



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 26 May 2008

9339/08

CRS CRP 18

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 2227th meeting of the PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
held in Brussels on 7 May 2008**

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

doc. 9048/1/08 REV 1 OJ/CRP1 17

9040/08 OJ/CRP2 17 COMIX 352

The above mentioned agenda is approved with the following changes :

The following item is **added** :

(Coreper Part 1, under AOB)

- **Gambling (request by the NL delegation)**

The following items are **withdrawn** :

(Coreper Part 2, under I)

16. (poss.) Enlargement

- **Accession Negotiations with Turkey**
= **Outcome of screening on Chapter 23: Judiciary and fundamental rights**
8975/08 ELARG 45

(Coreper Part 1, under I)

32. Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work

- **Appointment of Ms Riitta LEHTOVIRTA, to replace Mr Erkki AUVINEN, Finish alternate member, who has resigned**
8520/08 SOC 223

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

Coreper Part 2

II

26. Preparation of the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 14 May 2008

a) **Quality of Public Finances: Efficiency of Public Expenditure on Social Transfers and Education**

= **Draft Council Conclusions**

8429/08 ECOFIN 129 SOC 214 EDUC 125 BUDGET 9

The Committee agreed to submit the draft Council Conclusions to the Council as set out in 8429/08.

b) **Western Balkans Investment Framework**

= **Draft Council Conclusions**

8506/08 ECOFIN 135 COWEB 111

The Committee agreed to submit the draft Council Conclusions to the Council as set out in 8506/08.

c) **Financial Services**

i) **Financial Stability Arrangements: Supervision, including an Update of the Roadmaps**

- **Draft Council Conclusions**

8515/08 EF 23 ECOFIN 137

9056/08 EF 27 ECOFIN 158

The Committee agreed to submit the draft Council Conclusions to the Council as set out in 8515/1/08 REV 1 and 9056/08 + COR 1.

ii) **Communication on Financial Education**

- **Draft Council Conclusions**

8516/08 EF 24 ECOFIN 138

The Committee agreed to submit the draft Council Conclusions to the Council as set out in 8516/08.

- iii) **White Paper on Mortgage Credits**
 - **Draft Council Conclusions**
9031/08 EF 26 ECOFIN 157

The Committee agreed to submit the draft Council Conclusions to the Council as set out in 9031/1/08 REV 1.

- d) **Taxation**
 - i) **Indirect Taxation: Fight against Tax Fraud**
 - **Report by the Commission on Conventional Measures**

The Committee noted that the Commission will present an oral report on Conventional Measures.

- **Draft Council Conclusions on VAT Fraud**
8579/08 FISC 38

After an exchange of views on the draft Conclusions, the Committee agreed to forward to the Council the Draft Council Conclusions as set out in 8579/08.

- **Draft Council Conclusions on the Special Report by the Court of Auditors on Administrative Cooperation in the field of VAT**
8892/08 FISC 46 FIN 165 GAF 7

The Committee agreed that no Conclusions will be adopted and that the item is withdrawn from the Council agenda.

- ii) **Savings Taxation**
 - **Informal Report from the Commission**
8985/08 FISC 47

The Committee agreed to submit the draft Council Conclusions to the Council as set out in 9211/08.

- iii) **Good Governance in the Tax Area**
 - **Draft Council Conclusions**
8995/08 FISC 49 + ADD 1

The Committee agreed to submit the draft Council Conclusions to the Council as set out in 8995/1/08 REV1.

- e) **Strategy for the Evolution of the Customs Union**
= **Draft Council Conclusions**
8762/08 UD 71 ECOFIN 151
8608/08 UD 65

The Committee:

- reached agreement on the draft Council Conclusions set out in 8608/08, and
- decided to invite the Council (ECOFIN), at its meeting on 14 May 2008, to confirm this agreement and to adopt the above Council Conclusions.

f) **Other items in connection with the Council meeting**

The Committee finalised the provisional agenda for this Council meeting and reviewed the state of readiness of the agenda items listed.

Regarding the draft Joint Conclusions of the meeting of the Ministerial dialogue between the Economic and Finance Ministers of the EU and the Candidate Countries on 14 May 2008, the Committee took note of the following unilateral statement of the French delegation:

"La France rappelle sa position en ce qui concerne l'objectif et la nature des négociations en cours avec la Turquie. Les conclusions du Conseil Affaires générales de décembre 2007, endossées par le Conseil européen, respectent les positions de chacun à ce sujet.

