



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 23 March 2011

7118/11

CRS/CRP 10

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 2354th meeting of the PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
held in Brussels on 2 and 4 March 2011**

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

doc. 7068/11 OJ/CRP1 8

7061/11 OJ/CRP2 8

The above mentioned agendas are approved.

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

Coreper Part 1

II

18. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 1999/62/EC on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures (Second reading) (Legislative deliberation)

- **Preparation for the informal trilogue**
6884/11 TRANS 53 FISC 18 ENV 124 CODEC 283

In order to prepare the first informal trilogue on the above mentioned Directive, the Presidency submitted to the Committee compromise proposals on the major outstanding issues, namely on the mechanism inherent to the variation of tolls in order to tackle congestion, the earmarking of the infrastructure and external costs charges, the accumulation of the mark up and an external cost charge for the most polluting vehicles and the vehicle's scope of the Directive (document 6884/11). On the basis of the Committee's discussion, the Presidency received a mandate to present to the European Parliament the Council's positions on the rapporteur's draft amendments.

19. Preparation of the Council meeting "Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs" on 7 March 2011

1. Contribution to the European Council (24 - 25 March 2011) (*Non-legislative activity*)

- **Policy debate (on issues related to the implementation of the EU 2020 Strategy, point a-c)**
(Public debate pursuant to Article 8(2) CRP [proposed by the Presidency])
6912/11 SOC 158 EDUC 38 ECOFIN 89

(a) European Semester, Annual Growth Survey

i. The Joint Employment Report in the context of the Annual Growth Survey 2011: political guidance on employment policies

- **Adoption of Council conclusions**
6913/11 SOC 159 ECOFIN 86 EDUC 36

The Committee agrees to send the draft Council conclusions, as set out in 6913/1/11 REV 1 + COR 1 (lv), to the Council for adoption.

- ii. **Joint Employment Report**
 - **Adoption of the report**
6914/11 SOC 160 ECOFIN 87 EDUC 37

The Committee agrees to send the draft Report, as set out in 6914/11 + COR 1, to the Council for adoption.

- iii. **Proposal for Council Decision on Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States**
 - **General approach**
5520/11 SOC 39 ECOFIN 19 EDUC 12
5982/11 SOC 73 ECOFIN 40 EDUC 20 + COR 1
6192/11 SOC 98 ECOFIN 52 EDUC 23

The Committee agrees to submit to the Council the draft Decision on Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States, with a view to reaching a general approach.

The results of the Committee's work are to be found in 6192/2/11 REV 2.

(b) The European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion:

- i. **A European framework for social and territorial cohesion**
 - **Adoption of Council conclusions**
18111/10 SOC 860
6917/11 SOC 162
- ii. **Flagship Initiative of the Europe 2020 Strategy**
 - **Opinion of the Social Protection Committee**
6491/11 SOC 124

The Committee:

- agrees to forward the draft Council conclusions, as set out in 6917/11 to the Council for adoption and takes note of the Maltese delegation's comments;
- agrees to forward the Opinion of the Social Protection Committee, as set out in 6491/11, to the Council for endorsement.

- (c) **Assessment of the social dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy: 2011 Report of the Social Protection Committee**
- **Adoption of the main messages of the report**
6624/11 SOC 135 ECOFIN 76 SAN 30

The Committee agrees to submit the main messages of the SPC report, as set out in 6624/11, to the Council for adoption.

- (d) **Preparation of the Tripartite Social Summit**
- **Information by the Presidency**

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

2. **European Pact for Gender Equality (2011 - 2020) (*Non-legislative activity*)**
- **Adoption of Council conclusions**
(Public debate pursuant to Article 8(2) CRP [proposed by the Presidency])
6789/11 SOC 152

The Committee invites the Council to reach an agreement on the outstanding issue and adopt the draft conclusions.

The results of the Committee's work are to be found in 7166/11.

3. **Progress on equality between women and men in 2010: Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (*Non-legislative activity*)**
- **Presentation of the annual report by the Commission**
(Public debate pursuant to Article 8(2) CRP [proposed by the Presidency])
6571/11 SOC 129 ECOFIN 73 EDUC 31 JAI 116 COHOM 51

The Committee takes note of the "Commission Staff Working Paper: Report on the progress on Equality between Women and Men 2010" contained in 6571/11, and agrees to forward it to the Council.

4. **Towards adequate sustainable and safe European pension systems: Report on the consultation on the Green Paper (*Non-legislative activity*)**
- **Presentation by the Commission of initial conclusions**
 - **Exchange of views**
(Public debate pursuant to Article 8(2) CRP [proposed by the Presidency])
6918/11 SOC 163 ECOFIN 88

The Committee takes note of the document provided by the Commission, which will serve as a basis for the exchange of views in the Council.

20. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on novel foods and amending Regulation (EC) n° 1331/2008 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 258/97 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1852/2001 (Third reading) (Legislative deliberation)**
- **Presidency briefing on the outcome of the trilogue**

La Présidence informe le Comité des résultats du trilogue du 1.3.2011.

21. **Preparation of the Council meeting "Environment" on 14 March 2011**

1. **Review of the Community Strategy Concerning Mercury (*Non-legislative activity*)**
- **Adoption of Council conclusions**
6908/11 ENV 127 COMER 44 MI 92 SAN 33 ONU 24

The Committee confirmed the positions of delegations set out in 6908/11.

2. **The CAP towards 2020: Meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future (*Non-legislative activity*)**
- **Exchange of views**
16348/10 AGRI 477 AGRISTR 14 AGRIORG 51 + REV 1 (cs)
6900/11 ENV 125 AGRI 160 AGRISTR 18 AGRIORG 42

The Presidency informed the Committee that an exchange of views on the CAP reform will take place at the Council meeting "Environment" on 14 March 2011 on the basis of the questions set out in the annex to document 6900/11, intended to structure the ministerial debate.

The Committee took note of the Presidency's questions (with the changes agreed during the meeting) and agreed to have an exchange of views on the CAP reform.

3. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) - (recast) (*Legislative deliberation*)

- Political agreement

17367/08 ENV 1022 MI 554 CODEC 1863

6948/11 ENV 132 MI 95 CODEC 298 + ADD 1

The Committee debated Presidency's proposal, without reaching an agreement.

The Presidency informed that on basis of delegation's positions, it will present a new compromise proposal for the Council meeting on 14 March 2011.

4. Climate change: Follow-up to the Cancún Conference (*Non-legislative activity*)

- Adoption of Council conclusions

6882/11 ENV 123 ONU 22 DEVGEN 46 ECOFIN 84 ENER 36 FORETS 19

MAR 23 AVIATION 33

The Committee discussed the above-mentioned draft Council conclusions. The Presidency proposed ad referendum a compromise wording for paragraph 14; it indicated that paragraph 4 would be discussed by Ministers. Finally, IT maintained a reservation on paragraph 19. On this basis, a revised text of the conclusions would be transmitted to the (Environment) Council on 14 March 2011 with a view to its adoption.

5. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory (*Legislative deliberation*)

- Exchange of views

12371/10 ENV 499 AGRILEG 100 AGRI 271 MI 254 DENLEG 71

CODEC 714 ADD 1

The Committee feels that the two questions drawn up by the Presidency (doc. 7123/11), along with other relevant documents produced so far, constitute an appropriate basis for the forthcoming exchange of views at the Council level aimed at finding a way to a compromise solution.

22. Preparation of the Council meeting "Competitiveness" (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space) on 9 and 10 March 2011

1. Europe 2020 strategy-Annual Growth Survey; contribution to the European semester (*Non-legislative activity*)

- Presentation by the Commission

- Exchange of views (industrial part)

18066/10 ECOFIN 866 COMPET 443 SOC 858 ENV 878 EDUC 235 RECH 426
ENER 372

+ REV 1 (fr)

+ ADD 1

+ ADD 2

+ ADD3

6750/11 ECOFIN 78 COMPET 46 SOC 146 ENV 107 EDUC 35 RECH 32
ENER 30

The Committee took note of the questions proposed by the Presidency (doc. 7234/1/11 REV 1) in view of the exchange of views at the Council.

2. Raw material initiative (*Non-legislative activity*)

- Adoption of Council conclusions

5992/11 COMPET 31 IND 8 MI 52 ECO 6 ENV 70 SOC 76 ACIER 1 CHIMIE 7
COMER 19 PHARM 1 PROBA 18 RESPR 1 SID 1 WTO 26 AGRI 75

+ REV 1 (fr)

6904/11 COMPET 58 IND 19 MI 90 ECO 17 ENV 126 ACIER 6 COMER 43
PROBA 26 ENER 37 SID 6 WTO 80 AGRI 161

The outcome of proceedings of the meeting of the Committee is set out in 6909/11.

3. Services Directive:

Communication "Towards a better functioning Single Market for services – building on the results of the mutual evaluation process of the Services Directive" (*Non-legislative activity*)

- Presentation by the Commission

- Adoption of Council conclusions

5559/11 COMPET 19 MI 34 ETS 2

6242/11 COMPET 35 MI 63 ETS 3

The Committee has recommended the adoption of the Council conclusions in the Annex of document 7148/11 by the Council (Competitiveness) on 10 March 2011.

The DE, AT and CY delegations had a reservation on paragraph 10.

