



Council of the
European Union

113689/EU XXVII. GP
Eingelangt am 27/09/22

EN

12440/21

(OR. en)

PRESSE 27
PR CO 27

OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3814th Council meeting

Economic and Financial Affairs

Luxembourg, 5 October 2021

President

Andrej Šircelj
Slovenia's Minister for Finance

P R E S S

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¹ • Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
 • Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
 • Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

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ITEMS DEBATED

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)

– a) *Implementation of the RRF*

Ministers took stock of the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility. They exchanged views on the current state of play regarding Council implementing decisions approving the Commission's assessment of national plans. With the adoption of Malta's plan, 19 member states were given a green light for their reforms and investments and 16 of them already received pre-financing. More Council implementing decisions are expected by the end of October.

[A recovery plan for Europe \(background information\)](#)

– b) *Council implementing decision on Malta's recovery and resilience plan (RRP)*

The Council adopted its implementing decision on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Malta.

[Council gives go-ahead to Malta's recovery plan \(press release, 5 October 2021\)](#)

Implementation of the SURE instrument

The Commission presented its second report on the European instrument for temporary support to mitigate unemployment risks in an emergency (SURE). SURE has now been operational for one year and ministers exchanged views on its implementation and on the experience acquired in the process. The instrument was assessed as widely successful.

[Second report on the implementation of SURE \(European Commission\)](#)

European Semester 2021: Lessons learnt and a way forward in the context of the RRF

Ministers held an exchange of views on lessons learned from the 2021 European Semester and ways forward in the context of the RRF.

The discussion focused, in particular, on the assessment of the European Semester 2021 and on the possibilities of alignment of the implementation of the RRF with the next cycle of the European Semester.

[European Semester in 2021 \(background information\)](#)

Conclusions on climate finance

The Council adopted the conclusions on climate finance ahead of the 26th UN climate change conference of the parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October-12 November 2021.

The conclusions emphasize the continued strong support of the EU and its member states for the implementation of the goals of the Paris Agreement. They also highlight their commitment to scale up their contribution to international climate finance and the need to enhance the mobilisation of private finance in these efforts.

[Ecofin Council conclusions on climate change](#)

International meetings

Ministers continued with the preparations for meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors, scheduled for 13-14 October 2021, and the IMF annual meeting. In this context, they approved the G20 EU terms of reference and the statement to the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC).

[More information on Italy's 2021 G20 presidency](#)

[More information on IMF meetings](#)

Revision of prudential rules for insurance and reinsurance companies (Solvency II)

Ministers had the opportunity to express their views on the revision of prudential rules for insurance and reinsurance companies, within the Solvency II framework. The debate was preceded by the Commission's presentation of their new proposals for the Solvency II review.

[Risk management and supervision of insurance companies \(Solvency II\) \(European Commission\)](#)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

– *Current financial services legislative proposals*

The presidency presented the state of play of financial services legislative proposals.

[Banking union \(background information\)](#)

[Capital markets union \(background information\)](#)

[Digital finance \(background information\)](#)

– *Status of the implementation of financial services legislation*

The Commission informed ministers on the implementation status of financial services legislation.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Council position on DAB No 5/2021: Humanitarian support to refugees in Turkey

The Council adopted its position on the draft amending budget no 5/2021 regarding the humanitarian support in Turkey.

[Humanitarian support to refugees in Turkey: approval for a 2021 EU budget amendment](#)

Council Implementing Decision authorising Hungary to introduce a special measure derogating from the Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of VAT

The Council adopted its implementing decision authorising Hungary to introduce a special measure derogating from Article 193 of Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax. ([12104/21](#), [11645/21](#))

Council Implementing Decision authorising Hungary to introduce a special measure derogating from the Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of VAT

The Council adopted its implementing decision authorising Hungary to introduce a special measure derogating from point a) of Article 26(1) and Articles 168 and 168a of Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax. ([12108/21](#), [11621/21](#))

Council Implementing Decision authorising Italy to apply reduced rates of excise duty to gas oil used for heating purposes and to electricity in Campione d'Italia

The Council adopted its implementing decision authorising Italy to apply reduced rates of excise duty to gas oil used for heating purposes and to electricity in Campione d'Italia. ([12112/21](#), [11665/21](#))

Council Implementing Decision amending Decision 2009/791/EC authorising Germany to continue to apply a measure derogating from the Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of VAT

The Council adopted its implementing decision amending Decision 2009/791/EC authorising Germany to continue to apply a measure derogating from Article 168 of Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax. ([12105/21](#), [11662/21](#))

Council Implementing Decision authorising Germany to apply a special measure derogating from the Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of VAT

The Council adopted its implementing decision authorising Germany to apply a special measure derogating from Article 193 of Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax. ([12106/21](#), [11666/21](#))

Council Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision 2009/1013/EU authorising the Republic of Austria to continue to apply a measure derogating the Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of VAT

The Council adopted its decision amending Implementing Decision 2009/1013/EU authorising the Republic of Austria to continue to apply a measure derogating from Article 168 of Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax. ([12107/21](#), [11667/21](#))

Council Implementing Decision amending Decision 2009/790/EC authorising Poland to apply a measure derogating from the Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of VAT

The Council adopted its implementing decision amending Decision 2009/790/EC authorising the Republic of Poland to apply a measure derogating from Article 287 of Directive 2006/112/EC on the common system of value added tax. ([12109/21](#), [11668/21](#))

Conclusions on the revision of the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes

The Council adopted its conclusions on the revision of the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes.

