

Brussels, 22 May 2026
(OR. en)

7905/26
PV CONS 21
AGRI 237
PECHE 115
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Agriculture and Fisheries)
30 March 2026

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 7462/26 with the addition:

- at the request of Germany, of an “any other business” item on “the need for clear improvement and simplification of Union fisheries legislation, in particular the draft weighing provisions” (new item 6(i)); and
- at the request of France and Italy, of an “any other business” item on the “Urgent need for temporary neutralisation of the effects of the carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) on fertiliser prices” (new item 6(d)(iv)).

The Council also agreed to hold the additional item requested by Germany in public session as per Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

2. Approval of "A" items

a) Non-legislative list

7708/26 + COR1

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

Statements to these items are set out in the Addendum.

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

7709/26

Internal Market and Industry

1. Package Travel Directive

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 25.3.2026



7301/1/26 REV 1
+ REV 1 ADD 1
PE-CONS 4/26
CONSOM

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Article 114 TFEU).

A statement by Italy is set out in the Annex.

Environment

2. **Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 setting CO₂ emission performance standards for heavy-duty vehicles**  7430/1/26 REV 1
+ ADD 1 REV 1
PE-CONS 12/26
+ COR 1
CLIMA
- Adoption of the legislative act*
approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 25.3.2026

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Article 192(1) TFEU).


Statements by France, Malta and a joint statement by Slovakia and the Czech Republic is set out in the Annex.

Foreign Affairs

3. **Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2021/947 as regards External Action Guarantee**  7428/26
PE-CONS 8/26
NDICI
- Adoption of the legislative act*
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 25.3.2026

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (legal basis: Article 209 and Article 212 TFEU).

Justice and Home Affairs

4. **Directive harmonising certain aspects of insolvency law**  7426/3/26 REV 3
+ REV 2 ADD 1
REV 1
PE-CONS 64/25
JUSTCIV
- Adoption of the legislative act*
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 25.3.2026

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (with Belgium, Czechia, Hungary, Austria and Spain abstaining) (legal basis: Article 114 TFEU).

A statement by Spain is set out in the Annex.

5. Regulation establishing an EU Talent Pool



7427/26 + ADD 1
PE-CONS 62/25
MIGR

Adoption of the legislative act

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 25.3.2026

The Council approved the European Parliament's position at first reading and the proposed act has been adopted pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, with Hungary and the Netherlands abstaining (legal basis: Article 79(2), point (a) TFEU). In accordance with the relevant Protocols annexed to the Treaties, Denmark did not participate in the vote.

Statements by Hungary and the Netherlands are set out in the Annex.

Research

6. Council Decision laying down the measures necessary for the implementation of Protocol No 37 on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel



7015/26
6884/26
COMPET

Agreement in principle

Request for the consent of the European Parliament

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 25.3.2026

The Council reached an agreement in principle on the Decision and decided to request the consent of the European Parliament in accordance with the first paragraph of Article 2 of Protocol No 37 on the financial consequences of the expiry of the ECSC Treaty and on the Research Fund for Coal and Steel.

Non-legislative activities

FISHERIES

3. **Energy transition in the EU fisheries and aquaculture sectors** [2] 7190/26
Exchange of views

Item 3 was taken together with item 6(a).

The Council held an exchange of views on the Energy Transition Roadmap in fisheries and aquaculture. The Council also took note of the information provided by Italy on the impact of increasing input costs on the fishing industry.

AGRICULTURE

4. **Vision for agriculture and food: one year of implementation** [2] 7366/26
Information from the Commission
Exchange of views

Item 4 was taken together with items 6(d)(i), (ii) and (iv).

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission and held an exchange of views on the implementation of the Vision for Agriculture and Food.


The Council also took note of the information from Hungary on behalf of Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, and Bulgaria and Romania, of the information from Spain and Portugal, supported by Austria, Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, and of the information from France and Italy.

5. **Trade-related agricultural issues** 5996/26
Information from the Commission
Exchange of views

Any other business

6. Fisheries
- a) **Urgent actions to address the crisis in the EU fisheries and aquaculture** [2] 7732/26
Information from Italy



Item 6(a) was taken together with item 3.

- b) **Implementation dialogue on small-scale and coastal fisheries (24 November 2025)**  7693/26
Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission, and of the comments made by delegations.

