



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 29 June 2015
(OR. en)

10176/15
ADD 1

PV/CONS 38

DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3401st** meeting of the Council of the European Union
(GENERAL AFFAIRS) held in Luxembourg on 23 June 2015

PUBLIC DELIBERATION ITEMS¹

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LEGISLATIVE DELIBERATIONS

"A" ITEMS (doc. 10099/1//15 REV 1 PTS A 54)

- Draft Position of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Protocol No. 3 on the Statute of the Court of Justice of the European Union [First reading] (LA + S)..... 3

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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

Draft Position of the Council at first reading with a view to the adoption of a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Protocol No. 3 on the Statute of the Court of Justice of the European Union [First reading] (LA+S)

= Adoption

- a) of the Council's position at first reading
- b) of the statement of the Council's reasons

10043/1/15 REV 1 CODEC 896 JUR 406 COUR 24 INST 206

+ REV 1 ADD 1

9375/15 JUR 341 COUR 21 INST 181 CODEC 797

+ COR 1

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approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 17.06.2015

The Council approved its position at first reading, with the Belgian and the Netherlands delegations abstaining and the United Kingdom delegation voting against, in accordance with Article 294(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. (Legal basis: first paragraph of Article 254 and the second paragraph of Article 281 of the TFUE).

Statement by Belgium

"Belgium attaches great importance to the proper functioning of the courts of the European Union. We fully support the goal of the reform of the Statute of the Court of Justice, which is to find a structural solution to the problem of the backlog of cases before the General Court. Given the importance of the objective pursued, Belgium does not oppose the Council's position. We nevertheless abstain because we consider that it could have been achieved more appropriately by other means. In particular, we consider that it would have been sound management to provide for an objective assessment to be carried out before moving on to the third stage in order to determine what the requirements will be at that time."

Statement by Germany

"Germany welcomes the fact that by doubling the number of judges at the General Court, a structural and sustainable reform is being implemented that will enable the General Court's excessive workload to be reduced and will ensure that legal redress in the European Union is guaranteed within a reasonable time."

At the same time, Germany is aware that increasing the number of judges at the General Court will have a significant financial impact on the Union's budget. Germany is concerned to ensure cost effectiveness of the reform and to minimise its budgetary impact and therefore welcomes the Court's efforts to evaluate the General Court's situation in each phase of its expansion and, where appropriate, to make the necessary adjustments to the General Court's administrative expenditure, but without changing the number of additional judges. Germany likewise supports the Court's commitment to appoint no further legal secretaries or support staff during the third phase in September 2019 when the number of judges is increased by a further nine judges.

In order to support the long-term financing of a thus enlarged General Court, Germany invites the Court of Justice to take all appropriate measures and to give consideration, inter alia, to the possibility of introducing court fees for proceedings before the Courts of the European Union."
