



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 16 April 2024
(OR. en)

8341/24
PV CONS 16
ENV 374
CLIMA 141

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Environment)
25 March 2024

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 7839/24.

2. Approval of 'A' items

a) Non-legislative list

7979/24

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)

7980/24

Environment

Regulation on shipments of waste

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 1 on 20.03.2024



7571/24 + ADD 1
PE-CONS 84/23
ENVI

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 to this item are set out in the Annex.

Non-legislative activities

3. Communication on Europe's 2040 climate target

Exchange of views




7427/24 + COR 1

The Council held an exchange of views based on questions prepared by the Presidency, as set out in the document above.

Legislative deliberations

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

4. **Directive amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste**  7725/24
Policy debate

The Council held a policy debate based on questions prepared by the Presidency, as set out in the document above.


5. **Regulation on preventing plastic pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution**  7753/24
Policy debate

The Council held a policy debate based on questions prepared by the Presidency, as set out in the document above.


Any other business

6. a) **Communication on climate risk management**  7732/24
Presentation by the Commission


The Council took note of the presentation made by the Commission.

- b) **State of play of Member States' Progress towards 2030 Climate Objectives**  7779/24
Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission.


- c) **‘Karlový Vary Annual Policy Dialogue Statement’ and the need for strengthening just transition in regions affected by decarbonisation**  7833/24
Information from the Czech and Slovak delegations

The Council took note of the information provided by Czechia and Slovakia.


- d) **Stricter controls on exports of textile waste to developing countries**  7881/24
Information from the Danish, French and Swedish delegations

The Council took note of the information provided by Denmark, France and Sweden.


- e) **Call for actions to stop Russian waste imports to the EU** 8030/2/24 REV 2
Information from the Lithuanian delegation, supported by the Czech, Estonian and Latvian delegations

- f) **Report on the 8th Environment Action Programme Mid-Term Review**  7702/24
Presentation by the Commission



The Council took note of the presentation made by the Commission.

- g) **Reassessing the conservation status of brown bear populations across Europe**  7717/24
Information from the Romanian, Slovak and Finnish delegations

The Council took note of the information provided by Romania, Slovakia and Finland.

- h) **Report on high-level events organised by the Presidency**  8012/24
Information from the Presidency


The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency.

- i) **Current legislative proposals** (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)  


- i) **Regulation on a monitoring framework for resilient European forests** 7699/24

- ii) **Regulation on nature restoration**
Information from the Presidency



The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency.

- j) **Reports on main recent international meetings**  7780/1/24 REV 1
- i) **14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (COP 14) (Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 12-17 February 2024)**
- ii) **Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) (Nairobi, Kenya, 26 February-1 March 2024)** 7934/24
Information from the Presidency and the Commission




The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency and the Commission.

- k) **Ratification of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) – an updated call for urgent action**  7879/24
Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission.

- i) **(continued) Current legislative proposals** (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)  
- iii) **Proposal for a Regulation on the production and placing on the market of plant reproductive material in the Union** 7784/24
The importance of small farmers and farmers' networks for a sustainable EU Seed Regulation
Information from the Austrian delegation

The Council took note of the information provided by Austria.

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-  First reading
-  Item based on a Commission proposal
-  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" item set out in doc. 7980/24**Regulation on shipments of waste***Adoption of the legislative act***STATEMENT BY IRELAND**

“Ireland supports the adoption of the revised Waste Shipments Regulation as it provides a mechanism to better support the Circular Economy through a greater focus on the use of waste as a resource within the EU while also providing detailed procedures to improve the control of shipments of waste outside the EU with a view to ensuring that all waste exported from the EU is managed in an environmentally sound manner.”

JOINT STATEMENT BY BULGARIA, IRELAND AND THE NETHERLANDS

“In general, Bulgaria, Ireland and the Netherlands are positively disposed towards the revision of the Waste Shipment Regulation. We fully acknowledge the importance of regulating the shipment and management of waste according to the highest standards of environmental protection. Moreover, we recognize that export to third countries does not offer a sustainable solution to the EU’s waste challenges.

At the same time, it is of utmost importance that Article XI of the GATT is fully respected and that derogations from this provision are justifiable in light of the exceptions provided for in the GATT. Accordingly, Bulgaria, Ireland and the Netherlands emphasize the importance of exercising restraint in the introduction of export restrictions. While such measures may be justified and necessary to serve legitimate policy objectives, they should always be proportionate, targeted, transparent, temporally delineated, and consistent with WTO rules so that they do not create unnecessary barriers to trade, disruption to global supply chains or have unintended negative consequences.

Thus, we ask the Commission to continue monitoring the Regulation’s effects and assessing its consistency with the EU’s legal obligations under the relevant WTO agreements.”