



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 15 May 2013

8494/13

CRS/CRP 14

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 2448th meeting of the PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
held in Brussels on 17, 18, 19 April and in Luxembourg on 22 April 2013**

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1. Adoption of the provisional agenda and "I" items

doc. 8464/13 OJ/CRP1 14 + ADD 1

8462/1/13 REV 1 OJ/CRP2 14 + CM 2520/1/13 REV 1

The above-mentioned agendas are approved with the following changes :

The following items are **added**:

(Coreper Part 1, under I)

37. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/98/EC on re-use of public sector information (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)

- **Approval of the final compromise text**

8469/13 TELECOM 75 PI 55 COMPET 209 AUDIO 32 CULT 34 CODEC 830
+ ADD 1

(Coreper Part 2, under I)

64. Council Decision amending Decision 2012/739/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria

8559/13 PESC 421 COARM 65 COMEM 96 FIN 202

8442/13 PESC 407 COARM 61 COMEM 89 FIN 188 OC 215

(Coreper Part 2, under II)

65. Draft Council conclusions on Iraq

8490/13 COMEM 92 PESC 416

The following items are **withdrawn**:

(Coreper Part 1, under I)

19. (poss.) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 450/2008 laying down the Community Customs Code (Modernised Customs Code) as regards the date of its application (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)

- **Approval of the final compromise text**

8355/13 UD 78 ENFOCUSTOM 66 MI 278 COMER 78 TRANS 151
CODEC 785

(Coreper Part 2, under I)

- 48. (poss.) Political and Security Committee Decision BiH/20/2013 on the appointment of the Head of the EU Command Element at Naples for the European Union military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- **Authorisation for publication in the Official Journal**
8404/13 COSDP 330 PESC 398 BIH 24 PSC DEC 5 COWEB 49
7914/13 COSDP 280 PESC 346 BIH 20 PSC DEC 4 COWEB 42
- 54. Administrative Arrangement between the European Defence Agency and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia**
- **Approval**
8499/13 COSDP 340 POLARM 1 IND 104 RECH 105 ECO 61 CH 16

The Committee approved the "I" items as set out in the summary. Details are contained in the document quoted under item 1.

Statements are made on the following item :

21. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on food intended for infants and young children, food for special medical purposes, and total diet replacement for weight control and repealing Council Directive 92/52/EEC, Commission Directives 96/8/EC, 1999/21/EC, 2006/125/EC and 2006/141/EC, Directive 2009/39/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Regulations (EC) No 41/2009 and (EC) No 953/2009 (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)

- Adoption of

(a) the Council's position in first reading

(b) the statement of the Council reasons

5394/13 DENLEG 4 AGRI 20 SAN 17 CODEC 94 OC 21

+ ADD 1 REV 1

8351/13 CODEC 783 DENLEG 33 AGRI 235 SAN 122 OC 201

Statement by the Federal Republic of Germany

Proposal for a Regulation on food intended for infants and young children and on food for special medical purposes

"Germany is opposed to the current proposal for a Regulation on food intended for infants and young children and on food for special medical purposes.

Germany has always supported revision of the European legislation on dietetic foods in principle. The desired objectives of simpler and better regulation and more far-reaching harmonisation of this area of law are not, in Germany's view, adequately achieved by the proposed Regulation.

In particular, Germany considers that the new Regulation does not take adequate account of the special level of protection required for highly vulnerable target groups. The German view is that, for reasons of preventive health protection, it is problematic to allow the unrestricted addition of various substances added, because of their nutritional or physiological effect, to foodstuffs within the scope of the Regulation.

In this context, Germany observes inter alia an irreconcilable discrepancy between the stringent requirements of the Health Claims Regulation on the scientific verifiability of nutrition and health claims in food advertising on the one hand, and the clearly less stringent safety requirements with regard to preventive consumer health protection in relation to foods for special medical purposes on the other.

