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NOTE

Subject: MONTHLY SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTS - MARCH 2021

This document lists the acts¹ adopted by the Council in February 2021.^{2 3}

It provides information on the adoption of legislative and non-legislative acts, including:

- the date of adoption,
- the relevant Council session,
- the number of the document adopted,
- the Official Journal reference,
- reference to the minutes of the Council session when the act was adopted.

¹ For easy reference, the "short titles" as mentioned in the Council's agendas are also indicated (see in italics).

² With the exception of certain acts of limited scope such as procedural decisions, appointments, specific budgetary decisions, etc unless adopted by written procedure.

³ In the case of legislative acts adopted in the ordinary legislative procedure, there may be a difference between the date of the Council's meeting where the legislative act is adopted and the actual date of the act in question, since legislative acts adopted in the ordinary legislative procedure are only considered to have been adopted after signature by both the President of the Council and the President of the European Parliament and the Secretaries-General of the two institutions.

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<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/public-register/request-document-form/>

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INFORMATION ON THE ACTS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL IN MARCH 2021	
Written procedure completed on 1 March 2021	CM 1998/21
<i>Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the EEA Joint Committee established by the Agreement on the European Economic Area as regards the amendment of Chapter IIa and Annexes I and II of Protocol 10 to the EEA Agreement, on simplification of inspections and formalities in respect of carriage of goods</i> Council Decision (EU) 2021/393 of 1 March 2021 on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the EEA Joint Committee established by the Agreement on the European Economic Area as regards amendments to Chapter IIa of, and Annexes I and II to, Protocol 10 to that Agreement, on simplification of inspections and formalities in respect of carriage of goods OJ L 77, 5.3.2021, p. 27–28	5660/21 5661/21
Statement by the Commission	CM 1998/21
The Commission considers that the Council Decision should be addressed to the Commission, and therefore considers the changes to Article 2 to be inappropriate. The expression of the Union position in a body set up by an agreement is an act of external representation of the Union which, in accordance with Article 17(1) TEU, is the institutional prerogative of the Commission. The Commission reserves all its rights in this regard.	

Written procedure completed on 1 March 2021	CM 1990/21
Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations for Agreements between the European Union and Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey on cooperation between the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and the competent authorities for judicial cooperation in criminal matters of those third States	6153/21 + ADD 1
Statement by Cyprus	CM 1990/21
Cyprus strongly disagrees with the inclusion of Turkey in the list of third States with which negotiations will be conducted. Despite the EU's repeated calls to abide by its obligations, Turkey continues its discriminatory policy towards the Republic of Cyprus and refuses to cooperate with the latter's authorities in all areas. The Council, more recently in its June 2019 Enlargement Conclusions (General Affairs Council), has confirmed once again that Turkey's cooperation in the area of justice and home affairs with all EU Member States remains essential. In particular as regards cooperation in criminal matters, Turkey's refusal to cooperate with Cyprus has also been identified by the European Court of Human Rights in the <u>Guzulyurtlu and others v. Cyprus and Turkey</u> (decision of 29/1/2019, application number 36925/07) where the Court held that "Turkey had not made the minimum effort required to comply with its obligations to cooperate with Cyprus for an effective investigation into the Murder of the applicants relatives." Furthermore, it is recalled that Turkey's obligation to effectively cooperate with all Member States in judicial matters remains one of the unfulfilled benchmarks in the country's visa liberalization roadmap. For all the aforementioned reasons and taking into account Turkey's persistent flagrant breach of its obligations towards the EU and its Member States, Cyprus strongly disagrees with the inclusion of Turkey in the list of third States. Cyprus expects that all of the above will be duly taken into consideration during the course of negotiations, so as to ensure that Turkey's attitude will not in any way negatively affect the Republic of Cyprus' prerogatives as an EU Member State. Furthermore, Cyprus calls upon the Commission to keep raising the issue of Turkey's unacceptable lack of cooperation with Cyprus in Justice and Home Affairs matters in the course of the ensuing negotiations.	

Written procedure completed on 1 March 2021	CM 1951/21
<i>Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Customs programme for cooperation in the field of customs and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1294/2013</i> Position (EU) No 2/2021 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Customs programme for cooperation in the field of customs and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1294/2013 Adopted by the Council on 1 March 2021 OJ C 86, 12.3.2021, p. 1–17	5265/21
Position (EU) No 2/2021 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Customs programme for cooperation in the field of customs and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1294/2013 Adopted by the Council on 1 March 2021 - Statement of the Council's reasons OJ C 86, 12.3.2021, p. 18–19	5265/21 ADD 1
Written procedure completed on 2 March 2021	CM 1959/21
<i>Council Decision and Implementing Regulation concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/372 of 2 March 2021 amending Decision (CFSP) 2020/1999 concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses OJ L 71I, 2.3.2021, p. 6–9	6398/21
Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/371 of 2 March 2021 implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1998 concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses OJ L 71I, 2.3.2021, p. 1–5	6400/21
Notice for the attention of persons subject to the restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/1999, as amended by Council amending Decision (CFSP) 2021/372 and in Council Regulation (EU) 2020/1998, as implemented by Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/371 concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses 2021/C 74/01 OJ C 74, 3.3.2021, p. 1–1	6442/21 + COR 1

Written procedure completed on 4 March 2021	CM 1994/21
<i>Council Decision and Implementing Regulation concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Ukraine</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/394 of 4 March 2021 amending Decision 2014/119/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Ukraine OJ L 77, 5.3.2021, p. 29–34	6335/21
Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/391 of 4 March 2021 implementing Regulation (EU) No 208/2014 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Ukraine OJ L 77, 5.3.2021, p. 2–7	6338/21
Notice for the attention of the persons subject to the restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision 2014/119/CFSP, as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/394, and in Council Regulation (EU) No 208/2014 as implemented by Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/391 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Ukraine OJ C 76, 5.3.2021, p. 11–12	6345/21
Written procedure completed on 4 March 2021	CM 1922/21
Union position that the United Kingdom may become an Invited Participant to the Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits and the Sector Understanding on Export Credits for Civil Aircraft	6079/21 REV 1
Written procedure completed on 4 March 2021	CM 1823/21
Public access to documents – Confirmatory application No 03/c/01/21	5689/21

