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THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs

Luxembourg, 4 October 2012

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Main results of the Council

*The Council agreed a general approach on a draft directive on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from **electromagnetic fields**. The new directive is to replace a 2004 directive which has never entered into force because of problems with its implementation. The text agreed reviews exposure limitations on the basis of new scientific evidence and provides for derogations, in particular for medical applications using magnetic resonance imaging, but to a certain extent also for other activities, if this can be duly justified.*

*The Council reached a political agreement on the position to be taken by the EU within the respective association bodies established between the EU and **Albania, Montenegro, San Marino and Turkey** as regards the coordination of **social security** systems.*

In addition, the Council adopted conclusions on action to be taken:

- in favour of a **job-rich** economic **recovery** and better chances for Europe's **youth**, and*
- in order to prevent and tackle **child poverty** and social exclusion and promote children's well-being.*

*Within the framework of the Europe 2020 strategy and the new European governance, the Council held a debate on the evaluation of the 2012 **European Semester**, the annual monitoring of economic policies and structural reforms. It endorsed contributions by the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee on this issue as well as the main features of a **social protection performance monitor**.*

Without discussion, the Council adopted several legal acts, notably on

- ***energy efficiency,***
- *the exchange of information on **intergovernmental agreements** in the field of **energy,***
- *strengthened post-authorisation monitoring of medicines for human use ("**pharmacovigilance**"),*
- *minimum standards for the rights, support and protection of **crime victims,***
- *a reformed scheme of **generalised tariff preferences** (GSP) for developing countries,*
- *better access to and improved digitisation of **orphan works** across the EU,*
- *a modernised European **standardisation** system.*

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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

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Minister for Social Security

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Deputy Permanent Representative

Commission:

Mr László ANDOR

Member

The government of the acceding state was represented as follows:

Croatia:

Ms Irena ANDRASSY

Deputy Permanent Representative

ITEMS DEBATED

Exposure of workers to electromagnetic fields

The Council reached a general approach on a new directive on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from electromagnetic fields ([14020/12](#)), by which a directive adopted in 2004 on the same subject will be repealed.

One member state, however, could not accept the proposed text. While the draft directive provides for the internationally recognised "weighted peak method" as a reference method for exposure evaluation, that delegation requests more flexibility so as to allow for the use of other methods with less conservative results.

The revision of the 2004 directive has proved necessary as after the adoption of that directive, the medical community claimed that work with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) would be hampered by the strict exposure limit values laid down in the text. Other industrial sectors also expressed concerns about the impact of the directive. As a result of these problems, the transposition of the directive into national law has been postponed twice, the most recently until 31 October 2013, in order to allow the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament to amend the directive.

The new draft directive takes account of new scientific studies in order to review exposure limitations, in particular in the low frequency range, so as to avoid the difficulties encountered with the implementation of the 2004 directive, while ensuring a high level of worker protection. The text also addresses the problems encountered by introducing derogations from the exposure limitations for medical applications using magnetic resonance imaging and, in duly justified circumstances, upon authorisation by the member state and provided that limits are only temporarily exceeded, for specific industry sectors or activities. In both cases, however, protection against adverse health effects and safety risks must be ensured. The directive also enables the member states to authorise, on their territory, an equivalent or more specific protection system for the armed forces.

As the directive only defines minimum requirements, member states are free to maintain or establish stricter requirements.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the directive, the Commission will draw up a practical guide.

The Commission presented its proposal in June 2012 ([11951/11](#)). The European Parliament has not yet determined its opinion.

Coordination of social security systems with Albania, Montenegro, San Marino and Turkey

The Council reached a political agreement on the position to be taken by the EU on provisions for the coordination of social security systems provided for by the association agreements or similar agreements between the EU and Albania, Montenegro, San Marino and Turkey ([13985/12](#), [13986/12](#), [13987/12](#) and [13988/12](#)). These provisions, which are to be adopted by the joint association bodies (Association Council, Stabilisation and Association Council or Cooperation Committee) with the four third countries, will give effect to the principles of limited coordination of social security systems contained in the agreements. The aim is to ensure that workers from the partner countries can receive certain social security benefits granted under the legislation of the member state where they are working or have worked. By way of reciprocity, this also applies to EU nationals working in those countries.

