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**PROVISIONAL VERSION**

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## OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3653rd Council meeting

### Education, Youth, Culture and Sport

Brussels, 26 and 27 November 2018

Presidents

**Juliane Bogner-Strauß**  
Federal Minister for Women, Families and Youth

**Heinz Faßmann**  
Federal Minister for Education, Science and Research

**Gernot Blümel**  
Federal Minister for the EU, Arts, Culture and Media

**Heinz-Christian Strache**  
Vice-Chancellor and Federal Minister for the Civil  
Service and Sport

# P R E S S

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**ITEMS DEBATED**

**YOUTH**

**European Solidarity Corps**

The Council reached unanimously a partial general approach on a proposal for a Regulation on the European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027 (ESC) ([14079/18](#)). The approach excludes budget-related issues/figures which are currently being discussed as part of the negotiations on the next multiannual financial framework.

Ministers backed unanimously the regulation. They agreed that the ESC provides young people with opportunities to work for the benefit of societies while becoming more adapted to the requirements of the labour market. Ministers also stressed that the ESC responds to the need for a more cohesive European society.

The Commission stated its intention to assist the Member States with the development of adequate indicators to assess the efficiency of the ESC.

The proposal on the ESC 2021-2027 was published by the European Commission in June 2018 ([9993/18](#)) in the run-up to the discussions on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, with a proposed financial allocation of EUR 1 260 billion at current prices. The Commission projects that the 2021-2027 programme will offer opportunities to 350 000 persons between the ages of 18 and 30 years. A new element in the proposal is the incorporation of humanitarian aid volunteering activities (previously "EU Aid Volunteers").

The European Solidarity Corps aims to foster solidarity in the European society. It offers opportunities to show solidarity, express commitment to the benefit of communities and help resolve challenging situations across Europe, by engaging young people and organisations in accessible and high-quality solidarity activities. The ESC is conceived to offer young people in Europe the chance to support a non-governmental organisation (NGO), local authority or private company active in rebuilding communities following natural disasters, addressing social challenges such as social exclusion, poverty, health and demographic challenges or working on the reception and integration of refugees.

The European Solidarity Corps was announced by President Juncker in his September 2016 State of Union speech. Phase 1 of the ESC was established without a legal proposal. For phase 2 (2018-2020) a programme was agreed by the Council and the European Parliament in June 2018, transferring most of the European Volunteering Service (EVS) from Erasmus to the new initiative. The Commission proposed a new programme for the European Solidarity Corps on 11 June 2018. This new proposal is for phase 3 of the ESC from 2021 to 2027.

## **European Union Youth Strategy**

The Council adopted a Resolution on the new EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (14080/18). Ministers agreed that the cross-sectoral approach of the strategy is aimed at addressing the needs of young people in other EU policy areas. Ministers also showed support for the Commission's view that the document is very ambitious, in particular in relation to the aim of reaching disadvantaged young people.

The Commission's Communication 'Engaging, Connecting and Empowering young people: a new EU Youth Strategy' proposes to focus on fostering young people's participation in civic and democratic life, connecting young people across the European Union and beyond to foster voluntary engagement, learning mobility, solidarity and intercultural understanding and supporting youth empowerment through quality, innovation and recognition of youth work.

The Commission proposes some important novelties compared to the current policy framework:

- A new EU Youth coordinator will channel voices of young people in the Commission, thus allowing young people to contribute to shaping EU policies across areas; the coordinator will strengthen the dialogue with young people, notably via the European Youth Portal and the EU Youth Strategy Platform
- A renewed EU Youth Dialogue to take youth concerns better into account and ensure wider outreach, including through innovative formats;
- Tracking of EU spending for youth in main funding programmes;
- An agenda for youth work to further improve its quality, innovation and recognition and to allow other sectors to capitalise on the potential of non-formal learning;
- A clearer link between EU youth policy implementation and related programme activities in Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.

## **Role of youth work in the context of migration and refugee matters**

Ministers adopted Conclusions on the role of youth work in the context of migration and refugee matters (14082/18). They showed very broad support for the text. Ministers took into account that the social inclusion of all young people, including those from a migrant background, is a key aim of the current EU Youth Strategy (2010-2018) (9008/09). Based on evidence from the EU Youth Report 2015 and taking into account political developments, national governments are and will continue working together with the European Commission on prioritising the integration of young people with a migrant background, including newly-arrived migrants and refugees.

