employment Report 2007/2008

- Adoption

16714/07 ECOFIN 519 COMPET 442 SOC 543 ENV 721 EDUC 224
RECH 433 ENER 326 ADD 2 (Part III)
5984/08 SOC 63 ECOFIN 40 EDUC 35

The Committee:

- agrees to recommend the Council to adopt the Joint Employment Report, as set out in 5984/08 SOC 63 ECOFIN 40 EDUC 35 + COR 1, with a view to its submission to the Spring European Council.

(d) Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2008-2010)

Proposal for a Council Decision on Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States

- General approach

16714/07 ECOFIN 519 COMPET 442 SOC 543 ENV 721 EDUC 224
RECH 433 ENER 326 ADD 4
+ ADD 4 COR 1 + ADD 4 REV 1 (en)
5997/08 SOC 66 ECOFIN 43 EDUC 37
6504/08 SOC 108 ECOFIN 74 EDUC 53

The Committee:

- agrees to submit the text of the Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States, as set out in 6752/08 SOC 121 ECOFIN 83 EDUC 60, to the Council, with a view to reaching a general approach.

(e) Commission Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the 2008 up-date of the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and the Community and on the implementation of Member States' employment policies

- Political agreement

16714/07 ECOFIN 519 COMPET 442 SOC 543 ENV 721 EDUC 224
RECH 433 ENER 326 ADD 3
5985/08 SOC 64 ECOFIN 41

The Committee:

- takes note of the text of the Recommendation as set out in 5985/08 SOC 64 ECOFIN 41, pending finalisation by the Economic Policy Committee and by the Economic and Financial Committee on 19 and 22 February, respectively, with a view to its being submitted for political agreement to the Council (EPSCO) on 29 February and the Council (ECOFIN) on 4 March.

(f) Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008

- Adoption

5999/08 SOC 67

6214/08 SOC 89 ECOFIN 64 FSTR 1 EDUC 43 SAN 24 + COR 1

The Committee:

- agrees to recommend the Council to adopt the Joint Report on social protection and social inclusion, as set in 6214/08 SOC 89 ECOFIN 64 FSTR 1 EDUC 43 SAN 24 + COR 1, with a view to its submission to the Spring European Council.

(g) Report from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on equality between women and men, 2008

5710/08 SOC 45

The Committee:

- takes note of the Commission report on equality between women and men, 2008 as set out in 5710/08 SOC 45, and agrees to forward it to the Council.

2. Preparation of the Tripartite Social Summit

- Exchange of views

The Committee takes note of the information given by the Presidency.

3. Communication from the Commission on the Single Market Review

- Endorsement of joint Employment Committee/Social Protection Committee opinion

6048/08 SOC 71 MI 44 ECOFIN 45

The outcome of the Committee's discussions is to be found in document 6768/08.

4. Draft Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the situation of persons with disabilities in the European Union

- Political agreement

15914/07 SOC 510

6456/08 SOC 106

The results of the Committee's work are to be found in document 6769/08 SOC 124.

35. Preparation of the Council meeting (Environment) on 3 March 2008

1. Climate - Energy Legislative Package

- Policy debate

(Public deliberation, pursuant to Article 8(1)(c) CRP)

5866/08 ENV 53 ENER 30 IND 12 COMPET 32 MI 35 ECOFIN 35 TRANS 23

AVIATION 26 AGRI 24

5862/08 ENV 52 ENER 29 IND 11 COMPET 31 MI 34 ECOFIN 34 TRANS 22

AVIATION 25 CODEC 105

5849/08 ENV 50 ENER 28 IND 10 COMPET 30 MI 33 ECOFIN 32 TRANS 20

CODEC 104

5835/08 ENV 48 ENER 27 IND 9 CODEC 103

6404/08 ENV 89 ENER 47 IND 13 COMPET 56 MI 54 ECOFIN 68 TRANS 38

AVIATION 41 AGRI 45 CODEC 186

The Committee took note of the four questions contained in document 6404/08 to serve as a basis for the policy debate at Council (Environment) on 3 March 2008.

2. Contribution to the Spring European Council

- Adoption of Council conclusions

6415/08 ENV 91 ECO 20 ECOFIN 71 ENER 50 MI 56 RECH 58 AG 18

POLGEN 13

The Committee discussed the draft Council conclusions set out in document 6415/08 and decided to forward them to Council to resolve outstanding issues with a view to adoption of the contribution.

3. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council setting emission performance standards for new passenger cars as part of the Community's integrated approach to reduce CO₂ emissions from light-duty vehicles

- Policy debate

(Public deliberation, pursuant to Article 8(1)(c) CRP)

5089/08 ENV 4 ENT 1 CODEC 8

6418/08 ENV 92 ENT 26 CODEC 191

The Chair invited delegations to provide written replies to the questions proposed by the Presidency for the policy debate (doc. 6418/08) by 27 February.

4. Preparation for the ninth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Bonn, 19 to 30 May 2008)

- **Adoption of Council conclusions**
6174/08 ENV 76 AGRI 40 RECH 44 ENER 41 PI 7 FORETS 5
PECHE 33 ONU 6

The Committee discussed the draft Council conclusions set out in document 6174/08 and decided to forward them to Council to resolve outstanding issues with a view to adoption of the conclusions.

5. Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP/MOP 4) serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Bonn, 12 to 16 May 2008)

- **Adoption of Council conclusions**
6346/08 ENV 86 WTO 24 ONU 7 AGRI 43

The Committee agreed to forward the draft conclusions annexed to document 6346/08 to the Council for adoption.

36. Preparation of the Council meeting (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 28 February 2008

1. Climate - Energy Legislative Package

- **Policy debate**
(Public deliberation, pursuant to Article 8(1)(a) CRP)
5421/08 ENER 15 ENV 24 TRANS 15 AGRI 15 CODEC 58
5935/08 ENER 36 ENV 62 TRANS 26 AGRI 33 CODEC 119

The Committee agreed that the Council debate could take place on the basis of the questions set out in document 5935/08.

**2. Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions
"A European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) - Towards a low-carbon future"**

- **Adoption of Council conclusions**
15458/07 ENER 288 ENV 640 RECH 382
5633/08 ENER 19 ENV 33 RECH 21

The Committee noted that the Draft Conclusions set out in document 5633/08 were supported by the Commission and 26 delegations.

Austria was invited to show flexibility with a view to full agreement at Council.

3. Internal Energy Market Legislative Package

- (a) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/54 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity**
- (b) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/55 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas**
- (c) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators**
- (d) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1228/03 on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity**
- (e) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1775/05 on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks**
- Policy debate on key issues**
(Public deliberation, pursuant to Article 8(1)(c) CRP)
13043/07 ENER 221 CODEC 948
13045/07 ENER 222 CODEC 949
13046/07 ENER 223 CODEC 950
13048/07 ENER 224 CODEC 951
13049/07 ENER 225 CODEC 952
6324/08 ENER 44 CODEC 181

The Chair concluded that the Committee could invite the Council to assess the viability of the framework outlined in section III of the Presidency document, with a view to the rapid completion of drafting work in time for the June TTE Council. It was also noted that the Council is expected to focus its discussion on the models that should be retained in the Directive to ensure the effective separation of transmission activities from generation/supply activities, in line with the orientations set by the European Council.

The Chair undertook to report to the Chair of the TTE Council all comments presented during the meeting with a view to facilitating the discussion at that Council.

37. Setting of the provisional agenda for the Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 17 March 2008 (For the items within the remit of the Permanent Representatives Committee)

The Committee agrees the provisional agenda for the forthcoming Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 17 March 2008 as set out in 7345/08.

38. Sustainability criteria for biofuels

- Examination of the procedure

6145/07 ENV 80 ENT 17 ENER 59 TRANS 34 CODEC 98 + REV 1 (en)
5421/08 ENER 15 ENV 24 TRANS 15 AGRI 15 CODEC 58
6208/08 ENV 77 ENT 21 ENER 43 TRANS 31 AGRI 42

The Committee agreed to establish an *ad-hoc* Working Party to draw up core sustainability criteria on biofuels for the purposes of the proposed directives on renewable energy and fuel quality. It instructed the Working Party to take as a basis for its work the relevant provisions of the proposed directive on renewable energy, while also taking account of work done so far within the Council and the European Parliament on the fuel quality directive. It further instructed the Working Party to report back after a month.

39. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the selection and authorisation of systems providing mobile satellite services (MSS) (First reading)

- Examination of the Presidency compromise text

12413/07 TELECOM 102 MI 193 CODEC 863
6471/08 TELECOM 13 MI 58 CODEC 196

The Committee examined the Presidency compromise text as set out in document 6471/08 and agreed to send it back to the Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society for further discussion.

40. Amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the further implementation of the European satellite radionavigation programmes (EGNOS and Galileo) (First reading)

- Presidency briefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue

The Committee was informed by the Presidency on the outcome of the first informal trilogue. The next trilogue is scheduled for 4 March 2008 at 5 pm.

41. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the participation by the Community in a research and development programme aimed at enhancing the quality of life of older people through the use of new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), undertaken by several Member States (AAL) (First reading)

- Approval of the Presidency compromise text

6762/08 RECH 71 COMPET 72 TELECOM 17 SOC 122 MI 72 CODEC 247

The Committee approved the Presidency compromise text as set out in document 6762/08 RECH 71 COMPET 72 TELECOM 17 SOC 122 MI 72 CODEC 247 and mandated the Chair to send a letter to the Chair of the EP Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, Ms. Angelika Niebler, stating the readiness of the Council to adopt the decision in accordance with Article 251, paragraph 2, first subparagraph, first indent of the Treaty, should the European Parliament adopt the amendments to the Commission proposal in the exact form as set out in the compromise text.

- Any other business

- Language regime of the European Institute for Gender Equality (request from the ES delegation)

The Committee takes note of the concerns raised by ES, together with DE, IT and PT, in regard to a recent meeting of the Management Board of the European Institute for Gender Equality, where the provisional decision was made that the language regime of the Management Board should be limited to EN, FR and the language of the Chair, and of the concerns raised by FI and LT regarding the delay in the appointment of a Director for the Institute. The Committee agrees that these matters will be addressed in the Council under Any Other Business.

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