



Brussels, 21 March 2023
(OR. en)

7573/23
CRS CRP 8

SUMMARY RECORD

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE

1 and 3 March 2023

I. Adoption of the agenda

6872/1/23 REV 1 + REV 1 COR 1 OJ CRP1 8
6874/1/23 REV 1 OJ CRP2 8 COMIX 101

The Committee adopted the agenda.

II. Approval of the "I" items

The Committee approved the "I" items as set out in the Annex.

III. Discussion items

COREPER (PART 1)

WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 2023

Environment

2. Meeting of the Council (Environment) on 16 March 2023

1. Agenda

The Presidency presented the main items on the agenda.
The Presidency recalled requests for AOBs by PL, AT, DE, IT, FR and the Commission.
The committee agreed to take all the AOBs requested so far in public.

3. Directive amending Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions and Council Directive on the landfill of waste *Guidance for further work* 6702/23

The Committee provided guidance for further work.

Internal Market and Industry

4. Regulation establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's semiconductor ecosystem (Chips Act)
Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the trilogue

The Presidency debriefed on the trilogue which took place on 28 February 2023.

Transport

5. Regulation on the use of renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport (FuelEU Maritime initiative)
Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the trilogue

The Presidency debriefed on the trilogue which took place on 16 February 2023.

6. Regulation on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, and repealing Directive 2014/94/EU (AFIR)
Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the trilogue

The Presidency debriefed on the trilogue which took place on 28 February 2023.

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport

7. Meeting of the Council (Education, Youth, Culture and Sport) on 7 March 2023: Preparation

1. Conclusions on skills and competences for the green transition
Approval 6416/23 + ADD 1-2

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.
Statement by Hungary is set out in the ADD 1 to this document.
Statement by Poland is set out in the ADD 2 to this document.

2. High-quality teachers - the cornerstone of a successful European Education Area: Teacher shortages and the challenge of attracting, upskilling and retaining qualified and well-trained teachers and trainers
Policy debate 6680/23

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

Energy

8. Revision of the Renewable Energy Directive
Preparation for the trilogue 6735/23

The Committee agreed on a revised mandate for the forthcoming trilogue and the Presidency took note of delegations' remarks.

9. Revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive (recast) 6695/23
Preparation for the trilogue

The Committee agreed on a revised mandate for the forthcoming trilogue and the Presidency took note of delegations' remarks.

Employment and Social Policy

10. Council Decision authorising Member States to ratify the 2019 ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment (No. 190) 6684/23
Guidance for further work

The Committee provided guidance for further work.

FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2023

Environment

2. (continuation) Meeting of the Council (Environment) on 16 March 2023

2. Preparation

1. Regulation establishing a Union certification framework for carbon removals 6703/23
Policy debate

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

2. Regulation on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC 6705/23
Policy debate

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

3. Directive concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast) 6698/23
Policy debate

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

4. Greening the European Semester 6679/23
Exchange of views

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

Energy

9. (continuation) Revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive (recast)
Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the trilogue

The Presidency debriefed on the trilogue which took place on 2 March 2023.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs

11. Meeting of the Council (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs) on 13 and 14 March 2023: Preparation

Coreper agreed to take an AOB asked by PT on the Porto Social Forum in public.

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| 1. | European Semester 2023
<i>Exchange of views</i> | 6683/23 |
| | a) Joint Employment Report
<i>Adoption</i> | 6059/23 |
| | b) Conclusions on the 2023 Annual Sustainable Growth Survey (ASGS) and Joint Employment Report (JER)
<i>Approval</i> | 6681/23 |

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

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| 2. | One year into the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine: The employment and social situation in the EU, with a focus on the labour market situation of temporarily displaced persons from Ukraine
<i>Exchange of view</i> | 6686/2/23 REV 2 |
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The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

The Committee agreed to invite the Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine to be present for this point and during the AOB item on the recommendations stemming from the mission of the Special Advisor to Commissioner Schmit on Ukraine, as well as at the lunch on the protection of children in vulnerable situations in times of crises and conflict.

