

9459/20 ADD 1 REV 1

(OR. en)

PRESSE 20
PR CO 20

OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3765th Council meeting

Foreign Affairs

Items approved by written procedure between 14 March and 13 July 2020

Brussels, 13 July 2020

President **Josep Borrell**
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security
Policy

P R E S S

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175 B – 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 6319 / 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 281 8026
press.office@consilium.europa.eu <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/press>

9459/20 ADD 1 REV 1

1
EN

CONTENTS¹**ITEMS DEBATED**

none

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED*GENERAL AFFAIRS*

– ‘Article 255’ panel – appointment of new president	9
– Council decision establishing the EU’s position for the joint committee meeting of 12 June 2020.....	10
– Temporary derogation to the Council’s rules of procedure	10
– 2014 staff reform package – Court of Auditors’ report	10
– Committee of the Regions – appointments following the UK’s withdrawal	10
– 18-month programme of the Council	11
– European Semester 2020 – country-specific recommendations	11
– Temporary derogation to the Council’s rules of procedure	12

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.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

– Council decision concerning restrictive measures against the Central African Republic – UN transposition	12
– Council decision and implementing regulation concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Egypt – review.....	12
– Council implementing decision and implementing regulation concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo – UN update	13
– Council decision concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina – renewal	13
– EU advisory mission to the Central African Republic	13
– Restrictive measures on individuals in Libya	14
– EU-LAC	14
– Closing of EU military operation EUNAVFOR MED (SOPHIA)	14
– Restrictive measures in view of the situation in Yemen	14
– Iran restrictive measures	15
– EUAM Iraq: mandate of the head of mission extended.....	15
– Myanmar	15
– Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization	15
– Restrictive measures against the Central African Republic.....	15
– Key elements for sustained international support to peace and development in Afghanistan	16
– Temporary reception by member states of the EU of certain Palestinians	16
– European Union CSDP mission in Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali)	16
– European Union capacity-building mission in Somalia (EUCAP Somalia).....	16
– European Union CSDP advisory mission in the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA)	16
– Restrictive measures against the Central African Republic.....	17
– Investigation of the alleged use of chemical, biological and toxin weapons	17
– Restrictive measures against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea	17

–	Conclusions on the annual report on the implementation of the EU instruments for financing external actions in 2018.....	17
–	EUAM Ukraine: mandate of the head of mission extended	18
–	EU support for the International Atomic Energy Agency’s activities in the area of nuclear security	18
–	EULEX Kosovo	18
–	Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery	19
–	Promotion of effective arms export controls	19
–	Strengthening of chemical safety and security in Ukraine	19
–	Permanent structured cooperation	20
–	Restrictive measures against Iran	20
–	Review conference of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: extension	20
–	OSCE activities in the Republic of North Macedonia and Georgia: extension	20
–	Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO.....	21
–	Maputo action plan: extension.....	21
–	Validation of arms and ammunition management according to open international standards	21

DEVELOPMENT

–	European Development Fund: financial contributions to be paid by member states.....	21
---	---	----

TRADE

–	EU position on FTA with Singapore	22
–	Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the Grains Trade Convention	22
–	Temporary withdrawal arrangements regarding products from the Kingdom of Cambodia	22
–	CETA – EU-Canada trade relations	23
–	EU-Mongolia: trade and investment.....	23

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

– Excessive deficit procedure of Romania	23
– Common system of VAT	24
– External auditors of national central banks	24
– European Semester 2020 – country reports	25
– Common system of VAT	25
– European financial architecture for development	25
– Progress on tax issues during the Croatian presidency	25
– European Semester 2020 – national reform programmes	26
– Capital requirements for banks – prudent valuation	26
– Export credits	26

CUSTOMS

– Customs cooperation with New Zealand	26
– Common customs tariff duties	27

BUDGET

– Amended MFF regulation	27
– Draft amending budget n°3	27
– Draft amending budget n°4	27
– Mobilisation of the European Union solidarity fund	28
– Decision on the mobilisation of the European globalisation adjustment fund	28
– Joint statement on indicative dates for the budgetary procedure	28
– Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors’ special report No 25/2019	28
– Draft amending budget n°5	28
– Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors’ special report No 08/2020 on cultural sites	29
– Cohesion policy implementing costs	29

HOME AFFAIRS

– False and Authentic Documents Online system	29
– Migration statistics	29
– Schengen evaluations	30

JUSTICE

– European Public Prosecutor’s Office – interim administrative director	30
– European Public Prosecutor’s office – letters	31
– European Public Prosecutor’s office – selection panel	31

ENLARGEMENT

– Opening of accession negotiations	31
---	----

AGRICULTURE

– Position within the joint implementation committee in the context of the voluntary partnership agreement between the EU and Vietnam	32
– Delegated regulations as regards the fruit, vegetable and wine sectors in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic	32
– Suspension of autonomous common customs tariff duties on certain agricultural and industrial products	32
– Sustainable use of plant protection products	32
– Conclusions on the special report on farmers’ income stabilisation	33

FISHERIES

– Fishing opportunities for 2020 in the Baltic Sea and other waters	33
– Conclusion of the protocol amending the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	33
– Extension of the protocol setting out fishing opportunities with Mauritania	33
– Additional negotiating directives for the conclusion of a fisheries agreement with Mauritania	34
– Fisheries partnership agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau	34
– Fisheries partnership agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Cape Verde	34

–	Opening of negotiations for a sustainable fisheries partnership agreement with the Cook Islands	34
–	Fisheries partnership agreement between the European Community and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé.....	35

INTERNAL MARKET

–	Regulation on general meetings of European companies (SE) and of European cooperative societies (SCE).....	35
–	Council conclusions on special report No. 02/2020 by the European Court of Auditors	35

RESEARCH

–	Council decision to open negotiations on EU-China joint roadmap.....	36
–	Renewal of the agreement for scientific and technological cooperation with Ukraine	36
–	Renewal of the agreement for scientific and technological cooperation with India	36

TRANSPORT

–	Transport community – budgetary matters.....	37
–	Civil Global Satellite Navigation System (GNSS).....	37
–	EU-Japan civil aviation safety agreement	37
–	EU-Republic of Korea agreement on air services	38
–	Carriage of dangerous goods	38
–	EU-ASEAN negotiations on an air transport agreement	38
–	Germany-Switzerland cabotage agreement	38
–	Italy-Switzerland cabotage agreement.....	39
–	International Civil Aviation Organisation – coordination	39
–	International Civil Aviation Organisation – EU position	39
–	Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail – EU position.....	39
–	Transport community – administrative and staff matters and financial rules	39
–	Sustainability criteria for CORSIA eligible fuels.....	40
–	Sustainable urban mobility	40
–	EU core road network.....	40