## **European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027: From Vision to Implementation**

The Council held a policy debate on the European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027: From Vision to Implementation.

Ministers welcomed the strategy and its link with important and renowned EU youth programmes as Erasmus+. They agreed that for the strategy to be a success its implementation should be evidence-based.

Ministers shared the view that member states can help each other by sharing their experiences in relation to the ways they use and exchange data on youth policies. There was also a broad agreement that Member States should also exchange ideas from their national youth strategies. Ministers stressed the importance of developing a youth policy not only for, but also in cooperation with young people. They also highlighted the important role of the Youth coordinator.



## **EDUCATION**

### **Erasmus+ programme**

The Council reached a partial general approach on a proposal for a Regulation on the Erasmus+ programme (13943/18). A partial general approach excludes budget-related issues/figures which are currently being discussed as part of the negotiations on the next multiannual financial framework.

Ministers broadly welcomed the expanding of the programme, which will make it more inclusive. They stressed that the greater scope of Erasmus+ will provide new opportunities to more people, in particular to more disadvantaged young citizens.

Ministers acknowledged also the key role of Erasmus+ for the establishment by 2025 of the European Education Area.

The budget for the programme, proposed by the Commission for 2021-2027, is EUR 30 billion. This would double its current budget (2014-2020) with the aim of allowing the programme to become more accessible, e.g. for small scale or grass root organisations or young people with fewer opportunities and through extending its scope at all levels of education and training. The integrated nature of the current programme has been maintained for the next cycle, covering learning in all contexts - formal, non-formal and informal. To underline its inclusive approach, ministers highlighted that the current title of the programme "Erasmus+" had been maintained.

During the European Council meeting of last December, European leaders called on member states, the Council and the Commission "to step up mobility and exchanges, including through a substantially strengthened, inclusive and extended Erasmus+ programme". Since Erasmus was established in 1987 more than 9 million people have studied, worked or volunteered abroad under the programme, making it one of the most renowned, celebrated and successful EU programmes.

The European Parliament and the Council adopted in December 2013 a regulation on "Erasmus +", the Union programme for education, training, youth and sport", for the period of 2014-2020. With more than 2,000 transnational strategic partnerships per year, the Erasmus+ programme goes beyond Europe-wide learning mobility. The programme covers 33 countries (EU member states, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein). The budget of the programme for 2014-2020 is €14.7 billion.

## **Automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad**

Ministers adopted a Recommendation on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad.

The adopted Recommendation ([13955/18](#)) aims to ensure that any of the above mentioned qualifications or results of learning periods spent abroad, that are awarded by an accredited institution within the Union, will be automatically recognised for the purposes of further learning in all Member States by 2025.

In December 2017 the [European Council](#) called on Member States, the Council and the Commission to take work forward on a number of key initiatives, including the mutual recognition of diplomas. The Commission submitted its proposal on 22 May 2018 ([9292/18](#)).

Several regional recognition schemes are already put in place, for example in the Nordic, Baltic and Benelux countries and could serve as a basis for EU-wide solutions.

### **European Education Area**

Ministers held a policy debate on the establishment by 2025 of an European Education Area. The debate was based on the following questions:

1. What actions could be taken by Member States in order to enable and promote the establishment of a European Education Area by 2025?
2. What are the obstacles that should be overcome for the European Education Area to become a reality by 2025?
3. In addition to the priority work strands identified by the [European Council](#) in December 2017, which other common topics in the area of education do Member States consider essential for the successful implementation of the European Education Area by 2025?
4. How can we ensure that the ongoing cooperation within the Education and Training 2020 strategic framework, its successor framework and other Union instruments contributes to the establishment of the European Education Area?

Ministers were invited to react to maximum 2 of the 4 questions. They agreed that Erasmus+ is a key tool for the successful establishment of the European Education Area. Among the main challenges ministers identified the digital divide, the learning of foreign languages and the need for more inclusive approaches. They stressed that Member states should invest more in view of enhancing the digital literacy and preparing teachers to make better use of different digital tools. The debate showed that many EU countries support the initiative for building a network of European universities. Ministers agreed that establishing the European Education Area will require more mobility, more inclusiveness, more mutual recognition, more foreign languages and better teachers.

