

## COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

## Brussels, 6 September 2012

13489/12

INF 137 PUBLIC 52

## **NOTE**

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Information
Subject:	Information on Legislative Transparency - Voting Records

1. The GSC makes the voting results of the Council on legislative acts public, in implementation of Article 15 of the TFEU and in conformity with Article 7 of the Council Rules of Procedure. Accordingly, voting records are available in three different locations at the Council's website: The Council Minutes, the *fiches de vote*, and the Monthly Summaries of Council Acts.

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The minutes related to the "Legislative Deliberations" part of the Agenda are published in public addenda (labelled "ADD") to the "ST documents" containing the main body of the Council minutes. See http://consilium.europa.eu under "Documents", "Legislative Transparency", "Council Minutes".

The *fiches de vote* visually displaying voting results are required by art. 7 of the Council Rules of Procedure. They are shown in the Council's meeting room and then annexed to a ST document. See http://consilium.europa.eu under "Documents", "Legislative Transparency", "Public Votes"

Each month the GSC publishes a list of acts adopted by the Council, containing details on the adoption of these acts. See http://consilium.europa.eu under "Documents", "Legislative Transparency", "Summary of Council Acts".

- 2. The GSC regularly receives requests for compilations of voting records by Member State, sector (i.e., agriculture, transport, environment), time period, voting rule and/or procedure. The applicants belong to the following categories:
  - The academic community;
  - Permanent Representations, in particular for those Member States whose Governments report regularly to national assemblies;
  - MEPs;
  - Other members of the public.
- 3. To answer requests rapidly and efficiently, voting records on legislative items have been compiled and organised by Member State, sector, date, voting rule, procedure, etc in a searchable database<sup>1</sup>, which currently covers voting records from January 2007 to the present day.
- 4. The database is being completed with voting records dating back to December 1993, when the Council Rules of Procedure<sup>2</sup> introduced the obligation of the publicity of votes in accordance the Conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council on transparency of 1992 and following the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty with its introduction of the "codecision procedure". The database does not contain any information which is not already public.
- 5. Currently the database on voting records is only accessible to the members of the Legislative Transparency team (Transparency Directorate of DG F). The GSC plans to make the database available on *Domus* for all *Domus* users before the end of 2012.

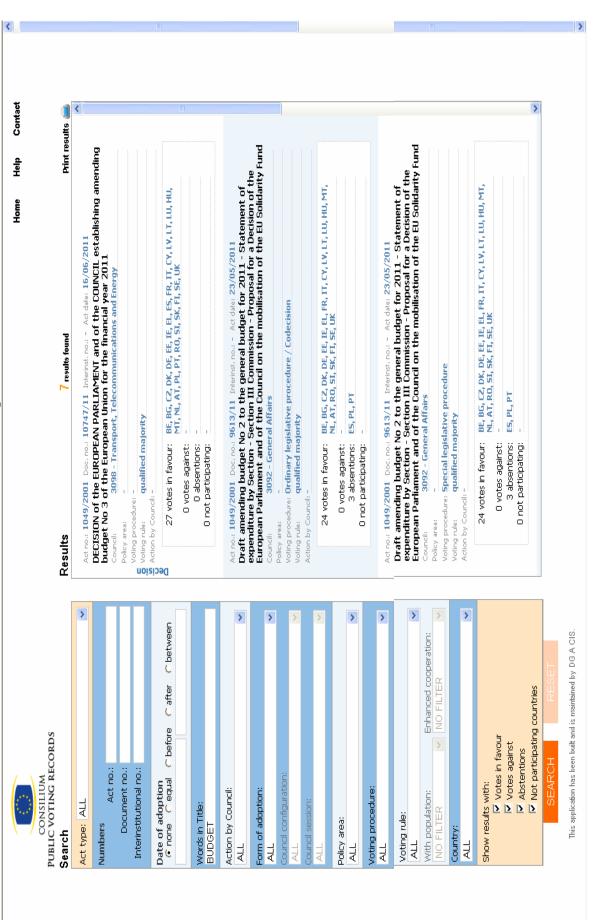
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See Annex for a visual image.

Council Decision 93/662/EC adopting the Council's Rules of Procedure (OJ L 304, 10.12.1993, p. 1).

## View of the database on voting records



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