Council of the European Union

Brussels, 3 December 2025
(OR. en)

15786/25
PV CONS 62
RELEX 1537
*PARLNAT*

# DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Foreign Affairs/Trade)

24 November 2025

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 15558/25.

**2. Approval of "A" items** 15501/25

**a) Non-legislative list**

The Council adopted all "A" items listed in the document above, including all linguistic COR and REV documents presented for adoption.

**b) Legislative list (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)** 15521/25

## Economic and Financial Affairs

**1. Joint text on the general budget of the European Union for 2026** S C 15487/25 + ADD 1-6 FIN

*Approval*

Following Council (ECOFIN/Budget) on 14-15.11.2025

The Council approved the joint text on the budget for 2026 as set out in the Annex and the addenda 1 to 5 of the above indicated document, with Sweden voting against and Austria, Finland, Hungary and the Netherlands abstaining (Legal basis: Article 314(5) TFEU). Statements to this item are set out in the Annex.

**Non-legislative activities**

3. Ongoing bilateral trade negotiations
*State of play*

4. EU-China trade relations[*]
*State of play*

5. EU-US trade relations[*]
*State of play*

6. Any other business

a) Annual Commission report on the implementation and enforcement of EU trade policy — 15024/25 + ADD 1
*Information from the Commission*

b) Annual progress report on simplification, implementation and enforcement — 14853/25
*Information from the Commission*

c) Import tariffs on products from Russia and Belarus — 14976/25
*Information from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden*

d) Belarusian hybrid attacks — 15684/25
*Information from Lithuania*

Restricted item

* Without electronic devices

**ANNEX**

**Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 15521/25**

**Ad "A" item 1:** **Joint text on the general budget of the European Union for 2026**
***Approval***
**Following Council (ECOFIN/Budget) on 14-15.11.2025**

**STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA, FINLAND, THE NETHERLANDS AND SWEDEN**

"The EU budget should be based on sound budgetary principles, maintain sufficient margins and safeguard special instruments only for genuinely unforeseen circumstances.

The agreement on the 2026 budget makes excessive use of special instruments in various headings, with very limited redeployments. It also includes significant increases in the administrative expenditure as well as increases in staff levels. In our opinion, the EU budget cannot ignore the wider context, in which most national budgets are under strain or faced with substantial consolidation measures.

We therefore believe that the agreement on the EU budget for 2026 is not in line with the principle of prudent budgeting."

**STATEMENT BY HUNGARY**

"Hungary abstains on the agreement on the 2026 annual budget of the European Union.

While acknowledging the importance of ensuring the continuous functioning of the Union's programmes and institutions, Hungary considers it essential to record the following in relation to the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP) and the Ukraine Support Instrument (USI).

Hungary supports all efforts aimed at launching substantive negotiations toward a sustainable and stable peace that guarantees the long-term security of the European continent. Hungary believes that with the ongoing peace negotiations, led by the United States, the EU also needs to adapt its policy-making.

In light of the above, and in line with its longstanding commitment to peace, Hungary does not support the establishment or financing of new Union instruments that contribute militarily to the war in Ukraine and risk undermining ongoing peace efforts. The scarce resources available for defense purposes need to be entirely allocated to the Union's own defense preparations, thereby directly ensuring the protection of EU citizens.

Consequently, and consistent with our previously stated position during the negotiations on the EDIP Regulation, Hungary cannot endorse the proposed allocation for the Ukraine Support Instrument within the 2026 budget."