

Brussels, 27 May 2026
(OR. en)

7905/1/26
REV 1
PV CONS 21
AGRI 237
PECHE 115
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Agriculture and Fisheries)
30 March 2026

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 7462/26 with the addition:

- at the request of Germany, of an “any other business” item on “the need for clear improvement and simplification of Union fisheries legislation, in particular the draft weighing provisions” (new item 6(i)); and
- at the request of France and Italy, of an “any other business” item on the “Urgent need for temporary neutralisation of the effects of the carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) on fertiliser prices” (new item 6(d)(iv)).

The Council also agreed to hold the additional item requested by Germany in public session as per Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

2. Approval of "A" items

- a) **Non-legislative list** 7708/26 + COR1

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

Statements to these items are set out in the Addendum.

- b) **Legislative list** (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union) 7709/26

Internal Market and Industry

1. Package Travel Directive

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 25.3.2026




7301/1/26 REV 1
+ REV 1 ADD 1
PE-CONS 4/26
CONSOM

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Article 114 TFEU).

A statement by Italy is set out in the Annex.


Environment

2. **Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 setting CO₂ emission performance standards for heavy-duty vehicles**  7430/1/26 REV 1
+ ADD 1 REV 1
PE-CONS 12/26
+ COR 1
CLIMA
Adoption of the legislative act
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 25.3.2026

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Article 192(1) TFEU).


Statements by France, Malta and a joint statement by Slovakia and the Czech Republic is set out in the Annex.

Foreign Affairs

3. **Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2021/947 as regards External Action Guarantee**  7428/26
PE-CONS 8/26
NDICI
Adoption of the legislative act
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 25.3.2026

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Article 209 and Article 212 TFEU).

Justice and Home Affairs

4. **Directive harmonising certain aspects of insolvency law**  7426/3/26 REV 3
+ REV 2 ADD 1
REV 1
PE-CONS 64/25
JUSTCIV
Adoption of the legislative act
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 25.3.2026

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (with Belgium, Czechia, Hungary, Austria and Spain abstaining) (legal basis: Article 114 TFEU).

A statement by Spain is set out in the Annex.

5. Regulation establishing an EU Talent Pool

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 25.3.2026



7427/26 + ADD 1

PE-CONS 62/25

MIGR

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, with Hungary and the Netherlands abstaining (legal basis: Article 79(2), point (a) TFEU). In accordance with the relevant Protocols annexed to the Treaties, Denmark did not participate in the vote.

Statements by Hungary and the Netherlands are set out in the Annex.

Research

6. Council Decision laying down the measures necessary for the implementation of Protocol No 37 on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel

Agreement in principle

Request for the consent of the European Parliament

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 25.3.2026



7015/26

6884/26

COMPET

The Council reached an agreement in principle on the Decision and decided to request the consent of the European Parliament in accordance with the first paragraph of Article 2 of Protocol No 37 on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel.

Non-legislative activities

FISHERIES

3. **Energy transition in the EU fisheries and aquaculture sectors** 7190/26
Exchange of views

Item 3 was taken together with item 6(a).

The Council held an exchange of views on the Energy Transition Roadmap in fisheries and aquaculture. The Council also took note of the information provided by Italy on the impact of increasing input costs on the fishing industry.

AGRICULTURE

4. **Vision for agriculture and food: one year of implementation** 7366/26
Information from the Commission
Exchange of views

Item 4 was taken together with items 6(d)(i), (ii) and (iv).

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission and held an exchange of views on the implementation of the Vision for Agriculture and Food.

The Council also took note of the information from Hungary on behalf of Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, and Bulgaria and Romania, of the information from Spain and Portugal, supported by Austria, Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, and of the information from France and Italy.

5. **Trade-related agricultural issues** 5996/26
Information from the Commission
Exchange of views

Any other business

6. Fisheries

- a) **Urgent actions to address the crisis in the EU fisheries and aquaculture** 7732/26
Information from Italy

Item 6(a) was taken together with item 3.

- b) **Implementation dialogue on small-scale and coastal fisheries (24 November 2025)** 7693/26
Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission, and of the comments made by delegations.

- c) Call for an urgent resumption of negotiations for a global agreement between Coastal States on sustainable management of the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock 7724/26
Information from France and the Netherlands

Agriculture

- d) **Current legislative proposal (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)** 7694/26
- i) **Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad group and Bulgaria and Romania on the post 2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and the Common Agricultural Policy** 7695/26
Information from Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia



Item 6(d)(i) was taken together with item 4.