Toutes les discussions à venir et les conclusions, convocations ou échanges de lettres auxquels ces discussions pourraient donner lieu n'affectent en aucune manière la position rappelée ci-dessus et doivent être compris dans le respect des conclusions du Conseil affaires générales de décembre 2007."

27. **Preparation of the Council meeting (General Affairs and External Relations) on 26/27 May 2008**

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

Le Comité fait le point de l'état de préparation des autres points figurant aux ordres du jour provisoires des sessions du Conseil susvisées.

- 28. Draft Council Decision appointing judges of the European Union Civil Service Tribunal**
8401/08 JUR 171 COUR 15
8402/08 JUR 172 COUR 16
8293/08 JUR 157 COUR 6

On the basis of the opinion of the consultative committee, the Committee deliberated on the appointment of three judges to the European Union Civil Service Tribunal. The item was referred to the Antici group for further discussion.

- 29. Proposal for a Council Regulation applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences for the period from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011 and amending Regulations (EC) No 552/97, No 1933/2006 and Commission Regulations (EC) No 964/2007 and No 1100/2006**
8486/08 SPG 3 WTO 67 + ADD 1 (en)

The Committee discussed the outstanding issues. All Member States and the Commission expressed support for the transitional provision proposed by the Presidency, but some delegations made this support conditional upon finding a solution for the graduation for Section XII of Vietnam. All Member States but one supported the Presidency proposal for introducing more flexibility in the granting of GSP+. Some delegations called for an inventive solution to avoid the graduation for Section XII of Vietnam, but nearly half of the Member States explicitly supported the graduation.

The Committee instructed the Working Party on the Generalised System of Preferences to finalise the work on the draft Regulation as soon as possible.

- 30. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals**
8148/08 MIGR 24 CODEC 436 COMIX 275

The Committee confirmed the conclusions reached in the Mixed Committee meeting earlier.

Coreper Part 1

II

39. Setting of the provisional agenda for the Council meeting "Competitiveness" (Internal Market, Industry and Research) on 29 and 30 May 2008

The Committee approved the provisional agenda for the forthcoming Council meeting as set out in 9736/08.

40. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste and repealing certain Directives (Second reading)

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

The Committee heard a presentation from the Presidency on the outcome of the first trilogue and agrees to come back to this issue on 20 May to examine new Presidency suggestions.

41. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the banning of exports and safe storage of metallic mercury (Second reading)

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

The Presidency reported on the outcome of the second trilogue, which took place on 6 May, and submitted to the Committee for agreement the final compromise package.

42. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs) (First reading)

- **Approval of the final compromise text**
8963/08 AGRILEG 65 CODEC 540 DENLEG 37 COMPET 158

The Committee notes the absence of a qualified majority in favour of a compromise with the EP at first reading, as outlined in the Annex to document 8963/08.

A number of delegations reiterate their preference for not modifying Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 at this stage at all, underlining in particular that it :

- already allows for sufficient flexibility in the application of the HACCP principles, and
- contains a revision clause requiring the Commission to submit a report and, if appropriate, relevant proposals not later than 20 May 2009.

43. **Proposals for Decisions of the European Parliament and of the Council amending:**
- (a) **Decision No 1720/2006/EC establishing an action programme in the field of lifelong learning**
 - (b) **Decision No 1855/2006/EC establishing the Culture Programme (2007 to 2013)**
 - (c) **Decision No 1904/2006/EC establishing for the period 2007 to 2013 the programme "Europe for Citizens" to promote active European citizenship**
 - (d) **Decision No 1719/2006/EC establishing the Youth in Action programme for the period 2007 to 2013**
- **Examination of the Presidency compromise text**
9046/08 EDUC 137 CULT 65 JEUN 51 SOC 260 CODEC 547

The Committee endorsed the text contained in document 9046/08 and agreed to invite the Presidency to take contact with the European Parliament with a view to securing an early agreement on that basis. The Committee took also note of the Commission's willingness to make a statement for the Council minutes on adoption of the texts in question, by which it undertakes to review the impact of the proposed changes 18 months after their entry into force.

44. **Preparation of the Council meeting (Education, Youth and Culture) on 21 and 22 May 2008**

1. **Draft Council conclusions on a European approach to media literacy in the digital environment**
- **Adoption**
(Public debate pursuant to article 8(3) CRP [proposed by the Presidency])
8788/08 AUDIO 27 EDUC 122 TELECOM 54 JEUN 42

Les résultats de l'examen de ce point sont repris dans le document 9017/08.