Written procedure completed on 5 March 2021	CM 2101/21
<i>Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union on the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to be held from 7 to 12 March 2021 in Kyoto, Japan</i> Council Decision (EU) 2021/430 of 5 March 2021 on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union on the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to be held from 7 to 12 March 2021 in Kyoto, Japan OJ L 86, 12.3.2021, p. 2–4	6456/21 + ADD 1
Written procedure completed on 5 March 2021	CM 2081/21
Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in 2019 - 2020 thematic evaluation of Member States' national strategies for integrated border management	6271/21
Written procedure completed on 5 March 2021	CM 2080/21 + COR 1
Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2019 evaluation of Slovakia on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of return	6269/21
Written procedure completed on 5 March 2021	CM 2079/21 + COR 1
Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2019 evaluation of Sweden on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of management of the external borders	6266/21

Written procedure completed on 5 March 2021	CM 2064/21
Council Conclusions on strengthening the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union	6437/21 REV 1
Statement by Hungary	CM 2064/21
Hungary can support the final compromise text of the Council Conclusions on strengthening the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union. However, this support cannot be interpreted as an endorsement by Hungary of either the Annual Rule of Law Cycle referred to in point 2 of the Council Conclusions or the Annual Rule of Law Reports implied in this reference. As reiterated by Hungary several times both in the dialogue with the Commission and in the Council, the Annual Rule of Law Report of the Commission raises concerns as regards its objectivity, sources and methodology. Hungary also reaffirms its position that the Annual Rule of Law Dialogues within the Council should not be based on the Annual Rule of Law Reports of the Commission.	
Statement of the Republic of Poland	CM 2064/21
Item 18 Conclusions on strengthening the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union In relation to the Council Conclusions on the strengthening the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union, equality between women and men is enshrined in the treaties of the European Union as a fundamental right. Poland ensures equality between women and men within the framework of the Polish national legal system in accordance with internationally binding human rights instruments and within the framework of fundamental values and principles of the European Union. For these reasons, in place where the conclusions refer to “gender” Poland will interpret it as meaning women and men, in accordance with Article 8 and 10 TFEU. With this clarification, Poland accepts the proposal concerning Council Conclusions on the strengthening the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union.	

Written procedure completed on 5 March 2021	CM 2049/21
<i>Council Implementing Decision and Implementing Regulation concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Yemen</i> Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2021/398 of 5 March 2021 implementing Decision 2014/932/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Yemen OJ L 77L, 5.3.2021, p. 3–4	6653/21 + ADD 1
Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/397 of 5 March 2021 implementing Regulation (EU) No 1352/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Yemen OJ L 77L, 5.3.2021, p. 1–2	6655/21 + ADD 1
Notice for the attention of the data subjects to whom the restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision 2014/932/CFSP and Council Regulation (EU) No 1352/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Yemen apply 2021/C 78/03 OJ C 78, 8.3.2021, p. 30–30	CM 2047/21 REV 1
Written procedure completed on 5 March 2021	CM 2035/21
Joint Declaration on the Conference on the Future of Europe	6567/21
Written procedure completed on 5 March 2021	CM 1909/21
<i>Council Regulation amending Regulations (EU) 2021/91 and (EU) 2021/92 as regards certain provisional fishing opportunities for 2021 in Union waters and non-Union waters</i> Council Regulation (EU) 2021/406 of 5 March 2021 amending Regulations (EU) 2021/91 and (EU) 2021/92 as regards certain provisional fishing opportunities for 2021 in Union waters and non-Union waters OJ L 81, 9.3.2021, p. 1–14	6207/21

Written procedure completed on 5 March 2021	CM 1868/21
Council Decision establishing the position to be taken on behalf of the Union in the consultations with the United Kingdom to agree on fishing opportunities for shared stocks for 2021 and, for certain deep-sea stocks, for 2021 and 2022	6414/21
Statement by Belgium, France, Ireland, Poland, The Netherlands and Spain on bilateral EU-UK consultations 2021	CM 1868/21
We thank the Presidency for the revised proposal for a Council Decision concerning the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the consultations with the United Kingdom to agree on total allowable catches for 2021 and for certain deep sea stocks for 2021 and 2022, which fully reflects the views expressed by Fisheries Ministers at the VTC of 22 February. We are all acutely aware of the complexities and difficulties involved in these novel consultations and appreciate the work of the Presidency for their lead during this first exercise and the Commission in keeping Member States fully involved. We also want to highlight the enormous importance of reaching an agreement that protects the interests of the European Union and our fishing sectors and in particular, one that guarantees a level playing field for all. We consider that the exceptional circumstances of the 2021 annual consultations cannot set a precedent for future years. Given the importance of these consultations for the European Union, the Member States and the fishing industry, starting with the fishing opportunities for 2022, the preparations for the bilateral consultations with the United Kingdom should follow a more normal process, . This should include a concrete Union position, agreed at the Council, with more detailed figures for the proposed fishing opportunities for each stock that should be validated at ministerial level before the start of negotiations.	
Written procedure completed on 8 March 2021	CM 2132/21
Council Conclusions on the 2021 Joint Employment Report	6240/1/21 REV 1
Written procedure completed on 8 March 2021	CM 2130/21
Council Conclusions on Boosting Training of Justice Professionals	6377/21