In response to the misgivings of a number of member states about the legal basis proposed for the decision regarding Turkey, the Council issued a statement ([13988/12 ADD 1](#)) making it clear that no final decision can be adopted by the EU-Turkey Association Council until the European Court of Justice has given its rulings in two cases concerning the same legal basis for similar decisions in the framework of the agreements with other third countries. Ireland and the United Kingdom made a statement on this issue, pointing out that in their opinion the legal basis chosen for Turkey only applies to workers of the member states ([13988/12 ADD 2](#)).

Moreover, Bulgaria, while supporting the political agreement, expressed its doubts about the clause on aggregation of insurance periods concerning Turkey and made a statement on this issue. Malta abstained, indicating in a statement that it has concerns about the equal treatment clause with regard to Albania and Montenegro.

By adopting its position, the EU seeks to agree with the partner countries in particular on the export of certain specific benefits to the four partner countries as well as the granting of equal treatment to third country workers legally employed in the EU and to their family members legally residing with them in the EU. Reciprocal rights will apply to EU workers legally employed in one of the partner countries and to their family members.

These are issues not dealt with by regulation 1231/2010, which extended the EU legislation on the coordination of social security systems within the EU to nationals of third countries who were not already covered by the relevant EU provisions solely on the grounds of their nationality. The 2010 regulation includes the principle of aggregation of insurance periods acquired by third country workers in the various member states regarding entitlement to certain benefits, as set out in the agreements.

A first package of decisions with almost identical provisions, concerning six other third countries (Algeria, Croatia, Israel, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Morocco and Tunisia), was adopted by the Council in October 2010.

Europe 2020 and the new European governance

The Council held a debate on the evaluation of the employment and social policy aspects of the annual monitoring of economic policies and structural reforms, known as the **European Semester**. The 2012 country-specific recommendations were adopted in July. The aim of the debate was to draw lessons from this year's European Semester and to provide guidance for the 2013 monitoring process, with a view to further improving and streamlining the EU governance cycle.

In the debate, which was structured by a presidency paper ([13684/12](#)), ministers stressed the importance of better time planning and improved working methods. This includes in particular a better and regular dialogue between the Commission and the member states during the preparation of the country-specific recommendations. A clearer assignment of competencies and better cooperation between the different Council formations involved is required, so as to ensure that the EPSCO Council participates on an equal footing in the procedure. As regards the result of the monitoring process, the implementation of the country-specific recommendations and economic outcomes, many ministers underscored the need to have a holistic approach that does not focus purely on economic governance, but also fully integrates the social dimension. They also called for an open and inclusive process, where social partners and national parliaments should play their role. Many ministers called for greater flexibility in the implementation, greater choice for member states on the methods to achieve the results. The importance of the multilateral surveillance process carried out by the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee was also stressed.

The presidency will summarise the main elements of the debate in a synthesis report, which will also include the outcome of the discussions on the European Semester within the General Affairs Council and the Economic and Financial Affairs Council.

In the context of this debate, the Council endorsed contributions by the Employment Committee ([13685/12](#)) and the Social Protection Committee ([13722/12](#)), which summarise the 2012 European Semester monitoring in the fields of employment and social policy and outline recommendations for next year's exercise and which served as a basis for today's discussions.

The Council also endorsed the main features of a "**social protection performance monitor**" ([13723/12](#)) designed to strengthen the monitoring of the social situation and the development of social protection policies in the EU. Essentially, this instrument, developed by the Social Protection Committee and the Commission, will consist of an overview of key social indicators, identifying social trends to watch which are common to several member states, and country profiles, looking at the specific social challenges and policy achievements in each member state. It will cover the three strands of the Open Method of Co-ordination between member states in the field of social policy: social inclusion, pensions and health-care and long-term care.

A similar tool for the field of employment policies, the "employment performance monitor", was endorsed by the EPSCO Council at its meeting in June this year.

The EPSCO Council also took note of the Employment Committee's ongoing work on the principles of well-functioning **labour markets** ([13686/12](#)).

Towards a job-rich recovery

The Council adopted conclusions calling for action in favour of a job-rich economic recovery, with an emphasis on addressing youth unemployment ([14426/12](#)<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/12/st13/st13907.en12.pdf>). The conclusions are aimed at strengthening coordination and consistency of employment policy measures at national and EU level.

Member states are invited to step up job creation by encouraging labour demand, exploit the job creation potential of key sectors, restore the dynamics of the labour market through structural reform and invest in education and skills. Moreover, member states and the Commission are urged to facilitate labour mobility towards a European labour market, strengthen the link between policy and EU funding, enhance EU governance of employment policies and involve the social partners more closely.

