



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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## **TRANSPARENCY**

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Subject :       MONTHLY SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTS  
                  FEBRUARY 2000

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This document contains:

- in **Annex I**, a summary of definitive legislative acts adopted by the Council in February 2000. It is accompanied by statements in the minutes which the Council decided to make public (**Annex II**). The summary also mentions any votes against and abstentions, as well as explanations of voting.

It should be noted that only the minutes concerning the definitive adoption of legislative acts are authentic. Extracts from the minutes in question, and the information contained in Annexes I and II hereto, are available to the public on the Internet at the "Eudor" website (<http://www.eudor.com>; see "Transparency of the Council's legislative activities").

- in **Annex III**, a list of the other acts<sup>1</sup> adopted by the Council in February 2000, with a reference, where appropriate, to voting results, explanations of voting and statements which the Council has decided to make public.

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<sup>1</sup> With the exception of other acts of limited scope such as procedural decisions, appointments, decisions of bodies set up by international agreements, specific budgetary decisions, etc.

FEBRUARY 2000				
DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACTS	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTES AND EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE	
<b>Legislative act adopted following the European Parliament's second reading under the co-decision procedure</b>				
Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 74/60/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the interior fittings of motor vehicles (3.02.00)	Ref. docs 5914/00 PE-CONS 3606/00			
<b>2243rd Council (General Affairs) on 14 February 2000</b>	5863/00 + COR 1 (fi) + COR 2	7/00, 8/00		
Council Decision providing exceptional Community financial assistance to Kosovo				
<b>2245th Council Economic and Financial Affairs on 28 February 2000</b>	5033/00 + COR 3 (fr,de,it,nl,en,da, el,pt,fi,sv) + REV 1 (es) + REV 1 COR 1 (es) + REV 1 COR 3 (es)	9/00		
Council Decision authorising Member States to apply a reduced rate of VAT to certain labour-intensive services in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 28(6) of Directive 77/388/EEC				

FEBRUARY 2000				
DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACTS	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTES AND EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE	
Council Decision authorising the Federal Republic of Germany to apply measures derogating from Articles 6 and 17 of the Sixth Directive on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes - common system of value added tax: uniform basis of assessment (77/388/EEC)	5034/00 + COR 1 (de,da,en,fi,pt,sv) + COR 2 (sv)	10/00		
Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 3605/93 on the application of the Protocol on the excessive deficit procedure annexed to the Treaty establishing the European Community	6175/00 + COR 1 (fr) + COR 2 (fi)	11/00		

**STATEMENT 7/00**

Re Article 1

"The Council and the Commission state that the present financial assistance to Kosovo is of exceptional nature and does not set any precedent."

**STATEMENT 8/00**

Re Article 2

"The Commission states that, owing to the exceptional circumstances in Kosovo, the Commission intends to rapidly release a first tranche of EUR 20 million, taking into account substantial progress recently achieved in Kosovo, in particular:

- (a) the set up of Banking and Payments Authority of Kosovo (BPK), that will provide for an efficient payment and a sound banking system;
- (b) the establishment of a Central Fiscal Authority (CFA), that will fulfil the functions similar to a Finance Ministry;
- (c) and the adoption of a Consolidated Budget for Kosovo.

The exact amount and timing of implementation of the second tranche will be decided in due course following an appropriate consultation of the Economic and Financial Committee, taking into account developments in Kosovo's effective external financing needs and contributions from other bilateral donors.

The Commission states that it will inform the European Parliament when the second tranche is disbursed."

## **STATEMENT 9/00**

"The Council states that it considers favorably the Commission proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 77/388/EEC on the common system of value added tax - transitional provisions granted to the Republic of Austria and the Portuguese Republic (COM(99) 703 final CNS 99/0272) and that it will take a decision on this proposal as soon as it receives the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee."

## **STATEMENT 10/00**

"The Council states that it considers favorably the Commission proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 77/388/EEC on the common system of value added tax - transitional provisions granted to the Republic of Austria and the Portuguese Republic (COM(99) 703 final CNS 99/0272) and that it will take a decision on this proposal as soon as it receives the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee."

## **STATEMENT 11/00**

“The Council welcomes the extensive work done during recent years by Eurostat in co-operation with national authorities – according to a procedure involving the Committee on Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payment Statistics (CMFB) and other advisory groups – to resolve methodological issues for the comparability of public finance data used in the context of the excessive deficit procedure. The Council urges Eurostat to pursue such work, together with national authorities, to deal with any technical difficulties which may be raised by the amendment of Regulation No 3605/93 and the switchover to ESA95.”

<b>FEBRUARY 2000</b>	
<b>OTHER ACTS</b>	<b>Votes made public</b>
<b>Written procedure completed on 1 February 2000</b> Council Decision implementing Common Position 1999/691/CFSP on support to democratic forces in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) 5705/00	
<b>2243rd Council (General Affairs) on 14 February 2000</b> Steel products/CCEE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Regulation concerning the export of certain ECSC steel products from Poland to the Community for the period 1 January to 31 December 2000 (extension of the double-checking system) 5276/00</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Regulation concerning the export of certain ECSC steel products from Romania to the Community for the period 1 January to 31 December 2000 (extension of the double-checking system) 5279/00</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Regulation concerning the export of certain ECSC and EC steel products from the Slovak Republic to the Community for the period 1 January to 31 December 2000 (extension of the double-checking system) 5282/00</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Regulation concerning the export of certain ECSC and EC steel products from the Czech Republic to the Community for the period 1 January to 31 December 2000 (extension of the double-checking system) 5285/00</li> </ul>	
Steel products/Russian Federation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Community and the Russian Federation extending the double-checking system without quantitative limits in respect of the export of certain steel products covered by the EC and ECSC Treaties from the Russian Federation to the European Community for the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2001 5217/00</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Regulation on administering the double-checking system without quantitative limits in respect of the export of certain steel products covered by the EC and ECSC Treaties from the Russian Federation to the European Community for the period between 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2001 (extension of the double-checking system) 5220/00</li> </ul>	