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| 3. | Regulation on fees and charges payable to EMA
<i>Policy debate</i> | 6089/23 |
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The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

The Committee agreed to invite the ECDC Director for the exchange of views on the Global Health Strategy, the Executive Director of EMA for the AOB item on medicines shortages and to invite both the Executive Director of EMA and the Director of ECDC for the health ministerial lunch.

4. European Union Global Health strategy 6090/23
Exchange of views

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

Agriculture and Fisheries

12. Meeting of the Council (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 20 March 2023: Agenda

The Presidency presented the main items on the agenda.

The Committee agreed to hold the package of communications and report regarding fisheries, as well as the AOB on pollinators requested by the Commission, in public session.

Fisheries

13. Regulation amending various Regulations as regards fisheries 6639/23
control 6640/23
Preparation for the trilogue

The Committee agreed on a revised mandate for the forthcoming trilogue, while the Presidency took note of delegations' remarks.

COREPER (PART 2)

General Affairs

33. Meeting of the Council (General Affairs) on 21 March 2023:
Agenda

The Presidency presented the main items on the agenda.
The Committee approved the participation of Ukraine's deputy Prime Minister at the ministerial lunch in the margins of the Council meeting.

Foreign Affairs

34. Meeting of the Council (Foreign Affairs) on 20 March 2023:
Agenda

The EEAS presented the main items on the agenda.

35. Global Gateway: state of play and way forward 6742/23
Exchange of views

The Committee took note of the presentation by the Commission and exchanged views on the state of play and way forward.

36. Russian aggression against Ukraine
Exchange of views

The Committee held an exchange of views and discussed the next steps.

Economic and Financial Affairs

38. Meeting of the Council (Economic and Financial Affairs) on
14 March 2023: Preparation
Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Committee took note of the information provided by the Presidency.
The agenda item on the Council Implementing Decisions under the Recovery and Resilience Facility was confirmed.

67. European Green Bonds Regulation (EuGB)
Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the trilogue

The above-mentioned item was postponed to the next meeting.

Justice and Home Affairs

39. Meeting of the Council (Justice and Home Affairs) on 9-10 March 2023: Preparation

a) Overall state of the Schengen area:

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|-------------------------------------|---------|
| i) Functioning of the Schengen area | 6764/23 |
| <i>State of play</i> | 6762/23 |
| ii) The future of visa policy | 6636/23 |
| <i>Exchange of views</i> | |

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

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| b) Entry into operation of the enhanced SIS | 6660/23 |
| <i>State of play</i> | |

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

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| c) Implementation of interoperability | 6506/23 |
| <i>Exchange of views</i> | |

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

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| d) Russia's aggression against Ukraine: Internal security dialogue and Justice and Home Affairs/Common Security and Defence Policy cooperation | 6563/23 |
| <i>Exchange of views</i> | |

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

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| e) Asylum and migration: external and internal dimensions ¹ | 6748/23 |
| <i>Exchange of views</i> | |

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting and agreed to reformulate the agenda item with two sub-items: a) external aspects including in the light of recent events in and around the Mediterranean Sea, and b) internal aspects and the implementation of the Dublin roadmap.

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| f) Directive on the definition of criminal offences and penalties for the violation of Union restrictive measures | 6454/23 |
| <i>Progress report</i> | |

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

¹ Exceptionally, in the presence of the Schengen Associated States.

- g) Directive on asset recovery and confiscation 6452/23
Progress report

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

- h) Barriers to access to justice and how to overcome them 6694/23
Exchange of views

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

- i) Conclusions on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and 6675/23
the civic space 6749/23
Approval
Exchange of views

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

- j) Combating racism and antisemitism: next steps 6744/23
Exchange of views

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

- k) Judicial responses and the fight against impunity regarding 6458/23
crimes committed in connection with Russia's aggression
against Ukraine
State of play

The Committee prepared this item for the Council meeting.

