



Brussels, 26 June 2020
(OR. en)

9069/20
CRS CRP 27

SUMMARY RECORD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
8, 10, 12 and 15 June 2020

I. Adoption of the agenda

8621/3/20 REV 3 OJ CRP2 23 COMIX 253 + REV 3 COR 1 + CM 2432/20
8659/20 OJ CRP1 23

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)

MONDAY 8 JUNE 2020

Foreign Affairs

2. Eastern Partnership Ministers of Foreign Affairs VTC on
11 June 2020: Preparation
Exchange of views

The Committee held an exchange of views in preparation of the above-mentioned videoconference.

General Affairs

3. Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and Recovery Package
Exchange of views 8647/20

The Committee held an exchange of views on the basis of a set of guiding questions related to this issue and agreed to revert to this at the continuation of its meeting.

WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2020

General Affairs

4. EU-UK relations 7685/1/20 REV 1
+ REV 1 COR 1
State of play

The Committee took note of the information provided by the chief negotiator on the state of play and held an exchange of views.

5. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of European Affairs
on 16 June 2020: Preparation

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

Foreign Affairs

7. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Foreign
Affairs/Development on 8 June 2020: Follow-up

The EEAS presented the main discussions at the informal videoconference.

8. Informal video conference of the Ministers of Foreign
Affairs/Trade on 9 June 2020: Follow-up

The Presidency presented the main discussions at the informal videoconference.

9. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on
15 June 2020: Preparation

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

10. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Foreign
Affairs/Defence on 16 June 2020: Preparation

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

Justice and Home Affairs

12. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Home Affairs on 5 June 2020: Follow-up

The Presidency presented the main discussions at the informal videoconference. The Committee held an exchange of views on the issue of the gradual lifting of external border controls and agreed to discuss that issue at the continuation of its session on Friday.

13. JHA Strategic Guidelines 6746/1/20 REV 1
Endorsement

The Committee held an exchange of views on the JHA Strategic Guidelines and agreed to revert on this item at one of its next meetings.

General Affairs

3. Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and Recovery Package 8647/20
Exchange of views

The Committee held an exchange of views on the basis of a set of guiding questions related to this issue and agreed to revert to this at the continuation of its meeting.

15. Informal videoconference of the Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy on 15 June 2020: Preparation

The Committee held an exchange of views in preparation of the informal videoconference of the Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy.

14. Regulation establishing the Just Transition Fund 8502/20
Partial mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament

The Committee held an exchange and agreed to revert on this item at one of its next meetings.

Statement by Belgium

"Belgium would like the Coreper minutes to take note of the following points with regard to the partial mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament on the JTF:

- Belgium considers the JTF proposal an important instrument for financing the Green deal reforms.
- Belgium considers subsidiarity as a key element in the implementation of the JTF (and the JTM).
- The definition of the territories eligible to the JTF is part of the whole discussion in the framework of the Partnership with the Commission that will take place regarding the cohesion policy. Belgium welcomes the openness on the side of the European Commission to further discuss the territories to be identified under pillar I.

- Belgium supports the agreement reached within the Council on the substantial aspects of the JTF. Nevertheless, Belgium hopes that more information will become available on the articulation between the 3 pillars of the mechanism. In this regard Belgium would like to stress that also those sectors or regions that are particularly affected by climate transition but not specifically targeted under pillar I, can benefit from pillars II and III under the JTM.

With these elements in mind, Belgium can support the agreement."

Economic and Financial Affairs

16. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Economy and Finance on 9 June 2020: Follow-up

The above-mentioned item was withdrawn.

FRIDAY 12 JUNE 2020

Justice and Home Affairs

50. Communication on the third assessment of the application of the temporary restriction on non-essential travel to the EU Guidance for a phased and coordinated resumption of visas operations 8786/20 + ADD 1
Presentation by the Commission

The Committee took note of the presentation of the Communication by the Commission, held an exchange of views and agreed to revert on this at one of its next meetings.

Foreign Affairs

25. Conclusions on Security and Defence 8558/20
Approval 8559/20
Decision to use the written procedure

The Committee held an exchange of views and agreed to revert on this at the continuation of the meeting on Monday to finalise discussions.

