



Council of the
European Union

012278/EU XXVI. GP
Eingelangt am 22/02/18

Brussels, 22 February 2018

6224/18
PV/CONS 5
EDUC 35
JEUN 13
CULT 16
AUDIO 7
SPORT 6



DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(**Education**, Youth, Culture and Sport)
15 February 2018

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1. **Adoption of the agenda**

The Council adopted the agenda set out in 5829/18.

Non-legislative activities

2. **Mid-term evaluation of the Erasmus+ programme and future orientations for post-2020**

12

5388/18

Policy debate

The Council held a policy debate on the above topic on the basis of a discussion paper prepared by the Presidency (5388/18).

Ministers highlighted the strong European added value of the Erasmus+ Programme in strengthening common European values and building European identity. The need to make the future programme even more open and inclusive, focusing on all levels of education, life-long learning and including participants from vulnerable groups or disadvantaged backgrounds, was stressed by Ministers.

3. **Taking forward the education aspects of the December 2017 European Council conclusions**

12

5391/18

Policy debate

The Council held a policy debate on the above topic on the basis of a discussion paper prepared by the Presidency (5391/18).

Ministers noted the determination and political will shown at the highest level to take work forward in the area of education, where the Union can play an important supplementing and supporting role. Ministers discussed the specific initiatives that had been raised by the European Council in its conclusions, such as networks of universities, mutual recognition of diplomas and language learning.

Any other business

4. **Education Summit (Brussels, 25 January 2018)**

5678/18

Information from the Commission

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

Non-legislative activities

5. Approval of "A" items

5854/18

Non-legislative list

The Council adopted the "A" items listed in 5854/18 + ADD 1. Statements related to these items are set out in the Annex.



Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

STATEMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL MINUTES

Statements to non-legislative "A" items set out in 5854/18

Ad "A" item 5: **Partnership Agreement with the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire: opening negotiations**
Adoption

STATEMENT 1 BY THE COMMISSION

"The Commission does not consider it necessary that a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations indicates a substantive legal basis."

STATEMENT 2 BY THE COMMISSION

"Following article 31(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Common Fisheries Policy, the Commission fully recognizes the importance of the sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources and the consequent need to ensure a proper implementation of the concept of surplus, as expressed in article 62(2) of the UNCLOS, particularly when Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements and associated protocols rule the access of the EU external fleet to resources distributed in waters of the partner country.

However, regarding article 64 of the UNCLOS and article 31(4) of the R(EU) N° 1380/2013, the Commission considers that the concept of surplus applies to a lesser degree to fishing activities exploiting highly migratory species, where management objectives and management measures – priority access rules, catch, capacity or effort limits, and sharing keys where relevant – have to be primarily fixed at regional or sub-regional levels by the Contracting Parties to competent Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, taking in due account the relevant scientific advice."

