



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 13 March 2008

6895/08

CRS CRP 8

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 2218th meeting of the PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
held in Brussels on 27 February 2008**

SUMMARY

Page

1. Adoption of the provisional agenda and items "I" 8

Coreper Part 2

I

2. Proposal for transfer of appropriations n° DEC02/2008 within Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2008 (NCE)
3.
 - a) Preliminary Draft Amending Budget n° 1 to the general budget for 2008 - Statement of expenditure by Section - Section III - Commission
 - b) Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the EU Solidarity Fund
4. Draft Council conclusions on the budget guidelines for 2009
5. Public access to documents
 - Confirmatory application made by Mr Martin OTTMANN (03/c/01/08)
6. Relations with Israel
 - Draft Council Decision on the conclusion of a Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union
7. Relations with Egypt
 - Draft Council Decision on the conclusion of a Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Arab Republic of Egypt, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union
8. Council Common Position amending Common Position 2005/440/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo
9. CDE - Centre for the Development of Enterprise
 - Appointment of the members of the Executive Board
10.
 - a) Draft Council Common Position amending Common Position 2003/495/CFSP on Iraq
 - b) Draft Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) n° 1210/2003 concerning certain specific restrictions on economic and financial relations with Iraq
11. Draft Council Common Position concerning restrictive measures against the illegal government of Anjouan in the Union of Comoros

12. Package of 26 Comitology files:

- a) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2000/60/CE establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)
- b) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2000/53/CE on end-of life vehicles, as regards the implementing powers conferred to the Commission (First reading)
- c) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2002/96/EC on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), as regards the implementing powers conferred to the Commission (First reading)
- d) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2002/95/EC on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment, as regards the implementing powers conferred to the Commission (First reading)
- e) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2005/32/EC establishing a framework for the setting of eco design requirements for energy-using products, as well as Council Directive 92/42/EEC and Directives 96/57/EC and 2000/55/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)
- f) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2006/43/EC on statutory audit of annual accounts and consolidated accounts, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)
- g) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) N° 1606/2002 on the application of international accounting standards, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)
- h) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)
- i) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 92/49/EEC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to direct insurance other than life assurance, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)
- j) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 91/675/EEC setting up a European insurance and occupational pensions committee, as regards the implementing powers conferred to the Commission (First reading)
- k) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 2004/109/EC relating to the harmonisation of transparency requirements in relation to information about issuers whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market, as regards the implementing powers conferred to the Commission (First reading)
- l) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 2006/49/EC on the capital adequacy of investment firms and credit institutions, as regards the implementing powers conferred to the Commission (First reading)
- m) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 2006/48/EC relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions, as regards the implementing powers conferred to the Commission (First reading)

- n) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 2004/39/EC relating to markets in financial instruments, as regards the implementing powers conferred to the Commission (First reading)
- o) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 2002/87/EC relating to the supplementary supervision of credit institutions, insurance undertakings and investment firms in a financial conglomerate, as regards the implementing powers conferred to the Commission (First reading)
- p) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 2003/6/EC on insider dealing and market manipulation (market abuse), as regards the implementing powers conferred to the Commission (First reading)
- q) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 2003/71/EC relating to the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading, as regards the implementing powers conferred to the Commission (First reading)
- r) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 2002/83/EC relating to life assurance, as regards the implementing powers conferred to the Commission (First reading)
- s) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2005/60/EC on the prevention of the use of the financial system or the purpose of money laundering and terrorist financing, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)
- t) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 98/8/EC concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)
- u) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) N° 562/2006 establishing a Community Code on the rules governing the movement of persons across borders (Schengen Borders Code), as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)
- v) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2001/18/EC concerning the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)
- w) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2001/83/EC on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)
- x) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)
- y) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2005/68/EC relating to reinsurance, as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)
- z) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 85/611/EEC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS), as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission (First reading)

II

13.	Preparation of the Council meeting (Justice and Home Affairs), on 28 February 2008	
a)	Outstanding issues of the draft Council decision establishing the European Police Office (EUROPOL)	9
b)	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of the environment through criminal law	9
c)	Council Framework Decision amending Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA on combating terrorism	10
d)	Other items in connection with the Council meeting	10
14.	EU-US High Level Contact Group on Data Protection	10
15.	Preparation of the EU-US Ministerial Troika meeting on Justice and Home Affairs, 12-13 March 2008, Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia	10
16.	Preparation of the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs), on 4 March 2008	
a)	Preparation of the European Council (13/14 March 2008)	
-	Broad Economic Policy Guidelines 2008-2010/2011 and Country-Specific Integrated Recommendations	11
-	Interim report on financial stability issues	11
b)	Taxation	
-	Fight against tax fraud	11
-	Taxation of savings	12
c)	Other items in connection with the Council meeting	12
17.	Preparation of the Council meeting (General Affairs and External Relations), on 10/11 March 2008	
A.	General Affairs	
a)	Preparation of the European Council on 13/14 March 2008	12
b)	Other items in connection with the Council meeting	12
B.	External Relations	
-	Other items in connection with the Council meeting	12

