



Brussels, 7 May 2020
(OR. en)

7709/20
CRS CRP 20

SUMMARY RECORD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
20 and 22 April 2020

I. Adoption of the agenda

7362/3/20 REV 3 OJ CRP2 16
7364/20 OJ CRP1 16

The Committee adopted the agenda.

II. Approval of the "I" items

The Committee approved the "I" items as set out in the Annex.

III. Discussion items

COREPER (PART 2)

General Affairs

2. Videoconference of Members of the European Council on 23 April 2020: Preparation

The Committee held an exchange of views in preparation of the informal videoconference of the members of the European Council.

3. Exceptional measures on the continuation of decision-making in the Council

7358/20

Approval

Decision to use the written procedure

The Committee agreed on the exceptional measures to be taken and agreed to use the written procedure for the adoption of the respective Council Decision.

The Council Legal Service explained that as the ordinary written procedure under Article 12(1) RoP is a written vote to adopt a Council act, it cannot be used to approve atypical acts on which the Council does not formally vote. Because of the exceptional circumstances of the current crisis, the Council Legal Service has interpreted Article 12(1) as exceptionally allowing only the approval of those Council conclusions which are a necessary step in an established process, like enlargement or European semester, or are part of a regular process, like annual conclusions on the EU policy towards different regions in the world, but not for one-off political texts. For such one-off cases, Council Legal Service has advised to use ministerial statements, prepared by COREPER in advance of ministerial VTCs.

COREPER discussed the matter and decided that given the exceptional circumstances due to COVID-19 outbreak in which the Council is unable to hold physical meetings, which would allow it to approve atypical Council acts as A or B items, and only because of these circumstances and only during the period of application of the derogation from Article 12(1) RoP as set out in Decision 2020/430, COREPER may decide to use the written procedure for the approval of Council conclusions on a case by case basis.

Statement by Hungary, Poland and Slovenia

"With regard to the adoption of the Council Decision on a temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union

While recognising the political importance of the decision to ensure institutional continuity in the decision-making of the Council, the signing Member States wish to emphasize that derogation from the first subparagraph of Article 12 (1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure may only be granted because of the exceptional circumstances caused by the epidemiological crisis and for a limited period of time.

This decision shall in no way be regarded as an amendment to the Council's Rules of Procedure or a precedent invoked for any future procedural decision within the Council.

The Council shall return to its normal decision making practice as soon as the circumstances allow that."

Foreign Affairs

4. Mozambique 7279/20
Agreement on draft text
Agreement on form

The Committee agreed on the draft text and agreed that it should take the form of Council Conclusions. The Committee decided on the use of the written procedure for the adoption of the text.

5. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on
22 April 2020: Preparation

The Committee held an exchange of views in preparation of the informal videoconference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

6. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Foreign
Affairs/Trade on 16 April 2020: Follow-up

The Presidency presented the main discussions at the informal videoconference.

General Affairs

7. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of European Affairs
on 22 April 2020: Preparation

The Committee held an exchange of views in preparation of the informal videoconference of the Ministers of European Affairs.

Justice and Home Affairs

9. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Home Affairs on
28 April 2020: Preparation

The Committee held an exchange of views in preparation of the informal videoconference of the Ministers of Home Affairs.

COREPER (PART 1)

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy

18. Informal videoconference of Ministers of Energy on
28 April 2020: *Preparation*

The Committee held an exchange of views in preparation of the informal videoconference of the Ministers of Energy.

19. Informal videoconference of Ministers of Transport on
29 April 2020: *Preparation*

The Committee held an exchange of views in preparation of the informal videoconference of the Ministers of Transport.

Competitiveness

20. Informal videoconference of Ministers of Tourism on
27 April 2020: *Preparation*

The Committee held an exchange of views in preparation of the informal videoconference of the Ministers of Tourism.

IV. Any other business

COREPER (PART 2)

Videoconferencing capacity of the Council

The Committee took note of the information provided by the Secretary-General.

COREPER (PART 1)

COVID-19 measures

The Committee took note of the information provided by the Commission.

Videoconference for Digital Ministers

The Committee took note of the request by France.

"I" items approved

COREPER (PART 2)

Institutional Affairs

Appointments

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------------------|
| 11. | A member and an alternate member (AT) of the Committee of the Regions
<i>Adoption by silence procedure</i> | 7148/20
6919/20
CDR |
| 12. | Two alternate members (NL) of the Committee of the Regions
<i>Adoption by silence procedure</i> | 7341/20
6632/1/20 REV 1
CDR |

General Affairs

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------|
| 13. | EP Resolutions and decisions (APRIL extra 2020) | 7319/20
PE-RE |
|-----|---|------------------|

Foreign Affairs

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|
| 17. | Council Decision on Union support for the activities of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption</i> | 7353/20
7270/20
CORLX |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|

EU positions for international negotiations

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 15. | Council Decision on the EU Position on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters of the Joint Customs Cooperation Committee with New Zealand
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption</i> | 7332/20
6882/20
6932/20
UD |
|-----|---|-------------------------------------|

COREPER (PART 1)

Institutional Affairs

Written questions

21. Replies to questions for written answer submitted to the Council by Members of the European Parliament
Adoption by silence procedure
- 7329/20
PE-QE
- a) Silvia Sardone (ID)
"Operation Sophia" 7020/1/20 REV1
- b) Antonio López-Istúriz White (EPP)
"Re-establishment of the EU-Israel Association Council under the new EU leadership" 6920/20
- c) Martin Schirdewan (GUE/NGL)
"Sponsoring" 7072/20

EU positions for international negotiations

22. Council Decision on the EU position in the Joint Implementation Committee established pursuant to Article 18 of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the EU and Vietnam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade
Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption
- 5049/20
7027/20
15095/19
FORETS

Transport

23. Council Decision on the signing of the agreement on civil aviation safety between the EU and Japan
Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption
- 5278/20
15259/19
15260/19
AVIATION
24. Council Decision on the signing of the agreement on certain aspects of air services between the EU and the Republic of Korea
Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption
- 7310/20 + COR 1
15079/19
15082/19
AVIATION