Statement by Austria

"Austria's consent on the text of the Council Conclusions on Security and Defence is not to be understood as a prejudice on funding for the European Defence Fund, CEF/Military Mobility and the European Peace Facility in the context of the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework and the European Recovery Instrument. In our view, "adequate funding" as mentioned in the Conclusions can also be understood as "lower funds".

"Ambitious" in the context of the European Defence fund as mentioned in the Conclusions is related to content and does not, as clarified by the Commission representative in PSC, relate to the financing granted to this Fund. Austria has reservations regarding those elements of the conclusions that could be interpreted as a call for an expanded budget for defence-related programmes. Against the backdrop of the negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework and a European Recovery Instrument and in the presence of an unprecedented health related crisis, the scarce financial resources of the European budget need to be allocated and reprioritised in favour of those areas that most effectively help mitigate the present crisis and contribute most to the recovery."

51. EU-China VTC
State of play

The Committee took note of the information given by the PEC Cabinet on the upcoming EU-China VTC.

General Affairs

3. Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and Recovery Package 8647/20
Exchange of views

The Committee held an exchange of views on the basis of a set of guiding questions related to this issue.

MONDAY 15 JUNE 2020

Foreign Affairs

25. Conclusions on Security and Defence 8558/20
Approval 8559/20
Decision to use the written procedure

The Committee agreed on the draft text of the Council Conclusions and decided on the use of the written procedure for the adoption of the text.

CLS intervention

"With reference to the draft compromise text suggested by the EEAS as concerns the last sentence of para. 1 of doc. 8559/20 (draft Council Conclusions on Security and Defence), the Council Legal Service confirmed that the last phrase of the 11th recital of the TEU, after the last comma, which starts with the words "(...), *thereby reinforcing the European identity and its independence* (...)", refers to the whole Common Foreign and Security Policy, not only to defence policy. This recital is substantially unchanged since it was originally included in the Maastricht Treaty in 1993. It is the TEU recital about CFSP, the ex-second pillar, in the same way as the 12th recital is the TEU recital about JHA, the ex-third pillar."

COREPER (PART 1)

Transport

29. Regulation on streamlining measures for the realisation of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T)
Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the trilogue

The Committee took note of the information provided by the Presidency on the outcome of the trilogue of 8 June 2020.

30. Directive amending Directive 2006/1/EC on the use of hired vehicles 8495/20
Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament

The Committee held an exchange of views and agreed to return to this file at a future meeting.

Environment

31. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Environment on 23 June 2020: *Agenda*

The Presidency presented the main items on the agenda of the informal videoconference of the Ministers of Environment.

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport

32. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Education on 23 June 2020: *Agenda*

The Presidency presented the main items on the agenda of the informal videoconference of the Ministers of Education.

Youth

33. Resolution on the Outcomes of the 7th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue 8473/20
Preparation for the approval
Decision to use the written procedure

The Committee agreed on the draft text of the Council Resolution and decided on the use of the written procedure for the approval of the text and to publish the text in the Official Journal.

Competitiveness

34. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Internal Market and Industry on 12 June 2020: *Preparation*

1. The Recovery Package:
Green and digital transition as drivers towards
European recovery
Strengthening European strategic value chains
2. Joint Ministerial Statement

The Committee held an exchange of views in preparation of the informal videoconference of the Ministers of Internal Market and Industry.

Internal Market and Industry

35. Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1628 as regards its transitional provisions in order to address the impact of COVID-19 crisis 8526/20 + COR 1
8521/20
Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament

The Committee confirmed that should the European Parliament agree with the use of the urgent procedure and approve the Commission's proposal with the agreed amendments, the Council would approve the European Parliament's position, resulting in the adoption of the Regulation in the form of the Commission's proposal with the agreed amendments. The Committee authorised the Presidency to inform the European Parliament accordingly.

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs

36. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Health on 12 June 2020: *Preparation*

1. EU4Health Programme
2. Vaccines Strategy

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

Employment and Social Policy

37. Conclusions on impact of long-term care on work-life balance 8484/20
Preparation for the approval
Decision to use the written procedure

The Committee agreed on the draft text of the Council Conclusions and decided on the use of the written procedure for the approval of the text.

