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3342nd Council meeting

### Environment

Luxembourg, 28 October 2014

President

**Gian Luca GALLETTI**

Minister for the Environment, the Protection of Natural  
Resources and the Sea of Italy

# P R E S S

## ***Main results of the Council***

### ***Lima Climate Conference***

*The Council adopted conclusions on the preparations for the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 20), which will take place from 1 to 12 December 2014 in Lima, Peru. "The conclusions adopted by the Council build on the agreement reached in Brussels last week by EU leaders. Both pave the way for Europe to take a leading role on climate challenges with a view to the Lima Conference in December and the Paris Conference in 2015. Our goal is a fair and ambitious global agreement, which would make all countries of the world responsible for a crucial issue for the future of the planet, setting out a model of socially and environmentally sustainable development," said the president of the Council, Italian Minister for the Environment Gian Luca Galletti.*

*The conclusions set out the main elements of the EU position for the Lima Conference, focusing in particular on the 2015 agreement and pre-2020 mitigation ambition.*

### ***Greening the European Semester and the Europe 2020 Strategy***

*The Council adopted conclusions on Greening the European Semester and the Europe 2020 Strategy. "The Council has achieved a very important political objective: all EU environment ministers are now demanding a strong focus on sustainability and efficient use of resources by integrating them into the 2020 Strategy and therefore adding a new environmental dimension to it. The transition to a green and circular economy is a real possibility for development for Europe, an effective tool to combat the crisis and a new field of activity on which to focus in order to create millions of new jobs," said Minister Galletti.*

*The conclusions are the contribution by the environment sector to the mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy, adopted in 2010, which is a central element of the EU's response to the global economic crisis.*

### ***Waste management***

*Ministers held a first public policy debate on a legislative proposal for an amending directive addressing the management of different types of waste. The aim of the proposal is to improve waste management in the European Union, with a view to protecting the quality of the environment and ensuring prudent and rational use of natural resources.*

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<sup>1</sup>

- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

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Mr Edward DAVEY

Mr Dan ROGERSON

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Water,  
Forestry, Rural Affairs and Resource Management

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**Commission:**

Ms Connie HEDEGAARD

Mr Janez POTOČNIK

Member

Member

## **ITEMS DEBATED**

### **Greening the European Semester and the Europe 2020 Strategy**

The Council adopted conclusions on Greening the European Semester and the Europe 2020 Strategy, as set out in [14731/14](#).

The conclusions are the contribution by the environment sector to the mid-term review of the 2020 strategy, adopted in 2010, which is a central element of the EU's response to the global economic crisis.

### **Waste management**

The Council held a public policy debate on a legislative proposal amending six directives addressing the management of different types of waste ([11598/14](#)). The aim of the proposal is to improve waste management in the European Union, with a view to protecting the quality of the environment and ensuring prudent and rational use of natural resources.

More specifically, it reviews the legally binding targets set in directives 2008/98/EC on waste, 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste and 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste, with a view to improving resource efficiency in line with the Resource Efficiency Roadmap ([14632/11](#)) and the 7th Environment Action Programme ([OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 171](#)). Other proposed measures include harmonising definitions and calculation methods, simplifying reporting requirements, setting minimum operating conditions for extended producer responsibility, and setting up an early-warning system to monitor target compliance.

The proposal forms part of the Commission's Circular Economy Package (presented in July 2014), which also comprises a communication entitled "Towards a circular economy: A Zero waste programme for Europe" ([11592/1/14 REV 1](#)) and a communication on resource efficiency opportunities in the building sector ([11609/14](#)).

The ministers' discussion was based on three questions prepared by the presidency ([14060/1/14 REV 1](#)).

Ministers generally welcomed the thrust of the Commission proposal, which is considered to be in line with the 7th Environment Action Programme and the goals of the 2020 strategy. However, ministers expressed concerns about the ambitiousness of the proposal and called for realistic and achievable targets on reuse, recycling and landfilling. Delegations also underlined the need to take into account the specificities of member states and their different performance levels and starting positions. They expressed the need to further clarify some issues such as the calculation methodologies and definitions. The idea behind the proposed early-warning system was generally welcomed but the system needs further work so as to minimise the administrative and financial burden on member states. Delegations also raised concerns about the proposed frequency of reporting.

## **Lima Climate Conference**

The Council adopted conclusions setting out the main elements of the EU position for the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 20), which will take place from 1 to 12 December 2014 in Lima, Peru, as set out in [14747/14](#).

The European Union has been a major player in the fight against climate change for quite some time and has been actively engaged in international negotiations. The Lima conference is the last of the intermediate conferences between Durban, where the mandate to negotiate a global agreement by 2015 was decided, and Paris, where the global agreement needs to be adopted in December 2015.

The Lima Conference should therefore identify the key elements for a draft negotiating text which will be the basis for the work on the future global agreement, the first draft of which is expected to be ready by May 2015. Furthermore, the Lima Conference should deliver a decision on the upfront information requirements for the contributions put forward by the Parties and on a process to consider those contributions once they are tabled in the course of 2015 prior to the Paris Conference. The COP 20 should also focus on how to enhance pre-2020 mitigation ambition. Finally, it should adopt a whole range of implementation decisions, including one containing the rules for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, with a view to implementing the Doha Amendment.