Written procedure completed on 8 March 2021	CM 2074/21
Council conclusions on the permanent continuation of the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime: EMPACT 2022 +	6481/21
Written procedure completed on 9 March 2021	CM 2157/21
<i>Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Administrative Committee for the Customs Convention on the international transport of goods under cover of TIR Carnets as regards the proposal to amend the Convention</i> Council Decision (EU) 2021/463 of 9 March 2021 on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Administrative Committee established by the Customs Convention on the international transport of goods under cover of TIR Carnets, as regards the amendments to that Convention OJ L 95, 18.3.2021, p. 1–7	6130/21
Written procedure completed on 9 March 2021	CM 2148/21
Joint Employment Report 2021	5945/1/21 REV 1 5945/21 ADD 1 REV 1
Written procedure completed on 9 March 2021	CM 2134/21
<i>Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons</i> Directive (EU) 2021/555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons OJ L 115, 6.4.2021, p. 1–25	PE 56/1/20 REV1
Written procedure completed on 10 March 2021	CM 1978/21
Possible future VAT Administrative Cooperation framework between the EU and People's Republic of China in the area of Value Added Tax	6351/21
Written procedure completed on 11 March 2021	CM 2205/21
Signature of the Ministerial Declaration and Ministerial Resolution on behalf of the EU on the occasion of the 8th Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe (14–15 April 2021, Bratislava, Slovakia)	6508/21
Written procedure completed on 11 March 2021	CM 2150/21
Ethiopia - Council conclusions	5782/21

Written procedure completed on 12 March 2021	CM 2235/21
<i>Council Decision further extending the temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure introduced by Decision (EU) 2020/430, in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union</i> Council Decision (EU) 2021/454 of 12 March 2021 further extending the temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure introduced by Decision (EU) 2020/430, in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union OJ L 89, 16.3.2021, p. 15–16	6766/21
Written procedure completed on 12 March 2021	CM 2227/21
European Union's position for the 6th EU-Georgia Association Council (Brussels, 16 March 2021)	6747/21
Written procedure completed on 12 March 2021	CM 2117/21
<i>Council Decision and Implementing Regulation concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/448 of 12 March 2021 amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine OJ L 87, 15.3.2021, p. 35–45	5891/21
Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/446 of 12 March 2021 implementing Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine OJ L 87, 15.3.2021, p. 19–28	5893/21
Notice for the attention of the data subjects to whom the restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision 2014/145/CFSP and Council Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine apply 2021/C 87/02 OJ C 87, 15.3.2021, p. 3–4	5894/21

<i>Council Decision and Regulation concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Egypt</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/449 of 12 March 2021 repealing Decision 2011/172/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Egypt OJ L 87, 15.3.2021, p. 46–46	6320/21
Council Regulation (EU) 2021/445 of 12 March 2021 repealing Regulation (EU) No 270/2011 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Egypt OJ L 87, 15.3.2021, p. 17–18	6322/21
Written procedure completed on 12 March 2021	CM 2108/21 REV 1
<i>Council Recommendation on Roma equality, inclusion and participation</i> Council Recommendation of 12 March 2021 on Roma equality, inclusion and participation OJ C 93, 19.3.2021, p. 1–14	ST 6070/21
Statement by Poland on the recommendation on roma equality, inclusion and participation	CM 2108/21 REV 1
Equality between women and men is enshrined in the treaties of the European Union as a fundamental right. Poland ensures equality between women and men within the framework of the Polish national legal system in accordance with internationally binding human rights instruments and within the framework of fundamental values and principles of the European Union. For these reasons, in place where the recommendations refer to “gender” Poland will interpret it as meaning women and men, in accordance with Article 8 TFEU.	

Written procedure completed on 12 March 2021	CM 1940/21
Council Conclusions on Mainstreaming Ageing in Public Policies	6463/2/21 REV 2
Statement of Hungary on the Council Conclusions on „Mainstreaming Ageing in Public Policies”	CM 1940/21
Hungary fully supports the aims of the Council Conclusions, that shed light on a very important aspect of demographic change: population ageing. The draft conclusions offer a broad, horizontal view of this phenomenon, and suggest many suitable policy responses, allowing for a real mainstreaming of ageing. In paragraph 44, the text now reads: “ADOPT an age-integrated approach including a rights-based and a life-cycle perspective to ageing, bearing in mind and addressing diversity and variety of needs of women and men in an open society for all ages, taking into account the dual approach of mainstreaming ageing: the ageing of the population with the responsibility for society to prepare and adapt to the individual needs of citizens, throughout their lives; continue encouraging and enabling active, healthy ageing;” Hungary interprets the term of “diversity” in this paragraph, to refer to the needs of women and men.	
Statement by Poland on conclusions on mainstreaming ageing in public policies	CM 1940/21
Equality between women and men is enshrined in the treaties of the European Union as a fundamental right. Poland ensures equality between women and men within the framework of the Polish national legal system in accordance with internationally binding human rights instruments and within the framework of fundamental values and principles of the European Union. For these reasons, in place where the conclusions refer to “gender” Poland will interpret it as meaning women and men, in accordance with Article 8 TFEU.	
Written procedure completed on 15 March 2021	CM 2273/21
<i>Enhancing EU-China Trade Security and Facilitation</i> Strategic Framework for Customs Cooperation 2021 – 2024 between the European Union and the Government of the People's Republic of China	6633/21
Written procedure completed on 15 March 2021	CM 2267/21
Council conclusions on ECA's Special Report 25/2020 "Capital Markets Union – Slow start towards an ambitious goal"	6651/21

Written procedure completed on 15 March 2021	CM 2215/21
Council conclusions on "Sustainable Chemicals Strategy of the Union: Time to Deliver"	6695/21
Statement by Belgium	CM 2215/21
Belgium welcomes the adoption of the Council conclusions on the chemicals strategy for sustainability and we thank the Portuguese Presidency for the work that has been done to achieve this important objective. It is of the utmost importance to have guidance to ensure the effective and timely implementation of the chemicals strategy and to send a strong political signal within and outside the EU as regards our willingness and commitment to achieve a high level of protection of the environment and human health, in particular for vulnerable groups of our population. Nevertheless, we regret the lack of guidance on the production of harmful chemicals for export purposes only, when such chemicals are no longer authorised within the EU. Belgium would like to take this opportunity to offer its full support for the ambition announced by the Commission on this subject. Indeed, beyond a mere political announcement, we would emphasise the fundamentally ethical nature of this measure and will pay close attention to related developments. We also regret the lack of any reference to the availability of alternatives to PFAS. We therefore reiterate our support for banning them, except for certain specific uses where it is proven that they are essential for society and provided that, and for as long as, there is no alternative available. Finally, we reaffirm Belgium's interest in monitoring the implementation of this strategy. We will actively participate in all discussion fora and will be involved in all action taken to achieve the objective of sustainability and safety in the field of chemicals and to ensure a toxic-free environment.	