2. **Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a multi-annual Community programme on protecting children using the Internet and other communication technologies**
- **General approach**
(Public debate pursuant to article 8(1) (c) CRP)
8791/08 AUDIO 28 JEUN 43 TELECOM 55 CONSOM 43 JAI 201 EDUC 126
CODEC 507

Les résultats de l'examen de ce point sont repris dans le document 9137/08.

3. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Creative Content Online in the Single Market

- Exchange of views
(Public debate pursuant to article 8(3) CRP [proposed by the Presidency])
8793/08 AUDIO 30 PI 20 MI 133 TELECOM 56 CULT 58

Le Comité convient de soumettre ce point au Conseil en vue d'un échange de vues sur la base du document 8793/08.

4. Draft Council conclusions on Intercultural competences

- **Adoption**
(Public debate pursuant to article 8(3) CRP [proposed by the Presidency])
8792/08 CULT 57 JEUN 44 EDUC 123 AUDIO 29

Le Comité convient de soumettre ce point au Conseil sur la base du nouveau document 9021/08, en vue de son adoption.

5. Draft conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the Work Plan for Culture 2008 - 2010

- **Adoption**
(Public debate pursuant to article 8(3) CRP [proposed by the Presidency])
8787/08 CULT 56

Le Comité convient de soumettre ce point au Conseil sur la base du nouveau document 9018/08, en vue de son adoption.

6. Draft Council conclusions on multilingualism

- **Adoption**
(Public debate pursuant to article 8(3) CRP [proposed by the Presidency])
8605/08 EDUC 115 SOC 230 CULT 50

Le Comité convient de soumettre ce point au Conseil sur la base du nouveau document 9022/08, en vue de son adoption.

7. Draft Council conclusions on adult learning

- Adoption

(Public debate pursuant to article 8(3) CRP [proposed by the Presidency])
7475/08 EDUC 79 SOC 164 + REV 1 (bg)

Le Comité convient de soumettre ce point au Conseil sur la base du nouveau document 9205/08, en vue de son adoption.

8. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the European Year of Creativity and Innovation (2009)

- General approach

(Public deliberation pursuant to article 8(1) (c) CRP)
8637/08 CULT 52 EDUC 117 SOC 232 COMPET 142 RECH 139

Les résultats de l'examen de ce point est repris dans le document 8935/08.

9. Draft conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on promoting creativity and innovation through education and training

- Exchange of views and adoption

(Public debate pursuant to article 8(3) CRP [proposed by the Presidency])
8752/08 EDUC 119 SOC 243 CULT 59 COMPET 152 RECH 145

Le Comité convient de soumettre ce point au Conseil sur la base du nouveau document 9207/08, en vue de son adoption.

10. Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Government of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the participation of young people with fewer opportunities

- Exchange of views and adoption

(Public debate pursuant to article 8(3) CRP [proposed by the Presidency])
8794/08 JEUN 45 SOC 242

Le Comité convient de soumettre ce point au Conseil sur la base du nouveau document 9133/08, en vue de son adoption, suivie d'un échange de vues.

45. Sustainability criteria for biofuels

- **Agreement on common sustainability scheme**

6145/07 ENV 80 ENT 17 ENER 59 TRANS 34 CODEC 98 + REV 1 (en)
5421/08 ENER 15 ENV 24 TRANS 15 AGRI 15 CODEC 58
8847/08 ENV 251 ENT 81 ENER 124 TRANS 126 AGRI 116 CODEC 542

The Committee discussed the key outstanding issues summarised in 8847/08. While noting some progress on certain issues, the Presidency concluded that the Committee would need to discuss these issues again at one of its future sessions.

The Committee agreed to extend the mandate of the ad hoc Working Party and requested it to continue its work with a view to finding solutions to outstanding technical issues.

- **Any other business**

- **Visa Waiver Programme**

- = **Information by the Commission**

The Council adopted on 18 April 2008 a mandate for the Commission to negotiate an agreement between the EC and the USA concerning certain conditions for access to the US Visa Waiver Programme (8695/08 JAI 191 USA 22 RELEX 246 (RESTREINT UE)). The Commission informed delegations about discussions between the Commission and the US on the matter. Further discussions would take place in the near future. Delegations would be kept informed.

- **Gambling (request by the NL delegation)**

An exchange of views takes place and delegations request the examination by a WP of the problems related to the gambling. The Presidency will reflect on this issue.

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