ENERGY

- Council conclusions on the CoA report on ecodesign and energy labelling..... 40
- Council conclusions on the CoA report on energy efficiency in buildings 41
- Council conclusions on the CoA report on nuclear safety..... 41
- Joint statement on North Seas energy cooperation..... 41

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY

- Joint employment report (JER) 2020 and Council conclusions on the annual sustainable growth strategy and JER 42
- Contribution on employment and social policy aspects of the draft recommendations to each member state and opinion of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee 42

HEALTH

- Deferral of the application of certain provisions of regulation (EU) 2017/745 42

FOOD LAW

- Appointment of management board members of the European Food Safety Authority 43

AUDIOVISUAL

- EU-Republic of Korea: extension of the period of entitlement for audiovisual co-productions 43

TRANSPARENCY

- Public access to documents 43

ITEMS APPROVED

Temporary derogation to the Council's rules of procedure

Due to exceptional circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 23 April 2020 the Council agreed on a temporary derogation to its rules of procedure to make it easier to take decisions by written procedure (6891/20). The temporary derogation is currently in force until 10 September (2020/970). It may be renewed if justified by a continuation of the current exceptional circumstances.

The derogation allows member states' EU ambassadors sitting in the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper) to decide to use the written procedure in accordance with the voting rule applicable for the adoption of the act itself. This means that the existing requirement of unanimity on all decisions to use the written procedure no longer applies. The objective is therefore to facilitate the use of the written procedure to help ensure the continuity of Council business.

For more information on the temporary derogation, see the [press release](#).

As the last formal Council meeting was held on 13 March, below you can find the results of written procedures concluded between 14 March and 13 July 2020, which would otherwise have been communicated in Outcomes of Council meetings. Results which have been communicated by means of a Council press release are not included.

GENERAL AFFAIRS

'Article 255' panel – appointment of new president

On 15 April 2020, the Council appointed Mr Allan Rosas president of the advisory panel on judicial appointments provided for in Article 255 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The panel's task is to give an opinion on candidates' suitability to perform the duties of judge and advocate-general of the Court of Justice and the General Court. Its opinions are intended to inform member states' governments before they decide on the appointments.

Mr Rosas is replacing Mr Christiaan Timmermans, who resigned from the position of president of the panel on 27 February 2020. He was appointed for the remainder of the term of office of the current panel members, which ends on 28 February 2022.

Council decision establishing the EU's position for the joint committee meeting of 12 June 2020

On 10 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure a decision establishing the EU's position on the adoption by the Joint Committee of a decision to amend the withdrawal agreement ([8053/20](#)).

Temporary derogation to the Council's rules of procedure

Due to continued exceptional circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council extended for a period of one month from 23 April 2020 the derogation to its rules of procedure allowing for easier use of the written procedure ([7337/20](#)).

On 20 May 2020, the Council further extended the derogation to its rules of procedure until 10 July allowing for easier use of the written procedure ([8059/20](#)).

2014 staff reform package – Court of Auditors' report

On 4 June 2020, the Council approved conclusions on special report no 15/2019 of the European Court of Auditors entitled 'Implementation of the 2014 staff reform package at the Commission – Big savings but not without consequences for staff' ([8102/20](#)).

Committee of the Regions – appointments following the UK's withdrawal

On 8 June 2020, the Council appointed to the Committee of the Regions one additional member and one additional alternate member from each of Estonia, Cyprus and Luxembourg ([7832/20](#)).

The appointment is for the period from 1 February 2020 to 25 January 2025 and follows the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU, which became legally effective on 1 February 2020.

Decision (EU) [2019/852](#) allocated one additional seat each to Estonia, Cyprus and Luxembourg after the UK's withdrawal, as these member states lost a seat after the last decision on the composition of the committee due to the accession of Croatia (see also the [press release](#)).

18-month programme of the Council

On 19 June 2020, the Council approved its 18-month programme, running from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2021 ([8086/1/20](#)). The programme was prepared by the upcoming German, Portuguese and Slovenian presidencies and the High Representative, Chair of the [Foreign Affairs Council](#).

The content of the programme is influenced by the commitment to address the COVID-19 crisis and recovery. It is built around the main priorities outlined in the Strategic Agenda 2019-2024 agreed by the EU leaders last year:

- protecting citizens and freedoms
- developing a strong and vibrant economic base
- building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe
- promoting European interests and values on the global stage

The programme also highlights the importance of reaching an agreement on the next multiannual financial framework and the related sectoral programmes as soon as possible, and striving for a comprehensive partnership with the UK by the end of 2020.

European Semester 2020 – country-specific recommendations

On 1 July 2020, the Council approved the country-specific recommendations for the 2020 exercise of the European Semester and decided to transmit them to the [European Council](#) ([8593/1/20](#)).

These recommendations combine economic and employment recommendations with Council opinions on stability and convergence programmes and, in certain cases, with recommendations on the preventive part of the macroeconomic imbalance procedure.

[Council webpage on the European Semester in 2020](#)

Temporary derogation to the Council's rules of procedure

Due to continued exceptional circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 3 July 2020 the Council extended until 10 September the derogation to its rules of procedure allowing for easier use of the written procedure ([9083/20](#)).

The Council also approved the modalities on the convening, preparation and organisation of informal video conferences of ministers during the COVID-19 crisis ([9188/20](#)).

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Council decision concerning restrictive measures against the Central African Republic – UN transposition

On 17 March 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending decision [2013/798/CFSP](#) concerning restrictive measures against the Central African Republic.

This amendment is intended to take account of [Resolution 2507 \(2020\)](#), adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 31 January 2020, which extends the exemptions to the arms embargo.

Council decision and implementing regulation concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Egypt – review

On 19 March 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending decision [2011/172/CFSP](#) concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Egypt, with a view to renewing restrictive measures until 22 March 2021, and amending the entries relating to two listed persons.

The Council also adopted the implementing regulation ([EU](#)) [2020/416](#) implementing regulation (EU) No [270/2011](#), with a view to amending the entries relating to two listed persons and updating the information regarding the rights of defence and the right to effective judicial protection.

Council implementing decision and implementing regulation concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo – UN update

On 19 March 2020, the Council adopted the implementing decision implementing decision [2010/788/CFSP](#) concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This amendment is intended to take account of Resolution 1522 (2004), amended by the United Nations Security Council on 25 February 2020, which updates information relating to one person subject to restrictive measures.

Council decision concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina – renewal

On 23 March 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending decision [2011/173/CFSP](#) concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Council decision renews the restrictive measures set out in decision [2011/173/CFSP](#) until 31 March 2021.

