



Council of the  
European Union

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## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

(Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space))

27 and 28 September 2018

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## **MEETING ON THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2018**

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Council adopted the agenda set out in 12304/18.

## **INTERNAL MARKET AND INDUSTRY**

### **Non-legislative activities**

The Council addressed the following non-legislative discussion item (2.)

#### **2. Competitiveness "check-up"**

*Presentation by the Commission*

*Exchange of views*

#### **3. Rethinking European industry: Artificial intelligence and robotics**

 11972/18

*Presentation by the Commission and the Presidency*

*Policy debate*

The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission and the Presidency and held a Policy debate based on questions as set out in document 11972/18.

### **Any other business**

#### **4. a) Follow-up to the informal meeting of EU Ministers responsible for competitiveness (Vienna, 15-16 July 2018)**



*Presentation by the Presidency*

The Council took note of the information presented by the Presidency.

The Council addressed the following "any other business" items (4. b-e)):

- b) Implementation of the DSM e-commerce initiatives: 12439/18  
Taking stock and way forward  
*Information from the Commission*
- c) Communication: A retail sector fit for the 21st century 8367/18+ ADD 1  
*Information from the Commission*
- d) Outcome of a conference on the EU Single Market 12432/18  
commemorating its 25th anniversary  
(Prague, 8 June 2018)  
*Information from the Czech delegation*
- e) Outcome of the Single Market Forum "25 years, 12433/18  
European, Free, and Single" (Riga, 14 September 2018)  
*Information from the Latvian delegation*

## 5. Approval of "A" items

- a) **Non-legislative list** 12309/18

The Council adopted the "A" items listed in 12309/18 including COR and REV documents presented for adoption. Statements related to these items are set out in the Addendum.

For the following items the documents should read as follows:

- 21. Council Implementing Decision on subjecting the new [C] 11961/18  
psychoactive substances cyclopropylfentanyl and 9420/18  
methoxyacetylfentanyl to control measures + **COR 1 (el)**  
*Adoption* CORDROGUE  
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 17.09.2018
- 23. Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the EU [C] 12059/18  
in the UN in connection with the envisaged adoption of a new 12051/18  
Convention on the facilitation of border crossing procedures in + **COR 1 (cs)**  
international traffic by rail FRONT  
*Adoption*  
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 26.09.2018

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

12310/18

Youth

**1. Regulation on the European Solidarity Corps**

*Adoption of the legislative act*

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 19.09.2018



11549/18

**+ COR 1 (da)**

+ ADD 1 + ADD 2

PE-CONS 47/18

JEUN

**+ COR 1 (hu)**

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted, with Poland abstaining, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 294, 166 par 4 and 165 par 4 TFEU).

Statements related to this item are set out in the Annex.

Internal Market and Industry

**2. Regulation on the Single Digital Gateway**

*Adoption of the legislative act*

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 19.09.2018



11793/18 + ADD 1

PE-CONS 41/18

MI

**+ REV 1 (bg)**

**+ REV 2 (cs)**

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted, with Belgium abstaining, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Articles 21(2) and 114(1) TFEU).

Statements related to this item are set out in the Annex.

Energy

**3. Regulation on the notification of investment projects in energy infrastructure**

*Adoption of the legislative act*

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 19.09.2018



11548/18

PE-CONS 46/18


ENER

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Articles 194 and 294) TFEU).


**RESEARCH**

**Legislative deliberations**

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

6. **Horizon Europe Package: Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2021–2027**  12066/2/18 REV 2  
9865/18 + ADD 1  
a) **Framework Programme and its rules for participation and dissemination** 12067/1/18 REV 1  
9870/18 + ADD 1  
b) **Specific programme implementing Horizon Europe**  
*Progress report*  
*Policy debate*




The Council took note of the Progress report as set out in document 12066/2/18 REV 2 and held a Policy debate based on questions as set out in document 120671/18 REV 1.

7. **Strategic planning process in relation to the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2021-2027**  12071/18  
9865/18 + ADD 1  
9870/18 + ADD 1  
*Policy debate*

The Council held a Policy debate based on questions as set out in document 12071/18.

**Any other business**

No items were raised under this heading.

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-  First reading  
 Item based on a Commission proposal  
 Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)
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Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in 12310/18

**Ad "A" item 1:**      **Regulation on the European Solidarity Corps**  
*Adoption of the legislative act*

**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION**

"Without prejudice to the powers of the budgetary authority, 80% of the budget for the implementation of the Programme in 2019 and 2020 should be made available through specified redeployments under Subheading 1a (Competitiveness for growth and jobs) of the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and redeployments from the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the LIFE Programme. However, no further redeployments shall be made from the Erasmus+ Programme, in addition to the amount of 231 800 000 EUR referred to in the proposal from the Commission (COM (2017)0262).

The remaining 20% of the budget for the implementation of the Programme in 2019 and 2020 should be drawn from the available margins under Subheading 1a of the 2014-2020 MFF.

There is a common understanding that the Commission will ensure that the necessary appropriations are made available through the normal annual budgetary procedure in a balanced and prudent way."

**STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION**

"The Commission confirms that the use of appropriations from technical assistance resources at the initiative of the Commission under the Common Provisions Regulation (in particular redeployments from the European Social Fund and from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) for the financing of the European Solidarity Corps in 2018 will not be used by the Commission as a precedent for the proposal on the European Solidarity Corps post 2020 (COM(2018)0440))."

**STATEMENT BY POLAND**

"Position of Poland

In the spirit of compromise, Poland accepted the additional financial elements, going well beyond the adopted Council position, which appeared following the trilogues.

However, the proposal, which provides for **the use of other budget headings, including in particular Heading 1b** (with funds disbursed under shared management), is difficult for Poland to accept without at least first amending the European Commission's statement, preferably excluding ESF funding. Since this request has not been satisfied, Poland will abstain from voting."

**Ad "A" item 2:**      **Regulation on the Single Digital Gateway**  
*Adoption of the legislative act*

**STATEMENT BY BELGIUM**

"Belgium firmly supports the improvement of e-government, and therefore endorses the objectives of the proposal of a Single Digital Gateway in order to improve the functioning of the single market.

Nevertheless, Belgium wishes to formulate a reservation concerning the language requirements of the current proposal, that are not in accordance with the basic principles of Belgian language rules applicable to administrative matters.

The Belgian language regulations are of constitutional nature and express the fundamental commitments and agreements regarding the functioning of the public authority, the relation between citizens and the public authority, and the functioning of the federal structure of Belgium characterized by three official languages and four separate linguistic areas.

Belgium considers that the Member States' autonomy regarding the use of languages in the public legal sphere must be guaranteed."

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