- l) Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The Committee took note of the information provided by the Presidency. Two new AOBs were added on the Home Affairs day on an EU-MENA conference on police cooperation (request by Portugal) and a European conference on border management (request by Greece).

IV. Any other business

COREPER (PART 1)

None.

COREPER (PART 2)

Démarche in Tbilisi

The Committee took note of the information provided by Poland.

"I" items approved**COREPER (PART 1)****Institutional Affairs****Written questions**

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| 14. | Replies to questions for written answer submitted to the Council by Members of the European Parliament
<i>Adoption by silence procedure</i> | 6433/23
PE-QE |
| a) | Marco Zanni (ID)
"Inclusion of municipal waste-incineration plants in the EU ETS" | 5709/23 |
| b) | Nacho Sánchez Amor (S&D)
"Council's position on the Republic of Vanuatu's proposed International Court of Justice climate resolution at the UN General Assembly" | 5711/23 |
| c) | Özlem Demirel (The Left)
"IRINI and Frontex cooperating closely" | 6117/23 |
| d) | Sarah Wiener (Verts/ALE)
"Presence of farmers' association COPA-COGECA at AGRIFISH (Agriculture and Fisheries Council) meetings" | 5708/23 |
| e) | Özlem Demirel (The Left)
"Police and customs cooperation centres" | 5727/23 |
| f) | Özlem Demirel (The Left)
"ISF-backed SCOPE project aimed at preventing migration from Türkiye and the Western Balkans" | 5716/23 |
| g) | Filip De Man (ID)
"Council President's visit to China" | 5720/23 |
| h) | Gianantonio Da Re (ID)
"Programme of the Swedish Presidency: request for support for farms and protection of European agri-food and wine products" | 5723/23 |
| 15. | Minutes of the Council meetings
<i>Approval</i> | |
| | ENV 20.12.2022 | 16311/22 + ADD 1 |

Appointments

16. One member (RO) of the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work
Adoption 6317/23
SOC
17. One alternate member (RO) of the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work
Adoption 6318/23
SOC
18. One member (CZ) of the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work
Adoption 6736/23
SOC

Other

19. Attendance of a third party at the Working Party on Forestry on 10 March 2023
Approval 6274/23
AGRI
20. Attendance of a third party at the Cultural Affairs Committee on 6 March 2023
Approval 6654/23
CULT
21. Attendance of a third party at the Youth Working Party on 10 March 2023
Approval 6326/23
YOUTH
22. Attendance of a third party at the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Internal Market) on 17 March 2023
Approval 6757/23
COMPET
23. Attendance of third parties at the informal videoconference of the members of the Working Party on International Environment Issues (Int. Chemicals/Synergies) on 7 March 2023
Approval 6697/23
ENV
24. Attendance of a third party at the Working Party on Public Health on 6 March 2023
Approval 6620/2/23 REV 2
SAN

EU positions for international negotiations

25. Council Decision on the EU position to extend the duration of the road transport agreement between the EU and Ukraine
Adoption 6212/23 + COR 1
6209/23 + ADD 1-2
TRANS
26. Union position on Amendments to Annex 16, Volume IV of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (ICAO)
Approval 6560/23 + COR 1-2
AVIATION

Space

27. Regulation establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027
Adoption of the legislative act 6425/23 + ADD 1
+ ADD 2 REV 1
PE-CONS 65/22
ESPACE

Joint political statement by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union on the financing of the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027

“The European Parliament and the Council agree, without prejudice to the prerogatives of the budgetary authority in the framework of the annual budgetary procedure, that the financing of the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027 will indicatively be covered in the years 2023-2027 as follows:

- EUR 200 million from the unallocated margins from Heading 1 and Heading 5;
- EUR 1,450 million from contributions from Heading 1, Heading 5 and Heading 6.”

