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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

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Environment

Brussels, 20 December 2018

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P R E S S

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 • Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
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ITEMS DEBATED

CO2 emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles

The Council reached a general approach on the proposed regulation on CO2 emission standards for trucks.

The regulation will, for the first time, make heavy-duty vehicles subject to greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. The Council agreed an overall CO2 emission reduction target for the EU's fleet of new heavy-duty vehicles of 30% from 2030 onwards compared to 2019 emission levels. The overall target is translated into manufacturer-specific CO2 emission targets on the basis of fleet composition and characteristics.

Shifting towards a modern, low-carbon transport sector was seen as important by member states, and several ministers highlighted the need for road transport decarbonisation, and the need to make sure that the EU delivers on our collective commitment to tackle climate change. Under the new rules, the heavy-duty vehicle sector will contribute to the overall emission reduction effort the EU is undertaking.

[General approach](#)

[Press release](#)

[Commission proposal](#)

The EU's long-term climate strategy

Environment ministers had the opportunity to hold a first exchange of views on the ambitious new climate action strategy which the European Commission presented a month ago. Two of the 8 scenarios proposed by the Commission spell out how the EU could reach net zero emissions by 2050.

The Commission's vision for a climate neutral future covers nearly all EU policies and is in line with the Paris Agreement objective of keeping temperature increase to well below 2°C, and pursuing efforts to keep it to 1.5°C.

At the European Council meeting on 14 December 2018, heads of state agreed the following conclusions: "Further to the presentation of the Commission Communication 'A Clean Planet for all' and taking into account the outcome of COP24 in Katowice, the European Council invites the Council to work on the elements outlined in the Communication to enable the European Union to submit a long term strategy by 2020 in line with the Paris Agreement. The European Council will provide guidance on the overall direction and political priorities in the first semester of 2019."

The presidency guided the debate by asking ministers two questions:

- Do ministers consider that the Commission communication 'A Clean Planet for all' sets the right direction for the EU's long-term contribution to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement?
- In this regard, what steps should be taken in the process to ensure the greatest possible complementarity and synergies between the long-term strategies to be developed by the Union and the member states?

Ministers welcomed the Commission communication and several ministers noted the outcome of last week's COP24 conference in Katowice.

The majority of ministers underlined the need to link this vision with the national climate and energy plans. Some ministers said that carbon neutrality was necessary. Other ministers stressed the importance of a socially just transition.

Several ministers underlined that this discussion should be a broad one involving several Council formations – such as energy, transport, competitiveness and agriculture – as well as stakeholders in order to reach a shared vision for the EU and to ensure broad support for climate action.

The presidency concluded that the discussion constituted an important contribution to further work on this file.

[Presidency background paper for exchange of views](#)

[Communication from the Commission: A Clean Planet for all. A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy](#)

[In-depth analysis accompanying the communication from the Commission](#)

[European Council meeting \(13 and 14 December 2018\) – conclusions](#)

[European Council conclusions of 22 March 2018](#)

The LIFE programme

The Council reached agreement on a partial general approach on the regulation on LIFE. The aim of the regulation is to ensure that the EU's flagship programme for environmental protection, climate action and the conservation of European wildlife species and habitats continues beyond 2020. Ministers agreed to add a dedicated sub-programme for the clean energy transition to the LIFE programme.

[Press release](#)

[Partial general approach](#)

[Commission proposal](#)

Other topics on the agenda

– *Current legislative proposals*

Regulation on taxonomy

- Information from the presidency; Commission proposal ([9355/18](#))

Directive on single-use plastics

- Information from the presidency; Commission proposal ([9465/18](#) + [COR 1](#) + [ADD 1 to ADD 7](#))

Regulation on persistent organic pollutants

- Information from the presidency; Commission proposal ([7470/18](#) + [ADD 1](#))

Regulation on the alignment of environmental reporting obligations

- Information from the presidency; Commission proposal ([9617/18](#))

Directive on drinking water

- Information from the presidency; Commission proposal ([5846/18](#) + [ADD 1](#))

Regulation on CO2 standards for cars and vans

- Information from the presidency ([14217/1/17 REV 1](#) + [ADD 1 REV 1](#))
- ***Reports on recent international meetings: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018)***
- COP 14 to the CBD
- COP-MOP 9 serving as the meeting of the parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- COP-MOP 3 serving as the meeting of the parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing
- Information from the presidency and the Commission ([15700/18](#))
- ***Report on COP24 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Katowice, Poland, 2-14 December 2018)***
- Information from the presidency, the Commission and the Polish delegation ([15645/18](#))
- ***Report on the implementation of the EU strategy on adaptation to climate change***
- Information from the Commission ([14328/18](#))
- ***The future of European environment policy – towards an 8th environment action programme; outcome of the informal meeting of environment and transport ministers (Graz, Austria, 29-30 October 2018)***
- Information from the presidency ([15536/18](#))