EU advisory mission to the Central African Republic

On 27 March 2020, the Council adopted a decision on the signing and conclusion by the EU and the Central African Republic (CAR) of the agreement on the status of the EU CSDP mission in the CAR (EUAM RCA).

As established by the [Council in November 2019](#), the EU has decided to launch a new civilian advisory mission in the CAR to provide strategic-level support for the reform of its internal security forces to enable authorities to mitigate the current security challenges in the country. This mission will add to several [CSDP missions](#) currently under way, including the [EU military training mission \(EUTM RCA\)](#).

Restrictive measures on individuals in Libya

On 27 March 2020, the Council adopted measures imposing restrictive measures on individuals considered to have threatened peace, security or stability in Libya by either violating or assisting the evasion of the provisions set by UN Security Council Resolution 1970 (2011). This implies the amendment of [decision CFSP 2015/1333](#), which is regularly consolidated as the EU monitors the evolving situation in Libya.

EU-LAC

On 30 March 2020, the Council adopted the modifications of the amendments to the internal regulations of the EU-LAC International Foundation as set out in document [6221/20](#).

Closing of EU military operation EUNAVFOR MED (SOPHIA)

On 31 March 2020, the Council decided to repeal decision [\(CFSP\) 2015/778](#) concerning the EU military operation EU Naval Force Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED SOPHIA). The decision marks the end of the operation, which was established in May 2015.

[EUNAVFOR MED](#) was a naval operation that aimed to contrast human smuggling and human trafficking routes in Libya and operated in international waters and the territorial waters of Libya. The supporting tasks of the mission were to provide training to the Libyan coast guard and contribute to the enforcement of the UN-mandated arms embargo.

Restrictive measures in view of the situation in Yemen

On 2 April 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending decision [2014/932/CFSP \(6827/20\)](#) and a regulation amending Council regulation [1352/2014](#) concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Yemen [\(6831/20\)](#).

Iran restrictive measures

On 7 April 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending decision [2011/235/CFSP](#) concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Iran, as set out in document [6113/20 + COR 1](#). The Council has thereby extended sanctions until 13 April 2021 and added two more individuals to the list of persons targeted by the sanctions.

EUAM Iraq: mandate of the head of mission extended

On 16 April 2020, the Council adopted a decision extending the mandate of Mr Christoph Buik as head of mission of EUAM Iraq from 18 April 2020 to 17 April 2021.

Myanmar

On 23 April 2020, the Council decided to amend implementing regulation (EU) No [401/2013](#) and decision [2013/184/CFSP](#) concerning the imposition of restrictive measures in respect of Myanmar/Burma. Restrictive measures are to be extended until 30 April 2021, and the statement of reasons has been amended in relation to one listed person.

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

On 23 April 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending decision (CFSP) [2018/298](#) on Union support for the activities of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in order to strengthen its monitoring and verification capabilities and in the framework of the implementation of the EU strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Restrictive measures against the Central African Republic

On 28 April 2020, the Council adopted an implementing decision implementing decision [2013/798/CFSP](#) concerning restrictive measures against the Central African Republic ([7399/20](#) + [ADD 1](#)).

It also adopted an implementing regulation implementing Article 17(1) of Regulation (EU) No [224/2014](#) concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in the Central African Republic ([7400/20](#) + [ADD 1](#)).

Key elements for sustained international support to peace and development in Afghanistan

On 30 April 2020, the Council approved the Commission and the European External Action Service's entry into negotiations on the establishment of key elements for sustained international support to peace and development in Afghanistan.

Temporary reception by member states of the EU of certain Palestinians

On 4 May 2020, the Council adopted a decision concerning the temporary reception by member states of the European Union of certain Palestinians ([7402/20](#)).

The decision provides for an extension of the validity of the national permits of certain Palestinians for entry into, and stay in, the territory of the member states referred to in Council common position 2002/400/CFSP2 for a further period of 24 months.

European Union CSDP mission in Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali)

On 14 May 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending decision 2014/219/CFSP on the European Union CSDP mission in Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali) to increase the resources provided to the mission for the regionalisation of CSDP action in the Sahel ([7593/20](#)).

European Union capacity-building mission in Somalia (EUCAP Somalia)

On 18 May 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending decision 2012/389/CFSP on the European Union capacity-building mission in Somalia (EUCAP Somalia) to increase the financial reference amount ([7592/20](#)).

European Union CSDP advisory mission in the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA)

On 18 May 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending decision (CFSP) 2019/2110 on the EU CSDP advisory mission in the Central African Republic (EUAM RCA) to extend the period of validity of the initial reference amount by two months until 8 August 2020 ([7663/20](#)).

Restrictive measures against the Central African Republic

On 28 May 2020, the Council adopted an implementing decision implementing decision 2013/798/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Central African Republic ([7956/20](#) + [ADD 1](#)) and an implementing regulation implementing regulation (EU) No 224/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in the Central African Republic ([7957/20](#) + [ADD 1](#)).

Investigation of the alleged use of chemical, biological and toxin weapons

On 2 June 2020, the Council adopted a decision in support of the UN Secretary General's mechanism for investigation of the alleged use of chemical, biological and toxin weapons ([6152/20](#)).

The UN Secretary General's mechanism aims to establish a body capable of conducting independent investigations of the alleged use of biological weapons in the framework of the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention (BTWC).

Restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 2 June 2020, the Council adopted an implementing decision implementing decision (CFSP) 2016/849 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ([7982/20](#) + [ADD 1](#)), and an implementing regulation implementing regulation 2017/1509 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ([7983/20](#) + [ADD 1](#) + [ADD 1 COR 1](#)).

Conclusions on the annual report on the implementation of the EU instruments for financing external actions in 2018

On 5 June 2020, the Council approved conclusions on the 2019 annual report on the implementation of the European Union's instruments for financing external actions in 2018 and its accompanying staff working documents ([8626/20](#)).

The annual report notes the lessons learned and the improvements that can be and have been made with regard to EU external action, from CSDP missions and operations to humanitarian aid, development assistance, addressing climate-related challenges, and relations with African partners.

EUAM Ukraine: mandate of the head of mission extended

On 8 June 2020, the Council approved the extension of the mandate of Mr Antti Hartikainen as head of mission of the European Union advisory mission for civilian security sector reform in Ukraine (EUAM Ukraine) until 31 May 2021 ([8082/20](#)).

EU support for the International Atomic Energy Agency's activities in the area of nuclear security

On 8 June 2020, the Council approved a decision amending decision [2016/2383](#) on EU support for the International Atomic Energy Agency's activities in the areas of nuclear security and in the framework of the implementation of the EU strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction ([8303/20](#)).

