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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3717th Council meeting

Justice and Home Affairs

Luxembourg, 7 and 8 October 2019

Presidents **Anna-Maja Henriksson**
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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.

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ITEMS DEBATED

JUSTICE

EU action against corruption

The Council exchanged views on the topic of EU action against corruption. Ministers were asked whether they saw a need for action at EU level to ensure a coordinated, comprehensive and coherent approach to preventing and fighting corruption in the EU institutions and member states (MS). They were also invited to consider whether an EU-wide instrument to assess anti-corruption policies would be of value. Finally, ministers were asked to reflect on how the EU could strengthen its role in the global fight against corruption.

The overall majority of ministers supported the principle of a new comprehensive EU strategy or action plan to fight and prevent corruption both in the EU institutions and the MS. In this respect, delegations emphasised the need to focus on areas where EU work can bring added value and to look for possible synergies with existing international instruments, in order to avoid duplication of effort in this field. Finally, the presidency concluded that there was a clear majority for the EU becoming a full member of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) in the future and said discussions were needed on what this would mean in practice for the Union.

The Union has a general right to act in the field of anti-corruption policies within the limits established by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). EU anti-corruption legislation currently consists of numerous instruments and may seem fragmented. The debate will therefore give ministers the opportunity to consider whether the current legislation needs to be streamlined and modernised.

Moreover, there has been no comprehensive mechanism to assess anti-corruption efforts in the member states since the Commission discontinued its anti-corruption reporting mechanism in 2007. Since then, the assessment on anti-corruption efforts has been part of the European semester, but is not carried out for every member state. In July 2019, the Commission argued that the monitoring of the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures should be incorporated into the proposed rule-of-law evaluation.

Corruption is a challenge that affects all member states. It can be a threat to security and a drag on economic growth, and ultimately undermines citizens' trust in democratic institutions and the rule of law. In the Eurobarometer on corruption (2017), over two thirds of citizens and companies stated that corruption is widespread in their country. Nearly four out of ten companies considered corruption to be a problem when doing business.

The EU's current legislative framework to combat corruption includes, for example, the 2003 framework decision on criminalisation of corruption in the private sector, the directive on the protection of the Union's financial interests (PIF directive), anti-money-laundering legislation or the new whistleblowers directive. The new European public prosecutor's office (EPPO) will also play an important role in fighting corruption. Finally, since 2015, the EU has had a programme for member states to share their experiences of combating corruption.

For more information:

[European Commission site on fighting corruption](#)

Eurojust

The Council adopted conclusions on Eurojust ([12285/19](#)) following the presentation of Eurojust's 2018 annual report.

In the conclusions, the Council stresses the importance of Eurojust as a crucial actor in the area of freedom, security and justice and underlines its importance as a structure for cooperation with the member states' authorities as well as with other bodies such as Europol and the future European public prosecutor's office (EPPO).

It underlines the need for Eurojust to make full use of the technical progress achieved in the field of digital justice and, in particular, to consider modernising its case management system (CMS). The Council also notes that Eurojust should be given adequate resources to face new challenges posed by technological developments and the evolving security-threat landscape.

During the meeting, Eurojust also presented its new judicial counter-terrorism register (CTR). The CTR centralises key judicial information to establish links in proceedings against persons suspected of terrorist offences. It will help prosecutors to coordinate their efforts more actively and to identify the suspects or networks that are being investigated in specific cases with potential cross-border implications.

Eurojust (the European Union agency for criminal justice cooperation) was created in 2002. It was set up to improve the coordination and cooperation between member states in investigations and prosecutions. It deals with serious cross-border and organised crime. In 2018, Eurojust provided practical support to more than 6 500 investigations into serious organised crime.

In 2018, the Council adopted rules to improve Eurojust's functioning and structure so as to increase its operational effectiveness, update its data protection framework and reinforce its transparency and democratic oversight.

For more information:

[Council press release on new rules for Eurojust](#)

[Eurojust press release on the judicial counter-terrorism register](#)

[Eurojust annual report 2018](#)

E-evidence: negotiations on a second additional protocol to the Budapest Convention and on an agreement between the EU and the US

The Commission updated the Council on the state of play in the negotiations on an EU-US agreement on cross-border access to e-evidence, on the one hand, and on a second additional protocol to the Budapest Convention, on the other hand.

