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NOTE

Subject: MONTHLY SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTS - MARCH 2018

This document lists the acts¹ adopted by the Council in March 2018.^{2 3}

It provides information on the adoption of legislative acts, including:

- the date of adoption,
- the relevant Council session,
- the number of the document adopted,
- the Official Journal reference,
- applicable voting rules, voting results and, where appropriate, explanations of vote and statements published in the minutes of the Council.

¹ For easy reference, the "short titles" as mentioned in the Council's agendas are also indicated (see in *italics*).

² With the exception of certain acts of limited scope such as procedural decisions, appointments, decisions of bodies set up by international agreements, specific budgetary decisions, etc.

³ In the case of legislative acts adopted in the ordinary legislative procedure, there may be a difference between the date of the Council's meeting where the legislative act is adopted and the actual date of the act in question, since legislative acts adopted in the ordinary legislative procedure are only considered to have been adopted after signature by both the President of the Council and the President of the European Parliament and the Secretaries-General of the two institutions.

This document also contains information on the adoption of non-legislative acts that the Council has decided to make public.

This document is also available on the Council's website at:

[Monthly summaries of Council acts \(acts\) - Consilium](#)

Documents listed in the summary may be obtained from the public register of Councilw documents at: [Documents and publications - Consilium](#)

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INFORMATION ON THE ACTS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL IN MARCH 2018

3601st meeting of the Council of the European Union (Environment) held in Brussels on 5 March 2018

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS

ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
<p><i>Decision on renewal of the Agreement on the scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and Brazil</i> Council Decision (EU) 2018/343 of 5 March 2018 concerning the renewal of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Federative Republic of Brazil OJ L 67, 9.3.2018, p. 1–2</p>	11040/17
<p><i>Decision on the negotiating mandate for revised Lisbon Agreement</i> Council Decision (EU) 2018/416 of 5 March 2018 authorising the opening of negotiations for a revised Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications OJ L 75, 19.3.2018, p. 23–24</p>	6040/18
<p><i>Central African Republic restrictive measures - UN update - Implementing Decision and Regulation</i> Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2018/332 of 5 March 2018 implementing Decision 2013/798/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Central African Republic OJ L 63, 6.3.2018, p. 46–47</p>	6483/18
<p><i>Central African Republic restrictive measures - UN update - Implementing Decision and Regulation</i> Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/325 of 5 March 2018 implementing Article 17(3) of Regulation (EU) No 224/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in the Central African Republic OJ L 63, 6.3.2018, p. 3–4</p>	6485/18

<p><i>Democratic People's Republic of Korea restrictive measures - UN transposition - Implementing Decision and Regulation</i> Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2018/331 of 5 March 2018 implementing Decision (CFSP) 2016/849 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea OJ L 63, 6.3.2018, p. 44–45</p>	6447/18
<p><i>Democratic People's Republic of Korea restrictive measures - UN transposition - Implementing Decision and Regulation</i> Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/324 of 5 March 2018 implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1509 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea OJ L 63, 6.3.2018, p. 1–2</p>	6448/18
<p><i>Ukraine: misappropriation of funds - review - Decision and Implementing Regulation</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/333 of 5 March 2018 amending Decision 2014/119/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Ukraine OJ L 63, 6.3.2018, p. 48–49</p>	6537/18
<p><i>Ukraine: misappropriation of funds - review - Decision and Implementing Regulation</i> Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/326 of 5 March 2018 implementing Regulation (EU) No 208/2014 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Ukraine OJ L 63, 6.3.2018, p. 5–6</p>	6539/18

3602nd meeting of the Council of the European Union (Foreign Affairs/Defence) held in Brussels on 6 March 2018