4. Single Market Act (*Non-legislative activity*)

- **Information from the Commission on the results of the public consultation**
- **Exchange of views**

6837/11 COMPET 51 MI 84 SOC 153 ENT 38 CONSOM 8 POLGEN 27 FIN 98

The Committee takes note of the Presidency questions in document 6837/11 to serve as a basis for structuring the discussion by the Council (Competitiveness) on 10 March 2011.

5. Europe 2020 strategy - Annual Growth Survey; contribution to the European semester (*Non-legislative activity*)

- **Presentation by the Commission**
- **Exchange of views (research part)**

18066/10 ECOFIN 866 COMPET 443 SOC 858 ENV 878 EDUC 235 RECH 426
ENER 372
+ REV 1 (fr)
+ ADD 1 + ADD 2 + ADD3
6828/11 RECH 34 COMPET 49

The Committee took note of the questions by the Presidency with a view to the exchange of views, as set out in 6828/1/11 RECH 34 COMPET 49 POLGEN 31 + COR 1.

6. Interim evaluation of the 7th Research Framework Programme including the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF) (*Non-legislative activity*)

- **Adoption of Council conclusions**

6525/11 RECH 27 COMPER 40
6910/11 RECH 37 COMPET 60 FIN 112

The outcome of proceedings of the meeting of the Committee is set out in 6932/11 RECH 39 COMPET 62 FIN 114.

7. European Innovation Union flagship initiative (*Non-legislative activity*)

(a) Follow-up to the European Council of 4 February 2011

- **Information by the Presidency and the Commission**

14035/10 RECH 306 COMPET 256 IND 110 REGIO 57 ECOFIN 554
MI 328

(b) Pilot Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing

- **Adoption of Council conclusions**

6911/11 RECH 38 COMPET 61 SAN 34 SOC 157 TELECOM 18

The outcome of proceedings of the meeting of the Committee is set out in 6934/11 RECH 40 COMPET 63 SAN 35 SOC 164 TELECOM 19.

- 23. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 1999/62/EC on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures (Second reading) (Legislative deliberation)**
- **Presidency briefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue**

The Presidency briefly informed the Committee on the results of the first informal trialogue on the above mentioned Directive, held in Brussels on 3rd March 2011. The Presidency underlined the earmarking package as a crucial issue for the European Parliament. Moreover, the European Parliament attaches great importance to the mark up for the most polluting vehicles, including EURO III vehicles, the legal clarity of the vehicle's scope provision, the consideration of a longer period of peak hours and the future steps in what concerns the internalisation of external costs in all transport modes. The Presidency informed the Committee that the second informal trialogue on this Directive will take place in Brussels on 22 March 2011.

Coreper Part 2

II

40. Presentation of the agenda for the Council meeting (Foreign Affairs) on 21 March 2011

Le Comité prend acte de la liste des points susceptibles de figurer à l'ordre du jour provisoire de la session du Conseil susvisée.

41. Presentation of the agenda for the Council meeting (General Affairs) on 21 March 2011

Le Comité prend acte de la liste des points susceptibles de figurer à l'ordre du jour provisoire de la session du Conseil susvisée.

42. Follow-up to the Council meeting (Justice and Home Affairs) on 24-25 February 2011

The Committee ensured the necessary follow-up to the JHA Council of 24/25 February 2011. HU Presidency will continue to examine the situation in the Southern Neighbourhood.

43. Relations with the European Parliament (March 2011) 6982/11 PE 100 INST 113 POLGEN 30 CODEC 305

Le Comité a eu un échange de vues sur les relations entre le Conseil et le Parlement européen sur base d'une note fournie par le Secrétariat Général du Conseil.

44. Icelandic whale catches - Reply to the US initiative

Following an extensive discussion on the basis of a proposed statement by the Presidency and the Commission, the Committee notes that there is no agreement on a coordinated position regarding the US initiative concerning Icelandic whale catches. The Presidency will continue its good efforts on this issue.

45. Preparation of the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 15 March 2011

a) Report on economic governance

- = Regulation amending Council Regulation 1466/97 (preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact)
- = Regulation amending Council Regulation 1467/97 (corrective arm of the Stability and Growth Pact)
- = Regulation on the effective enforcement of budgetary surveillance in the euro area
- = Regulation on the prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances
- = Regulation on enforcement measures to correct excessive macroeconomic imbalances in the euro area
- = Council Directive on requirements for budgetary frameworks of Member States
 - General approach

The Committee exchanged views on the main outstanding issues in the draft texts.

b) Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Chair announced that the Committee would come back to the other items in relation with the ECOFIN Council at its next meeting.

- Any other business

- Meeting of the Galileo Interinstitutional Panel (GIP) (Strasbourg, 8 March 2011)
 - Information from the Presidency

The Committee took note that the fourth Galileo Interinstitutional Panel will take place in Strasbourg on 8 March 2011. The Presidency will inform the Committee on the outcome of the Panel's discussion at one of its future meetings.

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