On the EU-US negotiations, the Commission informed the Council that a first negotiating session had taken place in September. Both parties had expressed their initial positions. The EU's position is based on the mandate adopted by the Council in June 2019. Another session will be organised in November before the EU-US JHA ministerial meeting taking place on 10-11 December.

On the negotiations on a second additional protocol to the Budapest Convention, the work is ongoing and will continue in the coming months. The Council of Europe's objective is to finalise the protocol by the end of 2020.

If concluded, those agreements will complement the EU framework on access to e-evidence currently being discussed by the EU institutions and on which the Council adopted its position in December 2018 and subsequently in March 2019. Police and judicial authorities would thus be equipped with the appropriate tool to access e-evidence stored inside or outside the EU.

EU-US agreement on cross-border access to e-evidence for the purpose of judicial cooperation in criminal matters

In June 2018, justice ministers reaffirmed that, given the EU's competence in the matter, the EU, rather than individual member states, should seek to conclude an agreement with the US to facilitate access to e-evidence.

Currently, US-based service providers cooperate with European law enforcement authorities on a voluntary basis and are not always allowed, under US law, to respond directly to European requests for access to electronic evidence. An EU-US agreement would provide a framework for cooperation with the US, including for direct cooperation with service providers. It would also ensure strong mechanisms were in place to protect fundamental rights.

Second additional protocol to the Budapest Convention

In September 2017, the Council of Europe undertook to prepare a second additional protocol to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime. The objective of the protocol is to lay down provisions for a more effective and simplified mutual legal assistance (MLA) regime, allowing direct cooperation with service providers in other state parties to the Convention and for searches to be extended across borders. The protocol will include strong safeguards and data protection requirements. The advantage of such an agreement is its potential to apply across the globe. Currently, 62 countries are party to the Convention, including 26 EU member states.

For more information:

[Council press release — Council gives mandate to Commission to negotiate international agreements on e-evidence in criminal matters](#)

[Council press release — regulation on cross-border access to e-evidence: Council agrees its position](#)

European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)

Justice ministers were informed by the Commission about the state of play in the implementation of the EPPO regulation ([12507/19](#)).

The Commission informed the Council that a large majority of member states had submitted their nominations for the posts of European prosecutor and urged those which had not yet done so to send the names of their candidates as soon as possible. It also updated the Council on the other strands of preparation such as the creation of the case management system (CMS), the budget of the EPPO, the internal rules of procedure and other human-resources issues.

The Commission informed the Council about actions taken to facilitate the preparedness of participating member states for the new EPPO's work. Finally, it underlined the need for the directive on the protection of the EU's financial interests (PIF directive) to be fully implemented by member states.

The EPPO will have the authority, under certain conditions, to investigate and prosecute in cases of EU fraud and other crimes affecting the Union's financial interests. It will bring together European and national law-enforcement efforts to counter EU fraud. So far, 22 member states have formally decided to join the EPPO.

The EPPO's central office will be based in Luxembourg. The date on which the EPPO will assume its investigative and prosecutorial tasks will be set by the Commission on the basis of a proposal from the European Chief Prosecutor once the EPPO has been set up. This date will not be earlier than three years after the entry into force of the regulation. The presidency is committed to contributing to the timely setting-up of the EPPO.

For more information:

[Council press release on the agreement on the EPPO regulation](#)

[Commission Q&A on the EPPO](#)

EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

The Council reaffirmed its commitment to the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

The Council agreed to supplementary negotiating directives in order to allow for a swift resumption of the negotiations with the Council of Europe. Those amended negotiating directives are designed to take into account the Court of Justice's opinion of 2014.

Negotiations on an agreement with the Council of Europe started in 2010. In 2013, a draft agreement was submitted by the Commission to the Court of Justice for an opinion on its compatibility with the EU treaties. At the end of 2014, the Court stated that the draft agreement was not compatible with the treaties on a number of points. In October 2015, the Council reaffirmed the EU's commitment to accede to the ECHR and invited the Commission to work on an analysis of all legal issues raised by the Court. Last May, the Commission submitted to the Council a written contribution which comprehensively addresses all of the objections raised by the Court of Justice.