The amendment concerns the extension until 14 December 2020 of the implementation period for EU action in support of the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the areas of nuclear security. The extension was requested due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the temporary suspension of all non-critical travel and meetings until 1 June 2020.

Article 5(2) of [Council decision \(CFSP\) 2016/2383](#) provides for a 36-month implementation period which was due to expire on 14 June 2020.

EULEX Kosovo

On 11 June 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending joint action [2008/124/CFSP](#) on the European Union rule of law mission in Kosovo (EULEX KOSOVO – [7892/20](#)) and extending the mandate of the mission due to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 14 May 2020, the PSC furthermore agreed that Mr Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, who was appointed as head of mission on 28 November 2019 by PSC decision (CFSP) [2019/19911](#), should continue to perform this function for a further period of one year.

Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery

On 16 June 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending Council decision 2017/809 of 11 May 2017 in support of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery (8489/20).

The amendment extends for one more year, until April 25 2021, [decision \(CFSP\) 2017/809](#), which provides for a 36-month financing agreement with the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNDOA) in order to support its monitoring of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery. The EU financing of UNDOA was foreseen to end on 10 August 2020.

Promotion of effective arms export controls

On 16 June 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending decision 2018/101 of 22 January 2018 on the promotion of effective arms export controls (8486/20).

The decision extends until 30 November 2020 decision 2018/101, which provides for a financing agreement to support the implementation of arms export controls. On 22 January 2018, the Council adopted decision (CFSP) 2018/101, which provides for a 30-month implementation period.

Strengthening of chemical safety and security in Ukraine

On 16 June 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending Council decision 2017/1252 of 11 July 2017 in support of the strengthening of chemical safety and security in Ukraine in line with the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery (8507/20).

The decision extends for a further 6 months, until 28 February 2021, [decision \(CFSP\) 2017/1252](#) which provides for a 36-month financing agreement with the OSCE to support the implementation of chemical safety and security in Ukraine. The agreement was due to expire on 30 August 2020.

Permanent structured cooperation

On 17 June 2020, the Council adopted a recommendation assessing the progress made by the participating member states towards fulfilling commitments undertaken in the framework of permanent structured cooperation (PESCO) ([7745/1/20 REV 1](#)).

Restrictive measures against Iran

On 18 June 2020, the Council adopted a decision and an implementing regulation maintaining the restrictive measures against all persons and entities in the list set out in annex II to decision [2010/413/CFSP](#), and updating 10 entries included in annex II.

Review conference of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: extension

On 29 June 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending Council decision [2019/615](#) of 15 April 2019 on EU support for activities leading up to the 2020 review conference of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons ([8562/20](#)).

The amendment extends until 16 April 2021 the implementation period of decision [2019/615](#), due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

OSCE activities in the Republic of North Macedonia and Georgia: extension

On 29 June 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending decision [2017/1424](#) in support of OSCE activities to reduce the risk of illicit trafficking and excessive accumulation of small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition in the Republic of North Macedonia and in Georgia ([8539/20](#)).

The amendment extends for 6 months the implementation period of decision [2017/1424](#) until 6 March 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on international travel.

Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO

On 29 June 2020, the Council adopted a decision on EU support for the activities of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) in order to strengthen its monitoring and verification capabilities and in the framework of the implementation of the EU strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction ([6651/20](#)).

Maputo action plan: extension

On 29 June 2020, the Council adopted a decision amending decision [2017/1428](#) in support of the implementation of the Maputo action plan for the implementation of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction ([8542/20](#)).

The amendment extends for four months the implementation period of decision [2017/1428](#) until 28 February 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on international travel.

Validation of arms and ammunition management according to open international standards

On 7 July 2020, the Council adopted a decision in support of the development of an internationally recognised system for the validation of arms and ammunition management according to open international standards ([8762/20](#)).

DEVELOPMENT

European Development Fund: financial contributions to be paid by member states

On 6 July 2020, the Council adopted a decision on the financial contributions to be paid by member states to finance the European Development Fund, including the second instalment for 2020 ([8958/20](#)).

TRADE

EU position on FTA with Singapore

On 25 March 2020, the Council adopted a decision on the position to be taken by the EU within the trade committee of the free trade agreement (FTA) with Singapore on the interpretation of changes to the protection of geographical indications.

The [FTA between the EU and Singapore](#) entered into force on 21 November 2019. Under the trade agreement, Singapore will remove all remaining tariffs on EU products and will commit to maintaining the current duty-free access for all other EU products. The agreement also provides new opportunities for EU service providers in sectors such as telecommunications, environmental services, engineering, computing and maritime transport.

For more information on the FTA, see the [European Commission press release of 13 February 2019](#).

Accession of the Republic of Serbia to the Grains Trade Convention

On 27 March 2020, the Council approved the position to be taken by the EU in the International Grains Council (IGC) with respect to the accession of the Republic of Serbia to the Grains Trade Convention (GTC) of 1995 ([6448/20](#)).

The [GTC](#) aims to further international cooperation in all aspects of trade in grains and to promote the expansion of international trade in grains. The EU has been a contracting party of the GTC since 1995. The GTC is administered by the IGC.

Temporary withdrawal arrangements regarding products from the Kingdom of Cambodia

On 30 March 2020, the Council decided not to oppose a Commission delegated regulation (EU) amending the preferential tariff agreement between the EU and Cambodia set under the Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme established by [regulation 978/2012 \(6020/20\)](#).

The amendment foresees the temporary withdrawal of benefits on import duties for certain listed Cambodian products entering the EU, due to the serious and systematic violation of principles listed in part A of annex VIII to the [generalised scheme of preferences \(GSP\) regulation](#). The respect of such principles is binding to any GSP – such as the EBA scheme – which allows more vulnerable developing countries to have access to EU markets.

CETA – EU-Canada trade relations

On 18 May 2020, the Council adopted decisions on the positions to be taken on behalf of the EU in the CETA joint committee established under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the EU regarding:

- the adoption of a decision setting out the administrative and organisational matters regarding the functioning of the Appellate Tribunal ([13025/19](#), [6964/20](#))
- the adoption of a decision on the procedure for the adoption of interpretations ([13028/19](#), [6965/20](#))
- the adoption of a code of conduct for members of the Tribunal, the Appellate Tribunal and mediators ([13031/19](#); [6966/20](#))
- the adoption of mediation rules for use by disputing parties in investment disputes ([13034/19](#), [6967/20](#))

EU-Mongolia: trade and investment

On 9 June 2020, the Council adopted a decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the joint committee and the subcommittee on trade and investment established by the framework agreement on partnership and cooperation between the EU and its member states, of the one part, and Mongolia, of the other part, as regards the adoption of decisions on the rules of procedure of the joint committee and the rules of procedure of the subcommittee on trade and investment ([14677/19](#), [6856/20](#)).

