

Brussels, 28 July 2020
(OR. en)

9883/20
CRS CRP 31

SUMMARY RECORD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE (Part 2)
6, 8 and 10 July 2020

I. Adoption of the agenda

9355/2/20 REV 2 OJ CRP2 27 + CM 3020/20

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

MONDAY 6 JULY 2020

General Affairs

2. Negotiating Frameworks and Updates on the Republic of Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia 8578/20
Presentation by the Commission 8579/20
8581/20
8582/20

The Committee took note of the presentation by the Commission.

3. Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and Recovery Package 9285/20
Exchange of views

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

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2020

Foreign Affairs

4. EU-India VTC Summit: Preparation
Exchange of views

The Committee held an exchange of views on the state of play and provided guidance to the negotiator in view of finalising the draft joint declaration.

General Affairs

5. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of European Affairs
on 15 July 2020: Preparation
- a) Presentation of the priorities of the German Presidency

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

- b) Other items in connection with the informal
videoconference

The Committee took note of the information provided by the Presidency on the informal videoconference of the Ministers of European Affairs.

Foreign Affairs

6. Meeting of the Council (Foreign Affairs) on 13 July 2020:
Preparation
- a) Current affairs

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.

- b) Latin America and the Caribbean (COVID-19)
Exchange of views

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.

- c) Turkey

The Committee prepared this item for the Council.

- d) Other items in connection with the Council meeting

The EEAS provided further information regarding the Council meeting.

General Affairs

3. Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and Recovery Package
Exchange of views 9382/20
9383/20

The Committee held an exchange of views on the basis of a set of guiding questions related to this issue and a Presidency compromise proposal for Art. 6(4) of the Own Resources Decision.

FRIDAY 10 JULY 2020

General Affairs

5. Informal videoconference of the Ministers of European Affairs on 15 July 2020: Preparation
- c) Preparation of the European Council on 17-18 July 2020:
Draft conclusions
Exchange of views 9415/20

The Committee held an exchange of views and agreed to revert to this issue at its next session.

IV. Any other business

None.

"I" items approved

MONDAY 6 JULY 2020

Economic and Financial Affairs

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| 7. | EU Terms of reference for the G20 FMCBG Meeting on 18 July 2020
<i>Approval</i>
<i>Decision to use the written procedure</i> | 9182/20
6303/20
UEM |
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WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2020

Institutional Affairs

Letters

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| 8. | European Ombudsman Complaint 380/2020/VB
<i>Approval of a letter</i> | 9333/20 + ADD 1
EPPO |
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Transparency

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| 9. | Public access to documents
Confirmatory application No 16/c/02/20
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption</i> | 8810/20 + ADD 1
8809/20
INF
API |
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Economic and Financial Affairs

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| 10. | European Semester 2020 – Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area
<i>Adoption</i> | 6299/20
6301/20
5687/20
UEM |
| 11. | Country Specific Recommendations 2020
<i>Adoption</i> | 7217/20
8449/5/20 REV 5
8410/20 + COR 1
UEM |

Statement by Poland

"Poland would like to abstain from voting regarding the approval of the contribution on economic/financial and MIP-related aspects of the draft Council Recommendations on the National Reform Programmes 2020 to each Member State, delivering Council Opinions on the updated Stability or Convergence Programmes.

Poland does not support part of country specific recommendation 4 (CSR) where Commission advises to "*Enhance the investment climate, in particular by safeguarding judicial independence*".

In our opinion there is no evidence of any negative impact of changes in the judicial system on the investment climate in Poland.

Since 2017, when the Commission for the first time decided to align the legal certainty, trust in the quality and predictability of regulatory with the investment climate, Poland has been recording a steady increase in both public and private investment (about 22 per cent for last 3 years).

Poland has introduced many favorable changes important for investment and business environment. The improvement in investment performance was also confirmed by the Commission in 2020 Country report-Poland but even though the Commission decided to strengthen this issue in the CSR4.

Moreover, as stated in the recital 25, some of the CJEU proceedings are pending along with a debate over the scope of authority of the CJEU over the matters pertaining to the Member States' scope of competence, i.e. the organization of the judiciary. So far, Poland complies with the CJEU's guidelines, therefore we don't see a reason to underline the necessity to additionally safeguard the judicial independence.

We would like to stress the importance of the European Semester as a framework for enhanced economic policy coordination in Europe. This economic process should be based on facts and figures. Otherwise we can have political statements and recommendations without any economic underpinning and instead of strengthening this important coordination tool we would weaken its effectiveness. We also stressed that European Semester should not duplicate other EU procedures."