The Treaty on European Union provides for the accession of the EU to the ECHR. The objective is to reinforce the common values of the Union, improve the effectiveness of EU law and enhance the coherence of fundamental rights protection in Europe.

For more information:

[Opinion 2/13 of the Court on the draft international agreement on the accession of the European Union to the ECHR](#)

[Council website — policy pages on the protection and promotion of human rights](#)

Conclusions on fundamental rights

The Council adopted conclusions on the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (the Charter), as this year marks the 10th anniversary of its entry into force ([12357/19](#)).

For more information, see [press release](#).

Fundamental rights challenges in 2020 and beyond

In public session, ministers exchanged views on current fundamental rights challenges with the director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

In conclusion, the presidency said the debate had allowed the Council to identify some of the challenges and to map out future work in this area. Among other issues, ministers mentioned the importance of raising awareness of the implementation of the Charter, the impact of artificial intelligence and of digitalisation on fundamental rights, the shrinking space for civil society as well as the challenges of hate speech, hate crimes and discrimination. Finally, the presidency welcomed the work of FRA and concluded that the agency has an important role to play in providing objective and reliable data on fundamental rights.

The ministers' discussion was based on questions put forward by the presidency and input provided by FRA on the fundamental rights challenges in the area of justice in 2020 and beyond ([12352/19](#)).

Two reports on fundamental rights are produced annually:

- a Commission report which outlines the initiatives taken by the EU to strengthen fundamental rights in the EU in the previous year, and analyses how and to what extent these rights are applied across a range of EU policies and in the member states. This year's edition also marks the 10th anniversary of the Charter's entry into force. The report shows that the Charter is living up to its promise to be the most modern, sophisticated and comprehensive legally-binding fundamental rights instrument.
- a FRA report which focuses on the progress achieved in the previous year and the remaining fundamental rights challenges, and presents FRA's opinions on the main developments in the thematic areas covered by the report.

For more information:

[Fundamental Rights Agency — Fundamental Rights Report 2019](#)

[European Commission — Annual reports on the application of the Charter](#)

Hate speech online: assessment of the code of conduct

The Commission informed justice ministers about the progress made on combating hate speech online through the EU code of conduct. The fourth monitoring report on the code of conduct on hate speech showed continued good results, with more than 70% of notifications leading to the removal of the notified content.

The code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online was launched in May 2016 in an effort to respond to the proliferation of racist and xenophobic hate speech online. Its aim is to make sure requests to remove content are dealt with quickly. When companies receive a request to remove content deemed to be illegal, they have to assess this request against their rules and community guidelines and, where necessary, national laws. The companies have committed to reviewing the majority of these requests in less than 24 hours and to removing the content if necessary, while respecting the fundamental principle of freedom of speech.

The code was initially launched together with four major IT companies. Today, 9 companies in total have signed up to the code: Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Microsoft, Instagram, Google+, Dailymotion, Snapchat and Webedia (jeuxvideo.com).

From data reported by some of the IT companies following the code, notifications of hate-speech content seem to have been received for in the range of 17-30% of the total content online. Facebook reports having removed 3.3 million pieces of content for violating hate-speech policies in the last quarter of 2018 and 4 million in the first quarter of 2019. In 2018, more than 6.2 million Twitter accounts were flagged for containing hateful conduct and the platform took action on approximately 536 000 of them.

For more information:

[Factsheet on the fourth evaluation of the implementation of the code of conduct](#)

[Commission webpage on the code of conduct](#)

Any other business

– *Communication on data protection rules as a trust-enabler in the EU and beyond*

The Commission presented to ministers its communication, which consists of an assessment of the situation in the EU one year after the entry into application of the general data protection regulation ([11535/19](#)).

The report concludes that most Member States have set up the necessary legal framework, and that the new system strengthening the enforcement of the data protection rules is falling into place. Businesses are developing a compliance culture, while citizens are becoming more aware of their rights. At the same time, convergence towards high data-protection standards is progressing at international level.

For more information, see [Commission press release](#).

