Council of the European Union

Brussels, 14 May 2018
(OR. en)

Interinstitutional File:
2017/0044 (NLE)

8569/18
ADD 1

ECOFIN 379
UEM 136
STATIS 27

'A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
No. prev. doc.:	9140/1/17 REV 1
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2017) 93 final
Subject:	COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION imposing a fine on Austria for the manipulation of debt data in Land Salzburg - Statement from the Commission

The Commission has asked that the following statement be added to the minutes of the COMPET Council on 28 May, where the Council is invited to adopt the document 9140/1/17 REV 1 as an A item.

Commission statement

"The reliability of Member States' deficit and debt data is of utmost importance, for the sound economic governance of the Union, as recognised by the adoption of Regulation (EU) No 1173/2011. When imposing a fine the principle of equal treatment must be respected with reference to previous cases. Although the Commission appreciates that the Council contests neither the sole authority of the Commission to conduct the investigations nor the facts as established by the Commission, it regrets the circumstances under which the Council has reduced the fine. The Commission does not consider that the "difficulties ensuing from the high complexity of the facts" is a relevant justification for reducing the amount of the fine, in this case or possible future ones."