- c) **Call for an urgent resumption of negotiations for a global agreement between Coastal States on sustainable management of the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock** 7724/26
Information from France and the Netherlands

Agriculture

- d) **Current legislative proposal (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)**  
- i) **Joint Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Visegrad group and Bulgaria and Romania on the post 2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and the Common Agricultural Policy** 7694/26
Information from Hungary, Bulgaria, Czechia, Poland, Romania and Slovakia

Item 6(d)(i) was taken together with item 4.

- ii) **CAP Strategic Plans - National Partnership Plans: transitional provisions for sectoral interventions in the wine sector and in the fruit and vegetable sector** 7695/26
Information from Spain and Portugal

Item 6(d)(ii) was taken together with item 4.

- e) **Promotion of the use of digestate in Europe**  7687/26
Information from Italy

The Council took note of the information provided by Italy, and of delegations' comments.

d) **(continuation) Current legislative proposal (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)** 1C

iii) **Necessary amendments to the automatic safeguard clause in the GSP Regulation** 7674/26
Information from Italy

The Council took note of the information provided by Italy, supported by Bulgaria and Hungary, and of delegations' comments.

f) **European milk market under pressure: the need for a coordinated European response** 2 7746/26
Information from Slovakia

g) **European dairy market situation – the need for a European response** 2 7681/26
Information from Belgium

Items 6(f) and (g) were taken together.

The Council took note of the information provided by Slovakia, supported by Bulgaria, Hungary and Italy, and by Belgium, supported by Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and of delegations' comments.

h) **The financial ceilings for direct payments for claim year 2027** 2 7696/1/26 REV 1
Information from Poland

The Council took note of the information provided by Poland, and supported by Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Malta, Portugal and Romania, and of delegation's comments.

i) **Need for clear improvement and simplification of Union fisheries legislation, in particular the draft weighing provisions** 2 7820/26
Information from Germany

The Council took note of the information provided by Germany.

d) (continuation) Current legislative proposal (Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)



iv) Urgent need for temporary neutralisation of the effects of the carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) on fertiliser prices
Information from France and Italy

7817/26

Item 6(d)(iv) was taken together with item 4.



First reading



Item based on a Commission proposal



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

Statements to the legislative "A" items set out in doc. 7709/26**Ad "A" item 1:****Package Travel Directive***Adoption of the legislative act***STATEMENT BY ITALY**

“Italy votes in favour of the adoption of Directive [2023/0435 (COD)], acknowledging the efforts made to balance consumer protection with the needs of the tourism sector.

However, Italy wishes to place on record its deep concern regarding the recurrence of events of global significance following the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the war in Ukraine and the conflicts in the Middle East and the Gulf, which have a direct impact on the economies of the Member States and the European Union, including the tourism sector and, in particular, the resilience of the organised tourism sector. In particular, Italy expresses its concern regarding Articles 12 and 12-bis, relating to the right of withdrawal and the regulation of vouchers, which have not adequately taken into account the disruptive impact of events such as those mentioned, which require flexibility and must be addressed with systemic tools so as not to impose disproportionate financial and organisational burdens on operators, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. In recent years, organised tourism operators have all too often found themselves having to shoulder the burden of unforeseen events – such as the recent conflict – whose scale and economic impact are far too great for their business models, and which have nothing to do with the standard consumer protection that lies at the heart of the Package Travel Directive, which we are about to approve in its revised form. Insurance cover or other standard private-law remedies either exclude or fail to adequately protect the organised tourism sector against acts of war or crises that undermine the safety of travellers on routes or in areas of strategic importance to the European Union.

Italy therefore calls on the Commission to closely monitor the impact of the lack of any flexibility in the rules regarding the events mentioned, and stands ready to collaborate on the development of corrective measures in the future or to propose to the European Commission the establishment of a funding facility, for example under the Competitiveness Fund, or a state aid scheme for these emergencies, which have proven to be recurrent in nature and which clearly have serious systemic impacts on the organised tourism sector and, in turn, in various ways, on final consumers.”

Ad "A" item 2:**Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 setting CO₂ emission performance standards for heavy-duty vehicles***Adoption of the legislative act***STATEMENT BY FRANCE**

“La France peut soutenir la proposition de révision du règlement sur les émissions de CO₂ des véhicules lourds.