The conclusions outline the urgency and need for global action, which should be reflected in an ambitious, legally binding agreement in Paris in 2015. They also recall the actions already undertaken by the EU and member states, which are likely to jointly overachieve on their 2020 targets, and welcome the positive momentum generated by the Ban Ki Moon Climate Summit held in New York on 23 September 2014.

## **Other business**

### **Main recent international meetings**

The Council was briefed by the presidency and the Commission on the main recent international meetings that took place in the first part of the Italian presidency ([14664/14](#), [14654/14](#)).



The briefing covered matters such as the twelfth Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 6-17 October), the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP MOP 7) (Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 29 September-3 October), the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (COP MOP 1) (Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 13-17 October), the fifth Meeting of the Parties (MOP 5) to the Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (Maastricht, 30 June-4 July) and the second Meeting of the Parties (MOPP 2) to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Maastricht, 2-4 July).

For detailed information see the Biological Diversity Conference [website](#) and the Aarhus Convention [website](#).

The Czech delegation briefed ministers on the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, held in Mikulov, Czech Republic, from 23 to 26 September 2014, and on the Czech Presidency to the Convention 2014-2017 ([14483/14](#)).

For detailed information see the Carpathian Convention [website](#).

### **European Sustainable Development Week**

The German, French and Austrian delegations briefed ministers on the first European Sustainable Development Week that will take place from 30 May to 5 June 2015 ([14686/14](#)).

The three countries invited all member states and EU institutions to participate in and support European Sustainable Development Week. The objective of this initiative is to make the multitude of different projects and the great diversity of people involved in sustainable development visible locally as well as nationally and internationally.

The initiative for European Sustainable Development Week was developed within the framework of the European Sustainable Development Network, which has existed since 2002 and involves sustainability experts from the competent ministries of all 28 EU member states.

## **OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### **Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals**

The Council adopted a decision establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union with regard to proposals for amending Appendices I and II to the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS) at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) ([13675/14](#)).

The COP 11 will take place in Quito (Ecuador) from 4 to 9 November 2014. The CMS aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. For more details see the [website](#).

### **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

#### **Specific restrictive measures against Mr Milosevic and associated persons**

The Council approved the repeal of EU sanctions against Mr Milosevic and persons associated with him. This is because the restrictive measures are no longer considered relevant in view of the current state of relations between the EU and Serbia and the stated legal grounds are outdated. The sanctions will cease to apply on 29 October 2014.

### **DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION**

#### **Financial contributions to the European Development Fund**

The Council approved the third instalment of financial contributions to be paid by member states to the European Development Fund in 2014.

## **ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

### **Credit rating agencies: technical standards**

The Council decided not to object to the adoption by the Commission of three regulations supplementing regulation 1060/2009 on credit rating agencies with regard to:

- disclosure requirements for structured finance instruments ([14205/1/14 REV 1](#) and [13783/14](#) + [ADD 1](#));
- the presentation of information that credit rating agencies make available to the European Securities and Markets Authority ([14205/1/14 REV 1](#) and [13786/14](#) + [ADD 1](#));
- periodic reporting on fees charged by credit rating agencies for the purpose of ongoing supervision by the European Securities and Markets Authority ([14205/1/14 REV 1](#) and [13787/14](#) + [ADD 1](#)).

The regulations are delegated acts pursuant to article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. They can now enter into force, unless the European Parliament objects.

### **Prudential requirements: technical standards**

The Council decided not to object to the adoption by the Commission of a regulation supplementing regulation 575/2013 on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms as regards the determination of the overall exposure to a client or a group of connected clients in respect of transactions with underlying assets and the conditions under which the transaction does not constitute an additional exposure ([14037/14](#) and [14026/14](#)).

The regulations are delegated acts pursuant to article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. They can now enter into force, unless the European Parliament objects.

## **JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

### **Schengen Information System**

The Council adopted conclusions on the Court of Auditors' Special Report No 3/2014: "Lessons from the European Commission's development of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II)" ([13938/14](#)).

## **AGRICULTURE**

### **International Organisation of Vine and Wine - EU position**

The Council adopted a decision establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the EU with regard to certain resolutions to be voted on in the framework of the International Organisation for Vine and Wine (OIV) at the next general assembly of the organisation in Mendoza (Argentina) on 14 November 2014 ([13332/14 ADD 1](#)).

According to this decision, the coordination of the EU position on the OIV will be formalised for the draft resolutions falling within the EU's field of competence. This proposal is based on Article 218(9) of the Lisbon Treaty concerning international agreements.

The OIV is an intergovernmental scientific and technical organisation made up of members, observers and international organisations with a particular status active in the vines, wine, wine-based drinks, table grapes, raisins and other vine products sectors. The OIV has 46 members, of which 21 are member states of the EU. However, the EU is currently not a member of the OIV.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Committee of the Regions**

The Council appointed Mr Marc PERERA CHRISTENSEN (Denmark) ([14361/14](#)), as a member of the Committee of the Regions for the remainder of the current term of office, which runs until 25 January 2015.

## **DECISIONS ADOPTED BY WRITTEN PROCEDURE**

### **Public access to documents**

On 27 October 2014 the European Council approved the reply to confirmatory application 29/c/01/14 ([EUCO 209/1/14 REV 1](#)).

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