

Brussels, 20 March 2025
(OR. en)

7207/25
PV CONS 15
AG 32

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(General Affairs)
18 March 2025

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 7103/25.

2. Approval of "A" items

a) Non-legislative list

7101/25


The Council adopted all A items listed in the document above, including all linguistic COR and REV documents presented for adoption.

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

7102/25

Legislative deliberations

General Affairs

1. Regulation on establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Republic of Moldova  6784/25 + ADD 1
Adoption of the legislative act PE-CONS 1/25
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 14.03.2025 ELARG

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 212 TFEU).

Statements to this item are set out in the annex.

Non-legislative activities

3. Preparation of the European Council on 20-21 March 2025: 5198/25
conclusions
Exchange of views
4. EU-UK relations
Exchange of views
5. European Semester
a) Synthesis report on Council contributions on the 2025 European Semester 6416/25 + COR 1
Exchange of views
b) Updated roadmap on the European Semester 2025 15357/1/24 REV 1
Presentation by the Presidency
c) 2025 Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area 5893/25
Transmission to the European Council 5960/25

6. **Legislative programming** 6850/25 + ADD 1
a) **Joint declaration on the EU legislative priorities for 2025** 6808/25
Approval
b) **Joint conclusions on policy objectives and priorities for 2025-2029** 6809/25
Approval

The Council approved the abovementioned joint declaration and joint conclusions.

Hungary presented a statement, as set out in the annex.

7. Any other business 7169/25
a) **Financing of Radio Free Europe**
Information from Czechia

3 Public debate (Article 8(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 7102/25

Ad “A” item 1: Regulation on establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Republic of Moldova
Adoption of the legislative act
Approval

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY

“Hungary recognises and promotes equality between men and women in accordance with the Fundamental Law of Hungary and the primary law, principles and values of the European Union, as well as commitments and principles stemming from international law. Equality between women and men is enshrined in the Treaties of the European Union as a fundamental value. In line with these and its national legislation, Hungary interprets gender as providing equal chances and opportunities for women and men. In line with these and its national legislation, Hungary interprets the concept of ‘gender’ as reference to ‘sex’ and the concept of ‘gender equality’ as ‘providing equal chances and opportunities for women and men’ in the Regulation on establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Republic of Moldova.”

STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION

“In order to preserve adequate funding for other priorities under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, the Commission will fund the additional EUR 100 million non-repayable support available for the Reform and Growth Facility for the Republic of Moldova through redeployment of unused funds under the budget line for macro-financial assistance grants (EUR 40 million), redeployment within the NDICI-GE Eastern Neighbourhood budget line (EUR 37 million), and from the NDICI-GE Emerging challenges and priorities cushion (EUR 23 million) in line with the provisions of the EU Financial Regulation.”

Ad “B” item 6: **Legislative programming**
 b) Joint conclusions on policy objectives and priorities for
 2025-2029
 Approval

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY

“Hungary has examined the text of the Joint Conclusions as presented by the Polish Presidency and took note of the positions of the European Commission and the European Parliament and the limitations regarding potential modifications to the text. Since Hungary identified several points that contradict its well-known and consistently articulated policy objectives and priorities, Hungary abstains from approving the Joint Conclusions and draws attention to the following fundamental issues. The Joint Conclusions declare that the European Union supports Ukraine as long as it takes, but unfortunately fails to articulate the three institutions’ call for a swift end to the conflict and their commitment to support efforts in achieving ceasefire and peace. The document does not confront the shortcomings of the migration legislation to be implemented and fails to respond to the urgency of dealing with irregular migration. The EU needs to look beyond the management of migration and should explore innovative solutions and new ways to prevent and counter irregular migration, in line with its 2024-2029 Strategic Agenda. The document falls short of Hungary’s expectations in terms of conveying adequate determination to counter all forms of disinformation and foreign information manipulation and interference, regardless of their source.”