- ***Graz declaration – starting a new era: clean, safe and affordable mobility for Europe; outcome of the informal meeting of environment and transport ministers (Graz, Austria, 29-30 October 2018)***
- Information from the presidency ([15476/18](#))
- ***Intermediary sessions of the meetings of the parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Geneva, 5-7 February 2019***
- Information from the Lithuanian delegation, supported by the Luxembourg delegation ([15446/18](#))
- ***The environmental and climate ambition of the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)***
- Information from the German delegation, supported by the Luxembourg delegation ([15402/18](#))
- ***Adoption of measures at EU level to create the conditions for discontinuing the use of environmentally problematic substances contained in plant protection products***
- Information from the Belgian delegation ([15443/18](#))
- ***Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference (London, 11-12 October 2018)***
- Information from the United Kingdom delegation ([15518/18](#))
- ***Work programme of the incoming presidency***
- Information from the Romanian delegation

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

ENVIRONMENT

CO2 emissions of vehicles produced by General Motors

The Council decided not to raise any objection to Commission delegated regulation (EU) .../... of 13 November 2018 correcting regulation (EU) no [63/2011](#) laying down detailed provisions for the application for a derogation from the specific CO2 emission targets pursuant to article 11 of regulation (EC) no [443/2009](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council ([15190/18](#) and [14308/18](#)).

The correction concerns the average specific CO2 emissions in 2007 for the manufacturer General Motors Holding LLC, which has provided detailed evidence demonstrating that the values were significantly higher than the ones indicated in the regulation.

The Commission decision is subject to the so-called regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt the decision unless the European Parliament objects.

Rotterdam Convention – EU position

The Council adopted an EU position for the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention regarding compliance procedures ([15234/18](#) and [15143/18 + ADD 1](#)).

The position aims for the agreement on compliance procedures to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among the parties in the international trade of hazardous chemicals, in order to protect human health and the environment, and contribute to the environmentally sound use of those chemicals.

Convention on Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora – EU position

The Council established an EU position for the 18th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP 18) scheduled to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 23 May to 3 June 2019 ([15520/18](#)).

The position comprises proposals to be submitted on behalf of the Union, as well as proposals by third countries asking for the Union's co-sponsorship to amend the species included in Appendices I and II of the CITES Convention.

Air pollution – ECA special report

The Council adopted conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report no 23/2018 entitled 'Air pollution: Our health still insufficiently protected' ([14794/18](#)).

The special report underlines the fact that European citizens still breathe harmful air mostly due to weak legislation and poor policy implementation. It therefore recommends strengthening the ambient air quality directive and promoting further effective action by the European Commission and the member states, including better policy coordination and public information.

GENERAL AFFAIRS**Regulatory procedure with scrutiny – alignment to the Lisbon Treaty**

The Council agreed its negotiating position (general approach) on two Commission proposals aimed at aligning the basic acts which refer to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny to the legal framework introduced by the Lisbon Treaty ([14964/18](#) + [COR 1-2](#) + [ADD 1-ADD 8](#) and [14955/18](#) + [COR 1](#)).

A number of legislative acts in force contain references to this procedure, which continues to apply in respect of those acts until they are formally amended and adapted to the Lisbon Treaty. The Commission submitted its proposals – the so-called general omnibus and justice omnibus regulations – in 2016 ([5623/17](#) + [ADD 1 REV 1](#) and [5705/17](#) + [ADD 1](#)).

On 20 March 2018, the Council agreed a partial general approach on each of these files to enter into trilogues with the Parliament. These negotiating mandates did not cover a few legislative acts relating to Commission proposals which were either forthcoming or under negotiation. The full general approaches adopted by the Council complete its work in this regard.

The Council's negotiating mandates were preceded by an in-depth analysis of each empowerment proposed for alignment. In many cases, the Council supports replacing empowerments under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny with empowerments to adopt delegated acts under Article 290 TFEU, which give the European Parliament and the Council the power to control the Commission in the exercise of the delegated power. In other cases, the Council considers that the empowerments concerned are of an implementing nature, which are for the member states to control since they have the necessary expertise, and may therefore be replaced only by implementing acts under Article 291 TFEU.