Statement by Poland

"Poland declares that the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions – A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 (Commission's Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025; hereinafter referred to as "Strategy") mentioned in point 24 of the Conclusions on the impact of long-term care on work-life balance, should be interpreted with due regard to national competences and the specific circumstances in each Member State. At the same time Poland declares that equality between women and men is enshrined in the Treaties of the European Union as a fundamental right. Poland ensures equality between women and men within the framework of the Polish national legal system in accordance with internationally binding human rights instruments and within the framework of fundamental values and principles of the European Union. For these reasons, all references to "gender equality" within the Strategy will be interpreted by Poland as signifying "equality between women and men." In addition, where the Strategy refers to the concept of "sexual and reproductive health and rights", Poland will interpret it in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development of 1994 and the Beijing Platform for Action of 1995, due to the fact that the term has no internationally recognized definition."

Statement of the Slovak Republic

"The Slovak Republic recognizes and promotes equality between men and women in accordance with the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and primary law of the European Union. In this context, the Slovak Republic interprets the concept of „gender“ in the text of the Council Conclusions as reference to sex and concept of „gender equality“ as reference to the equality between men and women."

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy

38. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of Energy on 15 June 2020: *Preparation*

Economic recovery and the European Green Deal:
Transforming the energy system while delivering on growth

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

Energy

39. Conclusions on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the EU energy sector – road to recovery 8382/20 *Preparation for the approval* *Decision to use the written procedure*

The Committee agreed on the draft text of the Council Conclusions and decided on the use of the written procedure for the approval of the text.

IV. Any other business

COREPER (PART 2)

Trade in health products initiative (requested by France)

The Committee took note of the information provided by France.

Interpretation in Council VTCs (requested by Spain)

The Committee took note of the information provided by the Presidency and the Secretary General of the Council.

Terrorism (requested by Denmark)

The Committee took note of the information provided by Denmark.

COREPER (PART 1)

Working methods and the provision of interpretation at informal videoconferences of Ministers

The Committee took note of information provided by the Spanish delegation and the General Secretariat of the Council.

"I" items approved**COREPER (PART 2)****WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2020****Economic and Financial Affairs**

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| 17. | Terms of reference for a feasibility study on options for strengthening the future European financial architecture for development
<i>Approval</i>
<i>Decision to use the written procedure</i> | 8522/20
8523/20
ECOFIN |
| 18. | Regulation on Suspensions on certain agricultural and industrial products
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption</i> | 8536/20
7812/20
UD |
| 19. | Regulation on Quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption</i> | 8543/20
7813/20
UD |
| 20. | Council Recommendations on the National Reform Programmes 2020 to each Member State, delivering Council Opinions on the updated Stability or Convergence Programmes
<i>Approval</i>
<i>Decision to use the written procedure</i> | 8496/1/20 REV 1
8449/1/20 REV 1
8410/20 + COR 1
8202/1/20 REV 1
UEM |
| 21. | Conclusions on the progress achieved on tax issues during the Croatian Presidency
<i>Approval</i>
<i>Decision to use the written procedure</i> | 8375/20
8446/20
FISC |
| 22. | Capital Requirements Regulation Quick Fix
<i>Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament</i> | 8614/20 + ADD 1
EF |

Joint statement by Greece and Cyprus

"The Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Cyprus recognize the importance of and welcome the targeted amendments on the Capital Requirement Regulation in order to facilitate bank lending in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

However, the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Cyprus regret the lack of ambition of the final text in two key points:

- a) EU does not make full use of the flexibility provided at international level with regard to the transitional arrangements for IFRS9, thus not ensuring level playing field at international level and within the EU, and
- b) the temporary re-introduction of "prudential filters" for sovereign exposures is too short, thus limiting the added value of this provision."

Statement by Finland

"In general, Finland welcomes the efforts to provide temporary relief for banks to facilitate lending as a matter of urgency during the global pandemic.

However, Finland is of the opinion that only temporary amendments and amendments directly targeted at the impacts of the pandemic should be made to the prudential framework in an accelerated procedure without an impact assessment and proper time for the national Parliaments to assess the amendments, as enshrined in Article 4 of Protocol No 1 on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union, annexed to the Treaties.