Written procedure completed on 16 March 2021	CM 2300/21
<i>Council Decision appointing a member of the European Economic and Social Committee</i> Council Decision (EU) 2021/465 of 16 March 2021 appointing a member of the European Economic and Social Committee OJ L 94, 18.3.2021, p. 3–4	6366/21
Written procedure completed on 16 March 2021	CM 2277/21
<i>Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Digital Europe Programme</i> Position (EU) No 3/2021 of the council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Digital Europe Programme and repealing Decision (EU) 2015/2240 Adopted by the Council on 16 March 2021 (Text with EEA relevance) OJ C 124, 9.4.2021, p. 1–34	6789/20
Position (EU) No 3/2021 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Digital Europe Programme and repealing Decision (EU) 2015/2240 - Statement of the Council's reasons OJ C 124, 9.4.2021, p. 35–37	6789/20 ADD 1
Written procedure completed on 16 March 2021	CM 2274/21
<i>Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Anti-Fraud Programme</i> Position (EU) No 7/2021 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Anti-Fraud Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 250/2014 Adopted by the Council on 16 March 2021 OJ C 137, 19.4.2021, p. 1–14	5330/1/21 REV 1
Statement of the Council's reasons: Position (EU) No 7/2021 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Anti-Fraud Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 250/2014 OJ C 137, 19.4.2021, p. 15–16	5330/21 ADD 1 + COR1
Written procedure completed on 16 March 2021	CM 2264/21
<i>Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Defence Fund</i> Position (EU) No 5/2021 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Defence Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1092 Adopted by the Council on 16 March 2021 (Text with EEA relevance) OJ C 131, 14.4.2021, p. 1–26	6748/20

Statement of the Council's reasons: Position (EU) No 5/2021 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Defence Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1092 OJ C 131, 14.4.2021, p. 27–29	6748/20 ADD 1
Written procedure completed on 16 March 2021	CM 2262/21
<i>Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe</i> Position (EU) No 8/2021 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 Adopted by the Council on 16 March 2021 (Text with EEA relevance) OJ C 146, 23.4.2021, p. 1–68	7064/20
Statement of the Council's reasons: Position (EU) No 8/2021 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 OJ C 146, 23.4.2021, p. 69–71	7064/20 ADD1 + COR1
Statement by the Council	6692/21 ADD 1
The Council calls on the Commission to ensure the greatest involvement of the Council, during the negotiations of agreements associating third countries to Union programmes, including the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe, in accordance with Article 218 TFEU. To this end, a special committee may be designated by the Council in consultation with which the negotiations, including with regard to the design and content of such agreements, are conducted, in accordance with Article 218(4) TFEU. In this regard, the Council recalls the principle of sincere cooperation among the EU institutions, laid down in art. 13(2) TEU, second sentence, and the relevant case-law of the EU Court of Justice on Article 218(4) TFEU, according to which the Commission must provide the special committee with all the information and documents necessary to monitor the progress of the negotiations, such as, in particular, the general aims announced and the positions taken by the other parties throughout the negotiations, in due time before the negotiating meetings, in order to allow the formulation of opinions and advice relating to the negotiations¹. Where agreements associating third countries to Union programmes already exist and include a standing authorisation for the Commission to determine the specific terms and conditions applicable to each country concerning its participation in any given programme, and where the Commission is assisted in this task by a special committee, the Council recalls that the Commission must act in consultation with that special committee in a systematic manner during the negotiating process, for example by sharing	

draft texts ahead of meetings with the relevant third countries and by providing regular briefings and debriefings. Where agreements associating third countries to Union programmes already exist but where no special committee is foreseen, the Council considers that the Commission should similarly engage with the Council and its preparatory bodies in a systematic manner during the negotiating process when determining the specific terms and conditions for the association to Horizon Europe. ¹ See judgment of 16 July 2015 in <i>Commission v Council</i>, C-425/13, EU:C:2015:483, paragraph 66.	
Statement by the Council on Art. 5	6692/21 ADD 1
The Council recalls that it follows from Articles 179(3) and 182(1) TFEU, read in combination, that the Union can adopt only one multiannual Framework Programme <u>setting out all the Union research and technological development activities</u>. The Council is therefore of the view that the European Defence Fund mentioned in Art. 1(2)(c) of the Regulation establishing the Union Research Framework Programme - Horizon Europe, covering both the research and technological development activities of this Fund, is a specific programme implementing the Framework Programme within the meaning of Art. 182(3) TFEU and falls within the scope of the Regulation establishing that Framework Programme.	
Joint political statement on the re-use decommitted funds in Horizon Europe	6692/21 ADD 2
In the Joint Declaration on the re-use of decommitted funds in relation to the research programme¹ the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agreed to make available again to the benefit of the research programme commitment appropriations, corresponding to the amount up to EUR 0,5 billion (in 2018 prices) in the period 2021-2027 of decommitments, which results from total or partial non-implementation of projects belonging to the ‘Horizon Europe’ Framework Programme or its predecessor ‘Horizon 2020’, as provided for in Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation. Without prejudice to the powers of the budgetary authority and to the Commission's powers to implement the budget, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agree that the indicative distribution of that amount will be as follows up to: - EUR 300 000 000 in constant 2018 prices for the cluster 'Digital, Industry and Space' in particular for quantum research; - EUR 100 000 000 in constant 2018 prices for the cluster 'Climate, Energy and Mobility'; and - EUR 100 000 000 in constant 2018 prices for the cluster 'Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society'. ¹ OJ C 444I, 22.12.2020, p. 3–3	