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Excessive deficit procedure of Romania

On 3 April 2020, the Council launched an excessive deficit procedure for Romania. It also adopted a recommendation to implement measures to correct this situation by 2022 at the latest ([6305/20](#)).

According to the data notified by the Romanian authorities on 30 September 2019 and subsequently revised to take into account revised GDP figures, the general government deficit in Romania reached 2.9% of GDP in 2018, while general government debt stood at 34.7% of GDP.

For 2019, the notification planned a general government deficit of 2.8% of GDP. However, on 10 December 2019, the government adopted its fiscal budgetary strategy for 2020-2022, with a general government deficit target of 3.8% of GDP in 2019. This value was:

- well above the Treaty reference value of 3% of GDP
- not temporary
- not justified because of an unusual event or a severe economic downturn

In addition, the government projected that the general government deficit would remain above the reference value in 2020 and 2021, with a forecast deficit of 3.6% of GDP in 2020 and 3.4% in 2021. At the same time, the Commission's 2020 winter forecast projected a general government deficit of 4.0% of GDP in 2019, 4.9% in 2020 and 6.9% in 2021, mostly driven by significant pension increases. The deficit criterion laid down in the Treaty is not fulfilled in either projection.

The Council recommended that Romania put an end to the excessive deficit situation by 2022 at the latest and report to the Council by 15 September 2020 on effective action taken.

Romania should reach a headline general government deficit target of 3.6% of GDP in 2020, 3.4% of GDP in 2021 and 2.8% of GDP in 2022.

Common system of VAT

On 11 May 2020, the Council adopted an implementing decision authorising Italy to apply a special measure derogating from the common system of value added tax. Italy is authorised to exempt from VAT taxable persons whose annual turnover is no higher than €65 000, with the possibility of increasing the threshold in order to maintain the value of the exemption in real terms ([7439/20](#)).

External auditors of national central banks

On 25 May 2020, the Council adopted a decision approving Ernst & Young Baltic as the external auditors of Latvijas Banka for the financial years 2020 to 2024 ([7104/20](#)).

European Semester 2020 – country reports

On 19 May 2020, the Council adopted conclusions on the European Semester 2020 country reports and the implementation of the 2019 country-specific recommendations ([8000/20](#)).

These conclusions are part of the annual process of assessing macroeconomic imbalance procedures. However, this year, they reflect the severe deterioration of the economic situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The conclusions focus on structural challenges and vulnerabilities which remain relevant in today's unpredictable economic environment and which could prove relevant for a recovery strategy.

Common system of VAT

On 8 June 2020, the Council adopted an implementing decision authorising Finland to exempt from VAT taxable persons whose annual turnover is no higher than €15 000 ([7988/20](#)).

European financial architecture for development

On 12 June 2020, the Council approved the terms of reference for a feasibility study on options for strengthening the future European financial architecture for development ([8523/20](#)).

The feasibility study was requested in the context of the Council conclusions on the financial architecture for development adopted in December 2019. The conclusions stress the need to make the European financial architecture for development stronger, more flexible, integrated, coherent, strategic and responsive to climate change and development needs ([14434/19](#)).

Progress on tax issues during the Croatian presidency

On 16 June 2020, the Council adopted conclusions on the progress achieved on tax issues during the Croatian presidency ([8375/20](#)).

The conclusions approve the report to the [European Council](#) on tax issues, which provides an overview of the progress achieved by the Council during the term of the Croatian presidency ([8450/20](#)).

The conclusions also set out priorities regarding the work of the Code of Conduct group on business taxation, in particular the ongoing work on the list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions.

European Semester 2020 – national reform programmes

In the framework of the 2020 European Semester exercise, on 19 June 2020 the Council approved the contribution on economic/financial aspects and aspects related to macroeconomic imbalance procedures of the draft Council recommendations on the national reform programmes 2020 to each member state and the UK, delivering Council opinions on the updated stability or convergence programmes ([8449/2/20](#), [8410/20](#)).

Capital requirements for banks – prudent valuation

On 19 June 2020, the Council approved a letter communicating to the Commission and the European Parliament the Council's intention not to raise objections to the regulatory technical standard for prudent valuation under article 105(14) of the capital requirements regulation ([8774/20](#)).

Export credits

On 30 June 2020, the Council approved the proposed EU position for the high-level meeting of the International Working Group on Export Credits ([8844/20](#)).

CUSTOMS

Customs cooperation with New Zealand

On 27 April 2020, the Council adopted a decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the joint customs cooperation committee established under the agreement between the European Union and New Zealand on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters.

The position concerns the adoption of the internal rules of procedure of the joint customs cooperation committee ([6882/20](#), [6932/20](#)).

Common customs tariff duties

On 15 June 2020, the Council adopted two regulations suspending the autonomous common customs tariff duties on certain agricultural and industrial products ([7812/20](#)) and opening and providing for the management of autonomous tariff quotas of the Union for certain agricultural and industrial products ([7813/20](#)).

BUDGET

Amended MFF regulation

On 17 April 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the amended MFF regulation for 2014-2020 ([7170/20](#)). The adoption follows the vote of consent of the European Parliament on 16 April 2020. The amended MFF regulation broadens the scope of the global margin for commitments in order to fund measures to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic which are foreseen in amending budget No 2 of the 2020 EU budget.

Draft amending budget n°3

On 16 May 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure its position accepting draft amending budget No 3 for 2020 ([7339/20](#)). This amendment incorporates the budget surplus of 2019 – €3.22 billion – into the revenue side of the EU budget for 2020.

Draft amending budget n°4

On 25 May 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure its position accepting draft amending budget No 4 for 2020 ([7766/20](#)). This amendment enters the necessary appropriations in the 2020 EU budget to provide €279 million in disaster relief aid to Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria through the EU solidarity fund.

Mobilisation of the European Union solidarity fund

On 25 May 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure a decision mobilising the European Union solidarity fund to provide disaster relief aid of €279 million to Portugal, Spain, Italy and Austria ([7769/20](#)).

Decision on the mobilisation of the European globalisation adjustment fund

On 29 May 2020, the Council adopted a decision on the mobilisation of the European globalisation adjustment fund, as set out in document [7458/20](#). The fund will be mobilised to provide €345 000 in commitments and payments for technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission.

Joint statement on indicative dates for the budgetary procedure

On 5 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure a joint statement on indicative dates for the budgetary procedure and modalities for the functioning of the conciliation committee in 2020 ([8345/20](#)).

Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report No 25/2019

On 5 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report No 25/2019 on budget support data quality ([8307/20](#)).

Draft amending budget n°5

On 24 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure its position accepting draft amending budget No 5 for 2020 ([8855/20](#)). This amendment aims to continue providing support to refugees and host communities in response to the Syria crisis. €100 million in commitments and payments will be provided to support refugees in Jordan and Lebanon, whereas €485 million in commitments and €68 million in payments will be used to further support refugees in Turkey.

In parallel, the Council adopted its first-reading position on a draft decision to mobilise the contingency margin to finance €481 million in commitments for refugees in Turkey, given that all redeployment possibilities under heading 4 'Global Europe' have been exhausted ([8857/20](#)).

Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report No 08/2020 on cultural sites

On 29 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report No 08/2019 on cultural sites ([8838/20](#)).

Cohesion policy implementing costs

On 29 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report No 07/2020 'Implementing cohesion policy: comparatively low costs, but insufficient information to assess simplification savings' ([8837/20](#), [2872/20](#)).

HOME AFFAIRS

False and Authentic Documents Online system

On 20 March 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure a regulation on the False and Authentic Documents Online (FADO) system, repealing Council joint action 98/700/JHA ([PE-CONS 97/19](#)).

The regulation sets out that the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) Agency will take over the operation of the FADO system, as provided by the recently adopted EBCG regulation.

The FADO system was set up to facilitate the exchange of information on authentic documents and on known methods of falsification between member states' authorities. The FADO system provides for the electronic storage, rapid exchange and validation of information on authentic and false documents.

Migration statistics

On 20 March 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the revised migration statistics regulation ([15300/1/19](#)). This follows negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament on the text. It will now need to be formally adopted by the Parliament.

The current migration statistics regulation was adopted in 2007, and the situation on the ground has changed significantly since then. This revision will ensure the collection and supply to Eurostat of more extensive and more timely data on migration to support evidence-based policy making.

Europol – opening of negotiations with New Zealand

On 13 May 2020, the Council adopted a decision authorising the European Commission to open negotiations between the EU and New Zealand for an agreement on the exchange of personal data between Europol and the New Zealand authorities responsible for fighting serious crime and terrorism ([7047/20 + ADD1](#)).

The Europol regulation of 2016 provides that Europol may transfer personal data to an authority of a third country on the basis of an international agreement concluded between the EU and the third country. In October 2019, the European Commission submitted to the Council a recommendation to authorise the opening of negotiations with New Zealand.

Schengen evaluations

On 11 June 2020, the Council adopted an implementing decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the following 2019 evaluations:

- the evaluation of Slovenia on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the common visa policy ([8997/20](#))
- the evaluation of France on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System ([8996/20](#))
- the evaluation of the Czech Republic on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of return ([8995/20](#))

JUSTICE

European Public Prosecutor’s Office – interim administrative director

On 25 May 2020, the Council adopted its opinion on the designation of the new interim administrative director of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO).

European Public Prosecutor's office – letters

On 9 July 2020, the Council agreed to the approval of the text of the draft letters in relation to candidates nominated for the position of European Prosecutors.

European Public Prosecutor's office – selection panel

On 9 July 2020, the Council adopted an implementing decision amending the implementing decision on the operating rules of the selection panel ([9229/20](#)). The amendment exceptionally allows the selection panel, after consulting the member state concerned and giving sufficient grounds, to provide its reasoned opinion to the Council on only two eligible candidates instead of three where it is sufficiently established that it is objectively impossible for a member state, given the exceptional circumstances in that member state, to find a third eligible candidate within a reasonable time, in spite of having deployed all necessary efforts to do so.

ENLARGEMENT

Opening of accession negotiations

On 25 March 2020, the Council adopted conclusions on the EU's enlargement policy and the EU-Western Balkans stabilisation and association process as regards Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia.

It decided to open accession negotiations with the two countries.

The Council also adopted two accompanying statements and the Commission made a statement.

- [Read the full text of the Council conclusions](#)
- [Council and Commission statements](#)

AGRICULTURE

Position within the joint implementation committee in the context of the voluntary partnership agreement between the EU and Vietnam

On 30 April 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, the position to be taken on behalf of the EU within the joint implementation committee in the context of the voluntary partnership agreement between the EU and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on forest law enforcement, governance and trade ([15095/19](#), [7027/20](#)).

Delegated regulations as regards the fruit, vegetable and wine sectors in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic

On 19 May 2020, the Council decided, by written procedure, not to object to a Commission delegated regulation as regards the fruit and vegetables sector (2017/891) and as regards the wine sector (2016/1149) in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. All delegations voted in favour, except for the Romanian delegation ([7873/20](#)).

Suspension of autonomous common customs tariff duties on certain agricultural and industrial products

On 15 June 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, a regulation amending regulation (EU) 1387/2013 suspending the autonomous common customs tariff duties on certain agricultural and industrial products, as set out in document [7812/20](#).

Sustainable use of plant protection products

On 1 July 2020, the Council approved, by written procedure, conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report No 05/2020 on the sustainable use of plant protection products: limited progress in measuring and reducing risks ([9334/20](#)).

Conclusions on the special report on farmers' income stabilisation

On 3 July 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report No 23/2019 'Farmers' income stabilisation: comprehensive set of tools, but low uptake of instruments and overcompensation need to be tackled', as set out in document [9081/20](#).

FISHERIES

Fishing opportunities for 2020 in the Baltic Sea and other waters

On 26 March 2020, the Council adopted a regulation amending regulation (EU) 2019/1838 as regards certain fishing opportunities for 2020 in the Baltic Sea and other waters, and regulation (EU) 2020/123 as regards certain fishing opportunities for 2020 in Union and non-Union waters ([6819/20](#)). The Council also approved the accompanying Council and Commission joint statement.

The Council adopted the regulation and approved the accompanying joint statement by means of a written procedure.

Conclusion of the protocol amending the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

On 29 May 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, the decision to conclude the protocol amending the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. The protocol is consistent with the objectives of ensuring that fishing and aquaculture activities are environmentally sustainable in the long term and are managed in a way that is consistent with the objectives of achieving economic, social and employment benefits, and of contributing to the availability of food supplies ([13447/19](#)).

Extension of the protocol setting out fishing opportunities with Mauritania

On 29 May 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, the decision to extend the protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the fisheries partnership agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania ([12928/19](#)).

Fishing opportunities for 2020 in the Baltic Sea

On 26 June 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, a regulation regarding certain fishing opportunities for 2020 in the Baltic Sea and in Union and non-Union waters (Council Regulation (EU) [2019/1838](#), [8799/20](#)).