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS		DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
ACT		6173/18
<i>Decision on UNECE (March 2018)</i> Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the relevant Committees of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe as regards the proposals for amendments to UN Regulations Nos 6, 13, 13-H, 30, 37, 41, 43, 46, 51, 67, 79, 90, 107, 110, 118, 121, 122, 128, 140 and 142, to Consolidated Resolutions R.E.3 and R.E.5 and to Mutual Resolution M.R.1, and as regards a proposal for one new UN Global Technical Regulation		
<i>Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)</i> <i>Council Decision on the first set of projects</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/340 of 6 March 2018 establishing the list of projects to be developed under PESCO OJ L 65, 8.3.2018, p. 24–27		6393/18
<i>Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)</i> <i>Council Recommendation on the way forward on PESCO implementation</i> Council Recommendation of 6 March 2018 concerning a roadmap for the implementation of PESCO OJ C 88, 8.3.2018, p. 1–4		6588/1/18 REV 1

3603rd meeting of the Council of the European Union (Justice and Home Affairs) held in Brussels on 8 and 9 March 2018

LEGISLATIVE ACTS

ACT	DOCUMENT	VOTING RULE	VOTES
<p><i>Insurance Distribution Directive (IDD) Quick Fix</i> Directive (EU) 2018/411 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2018 amending Directive (EU) 2016/97 as regards the date of application of Member States' transposition measures (Text with EEA relevance) OJ L 76, 19.3.2018, p. 28–29</p>	1/18	Qualified majority	All Member States in favour, except: Abstention: DE

Statement by the Commission

The Commission recalls that under the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016 the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agreed that in order to swiftly and correctly apply Union legislation in the Member States, the time limit for transposition of directives would be as short as possible and, generally, not exceed two years.

In view of the particular timeframe for the application of Directive (EU) 2016/97 and of the Delegated Regulations adopted under this Directive, which resulted in difficulties for small and medium-sized insurance companies and insurance distributors to implement the required changes in time for the application date of 23 February 2017, the Commission exceptionally submitted a proposal to amend Directive (EU) 2016/97 by setting the date for application to 1 October 2018.

The co-legislators have also agreed to postpone the transposition date for Directive (EU) 2016/97 to 1 July 2018. The Commission considers that this cannot be interpreted as creating a precedent, as it must be ensured that all Member States are treated equally, but notes that exceptionally it will not stand in the way of this agreement. The Commission expects Member States to fully comply with their obligation to bring their national transposition measures into force at this date at the latest, in order to give insurance companies and insurance distributors enough time to finalise their preparation and adaptation measures with the full knowledge of the European and national legislative frameworks.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS		DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
ACT		
<i>Conclusions on Best Practices regarding the On-line Publication of Court Decisions</i> Conclusions of the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on Best Practices regarding the On-line Publication of Court Decisions		5306/18
<i>UNIDROIT - Council Decision authorising negotiations on the conclusion of the "MAC Protocol"</i> Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on the conclusion of a Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Agricultural, Construction and Mining Equipment (MAC Protocol)		5109/18
<p>Statement by the United Kingdom</p> <p>The United Kingdom supports the Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on the conclusion of a Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters specific to Agricultural, Construction and Mining Equipment (MAC Protocol)</p> <p>However the United Kingdom considers that the Council Decision, being a measure proposed pursuant to Title V of Part Three of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, is subject to Protocol (No. 21) to the Treaties on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in Respect of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. Therefore, the United Kingdom does not consider that it is automatically bound, as suggested by Recital (7), to participate in the Council Decision simply on account of its participation in Regulation 1215/2012, Regulation 2015/848 and Regulation 593/2008.</p> <p>Accordingly, the United Kingdom has notified the President of the Council that it wishes to take part in the adoption and application of this Decision, in accordance with Article 3 of Protocol No.21 to the Treaties.</p>		

<p><i>Council Decision on international substance scheduling at the 61st Commission on Narcotic Drugs session</i></p> <p>Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the sixty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the scheduling of substances under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971</p>	6084/18
<p>Statement by the Commission</p> <p>The Commission will not oppose the adoption by qualified majority of the revised text of the EU common position for the scheduling of new psychoactive substances at the 61st meeting of the CND, but wishes to reiterate its position that the decisions concerned by this proposal are a matter of exclusive Union competence because Union law, in this case in the area of drug control, will be directly and automatically affected by the scheduling decisions of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). The Commission underlines that this position refers to international scheduling decisions under the 1961 UN Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances and not to drugs policy in general."</p>	
<p><i>Prüm Implementing Decisions: Council Implementing Decision on the launch of automated data with regard to vehicle registration data in Portugal</i></p> <p>Council Implementing Decision on the launch of automated data exchange with regard to vehicle registration data in Portugal</p>	13308/17
<p><i>Prüm Council conclusions: Council conclusions on the implementation of the general provisions on data protection with regard to exchange of DNA data in Croatia</i></p> <p>Council Conclusions on the implementation of the general provisions on data protection of Chapter 6 of Council Decision 2008/615/JHA ("Prüm Decision") concerning Croatia with regard to automated data exchange of DNA data</p>	5733/18

