

Brussels, 13 March 2026
(OR. en)

6871/26
PV CONS 12
COMPET 257
IND 156
MI 195
RECH 90
ESPACE 34
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space))
26 and 27 February 2026

MEETING ON THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2026

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 6533/26.

INTERNAL MARKET AND INDUSTRY

Non-legislative activities

2. The 2026 Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report 6185/26
Exchange of views
3. **Emergency plans for industrial resilience: follow-up to the Industrial Action Plans for Europe's steel, automotive and chemical industries within the Clean Industrial Deal** 2 6011/1/26 REV 1
Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views.

4. Approval of "A" items

- a) **Non-legislative list** 6545/26

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.

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

6546/26

Internal Market and Industry

1. **Directive amending Directive 2014/32/EU on measuring instruments**

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 25.02.2026



6459/1/26 REV 1
+ ADD 1
PE-CONS 58/25
ENT

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: Article 114 TFEU), with the Czech Republic, Austria and Sweden abstaining. Statements by the Czech Republic and Austria to this item are set out in the Annex.

General Affairs

2. **Regulation on European Union designs (codification)**

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 25.02.2026



6382/26
PE-CONS 48/25
CODIF

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: Article 118, first paragraph, TFEU).

Transport

3. **Regulation on the accounting of greenhouse gas emissions of transport services**

Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 25.02.2026



6395/26
15614/25 + ADD 1
TRANS

The Council adopted its position at first reading, in accordance with Article 294(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and the statement of the Council's reasons (legal basis: Articles 91(1) and 100(2) TFEU).

Non-legislative activities

5. Conclusions on the 2030 Consumer Agenda
Approval

6073/1/26 REV 1


Legislative deliberations

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


6. **Regulation on establishing the European Competitiveness Fund: a strategic resilience tool for SMEs and European value chains**   6010/26
Policy debate

The Council held a policy debate.

Any other business

7. a) **Effective competition policy is a cornerstone of well-functioning, resilient and competitive Single Market**  6480/1/26 REV 1
Information from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia

The Council took note of the information provided by the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia.

- b) **Strengthening Europe's chemical industry and securing its resilient future**  6484/26
Information from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia


The Council took note of the information provided by Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

- c) **EU bioeconomy strategy**  16071/25
Information from the Commission

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

- d) **An integral EU Biotech Act II for a competitive Europe**  6485/26
Information from Denmark

The Council took note of the information provided by Denmark, supported by Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Portugal.

- e) **Safeguarding our industrial competitiveness through a pragmatic and technology-neutral hydrogen approach under REDIII**  6486/26
Information from Belgium

The Council took note of the information provided by Belgium, supported by the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

RESEARCH

Legislative deliberations

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

8. Research Fund for Coal and Steel

- a) **Council Decision laying down the measures necessary for the implementation of Protocol No 37 on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel** S C 6338/26
+ COR 1 (sv)
+ ADD 1
General approach

The Council reached a general approach on the Council Decision laying down the measures necessary for the implementation of Protocol No 37 on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel.

Non-legislative activities

8. (continuation) Research Fund for Coal and Steel

- a) **Council Decision on the adoption of the Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel, on the multiannual technical guidelines for this programme, on the multiannual financial guidelines for managing the assets of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel** C 6340/26 + ADD 1
General approach
Decision to re-consult the European Parliament

The Council reached a general approach on the adoption of the Research Programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel, on the multiannual technical guidelines for this programme, on the multiannual financial guidelines for managing the assets of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel.

The Council agreed on the decision to re-consult the European Parliament.

Legislative deliberations

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

9. Horizon Europe Package: Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2028-2034

- a) **Framework Programme and its rules for participation and dissemination** 1C 6133/26
- b) **Specific programme implementing Horizon Europe** SC 6133/26
Policy debate

The Council held a policy debate.

Any other business

10. Current legislative proposals (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union))

- How to ensure an effective R&I priority-setting mechanism and decision process** 1C 6461/1/26 REV 1
Information from Austria, Croatia, France, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain

The Council took note of the information provided by Austria, Croatia, France, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain. Germany and Romania joined orally.

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- 1 First reading
- S Special legislative procedure
- 2 Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)
- C Item based on a Commission proposal
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Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 6546/26

Ad "A" item 1: **Directive amending Directive 2014/32/EU on measuring instruments**
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY THE CZECH REPUBLIC

“The Czech Republic supports the intended purpose of the technical amendment to Directive 2014/32/EU on measuring instruments (the ‘Measuring Instruments Directive’), which aims to broaden the scope of the Directive to include new devices and establish corresponding harmonised essential requirements for them through a fast-track targeted technical update. This update is crucial for the green and digital transitions and reflects the evolution of energy production and distribution technologies in the EU.

Nevertheless, notwithstanding the position adopted by the European Parliament on 10 February 2026, the Czech Republic regrets that the final compromise text still contains issues that may lead to legal uncertainty and misinterpretation.

Specifically, the Czech Republic maintains its concerns regarding the following shortcomings:

1. Lack of mutual consistency between Annexes V (Active electrical energy meters) and Annex Va (Measuring systems for electric vehicle supply equipment);
2. Technical gaps in Annex V (Active electrical energy meters): The amendments covering Direct current electrical energy meters (the ‘DC electrical energy meters’) do not fully consider differences between AC and DC electrical energy meters. Furthermore, essential requirements for adequate testing of electricity meters are missing, and reactive electrical energy meters have not been included.

In view of the above, the final text does not fully reflect technological progress in new energy sectors and distribution technologies and therefore does not entirely fulfil the intended purpose of the technical amendment to the Measuring Instruments Directive, while it could also possibly, as a result, weaken consumer protection on the energy market.

The Czech Republic, therefore, abstains from the vote on the adoption of the final text of the Directive as set out in PE-CONS 58/25.”

STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA

“With a view to strengthening the single market and supporting the digital and green transition, it is essential to engage in the constructive discussion of initiatives, such as the present targeted amendment of the Measuring Instruments Directive (MID), in order to ensure fair cross-border trade while maintaining the level of protection for citizens.

Austria supports the fundamental objectives of the legislative file under discussion. In Austria’s view, it is particularly important that common provisions be implemented swiftly in the new or amended technical annexes.

However, Austria would like to point out that the amended text concerning ‘essential requirements’ for smart meters and the specific requirements for electricity meters do not sufficiently meet the objectives of forward-looking, metrologically secure energy measurement, in compliance with the information obligations relating to end users’ energy consumption.

Austria continues to adopt a critical stance on the regulation of transition periods and the requirements for smart meters and abstains for the following reasons:

- a lack of clarity concerning the scope of metrological security and the access to information about energy or gas consumption for consumption meter users;
- uncertainty regarding the responsibility for the actual provision of this access to information (whether as part of the measuring instrument or as an obligation for network operators);
- change in the scope of the Directive for electricity meters due to the change in definition of electricity meters;

- potential for improvement in terms of the currently incomplete harmonisation of the provisions for electricity meters, which would strengthen the single market and significantly simplify administration.

Further clarification is needed regarding potential obligations for recognition in areas that have not yet been harmonised.”