– *Conference on advancing LGBTI equality in the EU*

The presidency provided some information about the conference on LGBTI equality in the EU, which took place on 23 September in Brussels and was organised jointly by the European Commission and Finland's presidency.

The aim of the conference was to assess past actions, re-evaluate the situation of LGBTI people in today's EU, identify ongoing and new challenges and discuss how to tackle them. According to the presidency, the issues raised at the conference will feed into future policies aiming at advancing LGBTI equality in the EU.

For more information: [Finland's presidency website](#).

– *Conference on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights*

The presidency informed the Council about the conference on the rule of law which took place in Helsinki on 10-11 September. According to the presidency, the conference made clear that democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights are interlinked, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Shortcomings in this area make our societies and the Union more vulnerable both internally and externally. The presidency concluded that there was clear support for strengthening the rule of law.

For more information: [Finland's presidency website](#)

HOME AFFAIRS

Combating the sexual abuse of children — Council conclusions

The Council adopted conclusions on combating the sexual abuse of children ([12326/19](#)).

In those conclusions, the Council welcomed the announcement of the WeProtect Global Alliance summit to end child sexual exploitation, which will take place in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) on 11-12 December 2019. Member states are invited to participate in the summit in order to share good practices, learn from others and encourage other countries to subscribe to and implement the shared goals of the alliance.

Furthermore, the conclusions mention the existing EU and international tools to fight the sexual abuse of children, invite the EU and member states to assess periodically the effectiveness of existing legislation, welcome the implementation of preventive approaches and highlight the need for specific tools to fight online child abuse.

The WeProtect Global Alliance to end child sexual exploitation online is a global, multi-stakeholder organisation bringing together governments, law enforcement, judicial authorities, industry and civil society to improve the effectiveness of the fight against these crimes worldwide.

Right-wing violent extremism and terrorism

Home affairs ministers had an introductory debate on right-wing violent extremism and terrorism. They discussed the nature of the threat and the existing response, and endorsed the need for further work on the following objectives:

- create a better situational overview of right-wing violent extremism and terrorism
- continue to develop and share good practices on how to strengthen the prevention, detection and addressing of violent extremism and terrorism
- address the spread of unlawful right-wing extremist content online and offline
- cooperate with key third countries

The work and follow-up on these four objectives will continue at technical level.

New technologies and internal security

Ministers discussed the challenges and opportunities brought by new technologies in the area of internal security. These include developments such as 5G mobile networks, artificial intelligence, the internet of things, drones, anonymisation and encryption, 3D printing and biotechnologies. The debate is part of an overarching discussion on the future of internal security.

Ministers expressed their overall support for the creation of an innovation lab at Europol which could act as an observatory of new technological developments and drive innovation, including by developing common technological solutions for member states in the field of internal security.

Ministers highlighted the need to ensure cooperation by all relevant actors, including other relevant research bodies and EU agencies, and to avoid duplication of existing structures. They also raised the need for stronger cooperation with the private sector. A number of ministers reiterated the need to ensure appropriate funding for Europol as part of the discussions on the next multiannual financial framework (MFF).

Hybrid threats and internal security

Finland's presidency updated ministers on the findings and recommendations of the scenario-based policy discussion on hybrid threats held during the informal JHA Council in July.

Ministers then discussed how the EU can better support member states in detecting, identifying and countering hybrid threats from an internal security angle. Ministers underlined the scope of and need for an EU approach and the role EU agencies and mechanisms can have within their existing mandates and specific competences to support these efforts.

The debate also covered disinformation, and in particular what action at EU level can contribute to tackling this phenomenon.

Protecting our societies from malicious cyber activities, hybrid threats and disinformation is one of the priorities set out by EU leaders in the strategic agenda for 2019-2024. The strategic agenda emphasises the need for a comprehensive approach to address these threats, including more cooperation, coordination, resources and technological capacities.

Implementation of interoperability

The European Commission updated ministers on the implementation of the interoperability regulations. Coordination between the competent authorities in each member state and with the EU, where the central development will take place, is key for the timely implementation of the interoperability framework.