<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Denmark data protection</i> Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of Denmark on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of data protection</p>	6923/18
<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Denmark police cooperation</i> Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of Denmark on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of police cooperation</p>	6924/18
<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Greece data protection</i> Council Implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2016 evaluation of Greece on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of data protection</p>	6925/18
<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - France data protection</i> Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2016 evaluation of France on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of data protection</p>	6926/18
<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Iceland police cooperation</i> Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of Iceland on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of police cooperation</p>	6927/18
<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Iceland return</i> Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of Iceland on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of return</p>	6928/18
<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Sweden return</i> Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of Sweden on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of return</p>	6929/18

<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Sweden visa policy</i> Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of Sweden on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the common visa policy</p>	6930/18
<p><i>Conclusions on alternatives to coercive sanctions</i> Council Conclusions on promoting the use of alternatives to coercive sanctions for drug using offenders</p>	6931/18
3604th meeting of the Council of the European Union (Competitiveness (Internal market, Industry, Research and Space) held in Brussels on 12 March 2018)	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	
<p><i>Conclusions on the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights</i> Council Conclusions on the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights</p>	6681/18
<p><i>Conclusions on EU-funded loan guarantee instruments (CoA SR No 20/2017)</i> Council Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report No 20/2017: "EU-funded loan guarantee instruments: positive results but better targeting of beneficiaries and coordination with national schemes needed"</p>	7043/18
<p><i>Mobilisation European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF/2017 008 DE/Goodyear)</i> Decision (EU) 2018/513 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2018 on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund following an application from Germany — EGF/2017/008 DE/Goodyear OJ L 84, 28.3.2018, p. 16–17</p>	6251/18
<p><i>Conclusions on European Court of Auditors' Special Report on "Ex ante conditionalities and performance reserve in Cohesion"</i> Council Conclusions on Special Report No 15/2017 by the European Court of Auditors' on "Ex ante conditionalities and performance reserve in Cohesion: innovative but not yet effective instruments</p>	7052/18

<p><i>Council Decision on opening negotiations with China concerning WTO dispute settlement proceedings DS 492</i></p> <p>Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations with the People's Republic of China on a mutually agreed solution in connection with the WTO dispute settlement proceedings DS492 Measures affecting Tariff Concessions on Certain Poultry Meat Products</p>	6103/18
<p><i>Central African Republic restrictive measures: transposition of UNSCR 2399 (2018) - Decision and Regulation</i></p> <p>Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/391 of 12 March 2018 amending Decision 2013/798/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Central African Republic</p> <p>OJ L 69, 13.3.2018, p. 46–47</p>	5889/18
<p><i>Central African Republic restrictive measures: transposition of UNSCR 2399 (2018) - Decision and Regulation</i></p> <p>Council Regulation (EU) 2018/387 of 12 March 2018 amending Regulation (EU) No 224/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in the Central African Republic</p> <p>OJ L 69, 13.3.2018, p. 9–10</p>	5891/18
<p><i>Restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine - review - Decision and Implementing Regulation</i></p> <p>Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/392 of 12 March 2018 amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine</p> <p>OJ L 69, 13.3.2018, p. 48–59</p>	5995/18
<p><i>Restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine - review - Decision and Implementing Regulation</i></p> <p>Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/388 of 12 March 2018 implementing Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine</p> <p>OJ L 69, 13.3.2018, p. 11–22</p>	6042/18
<p><i>Council Conclusions on EU industrial policy strategy for competitiveness, growth and innovation</i></p> <p>Council Conclusions on EU industrial policy strategy for competitiveness, growth and innovation</p>	7037/18