Furthermore, the proposed Regulation no longer contains the procedure for approving an extension of the positive list that was originally included, so that the addition of substances not hitherto covered in the positive list is now left to the sole initiative of the European Commission. Food producers are thereby deprived of the possibility of obtaining European approval for a substance by a clearly regulated procedure and thus securing legal certainty for innovations. The new Regulation consequently does not meet the requirement to promote innovation."

Statement by the United Kingdom

"The United Kingdom supports the aim to simplify the regulatory framework for foods for vulnerable groups and considers that the proposed text largely achieves this objective. However, the UK does not support the use of delegated acts to amend the Union list of substances and therefore is unable to support the proposal. Decisions on the authorisation of individual substances should be achieved by means of implementing acts using the examination procedure in Regulation (EU) 182/2011. The use of a delegated act in this particular circumstance must not be considered as a precedent for other areas of food policy."

Statements are made on the following item :

22. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council derogating temporarily from Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community (First reading) (Legislative deliberation + Statement)

- Adoption of the legislative act

PE-CONS 11/13 ENV 217 AVIATION 46 MI 203 IND 73 ENER 94 CODEC 592
OC 149

8352/13 CODEC 784 ENV 287 AVIATION 58 MI 277 IND 99 ENER 121 OC 202
+ ADD 1

Statement by Poland

"Throughout the negotiations Poland had been consistently pointing out that the proposal for a *Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council derogating temporarily from Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community* as presented by the European Commission provides only for a partial solution to the problem which has arisen in the application of the ETS in the aviation sector. Poland has been of the opinion that the optimum solution would have to cover all the flights, both to and from the EU as well as within the EU. As the text negotiated with the European Parliament does not provide a response to Polish concerns, yet endeavours to facilitate the global climate negotiations, Poland will abstain from voting."

Statement by the United Kingdom

"The British Crown Dependencies - the Isle of Man, the Bailiwick of Guernsey, and the Bailiwick of Jersey - recognise that the purpose of "stop the clock" is to improve the prospects of securing a global deal within the framework of ICAO in September 2013. The Crown Dependencies strongly support this objective. The Crown Dependencies also recognise that the inclusion of certain third countries (ie the Overseas and Dependent Territories, and the EEA/EFTA countries) is helpful for the EU's negotiating position ahead of the ICAO meeting.

For this reason, the Crown Dependencies are, exceptionally, prepared to accept continued inclusion within the EU ETS aviation scheme on the temporary basis set out in the Commission "stop the clock" proposal in order to maximise the chances of securing a global deal within the framework of ICAO.

However in the event of no global agreement being reached in September within the framework of ICAO, the UK supports the view of the Crown Dependencies governments that the exclusion of the dependent territories from the temporary derogation should not be treated as a precedent for any successor regime which may or may not be required after the expiry of the temporary measure.

In such an event (ie no global agreement in ICAO), the UK would expect the Commission to engage in full and timely consultations with all interested parties, including the Crown Dependencies, before submitting any proposal for a successor to the temporary “stop the clock” regime."

SE made a statement on the following item :

53. Democratic People's Republic of Korea

- **Council Decision concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and repealing Decision 2010/800/CFSP**
8428/13 PESC 404 COASI 51 COARM 59 FIN 186 CONUN 43
7778/13 PESC 329 COASI 44 COARM 48 FIN 147 CONUN 35 OC 162

"Even if Sweden did not break the silence procedure (of the I/A note), Sweden does not find it acceptable to bind up the EU to a coming decision through this kind of note.

Furthermore, even if Sweden this time accepted the wording in the note on a continued discussion on EU autonomous measures, Sweden has not by this procedure agreed to additional restrictive measures."

Coreper Part 1

II

23. Preparation of the Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 22 April 2013

1. Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (First reading) (*Legislative deliberation*)

(a) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy

= Orientation debate

12514/11 PECHE 187 CODEC 1166

7959/13 PECHE 120 CODEC 681

The Committee prepared the item and forwarded it to Council.

(b) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Organisation of the Markets in Fishery and Aquaculture Products

= State of play

12516/11 PECHE 188 CODEC 1167

7959/13 PECHE 120 CODEC 681

The Committee prepared the item and forwarded it to Council.

2. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on "Action Plan for reducing incidental catches of seabirds in fishing gears" (*Non legislative activity*)

- Presentation by the Commission

16518/12 PECHE 487 ENV 873

The Committee prepared the item and forwarded it to Council.

24. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2009/16/EC on port State control (First reading) (*Legislative deliberation*)

- Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue

- Analysis of the final compromise text with a view to agreement

8320/13 MAR 36 TRANS 146 SOC 231 CODEC 774

The Committee examined and approved the final compromise text and gave the Presidency the mandate to send a letter to the European Parliament confirming the agreement at first reading.

- 25. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning flag State responsibilities for the enforcement of Council Directive 2009/13/EC implementing the Agreement concluded by the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) on the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, and amending Directive 1999/63/EC (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)**
- **Preparation for the informal trilogue**
8250/13 MAR 34 TRANS 143 SOC 226 CODEC 752

The Committee examined the outstanding issues and gave the Presidency a broad mandate to negotiate with the European Parliament at the informal trilogue on 25 April 2013.

- 26. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... amending Directive 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators as regards the placing on the market of portable batteries and accumulators containing cadmium intended for use in cordless power tools (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)**
- **Preparation for the informal trilogue**
8249/13 ENV 279 ENT 102 CODEC 751
+ COR 1

The Committee agreed to give the Presidency a mandate on the basis of the text in the third column of the Annex to document 8249/13 + COR 1. In particular, the Committee did not indicate flexibility with the proposed deadline for exemption of cadmium batteries and accumulators and with inter-institutional matters.

- 27. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2000/60/EC and 2008/105/EC as regards priority substances in the field of water policy (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)**
- **Analysis of the final compromise text with a view to agreement**
8186/13 ENV 269 SAN 119 CHIMIE 40 AGRILEG 44 CODEC 740
+ COR 1
8394/13 ENV 290 SAN 123 CHIMIE 43 AGRILEG 47 CODEC 801

Following the exchange of views, which focused in particular on the Commission justification on explanatory documents (doc. 8394/13) and on the draft Commission declarations (advance copy in DS 1304/13), the Committee agreed for the Presidency to send the letter to the European Parliament together with the compromise text with a view to an agreement in first reading on this proposal.

As regards the recital (23a) on explanatory documents and the justification provided, the Commission:

- undertook, from now on, to respect the joint political declarations, by providing the justification in time to allow for a debate on the need to insert a recital on explanatory documents, in other legislative acts;
- confirmed the declaration made at the moment of the adoption of the joint political declarations on 28 September 2011 that "the political declarations on the explanatory documents as such do not provide a basis for launching infringement proceedings for the absence of such explanatory documents";
- reassured delegations as to the fact that any decision on the launch of infringement procedures is taken at political level by the College and is not triggered automatically if explanatory documents are not forwarded with the notification of transposition. The software presently in use will be checked and if contradictions become apparent they will be rectified.

As regards the draft declarations: the Commission took note of the concerns expressed by many delegations as regards its remarks on the legal suitability of provisions in Article 3 of the Directive.

The Council Legal Service, whilst recalling that the procedure in the joint political declaration had not been followed, said that the failure to provide explanatory documents would not in itself lead to a finding of infringement by the Court. Such a finding would depend on an actual breach of the Directive. As regards the Commission declarations, the CLS took the view that it was lawful to make the date of application dependent upon the existence of an objective circumstance, such as the availability of the technical guidelines. Finally, the CLS reiterated its disagreement with the view expressed by the Commission in relation to comitology and the "no opinion" clause.

Germany made the following statement :

"We agree with the Presidency proposal on Article 3 (1a)(ii) in document 8186/13. However, we would like to clarify our interpretation of this point once again.

Directive 2000/60/EC does not envisage notifying the Commission of the programmes of measures. The new requirement to submit the preliminary programmes of measures would constitute a special regulation for this substance group, which we reject in principle.