General Affairs

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| 12. | Regulation amending the Common Provisions Regulation:
Technical adjustment 2020 (YEI)
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption of the legislative act</i>
<i>Decision to derogate from the 8-week period provided for in Article 4 of Protocol 1 on the role of national parliaments in the EU</i> | 9300/20
REGIO |
| 13. | European citizens' initiative in view of the COVID-19 outbreak
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption of the legislative act</i>
<i>Decision to derogate from the 8-week period provided for in Article 4 of Protocol 1 on the role of national parliaments in the EU</i> | 9302/20
INST |

Justice and Home Affairs

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| 14. | Afghanistan: Extension of the Joint Way Forward on Migration Issues between Afghanistan and the EU
<i>Approval of entering into negotiations</i> | 9233/20
MIGR |
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| 15. | EPPO: Council Implementing Decision amending Rules of Selection Panel
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption</i> | 9286/20
9229/20
EPPO |
| 16. | EPPO: Letters in relation to nominated candidates
<i>Approval</i>
<i>Decision to use the written procedure</i> | 9308/1/20 REV 1
9316/20 R-UE
EPPO |
| <u>Foreign Affairs</u> | | |
| 17. | Council Decision on the conclusion of the GATT Article XXVIII Agreement with Switzerland on seasoned meat
<i>Adoption</i> | 9196/20
12482/19 + COR 1
12483/19 + COR 1
WTO |
| 18. | Joint Declaration on behalf of the EU on Trade and Sustainable Development with the Pacific States
<i>Approval of entering into negotiations</i> | 9312/20
ACP |
| 19. | ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Statement on Maintaining Security in Digital Economy
<i>Approval of entering into negotiations</i> | 9360/20
COASI |
| 26. | ASEM Ministerial Statement on Covid-19 | 9400/20
COASI |
| 27. | EU-India Joint declaration on Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy
<i>Approval</i> | 9403/20
COASI |
| 28. | EU proposal for an EU-India Roadmap 2025
<i>Approval</i> | 9404/20
COASI |
| 20. | Conclusions on EU priorities at the UN and UNGA75
<i>Approval</i> | 9314/20
CONUN |

21. Conclusions on EU priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe 2020-2022
Approval

9177/20
COSCE

Statement by Bulgaria

(paragraph {19})

"Bulgaria reiterates its national position on the notion "gender identity" in the context of the Council of Europe's *Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)* as follows:

Bulgaria attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of human rights, including protection against violence and discrimination. The country has developed a strong national legislation on combatting violence against women and domestic violence. It also continues its efforts on adopting measures and policies to resolve existing challenges.

In 2018, the Bulgarian Constitutional Court adopted a decision stating that the Council of Europe's *Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)* promotes legal concepts that are incompatible with main principles of the Bulgarian Constitution. Therefore, Bulgaria cannot accept the term "gender identity" according to the said decision of the Bulgarian Constitutional Court.

Bulgaria does not tolerate and combats discrimination on the grounds, enumerated in the internationally established and widely adopted conventions on human rights in the UN and Council of Europe fora as well as those enshrined in the EU legislation. However, the leading documents such as the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the EU Human Rights Guidelines on Non-discrimination in External Action do not include a legally binding reference to "gender identity".

The above represents the position of Bulgaria on all issues related to the ratification of the *Istanbul Convention* by the country and the use of the notion "gender identity" in this context."

Statement by Hungary

"In view of the incoming chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2021, Hungary welcomes the agreement on the Conclusions on EU priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe 2020-2022. This document sets out the path in which the two organizations can work together, while striving to avoid unnecessary overlaps.

Hungary remains dedicated to its human rights commitments, including the specific areas touched upon in the document and to combat all forms of violence against women and domestic violence. However, we must underline that the Hungarian National Assembly decided not to include in the Hungarian national legal system either the concept of gender or the gender-based approach of the Istanbul Convention.

Therefore, in line with the relevant declaration of the Hungarian National Assembly, we reserve the right not to recognize the binding force of the Istanbul Convention and we reaffirm that Hungary will not support or promote the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the European Union."

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| 22. | PSC Decision EU BAM Rafah/1/2020 - extension of the mandate of the Head of Mission
<i>Decision to publish in the Official Journal</i> | 8901/20
8571/20
PSC DEC |
| 23. | PSC Decision BiH/29/2020 - appointment of the EU Operation Commander
<i>Decision to publish in the Official Journal</i> | 8905/20
8637/20
PSC DEC |
| 30. | Council Decision amending Decision (CFSP) 2020/251 of 25 February 2020 extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative for the Horn of Africa
<i>Adoption</i> | 9012/20
8564/20
CORLX |

Internal Market and Industry

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| 24. | Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1628 as regards its transitional provisions in order to address the impact of COVID-19 crisis
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption of the legislative act</i>
<i>Decision to derogate from the 8-week period provided for in Article 4 of Protocol 1 on the role of national parliaments in the EU</i> | 8699/1/20 REV 1
MI |
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Health

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| 25. | Regulation on clinical trials of medicinal products to treat or prevent coronavirus disease
<i>Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption of the legislative act</i>
<i>Decision to derogate from the 8-week period provided for in Article 4 of Protocol 1 on the role of national parliaments in the EU</i> | 9277/20
PHARM |
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Transport

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| 31. | Revised high-level agreement between the EU and Georgia (TEN-T Regulation)
<i>Authorisation to open negotiations</i> | 9306/20
TRANS |
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FRIDAY 10 JULY 2020

Foreign Affairs

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| 29. | EU's accession to the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
<i>Approval of entering into negotiations</i> | 9405/20
COASI |
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The above-mentioned item was withdrawn.