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European Union

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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3812th Council meeting

General Affairs

Items approved by written procedure between 13 July and 21 September 2021

Brussels, 21 September 2021

President

Gašper Dovža

State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of
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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.

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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 13 July and 21 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

Appointment of the Director of the Authority for European political parties and European political foundations

The Council adopted a Decision appointing Mr Pascal SCHONARD as Director of the Authority on European political parties and European political foundations for the period from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2026. The appointment is subject to the signing, by the Director-designate, of the declaration of independence and absence of conflict of interests that is annexed to this Decision ([10132/21](#)).

Positions to be adopted on behalf of the European Union

The Council adopted a Decision adopting 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 of the four freedoms (Budget line 07 20 03 01 - Social Security), as set out in [10506/21](#) and [10507/21](#).

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 Defence Fund), as set out in [10692/21](#) and [10693/21](#).

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Council decision on an assistance measure for support to the African Union under the European Peace Facility in 2021

The Council adopted a decision on an assistance measure taking the form of a general programme for support to the African Union under the European Peace Facility (EPF) in 2021.

Pursuant to Article 1(2), point (b)(ii), of Decision (CFSP) [2021/509](#), the EPF can finance assistance measures to support the military aspects of peace support operations led by a regional or international organisation.

The Council acknowledges the leading role of the African Union in preserving peace and security on the African continent as specified in Article 16 of the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

Republic of Guinea: restrictive measures

The Council adopted a decision amending decision 2010/638/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Republic of Guinea, and an implementing regulation implementing regulation 1284/2009 imposing certain specific restrictive measures in respect of the Republic of Guinea.

The amendments concern the information linked to already listed individuals.

Republic of Guinea-Bissau: restrictive measures

The Council adopted an implementing decision implementing decision 2012/285/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies threatening the peace, security or stability of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

It also adopted an implementing regulation implementing Article 11(1) of regulation 377/2012 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies threatening the peace, security or stability of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

As a consequence, two persons have been removed from the list of persons subject to restrictive measures, as set out in Annexes II and III to Decision 2012/285/CFSP.

Council decision and implementing regulation concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: review

The Council adopted a decision amending decision 2016/849 and an implementing regulation implementing regulation (EU) 2017/1509 concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The amendments include a change to the statement of reasons for ten persons and one entity, and an update of the identifying information in respect of four persons.

Joint Declaration between the EU and the UNRWA on EU support to the agency in 2021-2024

The Council endorsed the Joint Declaration between the EU and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) on European support to UNRWA during the period 2021-2024.

The Council also authorised the High Representative and the Commission to sign the Joint Declaration on behalf of the EU.

Council decision and implementing regulation concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya: review

The Council adopted a decision amending decision 2015/1333 ([10567/21](#)) and an implementing regulation implementing Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/44 ([10569/21](#)) concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya.

Council decision and implementing regulation concerning restrictive measures against Iran

The Council adopted a decision amending decision 2010/413/CFSP ([10764/21](#)) and an implementing regulation implementing regulation 267/2012 ([10766/21](#)) concerning restrictive measures against Iran.

EU Training Mission in Mozambique: concept note for assistance under the EPF

The Council approved the concept note for an assistance measure under the European Peace Facility to support military units trained by the EU Training Mission in Mozambique.

Opening of negotiations to amend the International Coffee Agreement 2007

The Council adopted a decision authorising the opening of negotiations to amend the International Coffee Agreement 2007 and related negotiating directives ([10799/21](#)).

Approval of two ASEAN Regional Forum statements

The Council approved two ASEAN Regional Forum statements:

- ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) statement on Promoting the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at the ASEAN Regional Forum
- ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Preventing and Combating Cybercrime.

Joint Declaration of the Crimea Platform Participants

The Council authorised the signature of the Joint Declaration of the Crimea Platform Participants.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Approval of national recovery and resilience plans for Croatia, Cyprus, Lithuania and Slovenia

The Council adopted by written procedure four Council implementing decisions on the approval of national recovery and resilience plans for Croatia, Cyprus, Lithuania and Slovenia. All delegations voted in favour. The decisions will enter into force when notified to the Member States concerned ([10612/21](#), [10477/21](#), [10686/21](#), [10687/21](#)).

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

Approval of national recovery and resilience plans for Czechia and Ireland

The Council adopted its implementing decisions on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Czechia and Ireland by written procedure.

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

Council's position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022

The Council adopted its position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022 by written procedure.

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

AGRICULTURE

Certain fishing opportunities for 2021

The Council adopted by written procedure an amending regulation as regards certain fishing opportunities for 2021 in Union and non-Union waters. All delegations voted in favour ([10750/21](#) + [ADD1](#); [11028/21 REV2](#)).

ENVIRONMENT

Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution

The Council authorised the Commission to enter into discussions on a non-binding ministerial statement, presented at the Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution (1 and 2 September, in Geneva, hybrid format).

The ministerial conference was an informal event, organised by a group of UN member states (Germany, Ghana, Vietnam and Ecuador), with support from UNEP. The conference is part of continued efforts towards reaching a binding agreement on marine litter and plastic pollution at global level. A resolution on this topic will be presented at UNEA in 2022, opening up the possibility of drawing up an agreement in the following years.

The purpose of the conference in September was to keep the issue of plastic pollution and the potential for global agreement high on the political agenda and to contribute to the adoption of a resolution at UNEA in 2022 (10969/21).

TRANSPARENCY

Transparency - public access to documents

On 27 July 2021, the European Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 24/c/01/21 (16/21).

On 30 July 2021, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 11/c/01/21 (7829/21 INF 91 API 47).

On 30 July 2021, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 15/c/01/21 (9590/1/21 INF 177 API 99).

On 30 July 2021, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 19/c/02/21 (8454/21 INF 124 API 69).

On 30 July 2021, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 28/c/02/21 (10826/21 INF 226 API 126).

On 6 August 2021, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 29/c/02/21 (10266/21 INF 204 API 109).

On 6 August 2021, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 30/c/01/21 (10387/21 INF 210 API 114).

On 6 August 2021, the Council adopted by written procedure the reply to confirmatory application No 31/c/03/21 (10776/21 INF 224 API 125).

On 11 August 2021, the Council adopted by written procedure (CM 4167/21) the reply to confirmatory application No 32/c/01/21 (10718/21).

On 16 August 2021, the Council adopted by written procedure (CM 4169/21) the reply to confirmatory application No 33/c/01/21 (10847/21).