In order to reach agreement in the first reading, we accept the submission of the preliminary programme, whereby our understanding is that this programme will be kept general (in particular not be detailed to the water body level), and that there is no obligation to submit the final programme of measures.

Furthermore, the basic principle taken up in Article 3 of requiring the prevention of deterioration is already anchored in Directive 2000/60/EC and therefore superfluous here. Our agreement to Article 3 is made on the basis of the interpretation set out above."

28. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings (Accounting Directive) (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)

- **Analysis of the final compromise text with a view to agreement**
8328/13 DRS 68 COMPET 198 ECOFIN 250 CODEC 778

The Committee:

- took note of the oral statement from the Chair and the Commission as regards the interpretation of Article 17(1)(a) and Recital 13a;
- agreed to the compromise text on the Accounting Directive as set out in 8328/13 + COR 1; and
- gave to the Chairman of the Committee the mandate to inform the Chair of the European Parliament's JURI Committee that, should the European Parliament adopt the amendments to the Commission proposal in the exact form as set out in the Annex to this note, subject to legal-linguistic verification of all the language versions by legal-linguists of both Institutions, the Council would adopt the Directive in the form of the Commission proposal as thus amended by the Parliament.

29. Horizon 2020

- (a) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)**
- (b) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020" - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)**
- **Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue**

The Committee has been informed on the outcome of the informal trilogue with the European Parliament on the Horizon 2020 proposals.

30. Public procurement package (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)

- (a) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on public procurement**
- (b) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors**
- (c) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the award of concession contracts**
- **Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue**

The Committee was debriefed on the third informal trilogue on Classical and on the second informal trilogue on Concessions files, held respectively on 10 and 18 April 2013 and took note of the Presidency's intentions on the further work on those files.

31. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down Union Customs Code (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)

- **Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue**
- **(poss.) Preparation for the informal trilogue**
8427/13 UD 82 ENFOCUSTOM 69 MI 286 COMER 82 TRANS 157 CODEC 814

The Committee, having been debriefed on the third informal trilogue held on 10 April 2013, gave a mandate to the Presidency to negotiate at the trilogue meeting scheduled on 23 April 2013 on the basis of the package deal laid down in Annex I to document 8427/13.

32. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Union guidelines for the development of the Trans-European Transport Network (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)

- **Preparation for the informal trilogue**
8232/13 TRANS 141 ECOFIN 240 ENV 275 RECH 96 CODEC 747

The Committee examined the European Parliament amendments and the related Presidency compromise proposals as set out in 8232/13 and gave the Presidency a mandate for the third informal trilogue on the above proposal with a view to a first reading agreement with the EP.

33. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Connecting Europe Facilities ("Transport") (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)

- **Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue**

The Committee was debriefed on the outcome of the informal trilogue which took place in Strasbourg on 16 April 2013.

34. Impact Assessment report

- **Endorsement**

8406/13 ECOFIN 255 COMPET 207 POLGEN 44 ENV 291 SOC 239

Le Comité a adopté le rapport sans discussion.

35. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020) (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)

- **Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue**

The Presidency informed the Committee that in the exploratory talks on 16 April 2013 the key issues (scope, categories of beneficiaries and co-financing) were outlined by the European Parliament and the Commission, but not discussed any further. Both institutions underlined that following the political decision of the European Council on 8 February 2013 to continue the Fund outside the MFF, its future was not in question anymore. The time constraints and the resulting urgency were highlighted.

The Presidency announced its intention to table a compromise text with a view to obtain a negotiating mandate.

36. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications and Regulation on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)

- **Preparation for the informal trilogue**

18899/11 ETS 22 MI 679 COMPET 629 EDUC 297 CODEC 2507

8145/13 ETS 9 MI 257 COMPET 184 EDUC 101 CODEC 727

8297/13 ETS 10 MI 269 COMPET 194 EDUC 103 CODEC 767

The Committee renewed the mandate to the Presidency on the basis of the compromise text proposed in 8145/13 to pursue informal contacts with the European Parliament in order to explore the possibility of first reading agreement on this dossier. This text was slightly amended as regards Recital (7) and Articles 49a (3a), 49b (3a) and 60 (4).