Statement by the Commission on Recital 47	6692/21 ADD 3
The Commission intends to implement the EIC Accelerator budget in a way to ensure that the grant-only support to SMEs, including start-ups, corresponds to the support provided under the SME instrument budget of the Horizon 2020 Programme, in accordance with the terms established in Article 48, paragraph 1 and recital 47 of the Horizon Europe Regulation.	
Statement by the Commission on Art. 6	6692/21 ADD 3
Upon request, the Commission intends to exchange views with the responsible Committee in the European Parliament on:(i) the list of potential partnerships candidates based on the Articles 185 and 187 TFEU which will be covered by (inception) impact assessments; (ii) the list of tentative missions identified by the Mission boards; (iii) the results of the Strategic Plan before its formal adoption, and (iv) it will present and share documents related to work programmes.	
Statement by the Commission on ethics/stem cell research- Art. 19	6692/21 ADD 3
For the Horizon Europe Framework Programme, the European Commission proposes to continue with the same ethical framework for deciding on the EU funding of human embryonic stem cell research as in Horizon 2020 Framework Programme. The European Commission proposes the continuation of this ethics framework because it has developed, based on experience, a responsible approach for an area of science which holds much promise and that has proven to work satisfactorily in the context of a research programme in which researchers participate from many countries with very diverse regulatory situations. 1. The decision on the Horizon Europe Framework Programme explicitly excludes three fields of research from Union funding: — research activities aiming at human cloning for reproductive purposes; — research activities intended to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable; — research activities intended to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer. 2. No activity will be funded that is forbidden in all Member States. No activity will be funded in a Member State where such activity is forbidden. 3. The decision on Horizon Europe and the provisions for the ethics framework governing the Union funding of human embryonic stem cell research entail in no way a value judgment on the regulatory or ethics framework governing such research in Member States. 4. In calling for proposals, the European Commission does not explicitly solicit the use of human embryonic stem cells. The use of human stem cells, be they adult or embryonic, if any, depends on the judgment of the scientists in view of the objectives they want to achieve. In practice, by far the largest part of Union funds for stem cell research is devoted to the use of adult stem cells. There is no reason why this would substantially change in Horizon Europe.	

5. Each project proposing to use human embryonic stem cells must successfully pass a scientific evaluation during which the necessity of using such stem cells to achieve the scientific objectives is assessed by independent scientific experts. 6. Proposals which successfully pass the scientific evaluation are then subject to a stringent ethics review organised by the European Commission. In this ethics review, account is taken of principles reflected in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and relevant international conventions such as the Convention of the Council of Europe on Human Rights and Biomedicine signed in Oviedo on 4 April 1997 and its additional protocols and the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and the Human Rights adopted by UNESCO. The ethics review also serves to check that the proposals respect the rules of the countries where the research will be carried out. 7. In particular cases, an ethics check may be carried out during the lifetime of the project. 8. Each project proposing to use human embryonic stem cells must obtain the approval of the relevant national or local ethics committee prior to the start of the relevant activities. All national rules and procedures must be respected, including on such issues as parental consent, absence of financial inducement, etc. Checks will be made on whether the project includes references to licensing and control measures to be taken by the competent authorities of the Member State where the research will be carried out. 9. A proposal that successfully passes the scientific evaluation, the national or local ethics reviews and the European ethics review will be presented for approval, on a case by case basis, to the Member States, meeting as a committee acting in accordance with the examination procedure. No project involving the use of human embryonic stem cells will be funded that does not obtain approval from the Member States. 10. The European Commission will continue to work to make the results from Union funded stem cell research widely accessible to all researchers, for the ultimate benefit of patients in all countries. 11. The European Commission will support actions and initiatives that contribute to a coordination and rationalisation of HESC research within a responsible ethical approach. In particular, the Commission will continue to support a European registry of human embryonic stem cell lines. Support for such a registry will allow a monitoring of existing human embryonic stem cells in Europe, will contribute to maximise their use by scientists and may help to avoid unnecessary derivations of new stem cell lines. 12. The European Commission will continue with the current practice and will not submit to the committee acting in accordance with the examination procedure proposals for projects which include research activities which destroy human embryos, including for the procurement of stem cells. The exclusion of funding of this step of research will not prevent Union funding of subsequent steps involving human embryonic stem cells.	
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Statement by France	6692/21 ADD 5
France welcomes the ambition of the EU's new research and innovation programme, Horizon Europe, and supports the adoption of the Regulation establishing this programme. Nevertheless, we reiterate our reservation with regard to the reference, in recital 6, to the 'innovation principle'. While acknowledging the need to assess the impact of EU law on innovation, in line with the Better Regulation Toolbox, we would emphasise that there is no legal definition of the 'innovation principle', unlike the 'precautionary principle', which is recognised by the Treaties (Article 191(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) and in the case-law (see, in particular, the judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union (Grand Chamber) of 9 March 2010 in Joined Cases C-379/08 and C-380/08, <i>ERG and Others</i>, and of 1 October 2019 in Case C-616/17, <i>Mathieu Blaise and Others</i>).	
Statement by Poland	CM 2262/21
Equality between women and men is enshrined in the treaties of the European Union as a fundamental right. Poland ensures equality between women and men within the framework of the Polish national legal system in accordance with internationally binding human rights instruments and within the framework of fundamental values and principles of the European Union. Therefore, Poland understands wording "gender" as referring to "sex" in line with art. 8, 10, art. 19 para 1 and art. 157 para 2 and 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.	
Statement by Sweden	CM 2262/21
The framework programme must be as open as possible. The best researchers shall be given the means to find answers to research questions and to solve societal challenges. Legal entities within the Union must be able to contribute to innovations to create welfare, jobs and security for the European citizens. Exclusion from participation in the framework programme of European legal entities with ownership outside the Union must be strictly limited to exceptional cases and limited to particularly security sensitive areas. In these cases, clear conditions and criteria must apply. In this context, the competence of the Member States must be respected. Exclusion of European legal entities with ownership in strategic partner countries does not benefit European research and development, nor the Union's security and competitiveness.	