The Commission's communication on "*Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture*" set out a vision of a European Education Area, building on the 'New Skills Agenda for Europe' and the 'Investing in Europe's youth' initiatives. In its Communication the Commission outlined a European Education Area, based on trust, mutual recognition, cooperation and exchange of best practices, mobility and growth, to be established by 2025. The European Council in its conclusions of December 2017 ([EUCO 19/17](#)) identified a number of specific areas on which work should be taken forward by the Council, the Commission and the Member States, and invited the Commission to present, where relevant, proposals for Council Recommendations.

In February 2018 the Education Ministers held a policy debate on the follow-up of the EC Conclusions. In May 2018 Ministers adopted a set of conclusions, which invite Member States to continue reflecting on a shared vision of a European Education Area, including its possible goals, objectives and scope.

**Any other business**

– ***Structured Dialogue on the EU Youth Strategy***

The morning session of the Council on Youth matters was preceded by a Structured Dialogue Breakfast on the EU Youth Strategy, gathering the Bulgarian, Austrian, Romanian and Finnish Ministers, representatives of the Commission and of Youth organisations. The topic of the dialogue was "One youth - many actors for youth".

– ***Prevention of Antisemitism***

Over lunch ministers for education held a debate on the "Prevention of antisemitism" and discussed the fundamental role of the education in the fight against antisemitism.

– ***Work programme of the incoming Romanian presidency***

The incoming Romanian presidency presented its priorities and its work programme in the fields of Youth and Education. The incoming presidency stated its intention to reach progress on the proposals for the regulations on the European Solidarity Corps and Erasmus+ and on the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy. It will also focus on topics such as the nature of work in 15 to 20 years and the successful use of Youth policy instruments to address the demographic challenges and the negative consequences of climate change.

## **CULTURE**

### **Creative Europe Programme (2021 to 2027)**

Ministers took note of a progress report on a proposal for a new Creative Europe programme (2021-2027) (14659/18). They identified gender equality, diversity, translation and subtitling among the various challenges in the context of the programme.

Ministers welcomed the proposal of the European Commission as a key tool for building a Europe of culture. They showed broad support for the sustainable financing of the European Film Academy and the EU Youth Orchestra. It was highlighted that the EU Youth Orchestra is very important for the mobility of young musicians.

The European Commission adopted its proposal for a new Creative Europe programme (2021-2027) on 30 May 2018 (9170/18 + [ADD 1](#)). It builds on and continues the existing structure of the current Creative Europe Programme (2014-2020) with three distinct strands:

- a MEDIA strand to support the European audio-visual industry;
- a CULTURE strand to promote other European cultural and creative sectors;
- a CROSS-SECTORAL strand to support cross-cutting activities spanning the audio-visual and other cultural and creative sectors.

The general objectives of the Programme are:

- to promote European cooperation on cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage, and
- to increase the competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors, in particular of the audio-visual sector.

The overall budget for 2021-2027, as proposed by the Commission, is EUR 1.85 billion (MEDIA: EUR 1.081 billion, CULTURE: EUR 609 million, Cross-sectoral: EUR 160 million) which would represent an increase of EUR 390 million (approx. 27%) compared to the current programme.

## **Work plan for Culture 2019-2022**

The Council adopted conclusions on the Work plan for Culture 2019-2022 (13948/18). The aim of these conclusions is to adopt a strategic and dynamic instrument that will set focused priorities and define concrete actions to address current developments in cultural policy such as the digital shift, globalisation, growing societal diversity and changing working environments.

Acknowledging the New European Agenda for Culture, adopted by the Commission in May 2018, the Austrian Presidency has developed a Work Plan for Culture 2019-2022. Work Plans for culture are a medium-term planning instrument which the Council uses to set a certain number of priorities for the EU cultural policy-making. The priorities are subsequently implemented by the Commission and Member States.

Ministers highlighted the importance of regular monitoring of the implementation of the plan from the Presidencies of the Council in view of updating it according to the new developments. They also stressed that the focus should be placed on topics with clear European added value.