- ii) **CAP Strategic Plans - National Partnership Plans: transitional provisions for sectoral interventions in the wine sector and in the fruit and vegetable sector** 7695/26
Information from Spain and Portugal



Item 6(d)(ii) was taken together with item 4.

- e) **Promotion of the use of digestate in Europe**  7687/26
Information from Italy

The Council took note of the information provided by Italy, and of delegations' comments.


- d) **(continuation) Current legislative proposal (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)**  
- iii) **Necessary amendments to the automatic safeguard clause in the GSP Regulation** 7674/26
Information from Italy

The Council took note of the information provided by Italy, supported by Bulgaria and Hungary, and of delegations' comments.

- f) **European milk market under pressure: the need for a coordinated European response**  7746/26
Information from Slovakia
- g) **European dairy market situation – the need for a European response**  7681/26
Information from Belgium

Items 6(f) and (g) were taken together.

The Council took note of the information provided by Slovakia, supported by Bulgaria, Hungary and Italy, and by Belgium, supported by Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and of delegations' comments.

- h) **The financial ceilings for direct payments for claim year 2027**  7696/1/26 REV 1
Information from Poland

The Council took note of the information provided by Poland, and supported by Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Malta, Portugal and Romania, and of delegation's comments.

- i) **Need for clear improvement and simplification of Union fisheries legislation, in particular the draft weighing provisions** ☐² 7820/26
Information from Germany

The Council took note of the information provided by Germany.

- d) **(continuation) Current legislative proposal (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)** ☐¹☐^C
- iv) **Urgent need for temporary neutralisation of the effects of the carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) on fertiliser prices** 7817/26
Information from France and Italy

Item 6(d)(iv) was taken together with item 4.

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- ☐¹ First reading
- ☐^C Item based on a Commission proposal
- ☐² Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)
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Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 7709/26**Ad "A" item 1:** **Package Travel Directive**
*Adoption of the legislative act***STATEMENT BY ITALY**

“Italy votes in favour of the adoption of Directive [2023/0435 (COD)], acknowledging the efforts made to balance consumer protection with the needs of the tourism sector.

However, Italy wishes to place on record its deep concern regarding the recurrence of events of global significance following the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the war in Ukraine and the conflicts in the Middle East and the Gulf, which have a direct impact on the economies of the Member States and the European Union, including the tourism sector and, in particular, the resilience of the organised tourism sector. In particular, Italy expresses its concern regarding Articles 12 and 12-bis, relating to the right of withdrawal and the regulation of vouchers, which have not adequately taken into account the disruptive impact of events such as those mentioned, which require flexibility and must be addressed with systemic tools so as not to impose disproportionate financial and organisational burdens on operators, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. In recent years, organised tourism operators have all too often found themselves having to shoulder the burden of unforeseen events – such as the recent conflict – whose scale and economic impact are far too great for their business models, and which have nothing to do with the standard consumer protection that lies at the heart of the Package Travel Directive, which we are about to approve in its revised form. Insurance cover or other standard private-law remedies either exclude or fail to adequately protect the organised tourism sector against acts of war or crises that undermine the safety of travellers on routes or in areas of strategic importance to the European Union.

Italy therefore calls on the Commission to closely monitor the impact of the lack of any flexibility in the rules regarding the events mentioned, and stands ready to collaborate on the development of corrective measures in the future or to propose to the European Commission the establishment of a funding facility, for example under the Competitiveness Fund, or a state aid scheme for these emergencies, which have proven to be recurrent in nature and which clearly have serious systemic impacts on the organised tourism sector and, in turn, in various ways, on final consumers.”

Ad "A" item 2: **Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 setting CO₂ emission performance standards for heavy-duty vehicles**
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY FRANCE

“France can support the proposed revision of the regulation on CO₂ emissions from heavy-duty vehicles.

However, France reiterates its regret that no impact assessment was provided with the proposed amendment presented by the European Commission, even though the proposed revision substantially alters the functioning of the emission credit mechanism provided for in the regulation. France believes that the technical work would have warranted a thorough discussion to examine how flexibility could be introduced.

France emphasises that this proposal could significantly reduce the environmental ambition of the measures and weaken the market signal in favour of the electrification of heavy-duty vehicles. It is, however, essential to maintain strong regulatory incentives for the electrification and decarbonisation of heavy-duty vehicles. Manufacturers have invested heavily in this and are now offering electric alternatives to combustion-engine models, as well as lower-emission internal combustion engines. We note that these investments enabled the majority of manufacturers to meet the regulation’s targets in 2025. France therefore believes that work on the essential enabling conditions for achieving medium- and long-term decarbonisation targets is the priority and must be at the heart of the 2027 review.”