Update of the population figures for the Union

The Council adopted a decision amending the Council's rules of procedure as regards figures concerning the population of the Union and the population of each member state for implementing the provisions concerning qualified majority voting in the Council ([15270/18](#)).

The figures set out in annex III of the Council's rules of procedure are updated every year, with effect from 1 January, in accordance with the data available to the EU's Statistical Office on 30 September of the preceding year.

ENERGY

Extension of the term of office of the Director of the Energy Community Secretariat

The Council adopted a decision confirming that it agrees with the extension of the term of office of the Director of the Energy Community Secretariat. The Energy Community decided at its Ministerial Council meeting on 29 November 2018 to extend the term of office of Mr Janez Kopač as Director of the Energy Community Secretariat as from 1 December 2018 ([15235/18](#)).

CULTURE

Council agrees position on Creative Europe programme (2021-2027)

The Council agreed its position (partial general approach) on the regulation establishing the Creative Europe programme for 2021-2027. The programme aims to safeguard, develop and promote European cultural and linguistic diversity and heritage, and to increase the competitiveness of the cultural and creative sectors, in particular the audiovisual sector.

The agreement does not cover the budgetary aspects of the draft regulation, since the final amounts will depend on the agreement reached on the next multiannual financial framework.

See [press release](#)

INTERNAL MARKET AND INDUSTRY

Regulation on Brexit type-approval

The Council approved the European Parliament's position on a draft regulation that aims at ensuring a smooth transition for the type-approval of motor vehicles and systems, components and technical units intended for these vehicles when the UK leaves the EU. The German delegation abstained.

[\(PE-CONS 67/18\)](#) [\(15345/18\)](#)

Regulation on quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products

The Council adopted the proposed regulation.

The regulation updates regulation (EU) no 1388/2013, which opens and provides for the management of autonomous EU tariff quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products so that EU demand for the products in question can be met under the most favourable conditions.

[\(13271/18\)](#) + [13271/18 COR 1](#)

Regulation on suspensions for certain agricultural and industrial products

The Council adopted a regulation which updates the list of products benefiting from a suspension of common customs tariff duties, as well as the conditions under which such suspensions are granted.

[\(15345/18\)](#)

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY

Regulation on Cedefop

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading on the regulation establishing a European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) and repealing Council regulation (EEC) no 337/75 ([15481/18](#)). This is the last step of the legislative procedure.

The new Cedefop regulation adapts the agency's activities to reflect wider social and economic developments, as well as new trends in the field of vocational education and training. This includes technological developments, given that vocational occupations have been increasingly dependent on the use of digital technologies.

Regulation establishing the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading on the regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), and repealing Council regulation (EC) 2062/94 ([15479/18](#)). This is the last step of the legislative procedure.

Compared with the 1994 regulation on EU-OSHA, the new rules define more clearly the role of the agency in supplying the Union institutions and bodies and the member states with objective technical, scientific and economic information, as well as the relevant expertise they require to formulate and implement policies to protect the health and safety of workers.

Regulation on Eurofound

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading on the regulation establishing the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), and repealing Council regulation (EEC) no 1365/75 ([15480/18](#)). This is the last step of the legislative procedure.

The revision of the founding regulation of Eurofound, which dates from 1975, ensures that its objectives and tasks better reflect developments and emerging trends in European policies in the area of living and working conditions.

Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading on the Commission proposal ([15477/18](#)). This is the last step of the legislative procedure.

The directive amends an existing directive from 2004 by introducing exposure limits for 8 additional carcinogens or mutagens.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Lease agreement for the premises for the House of the EU in Paris

The Council decided to take a decision contrary to the Commission's proposal to lease premises for the House of the EU in Paris together with the European Parliament.

The Council based its decision on the fact that there had been a steep increase in costs for the Commission as compared to the current situation, which was not justifiable, and that the Commission should have considered alternative, more cost-efficient options ([15547/18](#)).

Generalised reverse charge mechanism

The Council adopted a directive that will allow the member states most severely affected by VAT fraud to temporarily apply a generalised reversal of VAT liability.

This generalised 'reverse charge' mechanism involves shifting liability for VAT payments from the supplier to the customer.

The Commission issued the proposal in December 2016 at the request of member states particularly affected by VAT fraud ([12852/18](#)).