The Work Plan for culture 2019-2022 takes into account the needs and expectations of Member States and of the cultural and creative sectors and civil society. It focuses on topics that increase the awareness of the social and economic importance of European culture and heritage.

## **Strengthening of European content in the digital economy**

The Council adopted conclusions on the strengthening of European content in the digital economy (13949/18). The conclusions focus on the following political priorities on the European Union's agenda:

- Fostering diversity, visibility and innovation
- Establishing a level playing field
- Strengthening trust in information and sources
- Improving skills and competences.

Ministers acknowledged the need to ensure the establishment of a EU digital single market. They agreed that the global expansion of digital technologies has significant effects on and implications for all creative sectors, but also provides new opportunities for the European cultural and creative sectors.

Under the Austrian Presidency, the debate on key challenges facing the European cultural, media and creative industries is one of the main priorities. In October 2018, the Austrian Presidency organised the Conference "Challenging (the) Content", involving experts and participants from different fields and inviting them to reflect on a wide range of topics, such as ensuring a 'level playing field' between European and non-European actors, the need for stronger cross-border cooperation and the most pressing technological challenges to the preserving of quality and diversity of journalistic content in the light of phenomena such as disinformation and hate speech.

## **Tackling the spread of disinformation online**

Ministers held a debate on tackling the spread of disinformation online, focusing on "fake news", media and their role in tackling disinformation. The debate was based on a Presidency discussion paper (13442/18). The Austrian Presidency wanted to provide an opportunity for ministers to discuss this issue of prime importance for the media sector. They were also invited to react to the initiatives that had been recently launched and implemented at the EU level with a view to tackle online disinformation. Ministers shared their views in relation to the following questions:

1. Given the importance of media pluralism, quality journalism, media literacy, transparency and accountability, what measures at EU level do you consider to be the most effective in the context of disinformation?
2. Have you started or are you planning any initiatives to address this issue at national level?

Ministers exchanged views on their national practices to tackle the spread of disinformation. They agreed that by providing trustworthy information the media play a key role in tackling the spread of disinformation online. Maintaining high journalistic standards and assisting the media to counter false information is extremely important for preserving the credibility of media outlets. Ministers stressed that enhancing the public awareness and increasing the digital literacy are major challenges. In this context they highlighted that citizens should be better equipped in relation with the information they are provided with. Ministers also highlighted that the right balance should be found between the freedom and the independence of the media and the measures at national and EU level aimed at assisting them to fight the spread of disinformation.

The European Commission has recently launched and implemented a comprehensive initiative to tackle online disinformation through a range of measures. In April 2018, it published the communication 'Tackling online disinformation: a European approach'. Based on this communication, the Commission convened a multi-stakeholder forum on disinformation, with the main task of drafting an EU-wide code of practice on disinformation which was published in September 2018. This Code of Practice was signed by the most important global online platforms, such as Google, Facebook, Twitter, Mozilla and several trade associations representing online platforms.



The issue of disinformation has been several times on the agenda of the European Union leaders. On 28 June 2018, the European Council invited the High Representative and the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and in line with the March 2015 European Council conclusions to present an action plan by December 2018 with specific proposals for a coordinated EU response to the challenge of disinformation. In this context, discussions are ongoing at different levels of Council preparatory bodies, most recently at Coreper II on 14 November 2018. Furthermore, the European Council in its conclusions of 18 October 2018 called for measures to combat disinformation, including in the context of the upcoming European elections.

**SPORT**

**Major sporting events as drivers for innovation**

Ministers held a public debate on the sporting events as drivers for innovation together with Mr. Martin Kallen, CEO of UEFA events. The debate was based on a Presidency discussion paper ([13952/18](#)), which highlights the links between major sporting events and innovation, including patent applications and new technologies applied to sport events.

Ministers were invited to exchange views and share their experiences in relation to the following questions:

3. Do you consider that major sporting events can efficiently contribute to innovation? If so, can you give some concrete examples from your country?
4. What measures are needed to promote the innovative dimension and the economic spill over effects of major sporting events ?

Ministers broadly agreed that sport has major influence in various areas. Sport driven innovation not only increases the performance of athletes. New digital technologies, improved road infrastructure and environment-friendly venues are among the numerous examples of the spill-over effects of sport on other sectors of the economy.