The conclusions are a reaction by the Council to many of the issues dealt with in the employment package presented by the Commission in April containing a set of measures to boost jobs and allow for a job-rich recovery ([9309/12](#)).

Child poverty and child well-being

The Council adopted conclusions on action to be taken in order to prevent and tackle child poverty and social exclusion and promote child well-being ([14437/12](#)).

The conclusions call on the member states to maintain the existing political momentum to address child poverty and social exclusion in the context of the current economic crisis. They emphasise the need to develop a coordinated and integrated approach to addressing child poverty in a holistic manner, using adequate investment, developing data, involving stakeholders and mainstreaming child poverty and child well-being across relevant policy areas. The Commission is called upon to adopt a recommendation on child poverty as soon as possible and develop synergies between social inclusion and other policy areas.

The Social Protection Committee's "Main messages on tackling and preventing child poverty, promoting child well-being" are attached as an annex to the conclusions.

The fight against child poverty and the promotion of child well-being are among the priorities included in the framework of the social dimension of the EU 2020 Strategy, notably in relation to the target on reducing poverty and social exclusion.

Tripartite Social Summit

The Council took stock of the preparations for the Tripartite Social Summit, which will take place on 18 October just before the European Council. As the European Council is due to review progress on the implementation of the compact for growth and jobs, the Social Summit will focus its exchange of views on how to promote growth, jobs and social inclusion and how the social partners can play a significant role in improved EU governance.

The Social Summit brings together the troika of heads of state or government (the current and the two forthcoming presidencies: this time Cyprus, Ireland and Lithuania, accompanied by the respective employment ministers, the presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, the EU commissioner for employment and the presidents or general secretaries of the principal European employers' and trade union organisations. Employers will be represented by BusinessEurope and trade unions by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

The task of the Tripartite Social Summit is to ensure that there is a continuous social dialogue between the Council, the Commission and the social partners at the highest level.

Other business

Jobs for Europe - Employment Policy conference

The Commission briefed the Council about the "Jobs for Europe - Employment Policy" conference it had organised in Brussels on 6-7 September 2012 ([13953/12](#)). The conference discussed three main strands: impact of the crisis on employment, employment policy throughout the life cycle and pathways to full employment. Several participants advocated rapid implementation of the Employment package presented by the Commission in April. Moreover, the need to attune macroeconomic policy to employment objectives and to strengthen coordination and governance of all EU policies to reduce unemployment was emphasised.

European Social Fund (ESF)

The presidency informed ministers on the state of play in the ongoing negotiations on the European Social Fund in the context of the next multi-annual financial framework, which is being discussed in other fora ([13978/12](#)). It highlighted the key role of the fund in achieving the employment and social targets under the Europe 2020 strategy as well as the need to move to a more performance-oriented cohesion policy.

The Commission urged member states to ensure in the negotiations on the multi-annual financial framework that adequate funds will be available for social investments. On the main argument against earmarking for the ESF, namely flexibility, the Commission affirmed that defining a minimum is not a constraint. The current positions should not lead to a competition between people and motorways. The Commission invited ministers to highlight to heads of state or government the importance of this issue in the last weeks of negotiations ahead.

The social dimension - Millennium Development Goals (post 2015)

The French delegation drew the Council's attention to the international discussions on a "post-2015 development framework" as a follow-up to the "Rio+20" conference on sustainable development held in Rio de Janeiro in June this year ([14367/12](#)). Stressing the need to reinforce the social dimension both within the development framework and in the definition of the Millennium Development Goals, this delegation asked the Commission to brief the Council on the EU contribution to these discussions, which is being prepared by the Commission in consultation with the European External Action Service.

The Commission pointed out that while the final declaration of the "Rio+20" conference was somewhat below EU expectations, this was only the beginning of a long process. In preparing the EU's input to the international discussions, the Commission will focus on issues such as employment, decent work and social protection. It will keep ministers informed of future developments.

Over lunch, ministers discussed the issue of labour mobility on the basis of a presidency background note ([14323/12](#)).

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

ENERGY

Energy efficiency directive *

The Council adopted the energy efficiency directive ([PE-CONS 35/12](#), [13917/12 ADD1 REV3](#)), with the Finnish delegation abstaining and the Spanish and Portuguese delegations voting against. This follows a first-reading agreement with the European Parliament.

The directive establishes a common framework of measures for the promotion of energy efficiency within the Union in order to achieve its 2020 20 % headline target on energy efficiency and to pave the way for further energy efficiency improvements beyond that date.

