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CONTENTS

Page

1.	Adoption of the agenda.....	3
2.	Approval of "A" items	3
	a) Non-legislative list	
	b) Legislative list	

Non-legislative activities

3.	Current affairs.....	3
4.	Future financial architecture for sustainable development and neighbourhood.....	3
5.	EU and Member States working better together to support the development of countries in transition - the cases of Ethiopia and Sudan	4
6.	Any other business.....	4
	ANNEX - Statements for the Council minutes.....	5

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

14292/19

The Council adopted the agenda set out in 14292/19.

2. **Approval of "A" items**

14293/19

a) **Non-legislative list**

The Council adopted the "A" items listed in 14293/19 including COR and REV documents presented for adoption.

b) **Legislative list** (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

14296/19

Economic and Financial Affairs

Joint text on the general budget of the European Union for 2020

S 14283/19

Approval

+ ADD 1 - 5

following Council (ECOFIN/Budget) on 15 and 18.11.2019

FIN

The Council approved the joint text on the budget for 2020 as set out in the Annex and in addenda 1 to 5 to document 14283/19. Statements to this item are set out in the Annex.

Non-legislative activities

3. Current affairs

4. **Future financial architecture for sustainable development and neighbourhood**

[2]

(in the presence of the President of the EIB, President of the EBRD and of the Chairman of the Wise Persons Group)

Exchange of views

On the basis of presentations by the Chair of the Wise Persons' Group on the future European architecture for sustainable development and neighbourhood, by the President of the EBRD and by the President of the EIB, the Council gave guidance on the future for investment funding of sustainable development, including on the related Council conclusions. Ministers supported a number of short term measures outline in the Wise Persons' Group report.

5. EU and Member States working better together to support the development of countries in transition - the cases of Ethiopia and Sudan
Exchange of views

6. Any other business

 Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)

Statements to the legislative "A" item set out in 14296/19

Ad "A" item: **Joint text on the general budget of the European Union for 2020**
Approval
following Council (ECOFIN/Budget) on 15 and 18.11.2019

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, COUNCIL AND COMMISSION
on the funding of EASO

"The European Parliament and the Council take note of the Commission's intention to review the funding requirements of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EASO) for the financial year 2020, once the legislative proposal of 12 September 2018 to reinforce the Agency's operational support capabilities is adopted

The European Parliament and the Council undertake to treat a possible request for a reinforcement of the EU contribution to EASO in 2020, which may require a budget authority transfer or a draft amending budget, with due regard for its urgency."

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, COUNCIL AND COMMISSION
on the payment appropriations

"The European Parliament and the Council recall the need to ensure, in the light of implementation, an orderly progression of payments in relation to the appropriations for commitments so as to avoid any abnormal level of unpaid invoices at year-end.

The European Parliament and the Council call on the Commission to continue closely and actively monitoring the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes (particularly in sub-heading 1b and Rural Development). To that end, they invite the Commission to present, in a timely manner, updated figures concerning the state of implementation and estimates regarding 2020 payment appropriations.

If the figures show that the appropriations entered in the 2020 budget are insufficient to cover the needs, the European Parliament and the Council invite the Commission to present as soon as possible an appropriate solution, inter alia an amending budget, to allow the Budgetary Authority to take any decisions necessary in due time for justified needs. Where applicable, the European Parliament and the Council will take into account the urgency of the matter. For the Council, this could entail shortening the eight-week period for a decision if deemed necessary."

**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, COUNCIL AND COMMISSION
on the Youth Employment Initiative**

"The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission recall that reducing youth unemployment remains a high and shared political priority, and to this end they reaffirm their determination to make the best possible use of budgetary resources available to tackle it, and in particular through the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI).

The European Parliament and the Council invite the Commission to observe closely the implementation trend of this initiative and to submit a report before 30 June 2020.

Should the Commission assessment confirm the need for an increase of the YEI, the Commission will present in parallel a draft amending budget increasing the YEI specific allocation by EUR 50 million.

The Council and the European Parliament undertake to process swiftly any such draft amending budget for 2020 put forward by the Commission."

**UNILATERAL STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION
on the Youth Employment Initiative**

"The increase of the YEI specific allocation requires a technical amendment of the Common Provisions Regulation.

As was the case in the previous years, this amendment will be strictly limited to the modifications necessary to accommodate the additional YEI envelope and will have no impact on the implementation of the cohesion policy."

**UNILATERAL STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION
on getting closer to the 20% climate-related spending target during 2014-2020**

"The Commission will monitor closely the implementation of the budget in the course of the year 2020. In case of under-implementation in the relevant headings, the Commission will make the appropriate budgetary proposals to reinforce climate-related expenditure where possible."

UNILATERAL STATEMENT BY DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS, AUSTRIA AND SWEDEN

on the joint text on the budget for 2020

"The agreement on the EU budget for 2020 reflects several priorities that we share, not least a greater focus on climate.

Financing priorities in a responsible manner requires real prioritisation. We regret that the agreement is not based on a more cautious approach to EU expenditure. We consider the record overall level of expenditure to be well above what is both necessary and appropriate in light of uncertainties facing us in 2020, including the transition to a Union of 27.

It is of great importance to preserve sufficient margins in 2020 for unforeseen needs. The agreement on the 2020 budget leaves little or no margin under several headings, and requires an extensive use of special flexibilities to circumvent the annual ceilings. This runs counter to point 8 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013.

Annual increases to individual, larger programmes should be realistic and not go beyond what can be justified. Previous agreements should be respected. We regret that the agreement on the 2020 budget, being the final annual budget under the current MFF, does not deliver on the agreement on the midterm review of the MFF.

Finally, we regret the increased level of administrative expenditure and staff increases in various areas, including for the European Parliament. We urge the Parliament to fully implement the agreed 5 per cent staff reduction target, noting that the withdrawal of the United Kingdom necessitates that all institutions strictly limit their administrative expenditure."
