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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3813th Council meeting

Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)

**Items approved by written procedure between 22 and 29
September 2021**

Brussels, 28 and 29 September 2021

Presidents

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Slovenian Minister for Education, Science and Sport

Zdravko Počivalšek

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none

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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.

ITEMS DEBATED

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

Temporary derogation from the Council's rules of procedure

Owing to exceptional circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 23 April 2020 the Council agreed on a temporary derogation from its rules of procedure to make it easier to take decisions by written procedure. The temporary derogation is currently in force until 30 September 2021 ([2021/1142](#)). 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 requirement for unanimity for all decisions adopted using the written procedure no longer applies. The objective is 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](#).

The results of written procedures concluded between 22 July and 28 September 2021, which would otherwise have been communicated in Outcomes of Council meetings, are presented below. The results which have been communicated by means of a Council press release might have not been included.

GENERAL AFFAIRS

EU position within the EEA Joint Committee on budget line PA 13 17 01

The Council adopted a Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (Budget line PA 13 17 01 - Preparatory action on defence research), as set out in [10931/21](#) and [10932/21](#).

EU position within the EEA Joint Committee on the European Solidarity Corps Programme

The Council adopted a Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (European Solidarity Corps Programme), as set out in [11220/21](#) and [11221/21](#).

EU position within the EEA Joint Committee on the Single Market Programme

The Council adopted a Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 30 to the EEA Agreement, on specific provisions on the organization of cooperation in the field of statistics and Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (Single Market Programme), as set out in [11224/21](#) and [11225/21](#).

EU position within the EEA Joint Committee on Horizon Europe

The Council adopted a Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (Horizon Europe), as set out in [11228/21](#) and [11229/21](#).

EU position within the EEA Joint Committee on the European Social Fund Plus

The Council adopted a Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)), as set out in [11232/21](#) and [11233/21](#).

EU position within the EEA Joint Committee on Erasmus+

The Council adopted a Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (Erasmus+), as set out in [11237/21](#) and [11238/21](#).

EU position within the EEA Joint Committee on the Digital Europe Programme

The Council adopted a Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (Digital Europe Programme), as set out in [11241/21](#) and [11242/21](#).

EU position within the EEA Joint Committee on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism

The Council adopted a Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM)), as set out in [11254/21](#) and [11255/21](#).

EU position within the EEA Joint Committee on the Creative Europe Programme

The Council adopted a Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (Creative Europe Programme), as set out in [11258/21](#) and [11259/21](#).

EU position within the EEA Joint Committee on the LIFE Programme

The Council adopted a Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (LIFE Programme), as set out in [11527/21](#) and [11528/21](#).

EU position within the EEA Joint Committee on the EU4Health Programme

The Council adopted a Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (EU4Health Programme), as set out in [11534/21](#) and [11535/21](#).

EU position within the EEA Joint Committee on the 3rd and 4th Railway Packages

The Council adopted a Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee, concerning the amendment to Annex XIII (Transport) to the EEA Agreement (3rd and 4th Railway Packages), as set out in [11744/21](#), [11745/21](#) and [11746/21](#).

Temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure due to COVID-19

The Council adopted a Decision further extending the temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure introduced by Decision (EU) 2020/430, in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union, as set out in document [11875/21](#).

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

EU-UK relations

The Council adopted a decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the EU in the Specialised Committee on Law Enforcement and Judicial Cooperation established by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the EU and the UK, regarding the extension of the period during which DNA profiles and fingerprints can be exchanged with the UK ([11697/21](#)).

The position to be taken on the EU's behalf shall be to agree to an extension until 30 June 2022 of the period during which member states may continue to exchange personal data as referred to in Articles 530, 531 and 534 of the TCA and supply further available personal data as referred to in Article 536 of the TCA with the UK.