



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 10 October 2013
(OR. en)**

**9670/13
ADD 1**

**PV/CONS 25
EDUC 146
JEUN 53
CULT 58
SPORT 51**

DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3239th** meeting of the Council of the European Union (**EDUCATION, YOUTH, CULTURE AND SPORT**), held in Brussels on 16 and 17 May 2013

PUBLIC DELIBERATION ITEMS¹

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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. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning customs enforcement of intellectual property rights and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1383/2003 [First reading] [LA]

– Adoption

(a) of the Council position in first reading

(b) of the statement of the Council's reasons

6353/13 UD 39 PI 19 COMER 22 CODEC 317 OC 57

+ ADD 1

+ ADD 1 COR 1

+ ADD 1 COR 2

9200/1/13 REV 1 CODEC 983 UD 97 PI 66 COMER 107 OC 276

approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 15.05.2013

The Council approved its position at first reading, in accordance with Article 294(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Legal basis: Article 207 of the TFEU).

2. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council providing further macro-financial assistance to Georgia [Second reading] (LA)

– Non-approval of the European Parliament's amendments

9249/13 CODEC 996 ECOFIN 335 RELEX 366 COEST 98 NIS 16 OC 281

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 15.05.2013

The Council decided not to approve the European Parliament's amendment and consequently to convene the Conciliation Committee in accordance with Article 294(8)(b) of the TFEU.

AGENDA ITEMS

9. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union action for the European Capitals of Culture for the years 2020-2033 [First reading]

Interinstitutional file: 2012/0199 (COD)

– General approach

8737/13 CULT 35 CODEC 872

The Council agreed a general approach on the text as contained in doc. 8737/13.

The Commission maintained a general reservation on the text pending the opinion of the European Parliament, as well as reservations on Article 6 (expert panel) and Article 11 (designation).

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES - PUBLIC DEBATES

(in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedures [proposed by the Presidency])

5. Ensuring a teaching profession of the highest quality to underpin the achievement of better learning outcomes

- Policy debate
8573/13 EDUC 110 SOC 251

The Council held a policy debate on the basis of the question paper prepared by the Presidency (see doc. 8573/13), in the presence of two external guest speakers:

- Ms Christine Blower (President ETUCE and General Secretary of the UK's National Union of Teachers;
- Mr Pasi Sahlberg (Director General of Finland's Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation.

At the conclusion of the debate the Chair highlighted the critically important role that teachers play in enhancing young people's employment prospects, as well as their life chances in general. Outlining some of the main factors influencing the quality and effectiveness of the teaching professions, the Chair stressed the importance of attracting, recruiting - and retaining - the most talented people, of improving their initial preparation, of providing them with the right mix of skills and knowledge throughout their careers, and of ensuring that they receive regular feedback, appraisal and support.

8. Europe's young people: what can quality youth work contribute to addressing current challenges?

- Policy debate
8578/13 JEUN 40 EDUC 114 SOC 255

The Council held a policy debate on the basis of the question paper prepared by the Presidency (see doc. 8578/13) in the presence of two external speakers:

- Dr Massimiliano MASCHERINI, Head of Research, Eurofound, Dublin, Ireland;
- Dr John BAMBER, Centre for Effective Services, Dublin, Ireland.

At the conclusion of the debate, the Chair stressed that an investment in youth is for the long term but the returns go beyond the economic dimension. Engagement of young people through youth work can be an important step towards participation in more formal education and training programmes and employment. In this regard recognition and validation of non-formal and informal learning were highlighted.

12. Use of culture as a soft policy option in EU external relations

– Policy debate

8235/13 CULT 31 AUDIO 43 RELEX 275

The Council held a policy debate on the basis of the discussion paper prepared by the Presidency (see doc. 8235/13). At the conclusion of the debate, the Chair noted that ministers generally agreed that the principles and recommendations outlined in the EU-China expert group's report seemed a good basis for developing a strategic approach to culture in external relations. They also underlined that cultural cooperation with third countries has to be undertaken in line with the principles of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the diversity of cultural expressions and that EU action in this area should be complementary to activities developed at bilateral level between Member States and third countries, demonstrating a real added value.

In relation to EU-China cultural relations, the Chair noted that Ministers were in general positive towards the specific recommendations suggested by the expert group.