Ministers agreed also that major sporting events contribute to the economic development of the regions and countries where they take place and provide for the construction of sport sites which can be used by professional athletes and the public in the long term.

Research and innovation are one of the Austrian Presidency priorities, seen as a generic policy area that has to be put to work for all sectoral policies, including Sport. The economically strong European sports industry is constantly innovating and has therefore become a leader in certain technologies. At EU level, the number of patent applications in the field of sport had been increasing slightly, but now fluctuates around 1 500 applications per year.

## **Economic dimensions of sport and its socio-economic benefits**

Ministers adopted conclusions on the economic dimensions of sport and its socio-economic benefits. Through these conclusions sport is recognized as a driver for growth and jobs, as well as a mean to improve the health and social conditions of citizens.

All EU Work Plans for Sport, including the current one (2017-2020) ([9639/17](#)), acknowledge the economic dimension of sport and the positive impact it has in terms of health. According to a recent study, sport accounts for 2,12% of the EU GDP and sport-related employment accounts for 5,67 million people, ie 2,72% of total EU employment. The health benefits of sport activities for people have been consistently confirmed by evidence-based studies.

Nevertheless further work is needed on sport data and indicators, monitoring and awareness raising, promotion of sport activities, fostering international cooperation and mainstreaming sport in other policy areas in order to better measure and maximize the positive impact of sport on the economy and on citizens.

**Any other business**

– ***Dealing with items from colonial contexts in European collections***

The Council took note of the information provided by the German delegation complemented by an information from the delegation of France.

– ***Problems concerning consumer protection and transnational resale of tickets to cultural and sports events***

The Council took note of the information provided by the Danish delegation.

– ***Work programme of the incoming Romanian presidency***

The incoming Romanian presidency presented its priorities and its work programme in the fields of Culture and Sport. On Culture the Romanian presidency will focus on providing new opportunities for the culture and the creative sectors, increasing the cross-border circulation of European Cinema works and facilitating co-production. The incoming presidency intends to reach progress on the new Creative Europe programme (2021-2027) and to concentrate its efforts on the fight against the spread of disinformation online and on enhancing media literacy among EU citizens.

On Sport the priorities of the Romanian presidency are the progress on the chapter for Sport within the Erasmus+ programme, facilitating the access to organised sport for people with disabilities and the EU's contribution to the revision of the Anti-Doping Code of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

– ***Meeting of WADA on 14-15 November 2018, Baku, Azerbaijan***

Ministers were briefed by EU Member States representatives in the Foundation Board of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on the meeting of WADA, held on 14 and 15 November 2018 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

– ***Opportunities and Challenges in the Context of Major Sporting Events***

Over lunch ministers for Sport held a structured dialogue with Mr. Martin Kallen, CEO of UEFA Events (EURO 2020) on "Opportunities and Challenges in the Context of Major Sporting Events".

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

**AGRICULTURE**

**The Council adopted a regulation on the manufacture, placing on the market and use of medicated feed.**

The regulation sets out criteria for the approval of feed business operators and their obligations when manufacturing medicated feed, lays down harmonised requirements in order to avoid cross contamination of a non target feed with active substances and clarifies the prescription and use of medicated feed containing antimicrobials in food-producing animals.

[See press release](#)

**The Council adopted a regulation on veterinary medicinal products.**

The new regulation clarifies and simplifies the procedures through which a marketing authorisation can be granted to new medicines, limits further the use of antimicrobials for animals that are not yet sick but may run the risk of falling ill and provides for certain critical antimicrobials to be set aside for the treatment of certain infections in humans.

[See press release](#)

**TRANSPORT**

**High-speed rail network**

The Council adopted conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report [No 19/2018](#) entitled "A European high-speed rail network: not a reality but an ineffective patchwork" ([14233/18](#)).

**International rail carriage**

The Council adopted a decision on an EU position to be taken in the written procedure to be launched by the Committee of Technical Experts of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) for the adoption of modifications to the Uniform Technical Prescriptions UTP GEN-B and UTP TAF ([14068/18](#) and [13299/18 ADD 1](#)).

**INTERNAL MARKET AND INDUSTRY**

**Regulation on new categories of horizontal State aid**

The Council adopted a regulation enabling the Commission to exempt two additional categories of national subsidies from the standard checks required under EU state aid rules.