3605th meeting of the Council of the European Union (Economic and Financial Affairs) held in Brussels on 13 March 2018

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS		DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
ACT		
<p><i>Latvia derogation on common system of value added tax</i> Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/457 of 13 March 2018 authorising the Republic of Latvia to introduce a special measure derogating from Article 193 of Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax OJ L 77, 20.3.2018, p. 14–15</p>		6267/18
<p><i>De-Listing of certain jurisdictions from the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes</i> The EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes — Report by the Code of Conduct Group (Business taxation) suggesting the de-listing of certain jurisdictions OJ C 100, 16.3.2018, p. 4–4</p>		6777/18
<p><i>The EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes- changes due to the commitments received from the jurisdictions affected by the hurricanes</i> The EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes — Changes due to commitments received from jurisdictions affected by hurricanes — Adoption OJ C 100, 16.3.2018, p. 5–5</p>		6945/18
<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - France SIS</i> Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the serious deficiencies identified in the 2016 evaluation of France on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System</p>		7137/18

<p><i>Council Decision on the signing of the EU-Swiss Confederation Agreement for financial support for external borders and visa (ISF 2014-2020)</i></p> <p>Council Decision (EU) 2018/404 of 13 March 2018 on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation on supplementary rules in relation to the instrument for financial support for external borders and visa, as part of the Internal Security Fund, for the period 2014 to 2020</p> <p>OJ L 74, 16.3.2018, p. 1–2</p>	6221/18
<p><i>Council Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors Special Report on the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP)</i></p> <p>Council Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 3/2018: "Audit of the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP)"</p>	6680/18
<p>3606th meeting of the Council of the European Union (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs) held in Brussels on 15 March 2018</p>	
<p>NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS</p>	
ACT	DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
<p><i>Council Decision on an EU position in Côte d'Ivoire-EU EPA Committee - adoption of EPA Committee RoP</i></p> <p>Council Decision establishing the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the EPA committee set up by the Stepping Stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Côte d'Ivoire, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, regarding the adoption of its rules of procedure</p>	6479/18
<p><i>European Semester 2018</i></p> <p>a) <i>Priorities for action in the areas of employment and social policies: Political guidance in 2018</i></p> <p>i) <i>Joint Employment Report</i></p> <p>ii) <i>Conclusions on the 2018 Annual Growth Survey and Joint Employment Report</i></p> <p>Council Conclusions on the 2018 Annual Growth Survey and Joint Employment Report</p>	7165/18

<p><i>Recommendation on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships (Legal basis proposed by the Commission: Articles 153, 166 and 292 TFEU)</i> Council Recommendation of 15 March 2018 on a European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships OJ C 153, 2.5.2018, p. 1–6</p>	<p>6779/18</p>
<p>Statement by Latvia</p> <p>Latvia supports the measures proposed to improve the quality and effectiveness of apprenticeships across the EU.</p> <p>With a view to implementation and to avoid misinterpretation, it is of importance to clarify the terminology used in the Council Recommendation. The term “apprenticeship” does not correspond to the terminology embedded in the national legislation of Latvia. The closest corresponding term to the content of this proposal in Latvian language is “darba vidē balstītas mācības”, which means “work-based learning”.</p> <p>Terminology issues vis-à-vis Latvia were raised at the EMCO committee during the multilateral surveillance exercise when reviewing the Country Specific Recommendations. Broad agreement was reached that, as regards the situation and ongoing reforms in Latvia, the term “work-based learning” should be used.</p>	
<p>Written procedure completed on 16 March 2018</p>	
<p>NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS</p>	
<p>ACT</p> <p><i>Council implementing Decision implementing Decision 2010/231/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Somalia</i> Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2018/417 of 16 March 2018 implementing Decision 2010/231/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Somalia OJ L 75, 19.3.2018, p. 25–26</p>	<p>7012/18</p> <p>DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS</p>
<p><i>Council implementing Regulation implementing Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 356/2010 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain natural or legal persons, entities or bodies, in view of the situation in Somalia</i> Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/413 of 16 March 2018 implementing Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 356/2010 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain natural or legal persons, entities or bodies, in view of the situation in Somalia OJ L 75, 19.3.2018, p. 1–2</p>	<p>7015/18</p>