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II

59. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union (First reading)

- **Consultation Committee (CoCo) procedure / Draft Council Declaration providing guidelines on the interpretation and application of the Council Decision of 23 June 1981 establishing a tripartite consultation procedure concerning relations with staff**

7886/13 STAT 9 FIN 158 CODEC 670

+ COR 1

The Committee examined the text of the draft Council declaration set out in 7886/13 and mandated the Working Party to continue the technical examination with a view to its adoption by the Council.

60. Preparation of the Council meeting (Foreign Affairs) on 22/23 April 2013

- **Energy**

The EEAS Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs informed the Committee that Foreign Ministers would hold a discussion on energy issues (Southern Gas Corridor) during lunch on 22 April 2013 in the presence of Commissioner Oettinger.

- **Eastern Partnership**

The Committee noted that discussions under this item would focus on preparations for the Eastern Partnership Ministerial meeting to be held in July and for the Vilnius Eastern Partnership Summit in November 2013.

- **Southern Neighbourhood**
 - = **Syria**
 - = **Lebanon**
 - = **Egypt**

The EEAS Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs informed the Committee that Syria would be the main focus of the discussion. Egypt (report on the HR's recent visit) and Lebanon (future legislative elections) would be short information points.

- **Draft Council conclusions on Mali**
8306/13 COAFR 113 ACP 49 PESC 380 DEVGEN 85 COTER 36
COMAG 36 COHAFA 39 RELEX 276

The Committee approved the draft Council conclusions (doc. 8306/13) and submitted them to Council for adoption.

- **Draft Council conclusions on Burma/Myanmar**
8187/13 COASI 47 ASIE 13 PESC 365 COHOM 54 COPS 135 DEVGEN 81

The Committee approved the draft Council conclusions (doc. 8187/13) and submitted them to Council for adoption.

- **Other items in connection with the Council meeting**

The EEAS Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs informed the Committee that the HR would start the Council meeting with a brief introduction on the Western Balkans (recent visit to the region), DPRK and the outcome of E3+3 talks with Iran.

- **FAC (Defence Ministers)**

The EEAS Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs informed the Committee that Defence Ministers would have a dinner on 22 April 2013 with a view to holding a first discussion on the December 2013 European Council meeting on European Defence matters. They would also hear a presentation on the state of play in Sahel/EUTM Mali. NATO Deputy Secretary General Vershbow would also participate in the dinner.

On 23 April 2013, prior to the start of the Council meeting, Defence Ministers would participate in the meeting of the European Defence Agency (EDA) Steering Board. The discussion would focus on the preparation to the December 2013 European Council meeting on European Defence matters (capability development).

On 23 April 2013, in Council formation, Defence Ministers would discuss the latest developments as regards EUTM Mali, receive an update from Commissioner Tajani on the Defence Industry Task Force, and focus on EU Battlegroups in the context of rapid deployment goals.

- EUTM Mali

The EEAS Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs informed the Committee that Foreign Ministers would hold a political discussion going beyond EUTM Mali.

61. Preparation of the Council meeting (General Affairs) on 22 April 2013

**- Commission Reports on Serbia, Kosovo and FYROM
= Presentation**

The Presidency indicated that this item would be taken as the last item on the agenda of the General Affairs Council. Although the Commission report on the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had already been issued, the joint reports of the Commission and the High Representative on Serbia and Kosovo had been delayed due to a new round of the EU-facilitated dialogue on 19 April 2013. The Committee noted that the handling of this item in the Council depended on further developments.

**- Preparation of the European Council on 22 May 2013
= Annotated draft agenda
7623/13 CO EUR-PREP 16**

The Committee took note of the annotated draft agenda, setting out the main items the European Council is expected to address on 22 May 2013.

- New Multiannual Financial Framework

The Presidency presented its intentions for the discussions on the MFF during the forthcoming General Affairs Council. These will concentrate on the state of play of the dossier, in particular as regards relations with the European Parliament.

