



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 6 April 2017
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ADD 1

PV/CONS 15
ECOFIN 224

DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3527th** meeting of the Council of the European Union
(Economic and Financial Affairs), held in Brussels on 21 March 2017

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

"A" ITEMS

1. Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing an information exchange mechanism with regard to intergovernmental agreements and non-binding instruments between Member States and third countries in the field of energy and repealing Decision No 994/2012/EU [First reading]

= Adoption of the legislative act
PE-CONS 3/17 ENER 8 IA 14 CODEC 54

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 194 (2) TFEU).

Statement by the Commission

"1. The review clause of this Decision (Article 10) covers the possibility for the Commission to assess whether it is appropriate to address agreements between Member States and undertakings from third countries, in the future, and to assess whether all instruments in this Decision are sufficiently addressed.

2. The Commission commits itself to make this assessment no later than 1 January 2020."

**2. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 98/41/EC on the registration of persons sailing on board passenger ships operating to or from ports of the Member States of the Community and amending Directive 2010/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on reporting formalities for ships arriving in and/or departing from ports of the Member States
First reading**

= General approach
6937/17 MAR 50 CODEC 313
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 08.03.2017

The Council reached a general approach on the above proposal, as set out in 6937/17.

"B" ITEMS

3. **Reduced VAT rate for electronically supplied publications (e-Publications)**

- **Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 2006/112/EC, as regards rates of value added tax applied to books, newspapers and periodicals**

= Orientation debate
7103/17 FISC 59 ECOFIN 184
+ COR 1
7104/17 FISC 60 ECOFIN 185
+ COR 1

The Council discussed the possibility of authorising the application of super-reduced and zero rates to publications supplied electronically. The Chair confirmed the intention of the Presidency to continue working on the proposal with a view to reaching an agreement as soon as possible during the Maltese Presidency.

4. **General Reverse Charge Mechanism**

- **Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax as regards the temporary application of a generalised reverse charge mechanism in relation to supplies of goods and services above a certain threshold**

= Orientation debate
7118/17 FISC 61 ECOFIN 187
+ COR 1
7120/17 FISC 62 ECOFIN 188
+ COR 1

The Council had an exchange of views on the General Reverse Charge Mechanism proposal. The guidance received, in particular on the scope of the directive, the criteria for obtaining a derogation, the repealing and the duration of the derogations will serve as a basis for further work in the Council.

5. **Any other business**

- **Current financial services legislative proposals**

= Information from the Presidency
7149/17 EF 42 ECOFIN 192

The Council took note of the state of play of current legislative proposals in the field of financial services.