



Council of the  
European Union

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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
(Environment)  
16 March 2023

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## 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in 7137/23.

### Legislative deliberations

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

2. **Directive amending Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions and Council Directive on the landfill of waste**  7310/23 + **COR 1**  
*General approach*

The Council agreed on a general approach on the Industrial emissions Directive, as set out in the Annex of document 7537/23. Italy and Romania did not support the general approach while Bulgaria abstained. A joint statement by Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands is annexed to these Council minutes.

3. **Regulation establishing a Union certification framework for carbon removals**  6703/23 + COR 1  
*Policy debate*

The Council held a policy debate based on questions prepared by the Presidency, as set out in the document above.

## 4. Approval of 'A' items

**Non-legislative list** 7302/23

The Council adopted all A items listed in the document above, including all linguistic COR and REV documents presented for adoption.

## Non-legislative activities

5. Greening the European Semester  
*Exchange of views*

6679/1/23 REV 1

## Legislative deliberations

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

6. **Regulation on packaging and packaging waste, amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and Directive (EU) 2019/904, and repealing Directive 94/62/EC**  6705/1/23 REV 1  
*Policy debate*

The Council held a policy debate based on questions prepared by the Presidency, as set out in the document above.

7. **Directive concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast)**  6698/23  
*Policy debate*

The Council held a policy debate based on questions prepared by the Presidency, as set out in the document above.

## Any other business

8. a) **Results of the report on the impact of war on the natural environment in Ukraine**  7012/23  
*Information from the Polish delegation*

The Council took note of the information provided by Poland, as well as the interventions from other delegations.

- b) **Current legislative proposal** (public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

**Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 on CO<sub>2</sub> emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles**  6539/23 + ADD 1  
*Information from the Commission*

The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission of the above-mentioned recently adopted proposal, as well as the interventions from other delegations.

- c) **Regulation of plants obtained by new genomic techniques - need for further discussions respecting environmental aspects**

 7054/1/23 REV 1

*Information from the Austrian delegation, supported by the Cyprus and Hungarian delegations*

The Council took note of the information provided by Austria, supported by Cyprus and Hungary, as well as the interventions by other delegations and the Commission.

- d) **Fifth International World Chemicals Conference (Bonn, 25-29 September 2023)**

 7117/23

**High-level segment on 28 and 29 September 2023 hosted by Germany**

*Information from the German delegation*

The Council took note of the information provided by Germany.

- e) **Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the Treaty on Plastic Pollution**

 7153/23

*Information from the French delegation*

The Council took note of the information provided by France.



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 "B" items set out in 7137/23

**Ad "B" item 2:**                      **Directive amending Directive 2010/75/EU on industrial emissions and Council Directive on the landfill of waste**  
*General approach*

**STATEMENT BY DENMARK, FINLAND, IRELAND, LUXEMBOURG AND THE NETHERLANDS**

“The rearing of pigs, poultry and cattle cause significant pollutant emissions to the air, water and soil. It is very clear that additional efforts are needed to reduce such emissions and greenhouse gases from these sources, thereby improving air, water, and soil quality across the EU and reducing the impact on climate.

The Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU) and its predecessor IPPC-Directive have regulated the pollutant emissions of large industrial and agro-industrial sources for more than two decades and in doing so, the Directive has demonstrated that the application of the Best Available Techniques at installation level is the most cost-efficient way to reduce emissions. In our view all sectors, covered by this directive, should contribute to the efforts of reducing pollutant emissions. Already today, many Member States are regulating the agro-industrial installations below the thresholds that are currently set as the minimum scope of the installations under the Industrial Emissions Directive.

Therefore, we regret that the Council, in its General Approach for the revision of the Industrial Emissions Directive, has deviated considerably from the scope of the agro-industrial installations initially proposed by the Commission, and thereby reduced the environmental ambition and the potential to reduce the pollutant emissions considerably. The environmental ambition of the council is too low, does not support the EU level playing field for the agro-industrial sector and is insufficiently supportive of the Green Deal and the Zero Pollution Action Plan.

We request this statement to be included in the minutes of the 16.3.2023 Environment Council.”