



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3301st** meeting of the COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
**(EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS)** held in Brussels on 10 March 2014

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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

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

"A" ITEMS

1. Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 443/2009 to define the modalities for reaching the 2020 target to reduce CO₂ emissions from new passenger cars [First reading] (LA+S)

PE-CONS 120/13 ENV 1159 ENT 332 CODEC 2811

+ COR 1 (de)

The Council approved the amendment set out in the European Parliament's position at first reading and adopted the proposed act amended accordingly, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 192(1) of the TFEU).

Commission Statements:

On 2025 target

"In carrying out its impact assessment of a 2025 target the Commission will consider the appropriateness of a range of ambition levels/rates of reduction, coherent with the long term climate goals of the EU and the emission reduction trajectory referred to in recital 7 of Regulation (EU) No. xxx/2013. This assessment will cover the range of ambition sought by the European Parliament for a 2025 target in the range of 68g to 78g CO₂/km, equivalent to 4-6% reduction per year in relation to the 2020 target. The impact assessment will also need to consider a wide range of issues among which will be long term climate policy goals, cost-effectiveness, competitiveness, technology availability, social equity, neutrality with respect to competition. Any conclusion reached in the impact assessment on the appropriate level of ambition for a 2025 target would need to balance effects in the range of different areas assessed.

On WLTP

"The Commission strongly supports the ongoing work in the framework of the UNECE, with the aim of a target date for the WLTP to be operational for new vehicle types by 1 January 2017. The work at UNECE is well underway and subsequently the Commission would aim to implement the new test cycle and test procedures into EU law in 2014."

On the procedure of adoption of implementing acts

"The Commission underlines that it is contrary to the letter and to the spirit of Regulation 182/2011 (OJ L 55 of 28.2.2011, p. 13) to invoke Article 5(4), subparagraph 2(b) in a systematic manner. Recourse to this provision must respond to a specific need to depart from the rule of principle which is that the Commission may adopt a draft implementing act when no opinion is delivered. Given that it is an exception to the general rule established by Article 5(4) recourse to subparagraph 2(b), cannot be simply seen as a "discretionary power" of the Legislator, but must be interpreted in a restrictive manner and thus must be justified."

Joint statement by Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands

"As it is of the utmost importance to provide car manufacturers with predictability, Belgium, Denmark and the Netherlands support the adoption of the "*Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 443/2009 to define the modalities for reaching the 2020 target to reduce CO2 emissions from new passenger cars*" while calling for an adaptation in due time of the level of ambition in line with the "*Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050*" (COM (/2011) 0112 final) and for the implementation as soon as possible of a revised test cycle and related test procedures in order to better reflect real life vehicle emissions."

2. Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived [First reading] (LA+S)

PE-CONS 132/13 SOC 1048 FSTR 170 CADREFIN 376 REGIO 310
CODEC 2989

The Council approved the amendment set out in the European Parliament's position at first reading and adopted the proposed act amended accordingly, with the Danish and the United Kingdom delegations voting against, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 175(3) of the TFEU).

Statement by the United Kingdom

"The UK believes that the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived is not consistent with the principle of subsidiarity. Food and material aid measures are better and more efficiently delivered by individual Member States through their own social programmes and their regional and local authorities. EU-financed action on social inclusion should be delivered through the European Social Fund rather than by creating a separate Fund."

Statement by Denmark

"Denmark recognises the need for special actions targeted the most deprived people in Europe.

However, Denmark finds that material assistance as proposed in the Fund for Aid for the Most Deprived lies within the competence and the responsibility of the Member States and therefore Denmark has been opposed to the Fund from the outset.

Based on this, Denmark maintains its overall reservation towards the Fund."

3. **Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products, with regard to certain conditions for access to the market [First reading] (LA)**
PE-CONS 140/13 ENV 1218 MI 1180 AGRI 866 CHIMIE 143 CODEC 3022

The Council approved the amendment set out in the European Parliament's position at first reading and adopted the proposed act amended accordingly, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 114 of the TFEU).

"B" ITEMS

8. Any other business

(b) Current legislative files

- Information from the Presidency

The Council took note of the information provided by the Presidency.