Joint political statement by the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union on the re-use of decommitted funds in Horizon Europe

“In the Joint Declaration on the re-use of decommitted funds in relation to the research programme 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.

In the statement on Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 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(1), the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agreed on an indicative distribution of that amount that will be up to EUR 300 000 000 in constant 2018 prices for the cluster ‘Digital, Industry and Space’ in particular for quantum research.

Without prejudice to the powers of the budgetary authority in the framework of the annual budgetary procedure and to the Commission’s powers to implement the budget, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agree that, within the cluster on ‘Digital, Industry and Space’ of Horizon Europe, an indicative amount of EUR 200 000 000 in constant 2018 prices will be allocated to secure connectivity research activities.”

Statement by the Commission

“The Commission proposed the Union Secure Connectivity Programme on 15 February 2022. The Russian invasion of Ukraine one week later and the events since have shown the need for enhanced secure connectivity in the EU and for an accelerated implementation of the programme. Therefore, pending its formal adoption, the Commission has brought forward the implementation of part of the activities linked to secure connectivity of a part of the new programme that could be sustained under the existing legal acts, and which requires an intensive development phase, in particular under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL). Several calls under the work programmes 2021 and 2022 of the DIGITAL and the digital strand of CEF include actions that will later be taken over by the Union Secure Connectivity Programme under the Quantum Communication infrastructure objective.

Grants to beneficiaries will start being signed as of the end of 2022 and in 2023. The total amount already allocated to Quantum Communication activities under DIGITAL and CEF is EUR 260 million in 2021 and 2022. Since an amount of EUR 260 million from DIGITAL and CEF has already been implemented, it will be deducted from the financial envelope of the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2027. Thus, the overall amount devoted to activities related to secure connectivity during this MFF remains unchanged at EUR 2.4 billion. Only the distribution between to be earmarked amounts under CEF and DIGITAL and the budget lines of the new programme will vary.”

Statement by Greece

“Statement of the Hellenic Republic on the Regulation establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027

Greece was from the very beginning a strong supporter of the Commission's secure connectivity initiative and welcomes the swift completion of the Regulation establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027 and hopefully beyond.

Connectivity is a core political priority for Greece and this has been reflected in its RRF programme. Blending space and terrestrial infrastructure can provide connectivity in a secure and resilient manner, which is necessary for our governments, economy and society. Greece has its own GOVSATOM system ("GreeCom"), participates actively in EU programmes such as Galileo, Copernicus and EuroQCI, is one of the members of the SST Consortium and has launched a national microsatellite project aiming to strengthen and maximise the engagement of all space actors, utilise and expand its infrastructure and respond to the needs for secure connectivity.

In this spirit, Greece underlines the need to ensure a balanced distribution of the Union Secure Connectivity Programme's capacities among the Member States and stresses the absolute necessity to guarantee the interoperability and the complementarity of the Union Programme with the national relevant activities, capacities and infrastructure during the preparation, the development, the implementation and the running of the Programme.”

Statement by Croatia

“The Republic of Croatia expresses its full support for the adoption of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027.

However, the Republic of Croatia reiterates its discontent with the current Croatian linguistic version of the proposal for the Regulation, i.e. with the Croatian equivalent of the English term “cyber” and its derivatives into the Croatian language, an issue which we have continuously raised on several levels within the Council during the last few years.

The current Croatian version of the proposal for the Regulation uses terminology that is non-existent in Croatian cyber legislation and professional use, thus creating confusion and undermining legal certainty, coherence and clarity.

The Republic of Croatia reiterates its position that the terminology used by the EU institutions should be aligned with already existing national legal terminology in order to ensure legal certainty.

The Republic of Croatia remains committed to promoting secure communications with a new constellation of satellites and continues to support the adoption of the Regulation.”

