



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 29 April 2005 (13.05)
(OR. fr)**

8559/05

PUBLIC 3

NOTE

Subject : MONTHLY SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTS
MARCH 2005

This document contains:

- in **Annex I**, a summary of definitive legislative acts adopted by the Council in March 2005. This is accompanied by statements in the minutes which may be released to the public (**Annex II**). The summary also mentions any votes against and abstentions, explanations of vote, and the voting rules applicable;
- in **Annex III**, a list of the other acts¹ adopted by the Council in March 2005, with a reference, where appropriate, to voting results, explanations of vote and statements which the Council has decided to make public.

This document is also available via the Internet ("<http://ue.eu.int>"); see under Documents, then "Summary of Council Acts".

It should be noted that only the minutes concerning the definitive adoption of legislative acts are authentic. Extracts from the minutes in question may also be obtained from the Transparency Department ("transparency@consilium.eu.int").

¹ With the exception of certain actions of limited scope such as procedural decisions, appointments, decisions of bodies set up by international agreements, specific budgetary decisions, etc.

MARCH 2005			
DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACTS	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTES/VOTING EXPLANATIONS AND VOTING RULES
2645th Council meeting (COMPETITIVENESS - Internal Market, Industry and Research) on 7 March 2005 Council Decision authorising Sweden to apply a reduced rate of taxation to electricity consumed by households and service sector companies situated in certain areas in the north of Sweden in accordance with Article 19 of Directive 2003/96/EC Legislative act adopted following the European Parliament's second reading in the framework of the codecision procedure Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community and Council Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No1408/71 (8.3.2005)	6379/05 + REV 1 (lt) 7084/05 PE-CONS 3609/05	23/05	Unanimity Qualified majority

MARCH 2005			
DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACTS	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTES/VOTING EXPLANATIONS AND VOTING RULES
2648th Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 14 March 2005			
Council Directive amending Annex VI to Directive 91/414/EEC as regards plant protection products containing micro-organisms	5599/05 + COR 1 (de)		Qualified majority
Council Directive amending Directive 87/328/EEC with regard to semen storage centres and the use of ova and embryos from pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species	6061/05 + COR 1 + COR 2 (fr) + COR 3 (en) + COR 4 (fi) + COR 6 (de) + REV 1 (pl) + REV 2 (sl)		Qualified majority
Council Decision amending Decision 2000/256/EC authorising the Kingdom of the Netherlands to apply a measure derogating from Article 1 of the Sixth Directive 77/388/EEC on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes	6551/05 + REV 1 (sv)		Unanimity
Council Decision authorising the Republic of Cyprus to apply a measure derogating from Article 11 of the Sixth Directive 77/388/EEC on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes	6552/05		Unanimity

MARCH 2005			
DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACTS	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTES/VOTING EXPLANATIONS AND VOTING RULES
Proposal for a Council Decision authorising Denmark to apply a measure derogating from Article 14(1)(d) of the Sixth Directive 77/388/EEC on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes 2649th Council meeting (General Affairs and External Relations) on 16 March 2005 Council Decision establishing a secure web-based Information and Coordination Network for Member States' Migration Management Services Council Regulation amending Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff	6549/05 + REV 1 (sv) 5823/05 + COR 1 (sk) + COR 2 + COR 3 (pt) + COR 4 (lv) 6128/05 + COR 1 (pt) + COR 2 (sv) + REV 1 (sl) + REV 2 (hu) + REV 3 (lt)	24/05	Unanimity Qualified majority DE abstention Qualified majority

MARCH 2005			
DEFINITIVE LEGISLATIVE ACTS	TEXTS ADOPTED	STATEMENTS	VOTES/VOTING EXPLANATIONS AND VOTING RULES
Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2792/1999 as regards a specific action for transfers of vessels to countries hit by the Tsunami in 2004	6671/05 + REV 1 (lt) + REV 2 (lv)	25/05	Qualified majority

STATEMENT 23/05**Statement by the Swedish delegation**

"Sweden intends to continue to apply reduced tax rates on electricity consumed in northern Sweden also after December 2005. The climate conditions, which are the reason for the reduced rates, will be the same. Furthermore, Sweden will not have the new national system for energy taxation in force by 1 January 2006. Thus, it will be necessary for Sweden to apply for a prolonged approval of this measure."

STATEMENT 24/05

Statement by the Irish delegation

"In agreeing to the proposal for a Council Regulation amending Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff, Ireland notes the difficulties in arriving at an acceptable solution and the efforts made by the Commission to find an interim solution. This is against the background of rapid technological development and, in particular, converging technologies, which have created customs classification difficulties.

The importance of the ICT sector to the European Union, as a driver and contributor to the Lisbon process, is well documented at the level of the European Council, the Competitiveness Council and most recently, the Telecoms Council. Bearing this in mind, Ireland strongly believes that the ongoing work on the issue of customs classification should focus on ensuring that a solution is found which will ensure that ICT manufacturers located in the European Union do not have any additional costs imposed upon them. Given the highly competitive nature of the sector, and, not least, the level of competition emanating from outside the European Union, it is imperative that all efforts be made to assist in ensuring both the competitiveness of the ICT sector and its contribution to the Lisbon process."