Elle rappelle toutefois son regret qu’aucune étude d’impact n’ait accompagné la proposition d’amendement présentée par la Commission européenne, alors que la proposition de révision modifie substantiellement le fonctionnement du mécanisme de crédits d’émission prévu par le

règlement. La France estime que les travaux techniques auraient mérité un échange approfondi de sorte à examiner les conditions d'un encadrement de la flexibilité.

La France souligne que cette proposition pourrait diminuer sensiblement l'ambition environnementale du dispositif et affaiblir le signal envoyé au marché en faveur de l'électrification des véhicules lourds. Il est pourtant essentiel de conserver des incitations réglementaires fortes à l'électrification et à la décarbonation des véhicules lourds, pour lesquelles les constructeurs ont massivement investi et proposent désormais des alternatives électriques aux modèles thermiques ainsi que des motorisations thermiques moins émissives. Nous constatons que ces investissements ont permis à une majorité de constructeurs d'atteindre les objectifs du règlement en 2025. De ce fait, les autorités françaises considèrent que des travaux sur les conditions facilitantes essentielles à l'atteinte des cibles de décarbonation à moyen et long terme sont la priorité, et devront être au cœur de la revue de 2027.

Courtesy translation

France can support the proposed revision of the regulation related to CO2 emissions of heavy-duty vehicles.

Nevertheless, France reiterates its regret that no impact assessment was provided with the amendment proposal presented by the European Commission, even though the proposed revision substantially alters the functioning of the credit mechanism provided for in the regulation. France believes that the technical work would have deserved a thorough discussion to examine the conditions to better frame the flexibility.

France emphasizes that this proposal might reduce significantly the environmental ambition of the system and weaken the market signal in favour of the electrification of heavy-duty vehicles. It is, however, essential to maintain strong regulatory incentives for the electrification and decarbonisation of heavy-duty vehicles, in which manufacturers have invested heavily to offer electric alternatives to combustion-engine models, as well as lower-emission combustion-engine powertrains. We note that these investments have enabled a majority of manufacturers to meet the regulation's targets in 2025. French authorities therefore consider that fostering essential enabling conditions to achieve medium- and long-term decarbonisation targets is a priority and must be at the heart of the 2027 review."

STATEMENT BY MALTA

"Malta wishes to underline the structural constraints characterising its heavy-duty vehicle market. As a very small market, fully dependent on imports and operating exclusively with right-hand-drive vehicles, Malta faces limited capacity to influence supply chains or to benefit from economies of scale.

In this context, whilst understanding the need to introduce targeted flexibility for manufacturers, Malta encourages close monitoring of the availability of zero-emission heavy-duty vehicles across all Member States and reiterates the importance of exploring complementary demand-side support measures, in order to facilitate uptake where economies of scale remain limited. Such support would help ensure that the benefits of the transition are distributed equitably and that no Member State is left behind.

Malta remains fully committed to the Union's climate objectives and stands ready to continue working constructively with the Commission and other partners to ensure that the transition to zero-emission mobility is both ambitious and inclusive."

STATEMENT BY SLOVAKIA AND CZECH REPUBLIC

“The Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic support the adoption of the targeted revision of Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 and recommend its swift adoption without further amendments.

At the same time, we underline, where appropriate, the need to consider an earlier comprehensive review of the CO₂ emission performance standards for heavy-duty vehicles, ahead of the currently envisaged 2027 timeline.”

Ad "A" item 4: **Directive harmonising certain aspects of insolvency law**
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY SPAIN

“España considera que es importante avanzar en el marco legal de insolvencia para lograr una mayor competitividad de nuestras empresas. Ahora bien, nos abstenemos, lamentamos que el texto reintroduzca la figura jurídica del comité de acreedores, a pesar de que se limite solo a las grandes empresas. Es una institución derogada hace mucho tiempo por su ineficiencia y elevados costes. Contamos, al igual que otros Estados miembros, con otros mecanismos para la protección de acreedores que son más eficaces y están dando muy buenos resultados.

En el título IV del Prepack, el texto no es suficientemente ambicioso, deberíamos haber ido más allá en los mecanismos de protección frente a los abusos que se cometen en fraude de acreedores. También hubiera sido necesaria más ambición en los mecanismos que permiten la continuidad de la actividad de la unidad productiva, a fin de mantener el tejido empresarial en funcionamiento.

