

Brussels, 11 March 2020
(OR. en)

6715/20
CRS CRP 11

SUMMARY RECORD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
26 February 2020

I. Adoption of the agenda

6252/20 OJ CRP1 8
6262/20 OJ CRP2 8

The Committee adopted the agenda.

II. Approval of the "I" items

The Committee approved the "I" items as set out in the Annex.

III. Discussion items

COREPER (PART 1)

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs

2. Meeting of the Council (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs) on 19 March 2020: Agenda

The Presidency presented the main items on the agenda.

Internal Market and Industry

3. Directive on representative actions 6163/20
Preparation for the trilogue

The Committee agreed on a revised mandate for the forthcoming trilogue.

Environment

4. Meeting of the Council (Environment) on 5 March 2020: Preparation

1. European Green Deal 6122/20
Exchange of views

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.

2. Long-term strategy submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 6120/20
Adoption

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.

3. Conclusions on air quality 6118/20
Adoption

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.

COREPER (PART 2)

General Affairs

13. Meeting of the Council (General Affairs) on 25 February 2020:
Follow-up

The Committee took note of the main outcomes of the Council meeting.

Foreign Affairs

14. EU-G5 Sahel meeting (Brussels, 26 March 2020)
Exchange of views

The Committee agreed on the text of the draft statement to be used as a basis for negotiations.

Economic and Financial Affairs

15. Meeting of the Council (Economic and Financial Affairs) on
17 March 2020: Agenda

The Presidency presented the main items on the agenda.

Justice and Home Affairs

16. Meeting of the Council (Justice and Home Affairs) on 13 March
2020: Preparation

- a) JHA Strategic Guidelines 6181/20
Exchange of views
Endorsement

The Committee held an exchange of views and agreed to revert to this issue at its next session.

- b) Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Presidency provided further information regarding the Council meeting.

IV. Any other business

COREPER (PART 1)

None.

COREPER (PART 2)

European Peace Facility

The Committee took note of the information provided by the EEAS.

"I" items approved**COREPER (PART 1)****Institutional Affairs****Written questions**

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| 5. | Replies to questions for written answer submitted to the Council
by Members of the European Parliament
<i>Adoption by silence procedure</i> | 6193/20
PE-QE |
| a) | Lara Wolters (S&D)
"Council sponsorships" | 5707/20 |
| b) | Giorgos Georgiou (GUE/NGL)
"Ratification and implementation of the Istanbul
Convention" | 5690/20 |
| c) | Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)
"Financing of the European Child Guarantee Scheme for
the 2021-2027 period" | 5603/20 |
| d) | Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)
"Council Recommendation on reducing child poverty" | 5699/20 |
| e) | Ivan Vilibor Sinčić (NI)
"Large-scale deforestation in Croatia" | 5700/20 |
| f) | Nathan Gill (NI)
"GSP+ downgrading due to ineffective implementation" | 5583/20 |

EU positions for international negotiations

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| 6. | ICAO - EU Coordination for the 219th session of the ICAO
Council (Montreal, 2-20 March 2020)
<i>Approval</i> | 6074/20
AVIATION |
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| 7. | Council Decision on the EU position in the ICAO Council, in respect of Amendments to Annexes to the Chicago Convention
<i>Adoption</i> | 6035/20
6180/20
6001/20
AVIATION |
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Statement by the Commission

"Recital 7 raises doubts about the exact scope of the Decision. The recital is not reflected in the enacting terms and the Commission considers that it does ultimately not affect that scope. In accordance with consistent jurisprudence of the Court of Justice, the Union's external competence is exclusive in any area 'covered to a large extent' by common rules. Moreover, in accordance with the judgment in case C-600/14, it is anyway irrelevant whether external Union competence is exclusive or not.

The Commission opposes the following addition to the introductory paragraph of the annex to the Decision:

'Possible modifications of the amendments agreed by the ICAO Council preparation committee after the date of adoption of the present decision are to be taken into account, where appropriate.'

This addition deprives the position adopted under Article 218(9) TFEU of a defined scope and is hence incompatible with that provision. The Commission reserves all its rights in respect of this addition."