VAT exemptions

The Council adopted implementing decisions authorising the following derogations to the common system of value added tax:

- a derogation authorising Belgium to exempt certain taxable persons from VAT ([15080/18](#), [14616/18](#))
- a derogation authorising Germany to extend a derogation in relation to VAT borne on certain goods and services ([15081/18](#), [14617/18](#))

Publication of an ESRB recommendation

The Council decided not to object to the decision to publish a recommendation by the European Stability Risk Board on the assessment of the cross-border effects of voluntary reciprocity for macro-prudential policy measures.

This recommendation includes the macro-prudential measure taken by the Haut conseil de stabilité financière on the tightening of the large exposures limit to 5% of eligible capital, applicable to exposure to highly indebted non-financial corporates having their office registered in France. ([15594/1/18 + ADD 1](#))

TRADE

EU-Japan trade agreement

The Council adopted a decision to conclude the EU-Japan economic partnership agreement.

The EPA is the biggest trade agreement concluded to date by the EU. 99% of the tariffs applied on EU exports to Japan, which currently amount to about €1 billion, will be removed.

The agreement will create new opportunities for EU agricultural exports, removing the existing Japanese tariffs on products such as cheeses and wines, while protecting EU intellectual property rights on Japanese markets. It will also open up services markets and significantly increase EU companies' access to Japan's procurement bids.

The EPA is based on the highest labour, safety, environmental and consumer protection standards. It is also the first trade agreement to include a specific commitment to the Paris climate agreement.
([15544/18](#), [7964/18](#))

See [press release](#)

EU-Switzerland negotiations on seasoned meat

The Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Switzerland on the modification of Switzerland's WTO concession on meat not further prepared than seasoned. The Council also adopted the related negotiating directives.

([14470/18](#), [14471/18](#) + ADD 1)

EU-Ukraine trade in poultry meat

The Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Ukraine on amending the existing tariff-rate quota for poultry meat and poultry meat preparations currently included in the deep and comprehensive free trade agreement (DCFTA) between the EU and Ukraine. The Council also adopted the related negotiating directives.

The EU and Ukraine have provisionally applied their DCFTA since 1 January 2016. This agreement means both sides will mutually open their markets for goods and services based on predictable and enforceable trade rules. This is part of the broader association agreement (AA) whose political and cooperation provisions have been provisionally applied since November 2014.

Autonomous trade measures (ATMs) for Ukraine topping up the concessions included in DCFTA for a number of industrial goods and agricultural products entered into force in October 2017. (15154/18, [15078/18](#) + ADD 1)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Practical arrangements for counter-terrorism cooperation between the EU and the UN

The Council authorised the opening of negotiations on practical arrangements for counter-terrorism cooperation between the EU and the UN. This instrument intends to focus EU-UN cooperation efforts on foreign terrorist fighters and the prevention and countering of violent extremism, among other things.

EU-Palestinian Authority relations

The Council adopted the position to be taken on behalf of the EU in the joint committee established by the Euro-Mediterranean interim association agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority (PA) of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part, concerning the extension of the EU-PA action plan.

Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear centres of excellence

The Council adopted the following conclusions on the European Court of Auditors special report on EU chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear centres of excellence:

"The Council welcomes the European Court of Auditors (ECA) Special Report No 14/2018 entitled 'The EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centres of Excellence: more progress needed' and its conclusions, according to which the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative is one of the main tools to mitigate CBRN threats and risks from outside the EU.

The Council notes that one of the main objectives of this performance audit of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative was to follow up on the actions taken by the EEAS and the Commission to implement the Recommendations contained in Special Report No 17/2014 ('Can the EU's Centres of Excellence Initiative contribute effectively to mitigating chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks from outside the EU?'), which dealt with the setting-up of the Initiative.

The Council takes note of the Recommendations of the Special Report, which are designed to address the shortcomings arising from the performance audit and aim to further strengthen and sustain the Initiative.

The Council welcomes that the Commission and the EEAS have fully implemented three out of six of the recommendations, contained in the earlier Special Report No 17/2014, and partially implemented two of them. As a result, Partner countries are now more involved in initiating and implementing projects, the organisation at regional level has been strengthened and cooperation between decision-makers and implementing bodies has improved.

Notwithstanding progress achieved, the Council acknowledges the conclusion of the Special Report that many challenges remain. Namely, according to the Special Report, a risk-based prioritisation is still to be implemented; CBRN governance and regional cooperation have increased but important obstacles still remain; and monitoring and evaluation needs to be reinforced. According to the ECA, further progress on the engagement of EU Delegations and on the speed of project implementation was also necessary.

