



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 28 September 2012

**12896/12
ADD 1**

PV CONS 45

ADDENDUM to DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3184th** meeting of the Council of the European Union (**GENERAL AFFAIRS**)
held in Brussels on 24 July 2012

PUBLIC DELIBERATION ITEMS¹

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¹ Deliberations on Union legislative acts (Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union), other deliberations open to the public and public debates (Article 8 of the Council's Rules of Procedure).

LEGISLATIVE DELIBERATIONS

(public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

"A" ITEMS

1. Draft budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013

12278/12 FIN 509
+ ADD 1
+ ADD 2
+ ADD 3
12279/1/12 REV 1 FIN 510
+ REV 1 COR 1 (hu)
12279/12 FIN 510 ADD 1
12279/12 FIN 510 ADD 2

The Council adopted its position on the draft budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013, with the Netherlands, Swedish and the United Kingdom Delegations voting against and the abstention of the Austrian Delegation.

Council statement

1. Payment appropriations

"The Council asks the Commission to submit as early as possible the letter of amendment for agriculture (including information about the possible carry-over of assigned revenue) and, if necessary, a letter of amendment concerning sub-heading 1b in order to appropriately calibrate the level of resources in heading 2 (Preservation and management of natural resources) and sub-heading 1b in the 2013 budget.

Furthermore, the Council asks the Commission to submit a draft amending budget if the payment appropriations entered in the 2013 budget are insufficient to cover expenditure under sub-heading 1a (Competitiveness for growth and employment), sub-heading 1b, heading 2 and heading 4 (EU as a global player).

It urges the Commission to present as early as possible updated figures concerning the state of affairs and estimates regarding payment appropriations under sub-heading 1b and, if necessary, to present a draft amending budget for this sole purpose. The Council will take position on the draft amending budget as quickly as possible in order to avoid any shortfall in payment appropriations."

Unilateral statements

2. Unilateral statement by Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom on the Council position on the 2013 budget

"Budgetary restraint at EU level remains important, given Member States' ongoing efforts to put their public finances on a sound footing to pursue growth. As such, an increase of 2.79 % is higher than we would have liked. Therefore, further increases to EU spending should not be agreed later this year."

3. Unilateral statement by Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Romania on the Council position on the 2013 budget

"EU efforts and scarce public resources should be focused primarily on growth and jobs. That has been recently confirmed by the European Council in a "Compact for Growth and Jobs".

In this regard, the EU budget can play a significant role by earmarking financial means for programmes clearly supporting the above-mentioned aims, starting already with the 2012 and 2013 EU budgets.

Therefore, the level of payments agreed in the Council position on the 2013 draft budget constitutes a minimum (especially as far as sub-heading 1b is concerned), which should be seen as a starting point for negotiations with the European Parliament in autumn.

Credibility of the EU requires to secure an appropriate level of resources in order to respect all past commitments, while pursuing common EU policies. Additionally, it has to be underlined that, the bigger the level of payments agreed, the smaller is the RAL left (gap between commitment and payment appropriations)."

2. Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending the Protocol on the Statute of the Court of Justice of the European Union and Annex I thereto [First Reading]

PE-CONS 28/12 COUR 26 INST 374 JUR 303 CODEC 1489 OC 268
+ COR 1

The Council approved the amendment set out in the European Parliament's position at first reading and adopted the proposed act amended accordingly, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: first and second paragraphs of Article 257 and the second paragraph of Article 281 of the TFEU).

AGENDA ITEMS

3. New Multiannual Financial Framework 12076/12 CADREFIN 340 POLGEN 125

The Presidency presented to the Council its work plan for discussions on the MFF during the second semester of 2012. In addition, the Presidency gave a brief assessment of the bilateral consultations held in July 2012. The Commission presented the technical update of its proposals on the MFF 2014-2020, followed by an exchange of views.

7. Presentation of the Presidency work programme¹ - Exchange of views

The Council took note of the presentation by the Cyprus presidency of its programme for the duration of its term of office (July to December 2012). It held an exchange of views.

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¹ Public debate pursuant to Article 8 of the Council's Rules of Procedure