Additional negotiating directives for the conclusion of a fisheries agreement with Mauritania

On 26 June 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, additional negotiating directives to authorise the European Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of a new sustainable fisheries partnership agreement and protocol with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

Fisheries partnership agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau

On 7 July 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, the decision to approve the conclusion of the protocol on the implementation of the fisheries partnership agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau for 2019-2024 ([8928/19](#)).

Fisheries partnership agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Cape Verde

On 7 July 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, the decision to approve the conclusion of the protocol on the implementation of the fisheries partnership agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Cape Verde for 2019-2024 ([8662/1/19 REV 1](#)).

Opening of negotiations for a sustainable fisheries partnership agreement with the Cook Islands

On 7 July 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, negotiating directives on behalf of the EU for the conclusion of a protocol to the sustainable fisheries partnership agreement with the government of the Cook Islands ([8848/20](#)).

Fisheries partnership agreement between the European Community and the Democratic Republic of São Tomé

On 7 July 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, the decision to approve the conclusion of the protocol on the implementation of the fisheries partnership agreement between the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe and the European Community ([12199/19](#)).

INTERNAL MARKET

Regulation on general meetings of European companies (SE) and of European cooperative societies (SCE)

On 11 May 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the decision to request the consent of the European Parliament on the draft Council regulation on temporary measures concerning the general meetings of European companies (SEs) and of European cooperative societies (SCEs) as set out after finalisation by the lawyer-linguists in document [7648/20](#).

On 25 May 2020, after having received the European Parliament's consent, the Council adopted by written procedure the Council regulation on temporary measures concerning the general meetings of European companies (SEs) and of European cooperative societies (SCEs) as set out in document [7648/20](#).

The regulation provides that SEs and SCEs shall be allowed to hold their general meetings within 12 months of the end of the financial year, provided that such general meetings are held no later than 31 December 2020. This is a temporary derogation to the existing rules, which require that such general meetings be held within 6 months of the end of the financial year. The derogation is due to the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council conclusions on special report No. 02/2020 by the European Court of Auditors

On 26 May 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the conclusions set out in document [8295/20](#) in response to special report No. 02/2020 by the European Court of Auditors, 'The SME instrument in action: an effective and innovative programme facing challenges'.

With these conclusions, the Council welcomes the findings of the above-mentioned report and addresses to the Commission a number of recommendations aimed at improving the functioning and the efficiency of the SME instrument in the future.

EU position at the UNECE World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations

On 16 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure a decision establishing the position to be taken by the EU at the next meeting of working party 29 of the World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), scheduled for 23 June 2020, concerning the planned adoption of new UN Regulations, modifications to existing UN Regulations, UN Global Technical Regulations and one Resolution ([8164/20](#), [8471/20](#)).

RESEARCH

Council decision to open negotiations on EU-China joint roadmap

On 20 May 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure a decision enabling the Commission to enter into negotiations with the People's Republic of China on a non-binding EU-China joint roadmap for future science, technology and innovation cooperation.

This roadmap is expected to include a list of discussion points on framework conditions for a level playing field in R&I, such as intellectual property rights, reciprocal access to R&I programmes, open access and mobility of researchers, and thematic areas in support of climate, environmental and health challenges.

The Commission will revert to the Council at the end of the negotiations to request approval to sign the EU-China joint roadmap on behalf of the EU.

Renewal of the agreement for scientific and technological cooperation with Ukraine

On 9 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure a decision concerning the renewal of the agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and Ukraine, as set out in document [6101/20](#).

Renewal of the agreement for scientific and technological cooperation with India

On 9 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure a decision concerning the renewal of the agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the Republic of India, as set out in document [6104/20](#).

2020-2023 high flux reactor supplementary research programme at Petten

On 29 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the supplementary research programme for the operation of the high flux reactor (HFR) at Petten for the period 2020-2023.

The HFR is an important resource for EU research in the fields of improvement of nuclear reactor safety, health (including the development of medical isotopes for medical research), nuclear fusion, fundamental research, training and waste management (including the possibility to study the safety behaviour of nuclear fuels for reactor systems of interest to Europe) ([8515/20](#)).

TRANSPORT

Transport community – budgetary matters

On 7 April 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, a decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the EU within the regional steering committee of the Transport Community Treaty as regards certain budgetary matters in relation to the implementation of the Treaty ([6432/20](#); [6534/20](#)).

Civil Global Satellite Navigation System (GNSS)

On 7 April 2020, the Council adopted a decision confirming its agreement on the Irish-language version of the Council decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union and its member states, of the protocol to the cooperation agreement on a Civil Global Satellite Navigation System (GNSS) between the EU and its member states and Ukraine to take account of the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Croatia and Romania to the European Union ([7022/20](#), [13318/19](#), [13343/19](#)).

The Council adopted the decision at first reading by means of a written procedure. This paved the way for the adoption of the legal act by the European Parliament at second reading.

EU-Japan civil aviation safety agreement

On 24 April 2020, the Council adopted, by a written procedure, a decision on the signing on behalf of the European Union and the provisional application of the agreement on civil aviation safety between the EU and Japan ([5278/20](#)).

EU-Republic of Korea agreement on air services

On 24 April 2020, the Council adopted a decision on the signing on behalf of the European Union of the agreement on certain aspects of air services between the EU and the Republic of Korea ([7310/20](#) + [COR 1](#), [15079/19](#), [15082/19](#)).

The Council adopted the decision by means of a written procedure. The European Parliament will be informed about the adoption of the Council decision.

Carriage of dangerous goods

On 7 May 2020, the Council adopted a decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the 56th session of the Committee of Experts for the Carriage of Dangerous Goods of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF-RID) ([6876/1/20](#), [6438/20](#)) as regards certain amendments to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail ([7049/20](#)).

The Council adopted the decision by means of a written procedure. The European Parliament will be informed about the Council decision.

EU-ASEAN negotiations on an air transport agreement

On 26 May 2020, the Council adopted, by means of a written procedure, a decision amending the Council decision of 7 June 2016 authorising the European Commission to negotiate, on behalf of member states, the provisions of a comprehensive air transport agreement between the European Union and its member states and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states on matters that do not fall within the exclusive competence of the Union ([7788/20](#)).

Germany-Switzerland cabotage agreement

On 3 June 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, a decision empowering Germany to amend its bilateral road transport agreement with Switzerland with a view to authorising cabotage operations in the course of the provision of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries ([6640/20](#) + [ADD 1](#)).

The votes of the member states on the decision are [as here](#).

Italy-Switzerland cabotage agreement

On 3 June 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, a decision empowering Italy to negotiate and conclude an agreement with Switzerland authorising cabotage operations in the course of the provision of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries ([6643/20](#) + [ADD 1](#)).