Statement by the Commission on Art. 5	6692/21 ADD 4
The Commission takes note of the compromise reached by the co-legislators on the wording of Article 5. In the Commission's understanding the specific programme on defence research mentioned in Article 1 paragraph 2 point c) is limited only to the research actions under the future European Defence Fund while the development actions are considered outside the scope of this Regulation.	
Statement by the Commission on human rights on Art. 16.1.d	6692/21 ADD 4
The Commission fully subscribes to the respect of human rights as laid down in Article 21 Treaty on the European Union and its 2nd sub-para "The Union shall seek to develop relations and build partnerships with third countries, and international, regional or global organisations which share the principles referred to in the first subparagraph." However, the Commission regrets the inclusion of the "respect of human rights" in the set of criteria for third countries to fulfil in order to be eligible for association to the Programme under Article 16 paragraph 1 point d)(1) d. No other EU programme for the future Multiannual Financial Framework saw the need to include such an explicit reference, while there is no question that the EU is seeking to pursue a consistent approach in its external relations with third countries as far as Human Rights protection is concerned across all its instruments and policy areas, and which should guide the Commission in the implementation of this provision.	
Statement by the Commission on International Cooperation	6692/21 ADD 4
The Commission takes note of the Council's unilateral declaration, which it will duly consider, consistently with the Treaty, the jurisprudence of the EU Court of Justice, and the principle of institutional balance, when it consults the special committee under article 218(4) TFEU.	
Written procedure completed on 16 March 2021	CM 2261/21
<i>Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online</i> Position (EU) No 6/2021 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online Adopted by the Council on 16 March 2021 (Text with EEA relevance) OJ C 135, 16.4.2021, p. 1–32	14308/1/20 REV1
Statement of Council's reasons: Position (EU) No 6/2021 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online OJ C 135, 16.4.2021, p. 33–35	14308//20 ADD1

Statement by Denmark	CM 2261/21
While reiterating the full support for the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online Denmark would like to inform that when the competent authority in Denmark in accordance with article 4(1) of the Regulation is informed of a removal order issued by the competent authority of another Member State to a Danish hosting service provider, the Danish competent authority will inform the hosting service provider of its legal effect in Denmark.	
Written procedure completed on 16 March 2021	CM 2233/21
<i>Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)</i> Position (EU) No 4/2021 of the council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 Adopted by the Council on 16 March 2021 (Text with EEA relevance) OJ C 127, 12.4.2021, p. 1–24	6077/20
Statement of Council's reasons: Position (EU) No 4/2021 of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 OJ C 127, 12.4.2021, p. 25–28	6077/20 ADD1
Commission's statement on the contribution of the LIFE programme to the biodiversity ambition	CM 2233/21
In line with the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources (2018/2070(ACI)), the Commission will set out, in cooperation with the Council and the Parliament, an effective, transparent and comprehensive methodology for tracking biodiversity expenditures in view of working towards the ambition of providing 7.5% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in the year 2024 and 10% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027. Following the definition of this methodology, the Commission will present by 31 July 2022 to the European Parliament and the Council the contributions of the LIFE Regulation to the biodiversity ambition. The spending of the LIFE Programme on biodiversity objectives will be reported annually in the programme statements of operational expenditures. Its contribution to the conservation status of habitats and species will be analysed in the context of the mid-term evaluation foreseen in 2024 and referred to in Article 19 of the LIFE Regulation.	

Written procedure completed on 17 March 2021	CM 2305/21
<i>Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the InvestEU Programme and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/1017</i> Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing the InvestEU Programme and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30–89	74/1/20 REV 1
Statement by Poland	CM 2305/21
Equality between women and men is enshrined in the treaties of the European Union as a fundamental right. Poland ensures equality between women and men within the framework of the Polish national legal system in accordance with internationally binding human rights instruments and within the framework of fundamental values and principles of the European Union. For these reasons, in the expressions comprising term "gender" Poland will interpret it as the equality between women and men in accordance with the article 8 of the TFEU.	
Written procedure completed on 17 March 2021	CM 2304/21
<i>Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health ('EU4Health Programme') for the period 2021-2027</i> Regulation (EU) 2021/522 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health ('EU4Health Programme') for the period 2021-2027, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 282/2014 (Text with EEA relevance) OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 1–29	69/1/20 REV 1
Statement by Hungary	CM 2304/21
Equality between women and men is enshrined in the Treaties of the European Union as a fundamental right. Hungary ensures equality between women and men within the framework of the Hungarian national legal system in accordance with internationally binding human rights instruments and within the framework of fundamental values and principles of the European Union. For these reasons, Hungary interprets the concept of "gender" in the text of the regulation as a reference to sex.	
Statement by Poland	CM 2304/21
In relation to the Regulation on EU4Health Programme, Poland understands wording “gender equality” as referring to “equality between women and men”, in line with art. 2 and art. 3 of the Treaty on European Union. Also Poland understands wording “gender” as referring to “sex” in line with art. 10, art. 19 para 1 and art. 157 para 2 and 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.	

Written procedure completed on 17 March 2021	CM 2281/21
<i>Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Decisions 2003/17/EC and 2005/834/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections and the equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties of agricultural plant species carried out in the United Kingdom</i> Decision (EU) 2021/537 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 amending Council Decisions 2003/17/EC and 2005/834/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections and the equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties of agricultural plant species carried out in the United Kingdom (Text with EEA relevance) OJ L 108, 29.3.2021, p. 4–7	4/1/21 REV 1
Written procedure completed on 17 March 2021	CM 2280/21
<i>Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Decision 2008/971/EC as regards the equivalence of forest reproductive material produced in the United Kingdom</i> Decision (EU) 2021/536 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 amending Council Decision 2008/971/EC as regards the equivalence of forest reproductive material produced in the United Kingdom (Text with EEA relevance) OJ L 108, 29.3.2021, p. 1–3	3/1/21 REV 1
Written procedure completed on 17 March 2021	CM 2280/21
Public access to documents – Confirmatory application No 04/c/01/21	5799/21
Statement by Portugal	CM 2280/21
Although Portugal has on several occasions, in the name of the principles of transparency and open administration, expressed its Government’s desire for and interest in the declassification of all documents or any other solution that would ensure that all requested information is provided, we understand that this position must be reconciled with the majority view of the Council on this file, which favours confidentiality of proceedings and protection of the personal data of candidates in this process. We would recall too that, in the spirit of transparency and in accordance with the principle of loyal cooperation which governs relations between the European institutions and the Member States, measures have been taken to allow Members of the European Parliament to consult all documents, subject to compliance with their security classifications, under the conditions set out in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 12 March 2014. Lastly, we recognise the need to preserve the independence of and the ordinary course of pending cases on this matter at the Court of Justice of the European Union.	