3607th meeting of the Council of the European Union (Agriculture and Fisheries) held in Brussels on 19 March 2018

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS		DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS
ACT		
<p><i>Council Decision on the signing of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation with the Kingdom of Morocco on the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)</i></p> <p>Council Decision (EU) 2018/639 of 19 March 2018 on the signing, on behalf of the Union, and provisional application of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco setting out the terms and conditions for the participation of the Kingdom of Morocco in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)</p> <p>OJ L 106, 26.4.2018, p. 1–2</p>		6532/18
<p>Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco setting out the terms and conditions for the participation of the Kingdom of Morocco in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)</p> <p>OJ L 106, 26.4.2018, p. 3–6</p>		6533/18
<p><i>Hungary VAT derogation for supplies of staff</i></p> <p>Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/486 of 19 March 2018 authorising Hungary to apply a special measure derogating from Article 193 of Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax</p> <p>OJ L 81, 23.3.2018, p. 15–16</p>		6571/18

<p><i>Denmark VAT derogation for private use of business vehicles</i> Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/485 of 19 March 2018 authorising Denmark to apply a special measure derogating from Article 75 of Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax OJ L 81, 23.3.2018, p. 13–14</p>	6555/18
<p><i>Communication on "The Future of Food and Farming"</i> <i>Exchange of views</i> <i>Adoption of conclusions</i> Presidency Conclusions on the Communication on "The Future of Food and Farming"</p>	7324/18
3608th meeting of the Council of the European Union (Foreign Affairs) held in Brussels on 19 March 2018	
NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS	
ACT	
<p><i>Bosnia and Herzegovina restrictive measures - repealing of Common Position 97/193/CFSP - Decision</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/458 of 19 March 2018 repealing Common Position 97/193/CFSP on restrictive measures aimed at persons having perpetrated violent acts during the incidents in Mostar on 10 February 1997 OJ L 77, 20.3.2018, p. 16–16</p>	6522/18
<p><i>Bosnia and Herzegovina restrictive measures - extension - Decision</i> Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/459 of 19 March 2018 amending Decision 2011/173/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina OJ L 77, 20.3.2018, p. 17–17</p>	6523/18

<p><i>Marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (UNCLOS): Decision to authorise the negotiations</i></p> <p>Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations, on behalf of the European Union, on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction</p>	<p>6698/18</p>
<p>Statement by the Commission</p> <p>The Commission welcomes the adoption of the Council Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate on behalf of the European Union an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.</p> <p>However, the Commission maintains its view that – in the absence of a draft text at this stage – Article 218(3) and (4) provide a sufficient legal basis for the Decision, without any substantive legal basis being necessary, nor even possible to be determined on the basis of objective factors, taking into account the aim and the content of the agreement. In addition, since the negotiations in the intergovernmental conference concern primarily "the conservation and sustainable use" of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, they are likely to cover issues which go beyond any single policy area, without it being possible to determine at this stage which policy area would be predominant in the sense of the Court's jurisprudence. In any event the Commission cannot agree on the limitation of the legal basis to a single policy area (environment) while leaving out other possible policy areas. The final text of the international legally-binding instrument shall determine, in any case, the legal basis for its approval by the European Union.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Commission does not consider it appropriate that the Council Decision specifies that the Union can participate in the negotiations only as regards matters "for which the Union has adopted rules" and emphasises that the provisions of the Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations shall be interpreted in full consistency with the provisions of the Treaties and of relevant jurisprudence and cannot in any case unduly restrict external EU competences.</p> <p>The Commission also recalls that, in accordance with the jurisprudence of the Court, as reflected in Cases C-459/03 (point 94) and C-600/14 (points 62 and 63), the existence of the Union's external competence with regard to a shared competence is not in principle contingent on the adoption of measures of secondary law covering the area in question.</p> <p>The Commission reserves its right to make use, if necessary, of all the legal means at its disposal to ensure the respect of the provisions of the Treaties.</p>	