STATEMENT 25/05

Statement by the Commission

- "1. The Commission declares that an appropriate system for the monitoring of the implementation of the specific action aiming to allow the transfers of vessels to countries hit by the Tsunami, will be set up as soon as possible after the adoption of the Regulation by the Council.
 2. The Commission intends to involve in this monitoring system experts from the Commission, the Member States interested, the FAO and relevant NGO's.
 3. The main tasks of the group will be to contribute to:
 - matching the needs identified by the FAO and the third countries requests with the offers of vessels in Member States;
 - achieving the best possible balance of transfers between the third countries concerned;
 - the monitoring of the fulfilment of the conditions set out in articles 7(3), 7(6) and 18a of the Council Regulation (EC) 2792/1999."
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MARCH 2005	
OTHER ACTS	Votes made public
2644th Council meeting (Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs) on 3 March 2005 Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation 10666/03 + COR 1 (nl) + COR 2 (fi) + COR 3 (de) + COR 4 (fr,da,de,el,fi,it,nl,pt,sv) + COR 5 (en,es) + COR 6 (en,fr,da,el,es,fi,it,pt,sv) + ADD 1 (fr) Council Decision on the signing of the Agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Albania on the readmission of persons residing without authorisation 5614/05 + COR 1 + COR 1 REV 1 (it) Council Decision concerning the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Community and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on market access 6121/05 + ADD 1 (en) 2645th Council meeting (COMPETITIVENESS - Internal Market, Industry and Research) on 7 March 2005 Council Joint Action on the European Union Integrated Rule of Law mission for Iraq, EUJUST LEX 6328/05 + COR 1 (en) + COR 2 (en) COUNCIL REGULATION terminating the partial interim review of the anti-dumping measures applicable to imports of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) film originating, inter alia, in India 6397/05	

MARCH 2005	
OTHER ACTS	Votes made public
Common position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the patentability of computer-implemented inventions 11979/04 + COR 1 (es) + COR 2 (de) + ADD 1 + ADD 1 COR 1 (de) + ADD 1 COR 2 (es), 16120/04 + ADD 1 + ADD 2 + ADD 2 COR 1 (en) + ADD 3 (en) + ADD 4 2646th Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affaires) on 8 March 2005 Relations with the ACP States and the OCT Council Recommendation concerning the discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the operations of the European Development Fund (Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth EDF) for the financial year 2003 and statement by the Council 6195/05, 6201/05 + COR 1 (en), 6203/05, 6204/05, 6652/05 Common position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the compilation of quarterly non-financial accounts by institutional sector 15235/04 + COR 1 (hu) + ADD 1 + ADD 1 REV 1 (lv), 6718/05 2647th Council meeting (Environment) on 10 March 2005 Council Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of polyester staple fibres originating in the People's Republic of China and Saudi Arabia, amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2852/2000 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of polyester staple fibres originating in the Republic of Korea and terminating the anti-dumping proceeding in respect of such imports originating in Taiwan 6563/05 + REV 1 (en) + REV 2 (fi)	AU,BE,IT abstentions ES against

MARCH 2005	
OTHER ACTS	Votes made public
2648th Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 14 March 2005 • Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand on the participation of New Zealand in the European Union military crisis management operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation ALTHEA) • Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union and the Argentine Republic on the participation of the Argentine Republic in the European Union military crisis management operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation ALTHEA) 6658/05, 6756/05, 6990/05 + ADD 1 • Council Common Position updating Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism and repealing Common Position 2004/500/CFSP 6580/1/05 REV 1 + REV 2 (fr) • Council Decision implementing Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism and repealing Decision 2004/306/EC 6581/1/05 REV 1 + COR 2 (es) Council Decision on the conclusion of the bilateral agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Serbia on trade in textile products 5684/05 2649th Council meeting (General Affairs and External Relations) on 16 March 2005 Council Regulation terminating the partial interim review of the anti-dumping measures applicable to imports of certain tube or pipe fittings, of iron or steel, originating, inter alia, in Thailand 6705/05 + COR 1 (sl)	

MARCH 2005	
OTHER ACTS	Votes made public
Common Position renewing measures in support of the effective implementation of the mandate of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) 6939/05 Council Decision amending Decision 1999/70/EC concerning the external auditors of the national central banks as regards the external auditors of the Banco de Portugal 6934/05 Relations with Morocco • Council Decision on the signature and provisional application of a Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic to the European Union 6998/05 • Protocol to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an Association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Morocco, of the other part, to take account of the accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia, and the Slovak Republic to the European Union 7002/05 + REV 1 (sk) Written procedure completed on 23 March 2005 Council Joint Action appointing a Special Representative of the European Union for Moldova 6804/05	