Written procedure completed on 18 March 2021	CM 2312/21
<i>Council Decision extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/470 of 18 March 2021 amending Decision (CFSP) 2020/489 appointing the European Union Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue and other Western Balkan regional issues OJ L 96, 19.3.2021, p. 13–14	5819/21
Written procedure completed on 19 March 2021	CM 2178/21
Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Social Security Systems - Appointment of Birgitte NYMARK, alternate member for Denmark, in place of Mr Jens TROLDBORG, who has resigned	6729/1/21 REV 1
Written procedure completed on 19 March 2021	CM 2176/21
Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training - Appointment of Ms Laure HOMERIN, member for Belgium, in place of Ms Isabelle MICHEL, who has resigned	6735/21
Written procedure completed on 19 March 2021	CM 2174/21
Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work - Appointment of Ms Christa SCHWENG, alternate member for Austria, in place of Ms Pia Maria ROSNER-SCHEIBENGRAF, who has resigned	6733/21
Written procedure completed on 19 March 2021	CM 2172/21
Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work - Appointment of Mr Clemens ROSENMAYR, member for Austria, in place of Ms Christa SCHWENG, who has resigned	6731/21

3786th meeting of the COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (Agriculture and Fisheries) 22 March 2021, Brussels (Minutes: 7396/21)	
LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT
<i>Council Directive amending Directive 2011/16/EU on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation</i> Council Directive (EU) 2021/514 of 22 March 2021 amending Directive 2011/16/EU on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation OJ L 104, 25.3.2021, p. 1–26	12908/20
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT
Confirmatory application N° 05/c/01/21	6254/21
<i>Council implementing Decision granting temporary support under Regulation (EU) 2020/672 to Estonia to mitigate unemployment risks in the emergency following the COVID-19 outbreak</i> Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/513 of 22 March 2021 granting temporary support under Regulation (EU) 2020/672 to the Republic of Estonia to mitigate unemployment risks in the emergency following the COVID-19 outbreak OJ L 103, 24.3.2021, p. 6–9	6603/21
3787th meeting of the COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (Foreign Affairs) 22 March 2021, Brussels (Minutes: 7397/21)	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	DOCUMENT
<i>Agreement with Australia regarding the modifications in the EU's TRQs in the WTO schedule following Brexit</i> Council Decision (EU) 2021/515 of 22 March 2021 on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Commonwealth of Australia pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions on all the tariff-rate quotas included in the EU Schedule CLXXV as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union OJ L 104, 25.3.2021, p. 27–28	6101/21

<i>Agreement with Indonesia regarding the modifications in the EU's TRQs in the WTO schedule following Brexit</i> Council Decision (EU) 2021/516 of 22 March 2021 on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Republic of Indonesia pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions on all the tariff-rate quotas included in the EU Schedule CLXXV as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union OJ L 104, 25.3.2021, p. 29–29	6504/21
<i>Agreement with Pakistan regarding the modifications in the EU's TRQs in the WTO schedule following Brexit</i> Council Decision (EU) 2021/524 of 22 March 2021 on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan pursuant to Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions on all the tariff-rate quotas included in the EU Schedule CLXXV as a consequence of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union OJ L 106, 26.3.2021, p. 1–2	6517/21
<i>Council Decision on opening of GATT Article XXVIII negotiations with Panama regarding the withdrawal of its WTO concessions on liquid and evaporated milk</i> Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations with Panama under Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 for an agreement regarding the withdrawal of Panama's WTO tariff rate quotas on liquid milk and evaporated milk	6410/21 + ADD1
<i>Council Decision on the establishment of a warehouse capability for civilian crisis-management missions</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/487 of 22 March 2021 amending and extending Decision (CFSP) 2018/653 on the establishment of a warehouse capability for civilian crisis-management missions OJ L 100, 23.3.2021, p. 13–14	6191/21
<i>Council Decision establishing a European Peace Facility</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 of 22 March 2021 establishing a European Peace Facility, and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2015/528 OJ L 102, 24.3.2021, p. 14–62	5212/21
<i>Council Decision and Implementing Regulation concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/481 of 22 March 2021 amending Decision (CFSP) 2020/1999 concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses OJ L 99I, 22.3.2021, p. 25–36	6933/21

Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/478 of 22 March 2021 implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1998 concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses OJ L 99I, 22.3.2021, p. 1–12	6935/21
<i>Council Decision and Implementing Regulation concerning restrictive measures against Myanmar/Burma</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/483 of 22 March 2021 amending Decision 2013/184/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Myanmar/Burma OJ L 99I, 22.3.2021, p. 40–49	6938/21
Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/480 of 22 March 2021 implementing Regulation (EU) No 401/2013 concerning restrictive measures in respect of Myanmar/Burma OJ L 99I, 22.3.2021, p. 15–24	6940/21
<i>Council Decision and Regulation concerning restrictive measures against Myanmar/Burma - amending designation criteria</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/482 of 22 March 2021 amending Decision 2013/184/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Myanmar/Burma OJ L 99I, 22.3.2021, p. 37–39	6789/21
Council Regulation (EU) 2021/479 of 22 March 2021 amending Regulation (EU) No 401/2013 concerning restrictive measures in respect of Myanmar/Burma OJ L 99I, 22.3.2021, p. 13–14	6791/21
<i>Council Decision approving the external auditors of the Deutsche Bundesbank</i> Council Decision (EU) 2021/510 of 22 March 2021 amending Decision 1999/70/EC concerning the external auditors of the national central banks, as regards the external auditors of the Deutsche Bundesbank OJ L 103, 24.3.2021, p. 1–2	6001/21
<i>Council Decision approving the external auditors of Eesti Pank</i> Council Decision (EU) 2021/511 of 22 March 2021 amending Decision 1999/70/EC concerning the external auditors of the national central banks, as regards the external auditors of Eesti Pank OJ L 103, 24.3.2021, p. 3–3	6003/21