For more information see press release [14392/12](#).

New rules on the exchange of information on energy agreements with third countries *

The Council adopted a decision establishing a mechanism for the exchange of information between member states and the Commission on intergovernmental agreements in the field of energy, in order to optimise the functioning of the internal energy market ([PE-CONS 30/12](#), [13790/12 ADD 1](#)). This follows a first-reading agreement with the European Parliament.

For more details see press release [14399/12](#).

HEALTH

Pharmacovigilance

The Council adopted a regulation and a directive aimed at strengthening the post-authorisation monitoring of medicines for human use ("pharmacovigilance"), thereby further improving patient safety ([42/12](#) + [13918/12 ADD 1 REV 1](#) + [43/12](#)).

For more information see press release [14453/12](#).

INTERNAL MARKET

Reform of the standardisation system

The Council adopted a regulation aimed at modernising and improving the European standardisation system ([PE-CONS 32/12](#) and [13876/12 ADD1](#)), following an agreement with the European Parliament at first reading.

Harmonised standards are a well-established tool for promoting the technical conformity of products. They are drawn up by the European standardisation bodies (ESOs)¹ and open to voluntary, though widespread, use by manufacturers throughout Europe in order to fulfill essential requirements for products laid down in EU legislation.

The regulation adapts the current legal framework to simplify it and to cover new aspects in order to reflect the latest developments and future challenges in standardisation.

For more information see press release [14457/12](#).

New rules for orphan works - Intellectual property

The Council adopted a directive establishing a legal framework aimed at improving access to and digitisation of orphan works across the EU ([PE-CONS 36/12](#) and [13878/12 ADD1](#)), following an agreement with the European Parliament at first reading.

Orphan works are works (such as books, newspapers, magazines, audio recordings, films, etc.) that are protected by copyright but whose owners cannot be identified or found.

The new rules will facilitate the digitisation of and lawful cross-border online access to orphan works contained in the collections of libraries, educational establishments, museums, archives, audiovisual heritage institutions and public service broadcasting organisations.

For more information see press release [14456/12](#).

¹ The ESOs are: CEN (The European Committee for Standardisation), CENELEC (The European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation) and ETSI (The European Telecommunications Standards Institute). They are independent organisations governed by private law.

Administrative cooperation - Electronic exchange of information

The Council adopted a regulation aimed at improving administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System ([PE-CONS 25/12](#)).

The Internal Market Information System ("IMI") is a electronic network developed by the Commission in partnership with the member states in order to assist national, regional and local administrations in the member states with the implementation of information exchange requirements laid down in EU legislation.

This multilingual information tool was launched in February 2008 to support cross-border information exchange obligations stemming from the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive (2005/36/EC) and of the Services Directive (2006/123/EC).

The new regulation establishes a legal framework for IMI in order to ensure that it functions efficiently and to facilitate its expansion to other areas of EU law.

The European Parliament approved the regulation on 11 September 2012.

Website: [Internal Market Information System](#)

TRADE POLICY

Bilateral investment treaties - Transitional rules

The Council adopted its position at first reading on a draft regulation introducing transitional rules on bilateral investment treaties ([14224/12](#) + [11917/12](#)).

The regulation will give form to an EU competence for foreign direct investment introduced by article 207 of the Treaty of Lisbon as part of the EU's common commercial policy. It is aimed at ensuring a smooth transition from the current system of bilateral investment treaties (BITs) between member states and third countries to a system whereby EU BITs are negotiated by the Commission.

Beyond the scope of the regulation, an EU investment policy will gradually be developed.

Adoption by the Council follows an agreement reached with the European Parliament on 29 May; the text will now be sent to the Parliament, which is expected to adopt it at second reading without further amendment.

The European Parliament voted at first reading on the proposal in May 2011. The Council reached political agreement on 26 June 2012.

Generalised system of preferences

The Council adopted a regulation reforming the EU's scheme of generalised tariff preferences (GSP) for developing countries ([PE/CONS 26/12](#)).

Adoption of the regulation follows an agreement with the European Parliament; the Parliament adopted its position at first reading on 13 June.

The reform is aimed at adapting the EU's GSP to the changed global landscape and making it more transparent and predictable, and more generous to the countries in greatest need. Preferences will now be concentrated on least developed, low income and lower middle-income countries.

For details, see press release [14554/12](#).