The amendments with support of the qualified majority in the Council and the European Parliament provide additional capital relief for banks. At the same time, they add to the risks stemming from banks' balance sheets. This is something Finland will consider when discussing further risk sharing in the context of the Banking Union. Only a healthy and stable banking sector can continue lending to the real economy throughout the downturn. Finland has particular concerns about the amendments that further strengthen the link between banks and sovereigns in Europe, when in fact a complete review of the regulatory treatment of sovereign exposures should be conducted to ensure that the risks to banks stemming from these exposures are properly reflected in prudential regulation."

General Affairs

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| 23. | Eighteen-month programme of the Council
(1 July 2020 - 31 December 2021)
<i>Endorsement</i>
<i>Decision to use the written procedure</i> | 8577/1/20 REV 1
8086/1/20 REV 1
POLGEN |
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Foreign Affairs

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| 26. | Council Decision and Implementing Regulation concerning restrictive measures against Iran
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption</i> | 8591/20
8089/20
8091/20
CORLX |
| 27. | Council Decision concerning restrictive measures in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption</i> | 8599/20
8365/20
CORLX |
| 47. | Council Decision in support of the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption</i> | 8645/20
8489/20
CORLX |
| 48. | Council Decision in support of the strengthening of chemical safety and security in Ukraine in line with the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption</i> | 8666/20
8507/20
CORLX |

49. Council Decision on Promotion of Effective Arms Export Controls
Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption
- 8644/20
8486/20
CORLX

EU positions for international negotiations

28. Council Decision on the EU position in the Council of Members of the International Olive Council (IOC) on trade standards applying to olive oils and olive pomace oils
Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption
- 8368/20 + COR 1
8457/20
8362/20
PROBA

FRIDAY 12 JUNE 2020

Justice and Home Affairs

24. Conclusions on enhancing financial investigations to fight serious and organised crime
Approval
Decision to use the written procedure
- 8606/20
8605/20
ENFOPOL

Foreign Affairs

52. Conclusions on EU External Action on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism
Approval
Decision to use the written procedure
- 8741/20
8742/20 + COR 1
COTER
53. Council Recommendation assessing the progress made by the participating Member States to fulfil commitments undertaken in the framework of permanent structured cooperation (PESCO)
Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption
- 8660/20
+ COR 1 REV 1
7745/20 + COR 1
+ REV 1 (en)
+ REV 1 COR 1
(en)
CORLX

COREPER (PART 1)

Institutional Affairs

Written questions

40. Replies to questions for written answer submitted to the Council by Members of the European Parliament
Adoption by silence procedure
- a) Nicolás González Casares (S&D) 7985/20
"Climate neutrality"
- b) Isabel Santos (S&D) 8030/20
"Operation Sophia"
- c) Eva Kaili (S&D) 7962/20
"Unilateral Turkish violation of the provisions of the EU-Turkey Joint Statement on refugees"
- d) Jaak Madison (ID) 8083/20
"Updating the EU watchlist of terrorist organisations to include Hezbollah"
- e) Viktor Uspaskich (Renew) 8087/20
"Support for EU countries affected by COVID-19"

EU positions for international negotiations

41. Council Decision on the EU position in the Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community as regards certain administrative and staff matters and financial rules for the Transport Community
Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption
42. Council Decision on the EU position on UNECE (June 2020)
Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption

Fisheries

43. Regulation establishing a multiannual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean amending Regulations (EC) No 1936/2001, (EU) 2017/2107, and (EU) 2019/833 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2016/1627
Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament

Employment and Social Policy

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| 44. | Country-specific recommendations: Recommendations on the National Reform Programmes 2020 to each Member State and draft explanatory note
<i>Approval</i>
<i>Decision to use the written procedure</i> | 8537/1/20 REV 1
8202/1/20 REV 1
8449/2/20 REV 2
8529/20
8650/1/20 REV 1
COR 1-2
SOC |
| 45. | Assessment of the 2020 country-specific recommendations and the implementation of the 2019 country-specific recommendations: Opinions of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee
<i>Endorsement</i>
<i>Decision to use the written procedure</i> | 8540/20
8518/20 + ADD 1
SOC |

Other items

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| 46. | Impact assessment within the Council: 2020 Annual Report
<i>Endorsement</i> | 8531/20
8532/20
IA |
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