Health

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| 29. | Regulation amending Regulations (EU) 2017/745 and (EU) 2017/746 as regards transitional provisions for certain medical devices (MDR) and in vitro diagnostic medical devices (IVDR)
<i>Adoption of the legislative act</i>
<i>Decision to derogate from the eight-week period provided for in Article 4 of Protocol 1 on the role of national parliaments in the EU</i> | 6728/23
PE-CONS 1/23
SAN |
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Agriculture

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| 30. | Council Decision on the conclusion of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with Guyana on forest law, enforcement, governance and trade in timber products
<i>Adoption</i> | 6585/23
9272/22
FORETS |
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Research

- | | | |
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| 31. | Conclusions on ECA SR No 23/2022 on “Synergies between Horizon 2020 and European Structural and Investment Funds”
<i>Approval</i> | 6558/23
RECH |
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FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2023

Environment

Transferred from Wednesday's meeting

28. Revision of Regulation (EU) 2019/631 setting CO2 emission performance standards for new passenger cars and for new light commercial vehicles
Adoption of the legislative act
- 6740/1/23 REV 1
+ ADD 1 REV 1
PE-CONS 66/22
CLIMA

The Committee agreed to remove the item from the agenda of the EYCS Council on 7 March.

Statement by Poland

“Poland firmly opposes the adoption of this legislative act.

It is not in favour of the new fees and burdens being passed on to citizens, e.g. by increasing the cost of access to fuels. Any additional costs resulting from the new burdens should be borne by manufacturers and not passed on to citizens. EU legislation should provide an incentive for car manufacturers to offer zero-emission vehicles at the lowest possible cost to citizens. It should also take into account the differing circumstances of the individual Member States so as to avoid exacerbating social stratification, poverty or exclusion.

Trends aimed at reducing vehicle emissions should take account of the market potential in terms of both the technological particularities of vehicle or vehicle equipment manufacturers and the economic aspects, with due regard for the financial capacity of the country's citizens. Furthermore, Poland cannot accept the inclusion of exemptions for manufacturers of certain luxury brands; this is incompatible with the general principle that emissions should be reduced by all sectors in a manner which is socially fair. In times of crisis, derogations should be directed at the poorest citizens rather than at luxury car manufacturers. Poland therefore expresses its opposition to this legislative act.”

Statement by Italy

“Italy shares and is fully committed to the goal of decarbonizing the road transport sector, as the reduction of the sector's CO2 emissions, notably those deriving from passenger cars and light duty vehicles, is essential in order to achieve the Union's climate objectives.

We believe that, in the road transport sector, the decarbonization has to be pursued in adherence to the principles of an economically viable and socially fair transition towards zero emissions and of technological neutrality.

We certainly support the electrification of light vehicles. We do not believe, however, that it should represent, in the transition phase, the only pathway to reach zero emissions.

Electrification requires significant changes in the overall automotive sector that have to be planned and guided with due attention, in order to avoid undesired economic, industrial and social effects. Cars with thermic engines are owned by low-income citizens and will remain in circulation beyond 2035. The success of electric cars will very much depend on how they will become affordable for those citizens.

Meanwhile, technological neutrality will allow Member States to avail themselves of all solutions at their disposal for decarbonizing the transport sector, according to their national circumstances and starting points. The use of renewable fuels, compatible with thermic engines, will ensure an immediate emissions reduction without requesting disproportionate economic sacrifices to citizens. Forcing electrification may, to the contrary, bear the risk of a

lack of market acceptance, that can damage cars and vans manufactures. It would also prevent the technological development of hybrid engines with very low environmental impact.

From an industrial point of view, an increased demand of renewable fuels will offer an important opportunity for conversion to the petrochemicals sector.

By establishing a 100% emissions reduction target in 2035 and by not envisaging any incentive for the use renewable fuels, the proposed Regulation is not in line with the technological neutrality principle. Therefore, Italy cannot support it.

