



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 11 February 2016
(OR. en)

15343/15
ADD 1

PV/CONS 78
ENV 791
CLIMA 147

DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3441st** meeting of the Council of the European Union (**ENVIRONMENT**),
held in Brussels on 16 December 2015

PUBLIC DELIBERATION ITEMS¹

Page

"B" ITEMS (doc. 15214/15 OJ/CONS 78 ENV 788 CLIMA 145)

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

3. Draft Council conclusions on the Mid-Term Review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020..... 3

LEGISLATIVE DELIBERATIONS

4. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC [First reading]..... 3

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5. Any other business 5

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).

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

(Public debate in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

3. Draft Council conclusions on the Mid-Term Review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

– Adoption

14950/15 ENV 765 AGRI 639 DEVGEN 254 PI 98 FORETS 49 PECHE 465
RECH 301 ONU 144

12683/15 ENV 606 AGRI 510 DEVGEN 175 PI 64 FORETS 37 PECHE 337
RECH 239 ONU 117

The Council adopted the conclusions as set up in doc. 15389/15. During the discussion Ministers underscored some of the main messages of the conclusions such as the need to strengthen the implementation of Union legislation and the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity targets across sectors and of adequate funding for the Natura 2000 Network.

LEGISLATIVE DELIBERATIONS

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

4. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC [First reading]

Interinstitutional File: 2013/0443 (COD)

– General approach

15172/15 ENV 787 ENER 424 IND 207 TRANS 407 ENT 264
SAN 433 PARLNAT 145 CODEC 1700

18167/13 ENV 1235 ENER 600 IND 388 TRANS 693 ENT 356 SAN 555
PARLNAT 325 CODEC 3086

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+ ADD 6

The Council reached a general approach on the proposed Directive to reduce national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants (NEC) on the basis of a Presidency compromise. The text can be found in doc. 15401/15.

The Presidency, following a first round table where all delegations intervened, introduced limited changes to the text. Subsequently, the Presidency concluded that a general approach was reached, constituting a first step towards an agreement with the European Parliament, and hoped that a satisfactory conclusion of the negotiation could be achieved during the Netherlands Presidency. On this basis:

AT stressed its opposition to the text considering the outcome was neither practicable nor fair for them.

PL stated its opposition, in particular because of the coverage of ammonia within the scope of the proposal.

DK could not support the text because of the reduction commitments foreseen for ammonia in Annex II of the proposal, both for 2020 and for 2030.

DE reserved its position because of the 2030 reduction commitment foreseen for ammonia in Annex II, adding that more time was needed for internal Ministerial concertation.

SE, BE and FI made a joint statement (as set out hereafter).

Joint statement by Sweden, Belgium and Finland

"Sweden, Belgium and Finland wish to emphasise that the improvement of European air quality is crucial both for public health and the environment. Every year more than 400 000 of our citizens die a premature death due to the poor air quality in the EU. Air pollution is a transboundary issue. The limit values of the air quality directive are not met in many places in Europe partly due to emissions in other Member States. The National Emissions Ceilings Directive, with the joint approach to tackling air emissions that underpins it, is therefore essential.

The agreed General Approach moves us forward to the next phase of deliberation on this important file. Sweden, Belgium and Finland accept the General Approach as a way forward. We nevertheless believe that it leaves more to be desired in terms of overall ambition and the cost effectiveness with which this ambition needs to be met."

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5. Any other business

(e) Package of proposals aiming to promote the circular economy

(i) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Closing the loop - a European Union action plan for the circular economy

- Information from the Commission
(Public debate in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

14972/15 ENV 768 COMPET 557 AGRI 642 TRANS 402 MI 779 IND 201
CONSUM 212 ECOFIN 954 ENER 417 RECH 305 SAN 424
+ ADD 1

Current legislative proposals

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

(ii) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, 2006/66/EC on batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and 2012/19/EU on waste electrical and electronic equipment [First reading]

Interinstitutional File: 2015/0272 (COD)

14973/15 ENV 769 ENT 258 MI 780 CODEC 1660

(iii) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 1999/31 on the landfill of waste [First reading]

Interinstitutional File: 2015/0274 (COD)

14974/15 ENV 770 CODEC 1661

(iv) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste [First reading]

Interinstitutional File: 2015/0275 (COD)

14975/15 ENV 771 COMPET 559 MI 782 AGRI 646 IND 203 CONSUM 214
ENT 260 CODEC 1662

+ ADD 1

(v) Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste [First reading]

Interinstitutional File: 2015/0276 (COD)

14976/15 ENV 772 IND 202 CODEC 1663

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- Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information communicated by the Commission and generally welcomed the revised package. A number of delegations pointed to certain elements which would require further discussions.