The votes of the member states on the decision are [as here](#).

International Civil Aviation Organisation – coordination

On 5 June 2020, the Council approved, by written procedure, the information note, part A and information note, part B for EU coordination in preparation for the 220th session of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Council (Montreal, 8 - 26 June 2020).

International Civil Aviation Organisation – EU position

On 8 June 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, a Council decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the EU at the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Council in respect of the planned adoption of amendment 91 to annex 10, volume III, and on the notification of difference from the date of application of amendment 13B to annex 14, volume 1, amendment 40C to annex 6, amendment 77B to annex 3 and amendment 39B to annex 15.

Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail – EU position

On 10 June 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, a decision on the Union position to be taken at the 13th session of the committee of technical experts of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) ([7459/20](#), [7725/20](#)).

Transport community – administrative and staff matters and financial rules

On 12 June 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, a decision on the EU position regarding certain administrative and staff matters and financial rules for the transport community ([8096/20](#), [8100/20](#)).

Sustainability criteria for CORSIA eligible fuels

On 22 June 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, a decision on the Union's position on the reply to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) state letter on sustainability criteria for fuels eligible for CORSIA (the carbon offsetting and reduction scheme for international aviation) ([8728/20](#)).

Sustainable urban mobility

On 26 June 2020, the Council approved, by written procedure, conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report No 06/2020 'Sustainable Urban Mobility in the EU: No substantial improvement is possible without member states' commitment' ([8869/20](#), [8875/20](#)).

EU core road network

On 26 June 2020, the Council approved, by written procedure, conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report No 09/2020 'The EU core road network: shorter travel times but network not yet fully functional' ([8870/20](#), [8876/20](#)).

ENERGY

Council conclusions on the CoA report on ecodesign and energy labelling

On 29 May 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report 01/2020 'EU action on Ecodesign and Energy Labelling: important contribution to greater energy efficiency reduced by significant delays and non-compliance' ([7944/20](#)).

The Council takes note of the conclusions and recommendations in the special report and encourages the Commission to follow those recommendations. Inter alia, it encourages the Commission to ensure an effective and dedicated framework for ecodesign of energy-related products.

Council conclusions on the CoA report on energy efficiency in buildings

On 29 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report No 11/2020 'Energy efficiency in buildings: greater focus on cost-effectiveness still needed' ([9163/20](#)).

The Council takes note of the conclusions and recommendations in the special report and encourages the Commission to follow those recommendations. It encourages the Commission to further develop planning and targeting of investments on energy efficiency measures before approving programmes for the spending of cohesion policy funds.

Council conclusions on the CoA report on nuclear safety

On 29 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report 03/2020 'The Commission contributes to nuclear safety in the EU, but updates required'.

The Council takes note of the conclusions and recommendations in the special report. It recommends that follow-up be done on this report with an additional assessment of the Commission's role in and contribution to strengthening nuclear safety in the EU's neighbourhood.

Joint statement on North Seas energy cooperation

On 6 July 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure a joint statement of North Seas countries and the European Commission ([9113/20](#)) on North Seas energy cooperation.

Inter alia, energy ministers from Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Germany, as well as the commissioner for energy, recognised the progress made and deliverables achieved by the support groups of the North Seas energy cooperation (NSEC) and underlined that the NSEC has a crucial role in facilitating cooperation between countries with the aim of ensuring a safe, sustainable, secure and affordable energy supply and developing concrete offshore wind projects.

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY

Joint employment report (JER) 2020 and Council conclusions on the annual sustainable growth strategy and JER

On 8 April 2020, the Council adopted the joint employment report (JER) 2020 and conclusions on the 2020 annual sustainable growth strategy and the JER ([6810/20](#), [6809/20](#)).

The Council adopted both acts by means of a written procedure.

Contribution on employment and social policy aspects of the draft recommendations to each member state and opinion of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee

On 15 June 2020, the Council approved the contribution on employment and social policy aspects of the draft recommendations on the 2020 national reform programmes to each member state ([8449/5/20](#)) and the Council explanatory note ([8650/1/20 REV 1](#) + [COR2](#)).

The Council also endorsed the ‘Opinion of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee on the Assessment of the 2020 country-specific recommendations and the implementation of the 2019 country-specific recommendations’ ([8518/20](#)).

HEALTH

Deferral of the application of certain provisions of regulation (EU) 2017/745

On 22 April 2020, the Council adopted a regulation amending regulation (EU) 2017/745 on medical devices as regards the dates of application of certain of its provisions ([PE-CONS 10/20](#)).

The regulation was adopted in the context of the current extraordinary circumstances, which have a significant impact on various areas covered by regulation (EU) 2017/745, such as the designation and work of notified bodies and the placing and making available on the market of medical devices in the Union. Taking into account the COVID-19 outbreak and the associated public health crisis, the application of certain provisions of regulation (EU) 2017/745 is deferred by one year.

The Council adopted the regulation by means of a written procedure.

FOOD LAW**Appointment of management board members of the European Food Safety Authority**

On 26 June 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, the decision appointing seven members to the management board of the European Food Safety Authority ([8746/20](#)).

AUDIOVISUAL**EU-Republic of Korea: extension of the period of entitlement for audiovisual co-productions**

On 25 March 2020, the Council adopted a decision as regards the extension of the period of entitlement for audiovisual co-productions as provided for in Article 5 of the protocol on cultural cooperation to the free trade agreement between the European Union and its member states, of the one part, and the Republic of Korea, of the other part ([6872/20](#)).

The Council adopted the decision by means of a written procedure.

TRANSPARENCY**Public access to documents**

On 6 May 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, a detailed opinion on Ombudsman complaint 1069/2019/MIG, as set out in document [7516/20](#), related to the commercial sponsorship of presidencies of the Council of the European Union.

On 25 March 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 03/c/01/20 ([5966/1/20 REV 1](#)).

On 24 March 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 04/c/01/20 ([5944/20](#)).

On 27 March 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 02/c/01/20 ([6867/20](#)).

On 25 March 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 07/c/01/20 ([6435/20](#)).

On 26 March 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 05/c/01/20 ([6042/20](#)).

On 19 May 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 09/c/01/20 ([7801/20](#)).

On 27 May 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 12/c/01/20 ([7911/20](#)).

On 27 May 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 11/c/01/20 ([7959/20](#)).

On 3 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 13/c/01/20 ([7810/20](#)).

On 3 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 10/c/01/20 ([8034/20](#) + [COR 1](#)).

On 8 June 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 14/c/01/20 ([7525/20](#)).

On 1 July 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 15/c/01/20 ([8752/20](#)).

On 2 July 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 08/c/01/20 ([8689/20](#)).