



Brussels, 12 September 2017
(OR. en)

11400/17

CRS/CRP 28

SUMMARY RECORD

Subject: 2638th meeting of the PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
(Part 2) held in Brussels on 26 July 2017

I. Adoption of the agenda

11466/17 OJ CRP2 28

The Committee adopted the agenda.

II. Approval of the "I" items

The Committee approved the "I" items as set out in the Annex.

III. Discussion items

COREPER (PART 2)

2. **Migration** - Situation on the Central Mediterranean route¹
= Exchange of views

The Committee held an exchange of views on the current migratory flows and was informed by the Commission and by Italy on ongoing initiatives in order to better manage those flows.

3. **Presentation of the agenda** of the Council meeting (**Justice and Home Affairs**) on 14 September 2017

The Committee took note of the Council agenda. The Presidency informed the Committee that the Council session is still marked "possible" at this time.

¹ Exceptionally, in the presence of the Schengen Associated States.

4. **Blue Card:** Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment (**First reading**)
= Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament
10552/17 MIGR 113 SOC 498 CODEC 1110

The Presidency concluded that there is broad support for a mandate to start negotiations on the basis of the latest compromise.

Statement by Germany

"Germany appreciates very much the intense efforts undertaken by the Estonian Presidency to achieve broad consensus among Member States in this important issue.

In order to achieve compromise respecting some Member State's particular labour market needs and with disregard to German interests concerning its own labour market, Germany agrees to Option 1 of the Presidency's proposal from 7 July 2017 in the understanding that the following elements of document 10552/17 of 24 July 2017 will be considered by the Presidency as non-negotiable red lines during the upcoming trilogue:

- The general salary threshold margin must remain between 1.1 and 1.7.
- National schemes for the admission of highly qualified workers can be maintained or implemented by Member States.
- In the case of long term mobility, the second Member State has the right to examine the admission conditions as set out in paragraph 3 of Article 20."

Statement by Hungary

"We are of the view that the mandate for and the actual negotiations with the European Parliament regarding the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment (Blue Card Directive) should continue to safeguard our national interests.

We find it crucial to maintain the possibility of using parallel national schemes in addition to the harmonized EU rules. Furthermore, when implementing harmonized rules it is also inevitable that Member States remain being able to continue applying the tools to control the access of third-country nationals to their national labour market and carry out labour market test applying the principle of community preference.

In general, we do not support the extension of the scope of the Blue Card Directive to beneficiaries of international protection as it does not give a significant added value but instead could even serve as a pull factor; Hungary would oppose any further extension of the scope in this regard.

Overall, we see that the mandate of the Council to start negotiations with the EP already requires such concessions that it would indeed be very difficult to accept a compromise with further reforms."

Joint statement by the Netherlands, Italy and Spain

"The European Commission has in June 2016 presented their proposal for a new Blue Card Directive with the aim to improve the EU's ability to attract and retain highly skilled third-country nationals.

We have supported the Commission in their efforts to create a more attractive Blue Card. Studies of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Migration Network (EMN) show that one of the main reasons the EU fails to attract highly skilled migrants is the relatively high salary thresholds of the current Blue Card. More specifically, the OECD has concluded that the EU Blue Card salary threshold can be particularly hard for young workers to reach. Therefore we are in favor of a flexible salary threshold, which enables member states to set the salary threshold at a level that is appropriate and effective for the needs of national labour markets.

The current compromise proposal, ranging from 1.1 to 1.7, raises the minimum salary to a level which is above the average salary in Member States. Given the aim of the revision to make the Blue Card more attractive and the outcomes of the studies by OECD and EMN we think that the current compromise is counterproductive to the EU's ability to attract and retain highly skilled migrants.

Therefore we call on the Presidency to take duly into account the position of the signatory Member States during the negotiations with the EP in order to create an attractive and business-friendly directive."

5. **Ukraine (listings) (in restricted session)**

This item was discussed in a restricted session.

6. **EU-India Summit**

= Orientation debate

11217/17 COASI 92 ASIE 23 CFSP/PESC 678 POLGEN 110
RELEX 649 DEVGEN 172 CONOP 60 WTO 163 ENER 330
JAI 687 CYBER 112 CSDP/PSDC 424 ENV 685 MIGR 130
COHOM 87 CLIMA 217 RECH 264

The Committee took note of the information provided by the EEAS and the Commission on the preparations of the Summit. The Committee will revert to the EU-India Summit closer to its date.

7. **EU-TR High level political dialogue** (Brussels, 25 July 2017)

= Debriefing

The Committee was informed by the Commission and the EEAS on the main issues addressed during the political dialogue.

IV. Any other business

COREPER (PART 2)

The Commission informed the Committee regarding the decision it adopted the same day regarding the situation in Poland.

"I" items approved

COREPER (PART 2)

8. Recommendation for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Article 22 of the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank (**First reading**)
 - = Information for national Parliaments
 - 11433/17 EF 171 UEM 238 ECOFIN 661 INST 313 CODEC 1275
 - + COR 1
 - + COR 2

 9. Draft EU-Guinea good practices for the efficient operation of the return procedure
 - = Approval
 - 11428/17 JAI 709 MIGR 137 COAFR 216
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