Pakistan - Emergency trade preferences

The Council adopted a regulation introducing emergency autonomous trade preferences for Pakistan in response to the humanitarian situation caused by heavy monsoon rains and devastating floods in the summer of 2010.

Adoption of the regulation follows an agreement with the European Parliament; the Parliament adopted its position at first reading on 13 September.

The regulation grants increased market access to the EU through the immediate and time-limited reduction of duties on key imports from Pakistan.

Anti-dumping - Iron and steel fasteners - China

The Council adopted a regulation amending regulation 91/2009, which imposed anti-dumping duties on imports of certain iron or steel fasteners originating in China ([13695/12](#)).

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Victims of crime

The Council adopted a directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime ([PE-CONS 37/12](#)), and replacing the current Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings.

For more information see press release [14472/12](#).

TRANSPORT

Council's first-reading position on the EMSA regulation *

The Council adopted¹ its position at first reading on a revision of the current regulation on the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), extending EMSA's tasks and clarifying some governance issues ([10090/2/12](#); statement of reasons: [10090/2/12 ADD 1](#); statements: [12062/12 ADD 1](#)). This Council position is the result of negotiations undertaken with the European Parliament on the basis of the Council's general approach of June 2011 ([11769/11](#)) and the Parliament's first-reading position of December 2011 ([P7_TA\(2011\)0581](#)). The Parliament should therefore be able to endorse it at its second reading of this legislative proposal, expected to take place in the autumn, thereby completing the adoption of the revised regulation.

Under the new draft regulation, EMSA's competence will be extended, in particular to enable the agency also to intervene, at the request of the member states concerned, in the event of pollution from oil and gas installations, and not only from ships, as under the current regulation. EMSA will also be asked to contribute to other EU policies and projects related to its field of expertise. There will be a clear distinction between the agency's core and ancillary tasks. The changes to the governance rules concern in particular the role of its administrative board.

For more information see press release [13621/12](#).

¹ The United Kingdom voted against.

Requirements for marine radio communication equipment on non-SOLAS ships

The Council decided not to oppose adoption by the Commission of a decision aimed at ensuring that essential requirements for the provision of clear and robust communications are met by marine radio communication equipment intended to be used on ships to which the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) does not apply and intended to participate in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) ([13200/12](#)). This should contribute to safer navigation by those ships, particularly in the event of distress and bad weather conditions.

The draft decision, which replaces a decision of 2004 on the same subject, is subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny; now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt it, unless the European Parliament objects.

Technical specifications for interoperability of European railways

The Council decided not to oppose adoption by the Commission of two decisions updating technical specifications for interoperability of the trans-European rail system relating to control-command and signalling ([12924/12](#)) and to operation and traffic management ([12962/12](#)).

The draft decisions are subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny; now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt them, unless the European Parliament objects.

Derogation regarding the use of the airborne collision avoidance system

The Council decided not to oppose adoption by the Commission of a decision authorising France to permit certain newly-built aircraft to fly without being equipped with the new software version of the airborne collision avoidance system (ACAS II) until 31 January 2013, by way of derogation from the rules in force, in order to take account of delays in software certification and aircraft production ([12972/12](#)).

The draft decision is subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny; now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt it, unless the European Parliament objects.

Safety of fishing vessels

The Council approved guidelines with a view to the diplomatic conference on the safety of fishing vessels to be organised by the International Maritime Organisation in Cape Town, South Africa, from 9 to 11 October ([14063/12](#)).

Within the EU, safety of fishing vessels is regulated by directive 97/70/EC, which transposes the 1993 Torremolinos Protocol by setting up a harmonised safety regime for fishing vessels with a length of 24 metres or more.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Short selling: Council intends not to object to delegated act

The Council decided not to object to a draft Commission regulation on short selling and certain aspects of credit default swaps.

The draft regulation covers definitions, the calculation of net short positions, covered sovereign credit default swaps, notification thresholds, liquidity thresholds for suspending restrictions, significant falls in the value of financial instruments and adverse events.

The regulation is a delegated act pursuant to article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. The Commission can adopt it now that the Council has given its consent, unless the European Parliament objects.

TAXATION

VAT derogation - Hungary

The Council adopted a decision authorising Hungary, by way of derogation from Article 193 of directive 2006/112/EC, to temporarily tax the receiver rather than the supplier of certain unprocessed cereals and oilseeds products.

