



Brussels, 9 April 2018
(OR. en)

7714/18

FREMP 43
JAI 285
DROIPEN 48
COHOM 44
PE 42
INST 136
ENFOPOL 153

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Outcome of the meeting on 21 March 2018 of the Working Party on Fundamental Rights, Citizens' Rights and Free Movement of Persons (FREMP)

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in doc. CM 2009/18.

2. 2nd independent External Evaluation of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) (doc. ST 5999/18 and WK 3311/18 - summary of the External Evaluation) - presentation by the independent external evaluator and exchange of views

The independent external evaluator presented the 2nd evaluation of FRA whose purpose was to provide external and independent review of the progress and achievements since the first independent evaluation of the Agency in 2012. In terms of findings, the key message was that the work of FRA is highly valuable, thus it should continue. On the other hand, the evaluator underlined the limited financial and human resources of the Agency, thus the need to better prioritise. Overall support for the evaluation was expressed by all delegations who intervened.

3. Recommendations following up on the 2nd independent External Evaluation of FRA (doc. ST 5999/18/ADD1) - presentation by the Chair of the Management Board of FRA and exchange of views with FRA Director

The Chairperson of the Management Board of FRA presented recommendations regarding changes in the Agency, its working practices and the scope of its mission, as adopted by the Management Board on 14 December 2017. She underlined the need for FRA to continue its good work, but at the same time to reform ('Lisbonise') its founding Regulation so to allow the Agency to work on its own initiative in the field of the old third pillar (criminal and police cooperation), abolish the multiannual framework, simplify the procedure of appointment of FRA director and management board members. The majority of the delegations who took the floor supported in principle the need for the said changes. One delegation expressed its opposition to any legislative change. The FRA Director, Mr Michael O'Flaherty welcomed in general the recommendations of the Management Board and gave further explanations.

In a closed session with delegations only, the Commission gave its opinion on the evaluation, sharing its main findings and possible next steps.

The Presidency concluded by inviting delegations to send written contributions concerning the FRA evaluation and recommendations.

4. Report on the right of EU citizens to vote and stand as candidates in municipal elections (doc. ST 6282/18) - presentation by the Commission and exchange of views

The Commission presented its Report on the application of Directive 94/80/EC on the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in municipal elections, published in January 2018. It stressed that free and universal elections are the foundation of legitimate democratic governance and supporting turnout at all levels of power is a priority. Against this background, the Commission will seek to improve the collection of regional-level demographic data for mobile EU citizens; incorporate information on EU citizenship rights, including electoral rights, in its information campaigns; promote automatic registration of voters, including through the network of Member State experts in electoral matters; promote activities that increase participation in political life by gathering information on the experience of local authorities and promoting best practices at local level.

5. AOB

a) **Thematic conference on the practical implementation of the Passenger Name Record Directive - Information from the Presidency**

The Presidency debriefed delegations about the above-mentioned event that took place in Sofia on 21 February 2018.

b) **International Conference on the Future of Work - Information from the Presidency**

The Presidency informed delegations about the above-mentioned event taking place in Sofia on 21 February 2018, and will debrief at next FREMP meeting.

c) **Planning of the upcoming FREMP meetings - Information from the Presidency**

The Presidency reiterated that the next FREMP meetings are planned to take place on the following dates: 25 April 2018, 18 May 2018, 12 June 2018 (poss. as a COHOM-FREMP meeting).

d) **Presidency non-paper containing the elements for a Code of Conduct on the Istanbul Convention - Information from the Presidency**

The Presidency updated delegations that is currently working on a revised text and the item will most likely be put on the agenda of the upcoming FREMP meeting.
