



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 16 May 2024
(OR. en)

9481/1/24
REV 1
PV CONS 20
AGRI 387
PECHE 168

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(**Agriculture and Fisheries**)
29 April 2024

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 9060/24.

2. Approval of 'A' items


(a) Non-legislative list 9061/24

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 Annex as well as in the Addendum.


(b) Legislative list (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union) 9062/24

Agriculture

1. **Directive amending various 'breakfast directives'**  8836/24
Adoption of the legislative act PE-CONS 25/24
approved by SCA on 22 April 2024 AGRI


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 43(2) TFEU).

Internal Market and Industry

2. **Directive as regards the time limits for the adoption of sustainability reporting standards for certain sectors and for certain third-country undertakings**  8828/24
Adoption of the legislative act PE-CONS 28/24
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 26 April 2024 DRS


The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted, with Hungary abstaining, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Article 50(1) TFEU).

Telecommunications

3. **Gigabit Infrastructure Act**  9077/24
Adoption of the legislative act
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 26 April 2024
PE-CONS 55/24
TELECOM

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 114 TFEU).

Justice and Home Affairs

4. **Regulation amending Interim Regulation (EU) 2021/1232 on child sexual abuse**  8880/24
Adoption of the legislative act
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 24 April 2024
PE-CONS 52/24
JAI

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: Articles 16(2) and 114(1) TFEU).

Economic and Financial Affairs

5. **Regulation on the effective coordination of economic policies and on multilateral budgetary surveillance**  8967/24 + ADD 1
Adoption of the legislative act
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 26 April 2024
PE-CONS 51/24
ECOFIN

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted, with Belgium abstaining, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Article 121(6) TFEU).

Statements to this item are set out in the Annex.

6. **Regulation on speeding up and clarifying the implementation of the excessive deficit procedure**  8687/24
Adoption
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 26 April 2024
6919/24
ECOFIN

The Council adopted the Council Regulation as finalised by the legal/linguistic experts as set out in document 6919/24 (legal basis: Article 126(14), second subparagraph TFEU).


AGRICULTURE

Non-legislative activities

3. Rapid and structural responses to the current crisis situation in the agricultural sector: follow-up to roadmaps 9197/24
Information from the Presidency and the Commission
Exchange of views
4. Trade-related agricultural issues 9285/24
Information from the Commission
Exchange of views
5. CAP annual performance reports 9087/24
Information from the Commission
Exchange of views

Any other business


6. Agriculture

- a) Increase of ‘de-minimis’ aid in the agricultural, fishery and aquaculture sector 9320/24
Information from the German delegation, on behalf of the Austrian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Cyprus, Estonian, French, German, Hungarian, Latvian, Luxembourg, Maltese, Polish, Romanian, Slovak and Slovenian delegations
- b) **The bioeconomy must stand out at the core of the next European Commission’s work programme**  9098/1/24 REV 1
Information from the Finnish delegation, on behalf of the Austrian, Finnish, Slovenian and Swedish delegations, and supported by the Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian and Slovak delegations

The Council took note of the information provided by Finland, on behalf of Austria, Finland, Slovenia and Sweden, supported by Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania and Slovakia, on the role of sustainable forest bioeconomy. The Council also took note of the comments made by other delegations on this subject, as well as of the intervention by the Commission.

Fisheries

c) **Problems in implementation of the provisions of Article 14 of the Fisheries Control Regulation for permitted margin of tolerance (MOT) in pelagic fishery**

 9251/24

Information from the Latvian and Lithuanian delegations

The Council took note of the information provided by Latvia and Lithuania on problems with implementation of the provision of Art 14 of the Fisheries Control Regulation for permitted margin of tolerance (MOT) in pelagic fishery, as well as of comments made by other delegations and the Commission.