We recall that the achievement of a 100% emissions reduction target depends upon several conditions, including:

- the development of an electric engines and batteries value chain in the Union;
- a sustainable and diversified supply of the required raw materials;
- adequate recharging and refueling infrastructures;
- an improvement of the electricity network, so that it can cope with the increased demand;
- an adaptation of the overall automotive sector, also with through the provision of the necessary skills;
- the acceptance by the market of the new vehicles, which should become available at an affordable price, particularly for families and the most vulnerable consumers.

If such conditions, whose fulfilment is not depending on the implementation of Regulation 2019/631 alone and will require significant investments and compensation measures, are not met, the impact of the target would be severe, in economic, social and environmental terms, as well as for the strategic autonomy of the Union.

We note, in this regard, that so far, the approach chosen by the Union for the automotive sector is prevalently regulatory, while US (with IRA) and China have also adopted stimulus plans.

We therefore believe that the Commission should:

- support, with all the available means, legislative and financial, the transition of the automotive sector, particularly SMEs;
- timely and exhaustively monitor and report on progress towards zero emissions road mobility, considering all factors that contribute to a cost-efficient and just transition, including an assessment of possible funding gaps, as identified in the Regulation (article 14a);
- ensure, on abovementioned monitoring, assessment and report, a rigorous and credible review of the targets in 2026, as provided in the Regulation (article 15);
- follow up on the provision on registering after 2035 vehicles running exclusively on CO2 neutral fuels (preamble 11);
- make a proposal for including in the Regulation mechanisms accounting for the benefits, in terms of CO2 emissions reduction, of renewable fuels.”

Foreign Affairs

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| 32. Council Decision and Implementing Regulation concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses | 6756/23
6752/23
6755/23
CORLX |
| <i>Adoption</i> | |

COREPER (PART 2)

Judicial Affairs

40. Case T-23/23 (Application for annulment) 6709/23
Information note JUR

Institutional Affairs

Appointments

41. Three members and two alternate members (DE) of the 6288/23
Committee of the Regions 6287/23
Adoption CDR
42. A member (IT) of the Committee of the Regions 6529/23
Adoption 6528/23
CDR
43. A member and two alternate members (SI) of the Committee of 6310/23
the Regions 6309/23
Adoption CDR

Other

44. Attendance of a third party at the Eastern Europe and Central 6759/23
Asia Working Party (COEST) on 9 March 2023 COEST
Approval
45. Attendance of an additional third party at the Working Party on 6696/23
Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) on 9 March 2023 COHAFA
Approval
46. Attendance of third parties at the Asia-Oceania Working Party 6637/23
on 16 March 2023 COASI
Approval
47. Attendance of third parties at the EUMC Working 6567/23
Group/Headline Goal Task Force (HTF) on 16 March 2023 EUMC
Approval

Letters

48. Partial renewal of the European Court of Auditors 6025/23
Approval of a letter CMPT

Transparency

49. Public access to documents request 23/0218 6719/23
Decision to make the statements public POLCOM

Economic and Financial Affairs

50. ECA SR No 4/2023 on the Global Climate Change Alliance(+) 6604/23
Designation of a Working Party FIN
Attendance of the European Court of Auditors at the Working Party meeting
51. Regulation on European long-term investment funds (ELTIF) 6431/23
Adoption of the legislative act PE-CONS 69/22
EF

General Affairs

52. Conclusions on ECA SR No 27/2022 on EU support to cross- 6564/23
border cooperation with neighbouring countries COH
Approval
53. Regulation on autonomous measures in the implementation of 6715/23 + ADD 1
the TCA and the Withdrawal Agreement PE-CONS 77/22
Adoption of the legislative act UK

Joint statement by Hungary and Poland

“In accordance with the Treaties, the information rights of the EP are not on par with those of the Council in the context of the implementation of international agreements. The extended information provision by the Commission to the European Parliament under this regulation is justified by the special nature of the Withdrawal Agreement and the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, i.e. that these have been concluded with a former EU member state.