NON- LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES - PUBLIC DEBATES

(In accordance with Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure [proposed by the Presidency])

5. Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a Quality Framework for Traineeships

- Adoption

7029/1/14 SOC 159 EMPL 35 ECOFIN 195 EDUC 76 JEUN 38 REV 1

The Council adopted the text of the draft decision as set out in the above document (+ REV 1 COR 1 (de) + REV 1 COR 2 (lt) + REV 1 COR 3 (et) + REV 1 COR 4 (fi) + REV 1 COR 5 (hu) + REV 1 COR 6 (sl) + REV 1 COR 7 REV 1 (es) + REV 2 (mt) + REV 2 COR 1 (mt)). UK voted against the adoption considering that the text of the Recommendation was too prescriptive. It maintained its reservation and parliamentary scrutiny reservation.

The Council also decided that the Recommendation will be published in the Official Journal.

6. European Semester 2014: Contribution to the European Council on 20-21 March 2014

– Policy debate

6585/1/14 SOC 126 EMPL 24 ECOFIN 151 EDUC 57 POLGEN 23 REV 1
+ REV 1 COR 1

(a) The 2014 Annual Growth Survey and Joint Employment Report: political guidance on employment and social policies

(i) Draft Council conclusions

6610/1/14 SOC 131 EMPL 27 ECOFIN 154 EDUC 60 REV 1

The Council adopted the conclusions. The final version of the conclusions is to be found in doc. 7477/14. DE entered a statement into the Council minutes.

Statement by Germany

- "1. Regarding the bullet points under "The Council of the European Union stresses that", here: the second bullet point of page 3: In accordance with the Conclusions of the European Council the use of a broader range of indicators from the scoreboard of social indicators aims at achieving a broader understanding of social developments. The development of the scoreboard and its indicators must be constantly continued.
2. Regarding the 4th bullet point of page 8: EMCO's mandate is specified in Art. 150 of the TFEU. EMCO has no mandate to take action in the framework of monitoring economic policies in accordance with Article 121. The procedures provided for in the Macro-economic Imbalances Procedures must be fully complied with.
3. At the European Council meeting in December 2013 agreement was reached that the European Council is to decide about the next steps in order to strengthen coordination of economic policies through contractual agreements at its meeting in October 2014. This process should not be prejudged."

(ii) Draft Joint Employment report

6581/14 SOC 125 EMPL 23 ECOFIN 150 EDUC 56 JEUN 33
+ COR 1
+ COR 2
+ COR 3

– Adoption

The Council adopted the Joint Employment Report. The final version of the Report is to be found in doc. 7476/14. The UK maintained a parliamentary scrutiny reservation on the Report.

The above Council Conclusions and the Joint Employment Report were submitted as the EPSCO Council's contribution to the European Council of 20-21 March.

(b) The Social situation in the EU

- (i) Report of the Social Protection Committee
6663/14 SOC 137
- (ii) Draft Council conclusions
6608/1/14 SOC 130 REV 1
- Adoption

The Council adopted the conclusions, based on the SPC Report on the social situation in the EU. The final version of the conclusions is to be found in doc. 7655/14.

(c) Proposal for a Council Decision on Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States

- General approach
6612/14 SOC 132 ECOFIN 155 EMPL 28 EDUC 61

The Council reached a general approach as set out in doc. 6612/14.

7. Europe 2020 Strategy: Stocktaking

Communication from the Commission on "Taking stock of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth"

- Presentation by the Commission
6713/14 CO EUR-PREP 7 POLGEN 25 AG 4 ECOFIN 166 UEM 31 SOC 139
COMPET 122 RECH 78 ENER 73 TRANS 72 MI 183 IND 67
EDUC 67 ENV 161 AGRI 122
- Exchange of views
6773/14 CO EUR-PREP 8 POLGEN 26 AG 5 ECOFIN 171 UEM 32 SOC 148
COMPET 127 RECH 85 ENER 76 TRANS 78 MI 193 IND 70
EDUC 71 ENV 169 AGRI 128

The Council took note of the Commission's presentation, launching the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 Strategy. It held an exchange of views on the basis of a Presidency note (doc. 6773/14) with a view to this mid-term review. The results of this exchange of views were reflected in the Presidency Synthesis Report (doc. 7699/14).