The two new categories are:

- a) national funds combined with EU centrally managed funds, such as the InvestEU Fund or 'Seal of Excellence' projects provided for by the next framework programme on research and innovation;
- b) national funds for projects supported by EU European Territorial Cooperation programmes.

[See press release.](#)

**JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

**Visa waiver diplomatic, service or official passports - amending agreement with Brazil**

The Council adopted a decision on the signing ([13444/18](#)) of an agreement between the EU and Brazil amending the existing agreement on short-stay visa waiver for holders of diplomatic, service or official passports ([13446/18](#)). The amendment changes the definition of short stay to 90 days in any 180 day period (from three months during a six months period).

The Council decided to forward a draft decision on the conclusion of the agreement to the European Parliament for its consent once the agreement has been duly signed. ([13445/18](#))

**Visa waiver ordinary passports - amending agreement with Brazil**

The Council adopted a decision on the signing ([13447/18](#)) of an agreement between the EU and Brazil amending the existing agreement on short-stay visa waiver for holders of ordinary passports ([13449/18](#)). The amendment changes the definition of short stay to 90 days in any 180 day period (from three months during a six months period).

The Council decided to forward a draft decision on the conclusion of the agreement to the European Parliament for its consent once the agreement has been duly signed. ([13448/18](#))

**Schengen evaluation**

The Council adopted an implementing decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of **Norway** on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of **data protection** ([14763/18](#)).

**HEALTH**

**Modified rules on procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary use**

The Council adopted a regulation introducing changes to the existing rules laying down procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary. [PE-CONS 44/18](#)

The modified rules take account the fact that centralised marketing authorisation for veterinary products is being decoupled from that for medicines for humans.

**ENERGY**

**Negotiations on amending Energy Community Treaty**

The Council decided to authorise the Commission to open negotiations for a protocol amending the Treaty establishing the Energy Community.

The aim of the negotiations is to extend commitments that impose mutual obligations between Member States under EU legislation also to Energy Community Contracting Parties. This should improve the functioning of the energy markets as well as the security of supply, within both the Union and the Energy Community.

The Commission issued two statements.

**EU position in the Energy Community**

The Council decided on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community and in the Permanent High Level Group of the Energy Community.

The Ministerial Council of the Energy Community will hold its 16th session on 29 November 2018 in Skopje. The Permanent High Level Group will meet on 28 November 2018 in Skopje for its 51st meeting.

Germany issued a statement.



**TRANSPARENCY**

**Transparency - Public access to documents**

On 26 November 2018, the Council approved the reply to confirmatory application No 28/c/02/18 (doc. [13719/18](#)).

**EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA**

**EEA Agreement - Incorporation of EU legislation**

The Council adopted a decision establishing the EU position to be taken in the Joint Committee of the European Economic Area (EEA) concerning an amendment to Annex IX (Financial Services) to the EEA Agreement (Omnibus II) ([13109/18](#)).

The aim of the decision is to incorporate into the EEA Agreement Directive [2014/51/EU](#) amending Directives [2003/71/EC](#) and [2009/138/EC](#), and Regulations (EC) No [1060/2009](#), (EU) No [1094/2010](#) and (EU) No [1095/2010](#) in respect of the powers of the European Supervisory Authority (European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority) and the European Supervisory Authority (European Securities and Markets Authority).

**BUDGETS**

**Draft amending budget no 6 to the 2018 EU budget**

The Council adopted its position on draft amending budget no 6 to the 2018 EU budget, accepting it without changes (13959/18).

With regard to the expenditure side, the Commission proposed to decrease payments by €44.7 million under heading 2 distributed in the Sustainable Fisheries Agreements and in the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund. Commitments are decreased by €48.7 million under heading 2 distributed in the Sustainable Fisheries Agreements, in the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and in the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

As regards the revenue side, the changes concern the revision of the forecast of customs duties, value added tax and gross national income (GNI) bases, the budgeting of the relevant UK corrections and their financing. Member states are also reimbursed of the overpaid sugar levies of €93.0 million, following the judgement of the Court of Justice (case C-585/15 - Raffinerie Tirlémontoise).

Overall, this DAB increases the GNI contributions by €2.8 billion.

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