



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 3 October 2012

13911/12

CRS/CRP 31

SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 2421st meeting of the PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
held in Brussels on 19 and 20 September 2012**

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

doc. 13823/12 OJ/CRP1 31

13843/1/12 REV 1 OJ/CRP2 31

The above-mentioned agendas are approved.

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

UK made a statement on the following item :

17. Proposed amendment to Regulation No 422/67/EEC, 5/67/Euratom determining the emoluments of the President and Members of the Commission and of the President, Judges, Advocates-General and Registrar of the Court of Justice

13541/1/12 REV 1 INST 510 COUR 59 JUR 477 BUDGET 33

+ REV 1 ADD 1

13474/12 INST 506 COUR 57 JUR 474 BUDGET 32

"As it has not been possible on this occasion for UK Parliamentary scrutiny processes to be completed prior to adoption of this Regulation, the UK is not in a position to vote in favour.

However, the UK continues to support the valuable package of reforms to the Court of Justice of the European Union that were agreed by Council in July this year."

30. Enlargement

- **Accession negotiations with Iceland**

= **Chapter 9: Financial services**

13731/12 ELARG 93

Upon the adoption of this item, the Committee agreed to enter into the minutes of its meeting the following Statement by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom:

"The Netherlands and the United Kingdom recall the European Council Conclusions of 17 June 2010 which stated that "negotiations will be aimed at Iceland integrally adopting the EU *acquis* and ensuring its full implementation and enforcement, addressing existing obligations such as those identified by the EFTA Surveillance Authority under the EEA Agreement, and other areas of weakness identified in the Commission's Opinion, including in the area of financial services". This language was included in the General EU Position for the Intergovernmental Conference of 27 July 2010 on the Accession of Iceland.

In this context, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom understand that the benchmark "Iceland demonstrates progress in addressing existing obligations under the EEA Agreement" will be assessed in light of the EFTA Court case E-16/11 EFTA Surveillance Authority vs the Republic of Iceland. Iceland is expected to take concrete and irreversible steps to remedy any breach of EEA law identified by the EFTA Court. This understanding will guide our consideration of the Commission's closing benchmark assessment report for this chapter."

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11. **Setting of the provisional agenda for the Council meeting "Competitiveness" (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space) on 10 and 11 October 2012**

The Committee agreed the provisional agenda for the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 10 and 11 October 2012.

12. (a) **Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 and Directive 2009/22/EC (Directive on consumer ADR) (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)**
(b) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on online dispute resolution for consumer disputes (Regulation on consumer ODR) (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)**
- **Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue**

The Committee took note of the oral debriefing made by the Presidency on the informal trilogue of 18 September 2012.

13. **Preparation for the Council meeting (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs) on 4 October 2012**

1. **Towards a job-rich recovery and giving a better chance to Europe's youth (*Non-legislative activity*)**
- **Adoption of Council conclusions**
13572/12 SOC 728 ECOFIN 764 EDUC 257 JEUN 61 COMPET 544 MI 551

The Committee approved the draft Council conclusions as set out in 13572/12 and agreed to submit them to the EPSCO Council for adoption.

2. **Preventing and tackling child poverty and social exclusion and promoting children's well-being (*Non-legislative activity*)**
 - **Adoption of Council conclusions**
13445/12 SOC 720 EUC 254

The Committee approved the draft Council conclusions as set out in 13445/12 + COR 1 and agreed to submit them to the EPSCO Council for adoption.

3. **Preparation of the Tripartite Social Summit (*Non-legislative activity*)**
 - **Information from the Presidency**

The Committee took note that the Presidency will inform the EPSCO Council of the state of preparation of the Tripartite Social Summit.

14. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a Health for Growth Programme, the third multi-annual programme of EU action in the field of health for the period 2014-2020 (First reading) (Legislative deliberation)**
 - **Preparation for the informal trilogue**
13653/12 SAN 195 PHARM 64 MI 554 CADREFIN 388 CODEC 2105

The Committee agreed to give mandate to the Presidency to enter into informal negotiations with the representatives of the European Parliament and the Commission on the basis of the text as set out in the Annex of the above document. Hungary, supported by Latvia, maintained its earlier position on Article 7, paragraph 3, point (c) of the Proposal. The Commission maintained its reserves on the changes to the Proposal.

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39. Follow-up to the 5th EU-South Africa summit (Brussels, 18 September 2012)

The Committee was informed by the European External Action Service and the Commission on the outcome of the fifth EU-South Africa Summit that took place on 18 September 2012 in Brussels.

40. Preparation of the Council meeting (General Affairs) on 24 September 2012

a) Preparation of the European Council on 18-19 October 2012

- **Annotated draft agenda**
13386/12 CO EUR-PREP 28

The Committee took note of the annotated draft agenda submitted by the President of the European Council, setting out the main items the EC is expected to address on 18-19 October 2012 (economic policy, strategic partners, in the light of events-specific foreign policy issues).

b) European Semester 2012 - Lessons learned

- 13439/12 CO EUR-PREP 33 POLGEN 144 ENV 686 ENER 366 MI 541
RECH 328 COMPET 536 IND 134 ECOFIN 758 SOC 715
EDUC 253 TELECOM 153

Presidency presented its paper on the European Semester 2012 - lessons learned and noted that further to the political debates in the GAC, ECOFIN and EPSCO Councils, a synthesis report will be submitted to the December General Affairs Council.

c) Multiannual Financial Framework

- **Negotiating box**
13620/12 CADREFIN 387 POLGEN 147

Presidency presented the revised negotiating box. The Committee had an exchange of views on the basis of the revised box.

d) Other items in connection with the Council meeting

Le Comité a mis au point l'ordre du jour provisoire de la session du Conseil Affaires générales du 24 septembre 2012.

41. Interinstitutional cooperation within the framework of the "Compact for Growth and Jobs"

The Committee discussed the revised version of the text on the Inter-institutional cooperation within the framework of the 'Compact for Growth and Jobs'. In the light of this discussion and further written comments, a final revised version would be put under silence procedure.

42. EU-Canada Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA)

The EEAS and the Commission reported on the state of play of the negotiations. More than 90% of the text has been already agreed, however, the political clauses remain the outstanding issue, namely, immediacy of suspensive action and linkage to CETA.

The EEAS, considering that the end of the negotiations is quickly approaching and in view of the forthcoming visit of HR Ashton to Ottawa on 1 October, invited the Committee to reconfirm the 2009 Common Approach on the use of political clauses in connection with this Agreement.

The Committee took note of the information provided by the EEAS on the state of play of the negotiations on the EU-Canada Strategic Partnership Agreement, in particular regarding the "political clauses".

The Committee reconfirmed the essential elements of the EU common approach to the "political clauses" agreed in 2009, which is to be applied to this Agreement and invited the HR to convey this message during her visit to Ottawa.

43. Presentation of the agenda of the Council meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 9 October 2012

The Committee agreed the provisional agenda for this Council meeting.

- **Any other business**
 - = **Proposals for external financing instruments under Heading 4 of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020**

The Chair of the Committee informed delegations about the upcoming 1st trilogue with the European Parliament on the external financing instruments under Heading 4 of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020, that will take place on 25 September 2012 in Brussels.

= **Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 24-25 September 2012**

At the request of two delegations 2 AOB's will be added at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 24-25 September 2012 :

- Methanol intoxication, at the request of the CZ delegation and
- prevention of the spread of multi-resistant ESBL - bacteria in poultry meat, at the request of the DK delegation.

The CZ delegation informed the Committee on recent methanol intoxication incidents in Czech Republic and measures taken.

Commission informed the Committee of its intentions to organise bilaterals on the European semester - CSR implementation.

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