FEBRUARY 2000	
OTHER ACTS	Votes made public
<p>Steel products/Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Community and Ukraine extending the double-checking system without quantitative limits in respect of the export of certain steel products covered by the EC and ECSC Treaties from Ukraine to the European Community for the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2001 5214/00 + COR 1 (fr,de,it,nl,en,da,el,es,pt,sv) + COR 2 (fr,de,it,nl,en,da,es,pt,fi,sv) + REV 1 (el)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal for a Council Regulation on administering the double-checking system without quantitative limits in respect of the export of certain steel products covered by the EC and ECSC Treaties from Ukraine to the European Community for the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2001 (extension of the double-checking system) 5211/00</li> </ul>	
<p>Council Regulation concerning a flight ban and a freeze of funds and other financial resources in respect of the Taliban of Afghanistan 5550/00 + COR 1</p>	
<p>Council Regulation adopting autonomous and transitional measures concerning the importation of certain processed agricultural products originating in Poland and Bulgaria 14210/99 + COR 1 (fr)</p>	
<p>Council Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain seamless pipes and tubes of iron or non-alloy steel originating in Croatia and Ukraine and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed 5606/00</p>	
<p>Council Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of dead-burned (sintered) magnesia originating in the People's Republic of China 5688/00</p>	
<p>Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Community and the Republic of Malta amending the Agreement establishing an association between the European Economic Community and Malta 5798/00 + COR 1</p>	

FEBRUARY 2000	
OTHER ACTS	Votes made public
Council Regulation on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out for the period 1 June 1999 to 31 May 2002 the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé e Príncipe on fishing off the coast of São Tomé e Príncipe 14038/99	
Council Recommendation on the implementation of Member States' employment policies 5161/00 + COR 1 (fi) + COR 2	
Council Resolution on the promotion of intermodality and intermodal freight transport in the European Union 14115/99 + COR 1 (fi)	
Council Resolution on the promotion of short sea shipping 14116/99	
Strengthening of European Security and Defence Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Decision setting up the Interim Political and Security Committee 5974/00</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Decision setting up the Interim Military Body 5975/1/00 REV 1</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Decision on the secondment of national experts in the military field to the General Secretariat of the Council during an interim period 5976/1/00 REV 1</li> </ul>	
<b>Written procedure completed on 17 February 2000</b> Council Regulation (EC, ECSC, Euratom) laying down the weightings applicable from 1 July 1999 to the remuneration of officials of the European Communities serving in third countries 5147/00 + COR 1 (fr)	
<b>Written procedure completed on 25 February 2000</b> Council Decision extending Decision 91/482/EEC on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Economic Community 6337/00	

<b>FEBRUARY 2000</b>	
<b>OTHER ACTS</b>	<b>Votes made public</b>
<b>2245<sup>th</sup> Council (Economic and Financial Questions) on 28 February 2000</b>	
Council Decision amending Decision 1999/319/CFSP implementing Common Position 1999/318/CFSP concerning additional restrictive measures against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia 6025/00 + COR 1 (en)	
Council Common Position suspending, for a limited period, Article 4 of Common Position 1999/318/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and repealing Common Position 98/426/CFSP 5989/00	
Council Joint Action extending Council Joint Action 1999/522/CFSP concerning the installation of the structures of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) 6369/00	
Council Decision on the rules applicable to national experts in the military field on secondment to the General Secretariat of the Council during the interim period 6373/00 + COR 1	
Common position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on development cooperation with South Africa 5095/00 + REV 1 (fi)	
Council Decision concerning the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco concerning certain amendments to Annexes 2, 3, 4 and 6 to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part 6136/00	
Common Position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain legal aspects of Information Society services, in particular electronic commerce, in the Internal Market ("Directive on electronic commerce") 14263/99 + COR 1 (fi) + COR 2 (fr) + COR 3 (sv) + COR 4 (nl) + COR 5 (sv) + COR 6 (fr)	B abstention

<b>FEBRUARY 2000</b>	
<b>OTHER ACTS</b>	<b>Votes made public</b>
Common Position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States, with specific reference to a simplified application of the nomenclature of products 14100/99 + COR 1 (sv) + COR 2 (fi)	
Common position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council allowing voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) 10677/99 + REV 1 (de) + COR 1 (da) + COR 2 (fi) + COR 4 (de,it,en,da,el,pt,fi,sv) + COR 5 (de,it,pt)	
Council Opinion on the updated stability programme of Germany, 1999-2003 6468/00	
Council Opinion on the updated stability programme of Italy, 1999-2003 6469/00	
Council Opinion on the updated stability programme of Belgium, 2000-2003 6470/00	
Council Opinion on the updated stability programme of Spain, 1999-2003 6471/00	
Council opinion on the updated convergence programme for the United Kingdom 1998-99 to 2004-05 6472/00	
Council opinion on the updated convergence programme of Denmark, 1999-2005 6473/00	

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