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PRESSE 21
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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3766th Council meeting

Agriculture and Fisheries

Items approved by written procedure between 14 and 20 July 2020

Brussels, 20 July 2020

President

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Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture of Germany

P R E S S

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- 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.

ITEMS DEBATED

OTHER 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 to the adoption of the act itself. It means that the existing requirement for unanimity for 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 latest formal Council meeting was held on 13 July, below you can find results of written procedures concluded between 14 and 20 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.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Monitoring and assessment of draft budgetary plans in the euro area

On 16 July 2020, the Council approved the wording of a letter to be sent to the European Parliament and the Commission expressing the Council's intention not to object to the delegated act of 19 June 2020 supplementing the regulation on common provisions for monitoring and assessing draft budgetary plans and ensuring the correction of excessive deficit of the member states in the euro area ([9518/20](#)).

VAT e-commerce - postponement of application

On 20 July 2020, the Council postponed **by six months the application of the VAT regime applicable to online companies** - namely from 1 July 2021 instead of 1 January 2021. ([9123/20](#), [9124/20](#), [9125/20](#))

Find out more in this [press release](#).

BUDGET

Youth Employment Initiative

On 14 July 2020, the Council adopted legislative amendments regarding the increased resources allocated to the Youth Employment Initiative in the EU budget for 2020 ([PE-CONS 22/20](#), [3045/20](#)). The changes allow member states to amend the programmes funded by this initiative in order to include the additional budget commitments before the end of 2020.

The Youth Employment Initiative exclusively supports young people who are not in education, employment or training, including the long-term unemployed or those not registered as job-seekers.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Schengen evaluations

On 16 July 2020, the Council adopted implementing decisions setting out recommendations on addressing the deficiencies identified in the following 2019 evaluations:

- the evaluation of Hungary on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of management of the external borders ([9765/20](#));
- the evaluation of Hungary on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the common visa policy ([9766/20](#));
- the evaluation of Poland on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of police cooperation ([9767/20](#));
- the evaluation of Poland on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of return ([9768/20](#));
- the evaluation of Slovenia on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of return ([9769/20](#));

- the evaluation of Slovenia on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the Schengen Information System ([9770/20](#)); and
- the evaluation of Slovenia on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of management of the external borders ([9771/20](#)).

INTERNAL MARKET AND INDUSTRY

Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1628 as regards its transitional provisions in order to address the impact of COVID-19 crisis

On 14 July 2020, the Council approved by written procedure the European Parliament's position at first reading on a draft regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2016/1628 as regards its transitional provisions in order to address the impact of COVID-19 crisis. The Netherlands voted against.

The regulation postpones by twelve months the deadlines provided for under regulation (EU) 2016/1628 for the production and placing on the market of non-road mobile machinery and tractors fitted with transition engines.

The regulation is therefore adopted in the wording which corresponds to the position of the European Parliament. It shall apply retroactively from 1 July 2020.

[PE-CONS 21/20](#)

TRANSPARENCY

Public access to documents

On 16 July 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 16/c/02/20 (Ref. document: [8809/20](#)).