<p><i>Syria restrictive measures - new listings - Implementing Decision and Regulation</i> Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2018/421 of 19 March 2018 implementing Decision 2013/255/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Syria OJ L 75I, 19.3.2018, p. 3–4</p> <p><i>Syria restrictive measures - new listings - Implementing Decision and Regulation</i> Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/420 of 19 March 2018 implementing Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria OJ L 75I, 19.3.2018, p. 1–2</p>	<p>6944/18</p> <p>6947/17</p>
<p>3609th meeting of the Council of the European Union (General Affairs) held in Brussels on 20 March 2018</p> <p>NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS</p>	
<p>ACT</p>	<p>DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS</p>
<p><i>EU/US bilateral agreement on insurance and reinsurance</i> Council Decision (EU) 2018/539 of 20 March 2018 on the conclusion of the Bilateral Agreement between the European Union and the United States of America on prudential measures regarding insurance and reinsurance OJ L 90, 6.4.2018, p. 36–37</p>	<p>6860/18</p>
<p><i>Council Decision concerning the external auditors of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank</i> Council Decision (EU) 2018/487 of 20 March 2018 amending Decision 1999/70/EC concerning the external auditors of the national central banks, as regards the external auditors of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank OJ L 81, 23.3.2018, p. 17–18</p>	<p>5865/18</p>
<p><i>Schengen evaluation Recommendation - Sweden SIS</i> Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of Sweden on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System</p>	<p>7342/18</p>

<p><i>Multilateral Investment Court - Council Decision</i> Council Decision authorising the European Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the European Union, a convention establishing a multilateral court for the settlement of investment disputes to the extent this falls within the Union's competence</p>	<p>12981/17</p>
<p>Statement by the Commission The Commission expects that the negotiating forum for the multilateral investment court will be UNCITRAL. Should that not prove possible, the Commission will consult the relevant Council working group on the next steps and submit the necessary recommendations to adjust the negotiating directives.</p>	
<p>Written procedure completed on 21 March 2018</p>	
<p>NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS</p>	
<p>ACT</p>	<p>DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS</p>
<p>Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/466 of 21 March 2018 amending Decision 2011/172/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Egypt OJ L 78I, 21.3.2018, p. 3–4</p>	<p>6949/18</p>
<p>Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/465 of 21 March 2018 implementing Regulation (EU) No 270/2011 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Egypt OJ L 78I, 21.3.2018, p. 1–2</p>	<p>6951/18</p>
<p>Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/475 of 21 March 2018 updating the list of persons, groups and entities subject to Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism, and repealing Decision (CFSP) 2017/1426 OJ L 79, 22.3.2018, p. 26–29</p>	<p>6819/18</p>

<p>Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/468 of 21 March 2018 implementing Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1420 OJ L 79, 22.3.2018, p. 7–10</p>	<p>6821/18</p>
<p>Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/476 of 21 March 2018 amending Decision (CFSP) 2015/1333 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya OJ L 79, 22.3.2018, p. 30–30</p>	<p>6826/18</p>
<p>Written procedures completed on 23 March 2018</p>	
<p>NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS</p>	
<p>ACT</p>	<p>DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS</p>
<p>Council Regulation (EU) 2018/511 of 23 March 2018 amending Regulation (EU) 2018/120 as regards certain fishing opportunities OJ L 84, 28.3.2018, p. 1–12</p>	<p>7078/18</p>
<p>Council Decision on the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union within the ACP-EU Council of Ministers as regards the revision of Annex Ic to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement</p>	<p>6990/18</p>
<p>Written procedure completed on 27 March 2018</p>	
<p>NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTS</p>	
<p>ACT</p>	<p>DOCUMENT / STATEMENTS</p>
<p>Council Implementing Decision (CFSP) 2018/516 of 27 March 2018 implementing Decision 2014/450/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Sudan OJ L 84, 28.3.2018, p. 22–24</p>	<p>7337/18</p>
<p>Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/512 of 27 March 2018 implementing Article 15(3) of Regulation (EU) No 747/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Sudan OJ L 84, 28.3.2018, p. 13–15</p>	<p>7341/18</p>