<i>Council Implementing Decision authorising the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland to continue applying a VAT derogation relating to expenditure on fuel used in business cars</i> Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/512 of 22 March 2021 authorising the United Kingdom to apply, in respect of Northern Ireland, a special measure derogating from Articles 16 and 168 of Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax OJ L 103, 24.3.2021, p. 4–5	6323/21
<i>Council Decision on the EU position to be taken at the 64th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on international scheduling of new psychoactive substances</i> Council Decision on the position to be taken, on behalf of the European Union, at the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on the scheduling of substances under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971	6193/21
Written procedure completed on 26 March 2021	CM 2455/21
Approval of transfer of appropriations No DEC 02/2021 within Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2021	6905/21
Written procedure completed on 26 March 2021	CM 2260/21
<i>Council Decision concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/543 of 26 March 2021 amending Decision 2011/173/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina OJ L 108, 29.3.2021, p. 59–59	6637/21
<i>Council Implementing Regulation concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya</i> Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/538 of 26 March 2021 implementing Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/44 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya OJ L 108, 29.3.2021, p. 8–9	6812/21
<i>Council Decision on the European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI)</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/542 of 26 March 2021 amending Decision (CFSP) 2020/472 on the European Union military operation in the Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI) OJ L 108, 29.3.2021, p. 57–58	6524/21
Written procedure completed on 26 March 2021	CM 2239/21
Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union on the one hand, and the Government of Greenland and the Government of Denmark, on the other hand and the Implementation Protocol thereto	6565/21

Council Decision on the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union on the one hand, and the Government of Greenland and the Government of Denmark, on the other hand and of the Implementation Protocol thereto - Request for the consent of the European Parliament	6566/21 6380/21
Statement from the Commission	7004/21 ADD1
By its judgement in joined cases C-103/12 and C-165/12 (European Parliament and the Commission v. Council) the Court of Justice clearly confirmed that decisions relating to the conclusion of external fisheries agreements fall fully within the scope of Article 43(2) TFEU (in conjunction with the applicable procedure of Article 218 TFEU, i.e. Article 218(6)(a)(v) for the decisions on the conclusion of the agreements) and rejected the position that such decisions could fall within the scope of Article 43(3) TFEU. In relation to the Decisions on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application as well as on the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Union on the one hand, and the Government of Greenland and the Government of Denmark, on the other hand and the Implementation Protocol thereto, the Commission regrets the Council's amendment replacing the substantive legal basis of Article 43(2) TFEU with Article 43 (without mentioning the paragraph). While not opposing the adoption of the amendment by the Council by a qualified majority vote, the Commission reserves all its rights in this regard.	
Written procedure completed on 30 March 2021	CM 2459/21
<i>Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 as regards adjustments to the securitisation framework to support the economic recovery in response to the COVID-19 crisis</i> Regulation (EU) 2021/558 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2021 amending Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 as regards adjustments to the securitisation framework to support the economic recovery in response to the COVID-19 crisis (Text with EEA relevance) OJ L 116, 6.4.2021, p. 25–32	73/1/20 REV 1

Written procedure completed on 30 March 2021	CM 2456/21
<i>Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2402 laying down a general framework for securitisation and creating a specific framework for simple, transparent and standardised securitisation to help the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis</i> Regulation (EU) 2021/557 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2021 amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2402 laying down a general framework for securitisation and creating a specific framework for simple, transparent and standardised securitisation to help the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis OJ L 116, 6.4.2021, p. 1–24	70/1/20 REV 1
Statement by Ireland	CM 2456/21
Ireland cannot support this proposal. We have concerns about the new text in the recital and article and the process utilised to achieve agreement of the text. It has been a long established arrangement that tax matters are only discussed and agreed in by tax experts in relevant tax working parties in Council. This respects the provisions of the special legislative procedure and unanimity for tax matters as is enshrined in the Treaties. Under the Treaties, the European Parliament has merely as consultative role in tax matters yet in this agreement the European Parliament has had a drafting role in the final text. We do not believe that tax is sufficiently connected to the successful realisation of the CMRP Securitisation proposal and we oppose tax being used as a makeweight in a Financial Services file to get agreement with the European Parliament. We are concerned that a dangerous precedent is being set and that the sovereign right of Member States to set tax policy is being encroached upon, without any reference to, or consultation with, the relevant Council formations for taxation. We would have preferred more time for the Member States' tax experts to have been properly consulted and to have provided a considered opinion. Such a consultation would have allowed Council and Parliament to reach a timely solution that assists Capital Markets to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic without unnecessarily impinging on Member States sovereignty with regard to matters of taxation.	

Statement by the Luxembourg	CM 2456/21
Luxembourg cannot support the text of the regulation and will abstain. While we do not oppose the objectives of the regulation as such, we have concerns about the process utilised to achieve agreement on the wording in Article 1(2) (c) and recitals (6) and (7) related thereto which create a notification procedure to Member States' tax authorities for SSPE established in jurisdictions mentioned in Annex II of the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for the reason of operating a harmful tax regime in a financial services file for which Article 114 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union has served as a legal basis. We recall that tax matters are the sole competence of the Member States and tax policy decisions are the sovereign right of Member States, which is why the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union contains a special legislative procedure and unanimity voting in Council while the role of the European Parliament is merely consultative.	