Accordingly, nothing in this Regulation can be regarded as an expansive interpretation of Article 218 (10) TFEU, which lays down the prerogative of the European Parliament to be informed in the course of the negotiation and conclusion of international agreements. Consequently, we deem that information to be provided to the European Parliament in the context of the implementation of the Agreements in question, as prescribed in recital 5 (c), goes beyond respective institutional powers under the Treaties, does not set a general precedent and should not be repeated in future implementing regulations of international agreements concluded by the EU.”

Justice and Home Affairs

54. Regulation on Kosovo* visa liberalisation
Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons
- 6714/1/23 REV 1
6714/23 ADD 1
5103/23
+ ADD 1 REV 1
VISA

Statement by Romania

“Romania recalls that the adoption by the Council of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1806 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (Kosovo*) is without prejudice to its position on the status of Kosovo*.

In line with the above, Romania underlines that, with reference to paragraph 5 of the Preamble of the Regulation, is not bound to conclude a readmission agreement with Kosovo*.”

Statement by Slovakia

“With regard to the adoption of the Council's position at first reading on Regulation on Kosovo* visa liberalisation the Slovak Republic would like to recall its Statement, as follows:

The Slovak Republic regrets that the final presidency compromise proposal doesn't reflect the Slovak position submitted during the written consultation on paragraph 5, reflecting the language of Roadmap towards a visa-free regime with Kosovo*, Ad I. Requirements related to Readmission and Reintegration, part Readmission, stating - *Ensure that readmission procedures, conducted through the appropriate channels, function in relation to all Member States.*

The Slovak Republic believes that the above mentioned amendment would ensure the clarity and removed the ambiguity in the interpretation.”

55. Conclusions on the Action Plan for the European Forensic Science Area 2.0
Approval
- 6745/23
ENFOPOL

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Foreign Affairs

56. EU-Albania Stabilisation and Association Council
(16 March 2023)
Establishment of the EU position 6700/23
ELARG
- Statement by Hungary is set out in document 6700/23 ADD 1.
- Statement by Poland is set out in the ADD 1 to this document.
57. EU Priorities UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy (GCTS)
Review 2023 6704/23
Approval COTER
- Statement by Poland is set out in the ADD 1 to this document.
58. Restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and
abuses: coordination with third states 6739/23
Approval COHOM
59. PSC Decision EUMAM Ukraine/1/2023: acceptance of a third
state's contribution 6771/23
Decision to publish in the Official Journal 6490/23
PSC DEC
60. List of Global Gateway flagship projects for 2023 6738/23
Endorsement RELEX
61. Council Decision on an assistance measure under the European
Peace Facility to support the Nigerien Armed Forces in
conjunction with the EU military partnership mission in Niger 5655/23
Adoption 5654/23
CORLX
62. Council Decision on an assistance measure taking the form of a
general programme for support to the African Union under the
European Peace Facility for the period 2022-2024 5760/23
Adoption 5759/23
CORLX
63. Council Decision and Implementing Regulation concerning
restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and
bodies in view of the situation in Ukraine 6415/23
Adoption 6412/23
6414/23
CORLX
64. Council Decision amending Decision (CFSP) 2021/698 to
include the Union Secure Connectivity Programme 11011/22
Adoption 11009/22
CORLX

65. Restrictive measures in view of the situation in Myanmar/Burma
- pre-notifications
Approval 6831/23
CORLX

EU positions for international negotiations

66. Council Decision on the EU position to be taken at the 66th
session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on international
scheduling of new psychoactive substances
Adoption 6353/23
6157/23
CORDROGUE

Statement by the Commission

“The Commission will not oppose the adoption of the revised text of the Union position for the scheduling of new psychoactive substances at the next meeting of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), but wishes to make the following statement:

The Commission reiterates its position that the decisions concerned by this proposal are adopted by qualified majority and are a matter of exclusive Union competence because Union law, in this case in the area of drug control, will be directly and automatically affected by the scheduling decisions of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Commission underlines that this position refers to international scheduling decisions under the 1961 UN Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances and not to drugs policy in general.”
