



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Strasbourg, 13 March 2014

7724/14

**PE 176
PESC 268
COEST 86
FIN 211
RELEX 230**

NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations

Subject: Summary record of the extraordinary meeting of the European Parliament Committee on **Foreign Affairs** held in Strasbourg on 13 March 2014

The meeting was chaired by Mr BROK (EPP, DE).

Item 1 on the agenda (in camera)

Adoption of the agenda

Item 2 on the agenda (in camera)

Chair's announcements

Item 3 on the agenda (in camera)

Debrief by Eduard Kukan and Libor Rouček on the preparatory work for the strategic dialogue on the European Neighbourhood Instrument and the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance on 18 March

Item 4 on the agenda

Exchange of views on the legislative proposals adopted by the Commission following the support package to Ukraine

Mr BROK (EPP, DE) referred to a letter of 12 March from the Chairman of the EP International Trade Committee, Mr MOREIRA (S&D, PT), addressed to Vice-President REHN regarding the macro financial assistance (MFA) of EUR 1,61 billion (i.e. EUR 610 million being undisbursed old assistance and EUR 1 billion being new assistance in the form of loans) as part of the EU assistance package to Ukraine. In this letter, Mr MOREIRA expressed INTA's willingness to handle as expediently as possible the MFA proposal under Article 212 TFEU (ordinary legislative procedure). The letter indicates that, in this way, this MFA proposal could still be adopted during this legislative term provided that the Commission adheres in its proposal to the EP/Council Joint Declaration adopted together with Decision 778/2013/EU. Mr BROK mentioned that the INTA letter specifies that the use of Article 213 TFEU would not be justified given the possibility of dealing with the file under the ordinary legislative procedure. As regards the legal basis, Mr BROK expressed some doubts and felt that Article 213 TFEU would more appropriate but showed flexibility on the issue. He suggested AFET send a letter on the matter to the Conference of Presidents.

Mr BROK considered that this macro-financial assistance had to be agreed urgently in order to prevent a default of the country. He then raised the broader issue of unpaid payments appropriations which will be problematic for the Commission and are likely to be the subject of long discussions in the new Parliament. Mr FÄRM (S&D, SE), as a member of the Committee on Budgets, shared similar concerns.

Referring to the INTA letter, Ms GOMES (S&D, PT), stressed the need for clear political commitments from the transitional government of Ukraine regarding the fight against corruption and the existence of accountability systems. She was supported by Ms LYUBCHEVA (S&D, BG) who agreed that this was an urgent situation but stressed the need to discuss the way Ukraine will use this aid.

Mr BROK replied that the whole package was under conditionality which included the fight against corruption. He suggested AFET send a letter to welcome the structural reforms pledged by the current government.

Ms NEYTS (ALDE, BE), supported by Mr SALAFRANCA SÁNCHEZ-NEYRA (EPP, ES), took the view that not too much conditionality should apply for this emergency aid of EUR 1,6 billion, given the lack of time and the need to proceed with effectiveness. She added that detailed conditionality should apply for the rest of the package

Ms CRONBERG (Greens/EFA, FI) agreed to approve this 1,6 billion emergency aid. However, she wondered about its impact on the EU budget, and how it would be coordinated with the 1 billion US aid. Mr TANNOCK (ECR, UK) agreed to deal with this proposal rapidly.

Mr BROK concluded that an AFET letter supporting this MFA proposal would be sent to the Conference of Presidents with a specific emphasis on the fight against corruption and on the need for structural reforms in Ukraine.

Next meeting(s)

- 17 March 2014, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 18 March 2014, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)