First reading



Item based on a Commission proposal



Special legislative procedure



Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

Statements to the non-legislative "A" item set out in doc. 9061/24

Ad "A" item 12: **Interinstitutional ethics body**
 Approval

STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL

- “1. The internal procedures of the Council regarding the appointment of the Council’s representative in the Interinstitutional Body for Ethical Standards, as well as the positions to be expressed by him/her, will ensure the Council’s full and constructive participation in the exercise of the tasks of the Body, duly taking into account the fact that the representatives of each Member State at ministerial level who may commit their government and cast its vote, are bound only by their respective national rules on ethical behaviour and not by the ethical standards to be developed by the Body.
2. The Council will be represented in the Body by the Presidency of the Council. The alternate representative will be, in line with Article 20(2) of the Council’s Rules of Procedure¹, a representative of the Member State next holding the Presidency.
3. The Council’s representative and its alternate representative in the Body will be assisted by the General Secretariat of the Council.”

STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL

“The Council welcomes the conclusion of the Agreement establishing an Interinstitutional Body for Ethical Standards (‘the Body’), which is to contribute to promoting a common culture of ethics and transparency, in particular by developing common minimum standards for the conduct of members of institutions and advisory bodies mentioned in Article 13 TEU and by fostering the exchange of best practices on the matter.

According to Article 16(2) TEU, the Council consists of representatives of each Member State at ministerial level, who may commit their government and cast its vote. These representatives are subject to their respective national rules on ethical behaviour, including when exercising their functions as member or Presidency of the Council, and cannot therefore be subject to the ethical standards to be developed by the Body.

¹ Article 20(2) of the Council’s Rules of Procedure reads as follows: “*Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 19(4) to (6) and to its powers and its overall political responsibility, the six-monthly Presidency shall be assisted in all its responsibilities by the other members of the pre-established group of three Member States referred to in Article 1(4) on the basis of the 18-month programme or pursuant to other arrangements agreed between them. It shall also be assisted, where appropriate, by the representative of the Member State next holding the Presidency. At the Presidency's request and acting on its instructions, that representative or a member of that group shall replace it as and when required, shall relieve it, where necessary, of certain tasks and shall ensure the continuity of the Council's proceedings.*”

The Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the principle of sincere cooperation, enshrined in Article 4 of the Treaty on European Union, as interpreted by the Court of Justice of the European Union.

The Council underlines that the citizens of the Union must be able to trust that any person exercising a mandate in a Union institution or advisory body is bound by robust rules on ethical behaviour, in all of his/her European Union functions. To this effect, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, including in his/her function as President of the Foreign Affairs Council, is listed among the members of the parties as defined in Article 2 of the Agreement.

Against this background, the Council is committed to participating fully in the deliberations and decisions to be taken by the Body and to contributing constructively to the shaping of common minimum standards, taking duly into account the Council's specificities and the legal constraints following from the Treaties. The Council reaffirms that its internal procedures will ensure the Council's adequate representation and participation in the Body."

Statements to the legislative "A" item set out in doc. 9062/24

Ad "A" item 5: **Regulation on the effective coordination of economic policies and on multilateral budgetary surveillance**
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY BELGIUM

- "1. During the various stages of the negotiations on the reform of the economic governance framework, the Belgian authorities were unable to come to a national position.
2. Despite the absence of a national position, Belgium has constructively played its role as President of the Council of the European Union.
3. Before the final adoption of the legislative acts, the Belgian authorities consulted with one another again. The outcome of this consultation is that, in the absence of a final position, Belgium will neither approve nor oppose the adoption of the legislative package."

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY

"Hungary takes note of the agreement between the Presidency and the European Parliament on the text of Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the effective coordination of economic policies and multilateral budgetary surveillance and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 (2023/0138 (COD)).

However, we consider the reference to the 'Social Convergence Framework' as stipulated in Recital 8, as well as the reference to 'framework to identify risks to social convergence' as stipulated in Article 3, Paragraph 3(b) legally unjustified. It seems evident, that the formulation of the main text refers to the Social Convergence Framework, which is currently not an approved analytical tool and has no legal background. Any reference to it in a Regulation prejudices inappropriately the future decisions of the Council."