STATEMENT BY MALTA

“Malta wishes to underline the structural constraints characterising its heavy-duty vehicle market. As a very small market, fully dependent on imports and operating exclusively with right-hand-drive vehicles, Malta faces limited capacity to influence supply chains or to benefit from economies of scale.

In this context, whilst understanding the need to introduce targeted flexibility for manufacturers, Malta encourages close monitoring of the availability of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles across all Member States and reiterates the importance of exploring complementary demand-side support measures, in order to facilitate uptake where economies of scale remain limited. Such support would help ensure that the benefits of the transition are distributed equitably and that no Member State is left behind.

Malta remains fully committed to the Union’s climate objectives and stands ready to continue working constructively with the Commission and other partners to ensure that the transition to zero-emission mobility is both ambitious and inclusive.”

STATEMENT BY SLOVAKIA AND CZECH REPUBLIC

“The Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic support the adoption of the targeted revision of Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 and recommend its swift adoption without further amendments.

At the same time, we underline, where appropriate, the need to consider an earlier comprehensive review of the CO₂ emission performance standards for heavy-duty vehicles, ahead of the currently envisaged 2027 timeline.”

Ad "A" item 4: **Directive harmonising certain aspects of insolvency law**
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY SPAIN

“Spain considers that progress on the legal insolvency framework is important to make our companies more competitive. However, we are abstaining. We regret that the text reintroduces the legal concept of the creditors’ committee, even though it is limited to large companies only. This institution was repealed a long time ago because of its inefficiency and high costs. We, like other Member States, have other creditor protection mechanisms that are more efficient and performing very well.

The text of Title IV of the pre-pack is not sufficiently ambitious; we should have gone further with the mechanisms to protect against abuses committed in creditor fraud. More ambition was also needed in the mechanisms that allow for continuity in the productive unit’s activity, in order to keep the business fabric operational.”

Ad "A" item 5: **Regulation establishing an EU Talent Pool**
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY

“Hungary appreciates the Presidency’s efforts to establish a Talent Pool.

At the same time, we believe that the labour shortage in Europe stems primarily from the continent’s demographic challenges, which Hungary does not seek to address by encouraging migration.

We believe that the involvement of labour from outside the European Union can serve at most as a temporary solution. Hungarian employment policy remains committed to protecting the Hungarian labour market, representing the interests of domestic workers, and addressing labour shortages in a targeted manner.

The proposal offers limited added value for the labour market at EU level, in view of which Hungary does not wish to participate in operating the system. Voluntary participation is a fundamental element of the proposal. Hungary respects how other Member States wish to address their own labour market needs.

While acknowledging the efforts of the Presidency, for the reasons set out above, Hungary will abstain from voting on adopting the regulation.”

STATEMENT BY THE NETHERLANDS

“The Netherlands recognises that the EU Talent Pool can contribute to alleviating labour market shortages in Member States. We also recognise that proposals such as the EU Talent Pool Regulation can make a positive contribution to the migration dialogue with partner countries of origin and transit. During the interinstitutional negotiations we extensively raised attention to the prevention of abuse and exploitation of third-country nationals. The Netherlands is of the opinion that the improper posting of third-country nationals in the EU-Member States should be prevented as much as possible, also in the specific context of the EU Talent Pool. Practices such as these place the third-country nationals in a vulnerable position, leading to a higher risk of labour exploitation, creating unfair competition between companies and a race to the bottom on labour conditions and circumventing national migration policies.

We should ensure that the EU Talent Pool does not further enable improper posting of third-country nationals. After all, the EU Talent Pool will not function to alleviate specific labour market shortages in Member States if third-country nationals can be posted quickly and for long periods of time to other (even non-participating) Member States. In doing so, posting in the context of the EU Talent Pool is not only undesirable for Member States that are trying to address labour market shortages, but also for jobseekers and receiving Member States.

We therefore believe additional EU action is required to promote genuine posting of third-country nationals and advocate for clarifying the legal framework surrounding the posting of third-country nationals. Legal clarity, for example via a new EU Directive, is a precondition for effective enforcement of the posting rules. Effective enforcement subsequently ensures an equal level playing field for companies and fair treatment of third-country nationals. Lastly, the challenges related to third-country nationals must be firmly embedded within the mandate of the European Labour Authority.”