[Taxation: Anguilla, Dominica and Seychelles removed from the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions \(press release, 5 October 2021\)](#)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS**EU - Cabo Verde Joint Statement**

The Council approved the EU - Cabo Verde joint statement, which highlights the special partnership between the two parties . The statement refers to topics discussed during the 11th EU-Cabo Verde ministerial meeting on 29 June 2021., including the political and socio-economic situation, the response to the COVID pandemic, international issues, regional challenges and multilateral coordination. Additionally, it mentions the priorities for the bilateral multiannual programme, Cabo Verde's status as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), digitalisation, renewable energy, the blue economy and sustainable fisheries.

Agreement relations between EU and Greenland

The Council adopted a decision on the Association of the Overseas Countries and Territories, including relations between the EU and Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark ([8988/21](#)). The decision highlights the specificities of the partnership between the EU and Greenland and Denmark. It responds to global challenges and allows for the development of a proactive agenda and the pursuit of mutual interests, in particular, the increasing impact of climate change on human activity and the environment, maritime transport, natural resources, including raw materials and fish stocks, as well as research and innovation.

GENERAL AFFAIRS

EU Border Regions

The Council approved conclusions on the Commission report "EU Border Regions: Living labs of European integration". The Council shares the views that border regions, both land and maritime, can be considered testing grounds for innovative solutions and that the European Green Deal provides yet another opportunity in this respect. The Council invites the Commission to continue to explore ways to boost the potential of EU border regions in close collaboration with Member States ([12149/21](#), [10819/21](#)).

EU-UK relations

The Council today adopted a decision authorising the opening of negotiations for an EU-UK agreement in respect of Gibraltar, as well as the negotiating directives. On this basis, the European Commission can now begin formal negotiations with the United Kingdom in respect of Gibraltar.

The aim of the negotiations is to establish a broad and balanced agreement between the EU and the UK in respect of Gibraltar in view of the particular geographical situation and specificities of Gibraltar.

[EU-UK relations: Council authorises the start of negotiations for an agreement in respect of Gibraltar \(press release 5 October 2021\)](#)

TRADE POLICY

EU-Ukraine Association Committee in Trade configuration

The Council adopted a Decision on the EU position to be taken in EU-Ukraine Association Committee in Trade configuration established by the Association Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part, as regards the amendment of Appendix XVII-3 (Rules applicable to telecommunication services), Appendix XVII-4 (Rules applicable to postal and courier services) and Appendix XVII-5 (Rules applicable to international maritime transport) to Annex XVII to that Agreement.

AGRICULTURE

Community plant variety rights

The Council adopted a Regulation on the extension of the term of Community plant variety rights for the species asparagus and the species groups flower bulbs, woody small fruits and woody ornamentals. ([11963/21](#); [PE-CONS 50/21](#))

Definition of ‘grain’

The Council adopted a Decision regarding the EU position on amending the definition of ‘grain’ or ‘grains’ under the Grains Trade Convention. ([11890/21](#), [11629/21](#))

Maximum residue levels for 6-benzyladenine and aminopyralid

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission Regulation amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No [396/2005](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for 6-benzyladenine and aminopyralid in or on certain products. ([12004/21](#), [11251/21](#) + [ADD 1 REV 1](#) + [ADD 2](#))

Conditions for exports of organic fertilisers and soil improvers

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No [142/2011](#) as regards conditions for exports of certain organic fertilisers and soil improvers containing Category 2 materials. ([12017/21](#), [10502/21](#) + [ADD 1](#))

Insect products on the market

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission Regulation amending certain Annexes to Regulation (EU) No [142/2011](#) as regards the requirements for placing on the market of certain insect products and the adaptation of a containment method. ([12063/21](#), [10820/21](#) + [ADD 1](#))

EU import and transit of animal by-products and derived products

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission Regulation amending Annexes XIV and XV to Regulation (EU) No [142/2011](#) as regards imports into and transit through the Union of animal by-products and derived products. ([12067/21](#), [10887/21](#) + [ADD 1](#))

Maximum residue levels for imidacloprid in or on certain products

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission Regulation amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for imidacloprid in or on certain products. ([11837/21](#), [11261/21](#) + [ADD 1](#) + [ADD 2](#))

Maximum residue levels for chlorantraniliprole in pulses

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for chlorantraniliprole in pulses. ([12010/21](#), [11266/21](#) + [ADD 1](#) + [ADD 2](#))

Maximum residue levels for flupyradifurone and difluoroacetic acid

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission Regulation amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards maximum residue levels for flupyradifurone and difluoroacetic acid in or on certain products. ([11838/21](#), [11268/21](#) + [ADD 1](#) + [ADD 2](#))

FISHERIES

Position adopted by the Union within the Specialised Committee on Fisheries

The Council adopted a Decision on the EU position to be adopted within the Specialised Committee on Fisheries. ([11825/21](#), [11885/21](#))

TRANSPORT

Aviation agreement with the Republic of Korea

The Council adopted a decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the EU and the Republic of Korea on certain aspects of air services ([11906/21](#); [5210/21](#); [15082/19](#)).