Transport

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| 8. | EU-Western Balkans Transport Community Treaty
Appointment of senior management to the Permanent Secretariat
<i>Establishment of the EU position</i> | 6083/20
TRANS |
| 9. | Conclusions on "INEA: Benefits delivered but CEF shortcomings to be addressed" (CoA SR No 19/2019)
<i>Adoption</i> | 6089/20
TRANS |

Environment

10. Directive on drinking water (recast)
Political agreement

6060/1/20 REV 1
+ ADD 1 REV 1
ENV

Statement by the Netherlands regarding Articles 1 and 13

"The Netherlands strongly supports the importance of access to drinking water and welcomed the Right2Water initiative. The Netherlands has a strong practice and legal framework regarding access to and the supply of good quality drinking water at the national level. However, the Netherlands remains of the opinion that the Drinking Water Directive, with a focus on drinking water quality, is not the appropriate instrument to address the issue of improving access to drinking water in the EU. The Netherlands questions the widening of the scope of this Directive in a way that risks treading on the responsibility of Member States, especially the mandatory and specific nature of certain measures. The Netherlands supports the adoption of this Directive in view of the clear and wider benefits it will bring to the quality of drinking water and because we believe our drinking water system to be in line with the obligations of Article 13, but we stress that how the issue of access to drinking water is to be addressed, is the responsibility of Member States."

Statement by Belgium, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands and Poland - Recital 40

"The abovementioned Member States support the adoption of the Drinking Water Directive, which will not only ensure high standards of safety of drinking water for our citizens, but will also indirectly improve the smooth functioning of the internal market.

However, we consider it entirely inappropriate to include general wording about the Commission taking action regarding access to justice in Member States in the statement of reasons of a legal act concerned with drinking water. This does not alter the current legal status on access to justice nor does it further empower the Commission to pursue legal action on these matters.

Compliance with the Aarhus Convention, to which the Member States are parties in their own right, is a matter that we take seriously. Member States' compliance with the Aarhus Convention can best be addressed, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, at Member State level. The real challenge to be addressed, however, remains the Union's own compliance with the Aarhus Convention, as referred to in Council Decision 2018/881 and in the findings of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee in case ACCC/C/2008/32. Notwithstanding the completion of the study requested by the Council, and the Commission's statement in its Communication on the European Green Deal of 11 December 2019 that it would "consider revising the Aarhus Regulation" (Regulation 1367/2006), we note that no such proposal has been mentioned in the Commission's work programme for 2020.

Although we are prepared to support the adoption of this Directive in view of the wider benefits it will bring, we will nevertheless be vigilant in ensuring that such language on access to justice in Member States will not be included in future legislative acts in the environment field."

Culture/Audiovisual Matters

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| 11. | EU-Korea audio-visual co-production entitlement
<i>Approval of a letter</i> | 6264/20
AUDIO |
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Delegated or Implementing Acts

Agriculture

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| 12. | Commission Regulation (EU) .../... of XXX correcting the
Swedish language version of Regulation (EU) No 68/2013 on
the Catalogue of feed materials
<i>Decision not to oppose adoption</i> | 6072/20
5611/20
AGRILEG |
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COREPER (PART 2)

Foreign Affairs

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| 17. | Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for the CSDP Mission in the Central African Republic - EUAM RCA
<i>Approval</i> | 6139/20
6098/20 R-EU
CSDP/PSDC |
| 18. | Council Decision on the conclusion of the EU-Viet Nam FTA
<i>Adoption</i> | 6125/1/20 REV 1
6050/19
6051/19
+ ADD 1-10
WTO |

Joint statement by Belgium and Spain

"Belgium and Spain welcome the conclusion of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and would like to reiterate the importance of the Trade and Sustainable Development chapter of the Agreement, including commitments on the fundamental principles and Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). It is indeed essential that trade agreements effectively contribute to sustainable development, uphold global standards and ensure a level playing field.

In this regard, Belgium and Spain welcome the ratification by Viet Nam of ILO Convention 98 on collective bargaining, that will finally enter into force on 05 July 2020, as well as the approval of the new labour code. Belgium and Spain will continue to monitor the implementation of the Trade and Development Chapter of the Agreement. Belgium and Spain trust that Viet Nam will sustain its commitment to ratify the remaining fundamental ILO conventions 87 and 105 and ensure their effective implementation."

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| 19. | PSC Decision EUNAVFOR MED/1/2020 - appointment of EU Operation Commander
<i>Decision to publish in the Official Journal</i> | 5935/20
5853/20
PSC DEC |
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