

Brussels, 2 June 2026
(OR. en)

9623/26
PV CONS 30
RELEX 701
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Foreign Affairs/Trade)
22 May 2026

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

The Council adopted the agenda set out in document 9370/26.

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

a) **Non-legislative list**

9369/26

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)**

9336/26

Foreign Affairs

1. Amendment of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Regulation



8836/2/26 REV 2

Adoption of the legislative act

+ ADD 1-3

Approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 13.05.2026

PE-CONS 3/26

+ COR 1 (es)

POLCOM

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 Greece, Spain and Italy voting against and Belgium and Portugal abstaining (legal basis: Article 207(2) TFEU).

Statements by Greece, Spain, Italy, Hungary and Portugal are set out in the Annex.

Agriculture

2. Regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats



8732/1/26 REV 1

Adoption of the legislative act

+ ADD 1

Approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 13.05.2026

PE-CONS 2/26

VETER

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 Czechia abstaining (legal basis: Article 43(2) and Article 114 TFEU).

Statements by the Commission are set out in the Annex.

Non-legislative activities

3. Economic security: the impact of the Middle East conflict on trade
State of play
 4. WTO reform: follow-up of the 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14)
State of play
 5. Any other business
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9193/26

Statements to the legislative “A” items set out in doc 9336/26

Ad "A" item 1: Amendment of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Regulation
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENT BY GREECE, SPAIN AND ITALY

“Concerning the draft Regulation on applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences, Greece, Spain and Italy, which jointly represent around 85% of the EU’s production of rice, would like to state the following. The inclusion of an automatic safeguard for rice is a crucial milestone.

However, our objective as proponents of the safeguard was not the safeguard itself, but rather the protection that the safeguard would grant. Unfortunately, the result of the negotiation suggests that the safeguard will be insufficient to alleviate the situation faced by the European rice sector.

We have engaged constructively throughout the process and have shown flexibility in the search for compromise but the combination of an annual revision of the thresholds and a 45% surge would, in our view, render the triggering of this safeguard virtually impossible.

We are therefore not in a position to endorse the outcome of the trilogue held on 1 December 2025, as the parameters of the automatic safeguard mechanism for rice are not defined in a manner that ensures its effectiveness, nor its timely activation when necessary to safeguard the viability of European rice sector.

Looking ahead, a holistic view will be needed to address the different challenges that the European rice sector faces and take those into account in future agreements.”

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY

“Hungary supports the adoption of the new GSP regulation on the basis of the compromise agreement reached between the institutions.

However, we would like reiterate our point of view that migration as such has no positive impact on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Instead, we should seek solutions for the root causes of displacement and help countries create an enabling environment for socioeconomic development.“

STATEMENT BY PORTUGAL

“Portugal acknowledges the importance of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences as a key instrument of the EU’s trade and development policy. The adoption of the new GSP regulation is therefore a priority for us.

However, the agreement reached with the European Parliament does not fully address the concerns repeatedly raised by Portugal throughout the negotiation process regarding the automatic safeguard mechanism for rice.

For Portugal, the parameters agreed for the safeguard mechanism remain insufficient to ensure the effective protection of a sector which, for Portugal as for other Member States, is structurally vulnerable and particularly sensitive.

Portugal therefore takes note of the agreement reached on the safeguard mechanism, but is unable to support the proposal for a regulation in its current form and will have to abstain when it is submitted to the Council for approval.”

Ad "A" item 2:

Regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats
Adoption of the legislative act

STATEMENTS BY THE COMMISSION

The pet passport

“The Commission considers positively the initiative of enabling of digitalising the pet passport established under the EU Animal Health Law. A detailed and comprehensive assessment of the technical and practical implications and modalities of such a digitalisation objective is to be carried out within 2 years, in coordination with Member States, including considering major technical, practical, and infrastructural conditions and the option of using the European Digital Identity Wallet developed further to Regulation (EU) No 910/2014. The Commission will consider adopting delegated acts under the Animal Health Law in order to provide for a digitalisation of the pet passport once these steps are completed.

The positive list of pets

As announced in the 2022 revision of the EU action plan against wildlife trafficking, the Commission has launched a study on the need for, added value of and feasibility of introducing a “positive list of pets” across the EU. The final report of this study will be made publicly available in early 2026. The Commission will consider whether any follow-up is needed.”