The regulations establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems in the area of justice and home affairs entered into force on 11 June 2019. Interoperability will allow the systems to complement each other, facilitate the correct identification of persons and contribute to fighting identity fraud. The interoperability framework will have an impact on the way member states' authorities work on various tasks, such as handling visa applications, performing criminal investigations, registering migrants and carrying out first-line border checks.

[Presidency note - implementation of interoperability](#)

Any other business– ***Partnership for security and stability in the Sahel (P3S initiative)***

France informed ministers about the new partnership for security and stability in the Sahel (P3S initiative) which was launched after the G7 meeting in Biarritz. This initiative aims to expand efforts in the region beyond military capabilities and development, in particular in matters of internal security and justice.

– ***Potential prohibition on the use of metallic lead in ammunition***

The Czech delegation informed the Council about their concerns regarding the potential prohibition on the use of metallic lead in ammunition in the framework of the implementation of the REACH regulation. The European Commission informed ministers that an ongoing analysis is being carried out on the risk and impact of this use. However, the use of ammunition by police is not targeted in this analysis.

– ***Eastern Mediterranean migration route — initiative by Bulgaria, Cyprus and Greece***

Greece informed ministers that during the lunch discussion it would present an initiative, taken together with Bulgaria and Cyprus, regarding the Eastern Mediterranean migration route. This initiative comes in the context of rising migration flows on this route.

– ***Implementation of the future regulation amending the European Border and Coast Guard regulation***

The Commission and Frontex updated ministers on the state of play of the entry into force and the implementation of the future regulation amending the European Border and Coast Guard regulation.

Migration

Over lunch, ministers discussed the state of play on migration. They took the opportunity to get a general overview of the migration situation in the EU across all routes, with a particular focus on the increase of arrivals in the Eastern Mediterranean and the recent declaration by France, Germany, Italy and Malta on temporary arrangements for disembarkation.

MIXED COMMITTEE

The Council in the Mixed Committee format (the EU plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) discussed the following items:

- ***Implementation of interoperability***

See above

- ***Any other business: implementation of the future regulation amending the European Border and Coast Guard regulation***

See above

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

JUSTICE

Directive on whistleblower protection

The Council adopted the directive on whistleblower protection ([PE-CONS 78/19](#)).

The new rules will require the creation of safe channels for reporting both within an organisation — private or public — and to public authorities. They will also provide a high level of protection to whistleblowers against retaliation, and require national authorities to adequately inform citizens and train public officials on how to deal with whistleblowing.

For more information, see [press release](#).

Council conclusions on the European case law identifier (ECLI)

The Council adopted conclusions on the European case law identifier (ECLI) and a minimum set of uniform metadata for case law — including ECLI 2.0 ([12087/19 REV 1](#)).

The objective is to further improve cross-border access to national case law to enable the national judges to fulfil their role in the European legal order.

For more information, see [e-justice portal on ECLI](#).

Report on the implementation of the 2014-2018 e-justice action plan

The Council took note of the report on the implementation of the 2014-2018 e-justice action plan ([12092/19](#)).

The 2014-2018 e-justice action plan aimed to build upon the work already undertaken and to continue the necessary development towards the modernisation of justice at national and European level. The work in the action plan focused on access to information in the field of justice, access to courts and extrajudicial procedures and, finally, communication between judicial authorities.

For more information, see [e-justice portal](#).

HOME AFFAIRS**Council conclusions — 'heads of single points of contact (SPOC)' network**

The Council adopted conclusions on establishing a network of the heads of the single points of contact (SPOC) ([12093/19](#)). SPOCs are 'one-stop shop' units in the member states which act as a single point of contact for international police cooperation.

The conclusions invite the member states and Schengen associated countries to establish a network of heads of SPOCs, which will meet at least two times a year to address matters of common interest.

Prüm decisions — Ireland

The Council adopted an implementing decision determining that, for the purposes of automated searching of vehicle registration data, Ireland is entitled to receive and supply personal data pursuant to Article 12 of Decision [2008/615/JHA](#) as from the date of the entry into force of the implementing decision ([7290/19](#)).

Schengen evaluation — Estonia

The Council adopted an implementing decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2018 evaluation of Estonia on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of return.