Accordingly, the Council calls upon the Commission and the EEAS to implement the ECA recommendations, in particular to:

- prioritise activities on the basis of a systemic risk assessment;
- strengthen the Initiative's regional dimension;
- further strengthen the EU Delegations' role in the Initiative;
- identify potential synergies and other available funding sources;
- increase accountability and visibility of activities and results through improved monitoring and evaluation;
- overhaul the web-based portal to allow easy access to all the information concerning the Initiative's activities.

Finally, the Council is looking forward to receiving further updates on the implementation and on the outcome of projects supported by the EU CBRN CoE Initiative."

Special report no 14/2018: The EU chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear centres of excellence: more progress needed, press release, 20 December 2012.

EU-Israel relations

The Council adopted the position to be taken on behalf of the EU within the Association Council established by the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their member states, of the one part, and the state of Israel, of the other part, concerning the extension of the EU–Israel action plan.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**Schengen evaluation: Portugal**

The Council adopted an implementing decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of Portugal on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System ([14935/18](#), 14932/18).

Schengen evaluation: Sweden

The Council adopted an 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 ([14931/18](#), 14930/18).

Schengen evaluation: Norway

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 the Schengen Information System ([14890/18](#), 14889/18).

Schengen evaluation: Netherlands

The Council adopted an implementing decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of the Netherlands on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System ([14892/18](#), 14891/18).

Schengen evaluation: Latvia

The Council adopted an implementing decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of Latvia on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System ([14888/18](#), 14887/18).

Schengen evaluation: Spain

The Council adopted an implementing decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of Spain on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System ([14937/18](#), 14936/18).

Schengen evaluation: Switzerland

The Council adopted an implementing decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2017 evaluation of Switzerland on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System ([14929/18](#), 14928/18).

Civil protection presidency report

The Council took note of the report on the main achievements at EU level in the field of civil protection during the Austrian presidency ([14422/18](#)).

Visa waiver ordinary passports – amending agreement with Antigua and Barbuda

The Council adopted a decision ([12383/17](#)) on the signing of an agreement between the EU and Antigua and Barbuda amending the existing agreement on the short-stay visa waiver for holders of ordinary passports ([12382/17](#)). The amendment changes the definition of 'short stay' to 90 days in any 180-day period (from three months during a six-month 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 ([14789/18](#)).

Visa waiver ordinary passports – amending agreement with Barbados

The Council adopted a decision ([12386/17](#)) on the signing of an agreement between the EU and Barbados amending the existing agreement on the short-stay visa waiver for holders of ordinary passports ([12385/17](#)). The amendment changes the definition of 'short stay' to 90 days in any 180-day period (from three months during a six-month 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 ([14789/18](#)).

Visa waiver ordinary passports – amending agreement with the Commonwealth of the Bahamas

The Council adopted a decision ([12389/17](#)) on the signing of an agreement between the EU and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas amending the existing agreement on the short-stay visa waiver for holders of ordinary passports ([12388/17](#)). The amendment changes the definition of 'short stay' to 90 days in any 180-day period (from three months during a six-month 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 ([14789/18](#)).

Visa waiver ordinary passports – amending agreement with the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis

The Council adopted a decision ([12393/17](#)) on the signing of an agreement between the EU and the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis amending the existing agreement on the short-stay visa waiver for holders of ordinary passports ([12391/17](#)). The amendment changes the definition of 'short stay' to 90 days in any 180-day period (from three months during a six-month 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 ([14789/18](#)).

Visa waiver ordinary passports – amending agreement with the Republic of Mauritius

The Council adopted a decision ([12396/17](#)) on the signing of an agreement between the EU and the Republic of Mauritius amending the existing agreement on the short-stay visa waiver for holders of ordinary passports ([12395/17](#)). The amendment changes the definition of 'short stay' to 90 days in any 180-day period (from three months during a six-month 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 ([14789/18](#)).

Visa waiver ordinary passports – amending agreement with the Republic of Seychelles

The Council adopted a decision ([12399/17](#)) on the signing of an agreement between the EU and the Republic of Seychelles amending the existing agreement on the short-stay visa waiver for holders of ordinary passports ([12398/17](#)). The amendment changes the definition of 'short stay' to 90 days in any 180-day period (from three months during a six-month 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 ([14789/18](#)).

Eurojust – Frontex cooperation agreement

The Council endorsed Eurojust's intention to enter into negotiations with a view to concluding a cooperation agreement with Frontex ([15171/18](#)).