- Other items in connection with the Council meeting

Le Comité a mis au point l'ordre du jour provisoire de la session du Conseil Affaires générales.

62. Single supervisory mechanism

- a) **Council Regulation conferring specific tasks on the European Central Bank concerning policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions**
- b) **Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1093/2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Banking Authority) as regards its interaction with Council Regulation (EU) No.../... conferring specific tasks on the European Central Bank concerning policies relating to the prudential supervision of credit institutions (First reading)**
 - **Approval of the final compromise text**
8417/13 EF 69 ECOFIN 256 CODEC 809
7776/1/13 REV 1 EF 55 ECOFIN 221
7775/13 EF 54 ECOFIN 220 CODEC 657

The Committee agreed, first, to mandate the Presidency to indicate to the European Parliament that, should the European Parliament adopt its position at first reading in the exact form as set out in 7775/13 (EBA Regulation Proposal), the Council would expect to approve the European Parliament's position, for the act to be adopted in the wording which corresponds to the European Parliament's position, subject, if necessary, to legal linguists' finalisation.

In addition, the Committee noted its expectation to agree on the text of the ECB Regulation Proposal, as set out in 7776/1/13 REV1, pending the opinion of the European Parliament and legal linguists' finalisation.

Last, the Committee confirmed that the Regulations should continue to be considered side by side and adopted at the same time in particular because of the political and legal links between them.

63. Revised rules for markets in financial instruments (MiFID/MiFIR) (First reading)

- a) **Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on markets in financial instruments repealing Directive 2004/39/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (Recast) (MiFID)**
- b) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on markets in financial instruments and amending Regulation [EMIR] on OTC derivatives, central counterparties and trade repositories (MiFIR)**
 - **General approach**
8322/13 EF 66 ECOFIN 249 CODEC 775
7743/2/13 REV 2 EF 47 ECOFIN 211 CODEC 646
7744/2/13 REV 2 EF 48 ECOFIN 212 CODEC 647

Following the discussion, the Presidency concluded that further work was needed both at the Working Party level and bilaterally with delegations. The Presidency will also reflect upon the possible submission of the file to May ECOFIN.

65. Draft Council conclusions on Iraq
8490/13 COMEM 92 PESC 416

The Committee agreed on draft Council conclusions on Iraq and forwarded the text to the Council for approval.

- **Any other business**

= **Debrief on the informal meeting of Finance Ministers (Dublin, 12-13 April 2013)**

- Ministers had a discussion on Europe's options for future growth based on a presentation by Bruegel.
- This was followed by the usual Eurogroup debrief by its Chair.
- Ministers then reached political agreement on lengthening maximum average maturities of the EFSF / EFSM loans to Portugal and Ireland by seven years.
- The main topic at the lunch was the SSM (Single supervisory mechanism). Ministers agreed on a statement by Member States declaring their readiness to work constructively on a proposal for a treaty change.
- Ministers had a discussion on the economic outlook and financial stability of the EU. They discussed growth prospects and the need to send a reassuring message to the markets.
- They then discussed the future shape of the banking union in the EU, with contributions from Jacques de Larosière and Dirk Schoenmaker.
- One of the main discussions at the meeting was on taxation - the action on tax transparency and tax fraud/evasion in the international context. Ministers and (Tax) Commissioner Semeta discussed recent tax developments.
- The Presidency then outlined its ambitious plans on financial services dossiers, setting out their priorities for the remaining three months of their presidency.
- Regarding financing options for long-term economic growth, the Presidency stressed the importance it attaches to the issues in the recent Commission Green Paper on long-term financing which, together with a presidency note, provided the basis for the discussion. Ministers agreed to ask the EFC to advance the work and consider the idea of drawing on a high level expert group.

- Finally, Ministers agreed on draft EU Terms of Reference and the draft IMFC Statement for the IMF/World Bank Spring and G20 Finance Ministers meetings on 18-19 April 2013 in Washington. The Commission and Presidency will send a letter to the ECOFIN to debrief on the outcome of the G20 ministerial meeting.
