



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 4 October 2012

**11281/12
ADD 1**

**PV CONS 34
ENV 543**

ADDENDUM to DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3173rd** meeting of the Council of the European Union (**ENVIRONMENT**),
held in Brussels on 11 June 2012

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¹ Deliberations on Union legislative acts (Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union), other deliberations open to the public and public debates (Article 8 of the Council's Rules of Procedure).

LEGISLATIVE DELIBERATIONS

(public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

"A" ITEMS

- 1. Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 concerning a multiannual recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [First reading] (LA)**

PE-CONS 16/12 PECHE 100 CODEC 818 OC 157

The Council approved the amendment set out in the European Parliament's position at first reading and adopted the proposed act amended accordingly, pursuant to Article 294(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: Article 43(2) of the TFEU).

- 2. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs in their territory [First reading] (LA)**

- Progress report

10883/1/12 REV 1 ENV 461 AGRILEG 82 AGRI 384 MI 406 DENLEG 59
CODEC 1553

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 06.06.2012

The Council took note of the Presidency's progress report on the regulation proposal.

- 3. Draft amending budget No 3 to the general budget for 2012 - General statement of revenue**

10202/12 FIN 352 PE-L 31

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 06.06.2012

The Council adopted its position on draft amending budget No 3 to the general budget for 2012.

AGENDA ITEMS

4. Setting the framework for a 7th EU Environment Action Programme

- Adoption of Council conclusions
(Public debate in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedures
[proposed by the German delegation])
10706/12 ENV 449 DEVGEN 153 ECO 76

The Council held a public debate about the future 7th EU Environment Action Programme, discussed on the outstanding issues set out in the text attached to doc. 10706/12 and adopted the conclusions as contained in doc. 11186/12 of 11 June 2012.

6. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on accounting rules and action plans on greenhouse gas emissions and removals resulting from activities related to land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) [First reading]

- Orientation debate
7639/12 ENV 204 ONU 34 FORETS 23 AGRI 144 CODEC 655
10244/12 ENV 389 ONU 65 FORETS 38 AGRI 339 CODEC 1397

The Council held an orientation debate on the Commission's proposal on the basis of two questions prepared by the Presidency and contained in doc. 10244/12. The Ministers discussed two key issues: the proposed phased approach of establishing a harmonised legal framework for accounting rules as a first step towards inclusion of the LULUCF sector in the EU's climate change commitments; and means to best stimulate the mitigation potential of the LULUCF sector at this stage and share the experiences gained, e.g. the proposed LULUCF Action Plans.

Member States generally welcomed the phased approach of the Commission's proposal. However, several Ministers remarked that the approach required further clarification concerning the timing and conditions for the second step, i.e. when and how the sector would be formally included in the EU's greenhouse emission reduction commitment.

Overall, Ministers considered as very important to ensure consistency of the proposal with decisions taken in the context of the UNFCCC. Some ministers expressed concerns about specific provisions where the proposal deviated from requirements under the UNFCCC, i.e. the proposed mandatory accounting for agricultural activities, the treatment of natural disturbances and the definition of "forest".

Concerning the second question, ministers generally agreed on the importance of increasing the visibility of the mitigation efforts of the LULUCF sector and of sharing of best practices. However, several delegations pointed out that the sector should not be considered in isolation but in an integrated way and by making use of synergies with existing policies at EU and national level. Many delegations were of the view that member states themselves were best placed to decide on the appropriate measures and that the proposed action plans should be either voluntary or integrated into existing plans or strategies at national level. A number of ministers stressed the need to avoid creating any unnecessary administrative burden or duplication of work and to take due account of national circumstances and competencies.

The President concluded that guidance from this debate would be taken into account with a view to further discussions and progress on this file.

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