



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 9 November 2012

**15017/12
ADD 1 REV 1**

PV CONS 53

ADDENDUM to DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3192th** meeting of the Council of the European Union (**GENERAL AFFAIRS**)
held in Luxembourg on 16 October 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)

2. Cohesion Policy Legislative Package [First Reading]

- Elements of a Partial General Approach
14287/2/12 REV 2 FSTR 64 FC 42 REGIO 102 SOC 780 AGRISTR 128
PECHE 372 CADREFIN 408 CODEC 2242
+ ADD 1 REV 2
+ ADD 2 REV 1 to ADD 8 REV 1

The Council

- reached an agreement, subject to the principle that "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed", on the following elements for a partial general approach concerning:
 - a) Information and Communication and Technical assistance, as set out in ADD 1 REV 2 to document 14287/1/12 REV 1
 - b) elements of the European Territorial Cooperation, as set out in ADD 2 REV 1;
 - c) Territorial Development, as set out in ADD 3 REV 1,
 - d) Financial Issues not in the MFF (non-transferability of resources, additionality and modulation of co-financing rates), as set out in ADD 4 REV 2,
 - e) Country-specific recommendations, as set out in ADD 5 REV 1,
 - f) Management and Control, as set out in ADD 6 REV 1 and
 - g) Indicators, as set out in ADD 7 REV 1.
- decided that the elements of the agreed partial general approach do not prejudice the outcome of negotiations on other elements of the Cohesion Policy legislative package or the Multiannual Financial Framework, while necessary amendments in the elements agreed may occur as a result of these negotiations.
- decided to enter into its minutes the statements set out in Addendum 8 REV 2 to doc. 14287/2/12 REV 2.

Statement by the Council

on the reference to relevant country-specific recommendations and relevant Council recommendations concerning Articles: 4, 14, 15, 25, 26 87, of the Regulation (EU) No [...] [CPR]

"The Council confirms that when taking the relevant country-specific recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 121(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the relevant Council recommendations adopted in accordance with Article 148(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - as defined in Article 2 of the Regulation (EU) No [...] [CPR] - as a reference point for the preparation of partnership agreements and programmes, it is necessary to take full account of the special needs and the territorial context of Member States and their regions as well as their respective competences in formulating policy measures to address such recommendations. When reviewing programme implementation, Member States will take account of new relevant country-specific recommendations and propose, where appropriate and taking into account the multi-annual nature and predictability of the programming framework, modifications to their programmes."

Statement by the Commission

in relation to Presidency compromise text on indicators

"The Commission confirms that it will complete its guidance documents on the common indicators for ERDF, ESF, Cohesion Fund and European Territorial Cooperation in consultation with the respective evaluation networks comprising national evaluation experts within 3 months of the adoption of the Regulations. These guidance documents will include definitions of each common indicator and methodologies for gathering and reporting data on the common indicators."

Statement by Italy

on additionality and geographical concentration

"Italy considers that the principles of additionality and geographical concentration of resources are key pillars of effective investment of Cohesion Policy funds. The proposed compromise text in the relevant articles (art.86 and 85 of general regulation respectively) weakens both principles by making steps back in the way the additionality has to be verified in regions who are supposed to receive increasing amounts of funds and by widening unacceptably the derogation already proposed by the Commission to the non transferability of resources.

Both changes in the compromise text are seriously detrimental to the quality of the investment to be done by means of the Cohesion Policy resources in the next programming period. If the notion of "better spending" should have a concrete meaning, the weakening of those two principles has to be avoided.

In order to ensure the quality of the investment made by Cohesion Policy with EU taxpayers' money, Italy understands that additionality and geographical concentration of resources should be discussed again at a later stage, also with a view to the final decision on transition regions in the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework, and in any case before the final approval of the legislative package, by taking into account the global picture emerging on other thematic blocs and need for internal balance and coherence, with a view to ensuring higher effectiveness of Cohesion Policy."

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