Bonn agreement

The Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the EU, the amendments to the agreement for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances (Bonn agreement), concerning the accession of Spain and the extension of the scope of application of the agreement ([12187/19](#) + [ADD1](#)).

The Council also adopted a decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the EU at the second ministerial meeting of the Bonn agreement with regard to the 2019-2025 strategic action plan and the ministerial declaration ([12188/19](#)). The EU will agree to the adoption of the ministerial declaration and the action plan attached to this decision ([12188/19](#) [ADD1](#)).

The Bonn agreement aims to promote cooperation and mutual assistance in combating pollution of the North Sea area by oil and other harmful substances, in order to protect the marine environment and safeguard coastal areas.

INTERNAL MARKET AND INDUSTRY**Adoption of the regulation on Union action following accession to the Geneva act**

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading on a regulation on the action of the EU following its accession to the Geneva act of the Lisbon agreement on appellations of origin and geographical indications. Croatia and the United Kingdom abstained.

The regulation lays down the rules that will govern the exercise by the EU of its rights (and the fulfilment of its obligations) under the Geneva act following the EU's accession to that act.

The regulation is therefore adopted in the wording which corresponds to the position of the European Parliament ([PE-CONS 74/19](#)) ([12464/19 ADD 1](#) + [12464/19 ADD 2 REV 1](#)).

For more information, see [press release](#).

Adoption of the Council decision on the accession of the EU to the Geneva act on geographical indications

The Council adopted a decision authorising the accession of the EU to the Geneva act of the Lisbon agreement on appellations of origin and geographical indications. The UK delegation abstained ([6929/19](#)) ([12384/19 ADD 1 REV 1](#) + [12384/19 ADD 2](#)).

For more information, see [press release](#).

TRADE**Negotiating directives on investment facilitation**

The Council adopted a decision supplementing the negotiating directives for the Doha development agenda regarding the negotiations on a multilateral framework on investment facilitation ([10973/19](#) + [10973/19 ADD 1](#)).

On 13 December 2017, at the 11th ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), 70 members of the WTO adopted a [joint statement](#) on investment facilitation for development, calling for structured discussions with the aim of developing a multilateral framework on investment facilitation. A first negotiating phase on the matter is likely to begin in the autumn of 2019.

WTO waiver for the United States for products imported from Central American and Caribbean countries

The Council adopted a decision ([12117/19](#)) authorising the Commission, on behalf of the EU, to agree to the extension of a WTO waiver permitting the United States to provide preferential tariff treatment to eligible products originating in Central American and Caribbean countries and territories under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act. The US had requested that the waiver be extended from 1 January 2020 to 30 September 2025. The decision on whether to grant the extension is to be taken at a future General Council meeting of the WTO.

WTO waiver on preferential tariff treatment for products of least developed countries

The Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission, on behalf of the EU, to support the extension of a WTO waiver permitting developing country members to provide preferential tariff treatment to products originating in least developed countries. The waiver would be extended from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2029. The issue is to be discussed at a future General Council meeting of the WTO ([12121/19](#)).

EU POSITIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

Relations with Morocco

The Council adopted the position to be taken on behalf of the EU within the Association Council set up by the Euro-Mediterranean agreement establishing an association between the EU and Morocco as regards the adoption of a recommendation on the extension of the EU-Morocco action plan implementing advanced status (2013-2017).

Relations with Ukraine

The Council adopted the EU position to be taken in the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Management Sub-Committee established by the association agreement between the EU and Ukraine.

TRANSPORT

Road infrastructure safety management

The Council adopted a directive amending directive 2008/96/EC on road infrastructure safety management ([12463/19](#), [12463/19 ADD 1](#), [PE-CONS 69/10](#)).

The aim of the revised directive is to promote well-designed, properly maintained and clearly marked and signed roads, thus reducing the number of road accidents in Europe.

For more information, see [press release](#).

SOCIAL POLICY AND EMPLOYMENT

Regulation on social statistics

The Council adopted a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples.

The regulation covers statistics that are broken down into the following domains and topics, as detailed in its Annex I ([12459/1/19](#)):

- labour market
 - income and living conditions
 - health
 - education and training
 - use of information and communication technologies
 - time use
 - consumption
-