I

18. Replies to written questions put to the Council by Members of the European Parliament
 - (a) n° E-6516/07 put by Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert
"European Arrest Warrant"
 - (b) n° E-6542/07 put by Giusto Catania and Vittorio Agnoletto
"The case of Abou ElKassim Britel"
 - (c) n° E-0061/08 put by Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra - "Kosovo"
 - (d) n° E-0169/08 put by Mario Borghezio
"Shipping of waste by Rome to the tourist region of Sardinia"
 - (e) n° P-0341/08 put by Zdzisław Kazimierz Chmielewski
"ICES study on the use of driftnets for salmon fishing in the southern Baltic"
19. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1172/98 on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of goods by road as regards the implementing powers conferred on the Commission
20. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2004/49/EC on safety on the Community's railways (Railway Safety Directive) (First reading)
 - Adoption
 - (a) of the common position
 - (b) of the statement of the Council's reasons
21. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) n° 881/2004 establishing a European Railway Agency (Agency Regulation) (First reading)
 - Adoption
 - (a) of the common position
 - (b) of the statement of the Council's reasons
22. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on common rules in the field of civil aviation security (Third reading)
23. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on quarterly statistics on Community job vacancies (First reading)

II

- 24. Draft Decision by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting within the Council, authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Israel on a comprehensive air transport agreement13
- 25. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Code of Conduct for computerised reservation systems (First reading)13
- 26. 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)13
- Any other business
 - Debriefing on Informal Defence Ministers Meeting (21/22 February 2008)14

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

doc. 6905/08 OJ/CRP1 8

6876/08 OJ/CRP2 8 COMIX 155

The above mentioned agenda is approved with the following changes :

The following item is **added** :

(Coreper Part 2, under I)

27. Committee of the Regions

- **Appointment of an alternate member (IT)**

6288/08 CDR 13 JUR 54

6289/08 CDR 14

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

13. Preparation of the Council meeting (Justice and Home Affairs), on 28 February 2008

- a) **Outstanding issues of the draft Council decision establishing the European Police Office (EUROPOL)**
6782/08 EUROPOL 22

The Committee reached agreement on two of the three outstanding issues of the draft Council Decision establishing the European Police Office, as set out in 7008/08 EUROPOL 23.

These issues are:

- a) the lifting of immunity for Europol officials when participating in operational activities, especially Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) ;
- b) the principle of staff rotation and the possibility for Europol staff participating in JIT to receive instructions from the team leader.

With regard to the third outstanding issue, budget neutrality, some Member States asked the Commission to provide a comprehensive picture of budget neutrality of Europol based on current Europol staff levels and actual estimated costs rather than on average monthly salaries. The Committee concluded to submit this issue for further discussions to the Justice and Home Affairs Council.

- b) **Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of the environment through criminal law**
6749/08 DROIPEN 16 ENV 112 CODEC 246

The Presidency announced that the item was no longer on the agenda of the Council.

- c) **Council Framework Decision amending Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA on combating terrorism**
6761/08 CATS 13 DROIPEN 17
14960/07 CATS 122 DROIPEN 104 + ADD 1 + ADD 2

The Committee discussed the above mentioned Framework Decision and concluded that the Council should examine the proposal by the Presidency set out in 6761/08 CATS 13 DROIPEN 17.

- d) **Other items in connection with the Council meeting**

The Committee decided to include SIS II on the Council agenda.

14. **EU-US High Level Contact Group on Data Protection**
- **Discussions on future proceedings**
6780/08 JAI 91 USA 8 DATAPROTECT 8

The Committee discussed the two questions set out in 6780/08 JAI 91 USA 8 DATAPROTECT 8. With regard to the first question, delegations agreed to continue the work of the HLCG. As to the end result of the work, the options of a ministerial statement or a treaty should be kept open. Regarding the second question, all intervening delegations agreed on the need to inform the EP at some stage.