The decision is aimed at tackling tax evasion. It will apply from 1 July 2012 until 30 June 2014.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

High Representative's report on the Common Foreign and Security Policy

The Council endorsed the annual report from the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the European Parliament. This report sets out the main aspects and basic choices of the CFSP, including an evaluation of the measures launched in 2011 and their financial implications for the general budget of the EU. It also looks forward into 2012.

COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

Flat rates of reimbursement for EU Battle Groups

The Council adopted the proposal made by the EU Military Committee on the applicable flat rates of reimbursement for the deployment of EU Battle Groups ([11806/12](#)). This is to encourage members states' contributions to EU Battle Groups and to improve their deployability.

Each member state covers the costs of the military capabilities it makes available to an EU military operation. The Council has now fixed a percentage rate of reimbursement by the EU's financing mechanism for military operations (ATHENA), to cover the incremental transport costs related to the deployment of Battle Groups to the joint operations area.

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Temporary judges of the EU civil service tribunal

The Council adopted a regulation laying down the rules governing the appointment of temporary judges to the EU civil service tribunal ([29/12](#)), following a first-reading agreement with the European Parliament.

ENVIRONMENT

Motor vehicle emissions

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission regulation amending Directive 2007/46/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 692/2008 as concerns innovative technologies for reducing CO₂ emissions from light passenger and commercial vehicles.

The Commission acts are subject to what is known as the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt them, unless the European Parliament objects.

AGRICULTURE

Transitional measures for vine-growers

The Council adopted a regulation amending the current single common market organisation (single CMO) as regards the regime of the single payment scheme and support to vine-growers, following a first reading agreement with the European Parliament ([46/12](#)).

The purpose of this regulation is to provide for the definitive transfer of the support measures for vine-growers to the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). This will happen in two steps: member states will have to notify by 1 December 2012 their decision on a one-year measure applicable for the sole year 2014 and by 1 August 2013 their decision on a one-off transfer as of 2015.

Currently vine-grower support programmes last five years and may be modified once a year, whilst payment entitlements under the SPS are granted for an indefinite period of time. The aim of this regulation is therefore to facilitate the transition from one system to the other and to bridge the gap between 2013, when the 5-year programmes would have to be renewed, and 2014, when the CAP reform is expected to come into force.

This regulation is the second of two transitional regulations adopted this year ahead of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform which is scheduled to enter into force in 2014. The first transitional regulation adopted by the Council in July concerned the application of direct payments to farmers in the year 2013 and is aimed to provide for a smooth transition from the current direct payments system (Regulation 73/2009) to the new payments scheme provided for under the CAP reform proposals ([12334/12](#)).

FOOD LAW**Food additives - Health and nutrition claims - Scrutiny of Commission acts**

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of the following six Commission regulations:

- a regulation authorising the use of polyglycitol syrup in certain food categories ([12073/12](#));
- a regulation extending the deadline for submitting enzyme applications ([13081/12](#));
- a regulation amending the maximum levels for aflatoxins in dried figs in order to take account of recent developments in Codex Alimentarius ([13082/12](#));
- a regulation authorising the use of dimethyl polysiloxane as an anti-foaming agent in food supplements as from the twentieth day after the publication of the regulation in the Official Journal of the EU ([13083/12](#));
- a regulation authorising a health claim on foods ([13055/12](#));
- a regulation amending the conditions of use of certain nutrition claims ([13767/12](#)).

The Commission regulations are subject to the so called regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt them, unless the European Parliament objects.

SPORT

World Anti-Doping Code

The Council approved the text of the EU contribution to the revision of the World Anti-Doping Code ([14204/12](#)) and authorised the Presidency to submit it to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) with a view to the 4th World Conference on Doping in Sport which will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2013.

The World Anti-Doping Code provides the basic framework for harmonised anti-doping policies, rules and regulations within sport organisations and among public authorities. With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009, the European Union acquired a specific competence in the area of sport.

APPOINTMENTS

Economic and Social Committee

The Council appointed Mr Manthos MAVROMMATIS (Cyprus) as a member of the European Economic and Social Committee for the remainder of the current term of office, which runs until 20 September 2015 ([13881/12](#)).

Committee of the Regions

The Council appointed Mr Cristian Mihai ADOMNITEI, Mr Dragoş Adrian BENEĂ, Mr Ovidiu BRĂILOIU, Mr Csaba BORBOLY, Ms Mariana GĂJU and Mr Emilian OPREA (Romania), as members of the Committee of the Regions for the remainder of the current term of office, which runs until 25 January 2015 ([14042/12](#)).