Courtesy translation

Spain considers it important to advance the legal framework for insolvency in order to achieve greater competitiveness for our companies. However, we abstain and regret that the text reintroduces the legal concept of the creditors' committee, even though it is limited to large companies. This institution was abolished long ago due to its inefficiency and high costs. Like other Member States, we have other mechanisms for protecting creditors that are more effective and are yielding very good results.

In Title IV of the Prepack, the text is not ambitious enough; we should have gone further in the mechanisms for protection against abuses committed in fraud against creditors. More ambition would also have been necessary in the mechanisms that allow the continuity of the productive unit's activity, in order to keep the business fabric functioning.”

Ad "A" item 5: **Regulation establishing an EU Talent Pool**
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY

“Magyarország nagyra értékeli az Elnökség Tehetségbázis létrehozására irányuló erőfeszítéseit.

Ugyanakkor álláspontunk szerint az európai munkaerőhiány elsődlegesen a kontinens demográfiai kihívásaiból fakad; e kihívások kezelését hazánk nem a migráció ösztönzésén keresztül kívánja kezelni.

Meggyőződésünk, hogy az Európai Unión kívüli munkaerő bevonása legfeljebb ideiglenes megoldásként szolgálhat, a magyar foglalkoztatáspolitikára továbbra is elkötelezett a magyar munkaerőpiac védelme, a hazai dolgozók érdekeinek képviselője, valamint a munkaerőhiány célzott kezelése mellett.

A javaslat uniós szinten korlátozott munkaerőpiaci hozzáadott értéket kínál, amelyre tekintettel, Magyarország a rendszer működésében nem kíván részt venni. Az önkéntes jelleg a javaslat alapeleme. Magyarország tiszteletben tartja azt, hogy más tagállamok saját munkaerőpiaci szükségleteiket hogyan kívánják enyhíteni.

Habár elismerjük az Elnökség erőfeszítéseit, a fent ismertetett okokból kifolyólag Magyarország tartózkodik a rendelet elfogadása során.

Courtesy translation

Hungary appreciates the Presidency's efforts to adopt the EU Talent Pool Regulation.

At the same time, we believe that the labor shortage in Europe stems primarily from the continent's demographic challenges, which our country does not wish to address by encouraging migration.

We are convinced that the involvement of labor from outside the European Union can only serve as a temporary solution, and the Hungarian employment policy remains committed to protecting the Hungarian labor market, representing the interests of our workers, and addressing labor shortages in a targeted manner.

The proposal offers limited added value for the labor market at the EU level, and in view of this, Hungary does not wish to participate in the operation of the system. Voluntary participation is a fundamental element of the proposal. Hungary respects how other Member States wish to alleviate their own labor market needs.

Although we acknowledge the efforts of the Presidency, Hungary will abstain from voting on the adoption of the Regulation for the reasons outlined above.

STATEMENT BY THE NETHERLANDS

“The Netherlands recognises that the EU Talent Pool can contribute to alleviating labour market shortages in Member States. We also recognise that proposals such as the EU Talent Pool Regulation can make a positive contribution to the migration dialogue with partner countries of origin and transit. During the interinstitutional negotiations we extensively raised attention to the prevention of abuse and exploitation of third-country nationals. The Netherlands is of the opinion that the improper posting of third-country nationals in the EU-Member States should be prevented as much as possible, also in the specific context of the EU Talent Pool. Practices such as these place the third-country nationals in a vulnerable position, leading to a higher risk of labour exploitation, creating unfair competition between companies and a race to the bottom on labour conditions and circumventing national migration policies.

We should ensure that the EU Talent Pool does not further enable improper posting of third-country nationals. After all, the EU Talent Pool will not function to alleviate specific labour market shortages in Member States if third-country nationals can be posted quickly and for long periods of time to other (even non-participating) Member States. In doing so, posting in the context of the EU

Talent Pool is not only undesirable for Member States that are trying to address labour market shortages, but also for jobseekers and receiving Member States.

We therefore believe additional EU action is required to promote genuine posting of third-country nationals and advocate for clarifying the legal framework surrounding the posting of third-country nationals. Legal clarity, for example via a new EU Directive, is a precondition for effective enforcement of the posting rules. Effective enforcement subsequently ensures an equal level playing field for companies and fair treatment of third-country nationals. Lastly, the challenges related to third-country nationals must be firmly embedded within the mandate of the European Labour Authority.”