15. **Preparation of the EU-US Ministerial Troika meeting on Justice and Home Affairs, 12-13 March 2008, Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia**
- **Information by the Presidency**
6737/1/08 REV 1 JAI 86 RELEX 111 USA 7

The Committee, which had already discussed in the morning, together with the COMIX partners, the questions relating to Visa reciprocity and also the Data protection issues, took note of the agenda of the EU-US Ministerial agenda.

16. Preparation of the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs), on 4 March 2008

a) Preparation of the European Council (13/14 March 2008)

- Broad Economic Policy Guidelines 2008-2010/2011 and Country-Specific Integrated Recommendations

6728/08 ECOFIN 81 COMPET 70 SOC 120 ENV 110 EDUC 58 RECH 69
ENER 56

6775/08 ECOFIN 85 COMPET 73 SOC 126 ENV 113 EDUC 61 RECH 72
ENER 57

The Committee agreed to modify the draft BEPGs, document 6728/08, following a request from the German delegation.

The Commission suggested to make eight new amendments to document 6728/08 that would take into account the opinion of the European Parliament. Several delegations recalled that there was no Treaty role for the Parliament in the drafting of the BEPGs. The suggestions were not accepted.

The Committee agreed to the text on the Country-Specific Integrated Recommendations, as set out in 6775/08.

- Interim report on financial stability issues

6784/08 EF 15 ECOFIN 86

The Committee agreed to submit the draft Council report as set out in 6784/08 to the Council for agreement and submission to the European Council.

b) Taxation

- Fight against tax fraud

= Draft Council conclusions

6859/08 FISC 24 + ADD 1

6871/08 FISC 25

After an exchange of views on the draft conclusions, the Committee agreed on a revised version to be forwarded to the Council for debate.

- **Taxation of savings**
- **State of play**

The Commission announced that it would brief the Council on the exploratory talks it held with certain Asian financial centres as regards the possible adoption of savings tax measures that are equivalent to those applied in the EU.

c) Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Committee finalised the provisional agenda for this Council meeting and reviewed the state of readiness of the agenda items listed.

17. Preparation of the Council meeting (General Affairs and External Relations), on 10/11 March 2008

A. General Affairs

- a) **Preparation of the European Council on 13/14 March 2008**
 - **Draft Conclusions**
6882/08 POLGEN 19

The Committee discussed the draft European Council conclusions proposed by the Presidency.

b) Other items in connection with the Council meeting

Le Comité fait le point de l'état de préparation des autres points figurant à l'ordre du jour provisoire de la session Affaires générales.

B. External Relations

- **Other items in connection with the Council meeting**

Le Comité fait le point de l'état de préparation des autres points figurant à l'ordre du jour provisoire de la session Relations extérieures.

Coreper Part 1

II

24. Draft Decision by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting within the Council, authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Israel on a comprehensive air transport agreement

- Adoption

15540/07 AVIATION 207 ISR 17 RESTREINT UE

6191/08 AVIATION 34 ISR 8 RESTREINT UE

The Committee confirmed the agreement reached at the Aviation Working Party on the text of the above draft Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Israel on a comprehensive air transport agreement and agreed to invite the TTE Council to adopt the above draft Decision at its meeting on 7/8 April 2008.

25. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Code of Conduct for computerised reservation systems (First reading)

- General approach

14526/07 AVIATION 204 CODEC 1163

6290/08 AVIATION 37 CODEC 178

The Committee settled the outstanding issues and agreed to invite the TTE Council to agree, at its meeting on 7/8 April 2008, on a general approach on the above draft Regulation on a Code of Conduct for computerised reservation systems.

26. 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)

- Preparation for the next informal trilogue

13113/07 TRANS 281 MAR 68 AVIATION 156 RECH 247 CAB 32

FIN 438 CODEC 990

6887/08 TRANS 54 MAR 31 AVIATION 52 RECH 73 CAB 9 FIN 75

CODEC 257

6888/08 TRANS 55 MAR 32 AVIATION 53 RECH 74 CAB 10 FIN 76

CODEC 258

In preparation of the next informal trilogue with the EP, aiming at a first reading agreement, the Committee examined the text of the above mentioned proposal as it stood after discussions in the Working Party.

It also examined the EP amendments in their provisional version. Furthermore, it took note of several informal text proposals presented orally by the Commission. The next informal trilogue will take place in Brussels on 4 March 2008.

- **Any other business**

- **Debriefing on Informal Defence Ministers Meeting (21/22 February 2008)**

The Presidency informed on the discussions held at the Informal meeting of Defence Ministers.

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