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## OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3484th Council meeting

### General Affairs

Brussels, 20 September 2016

President

**Ivan Korčok**

State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign and European  
Affairs of the Slovak Republic

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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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## **ITEMS DEBATED**

### **Preparation for the October European Council**

The Council examined an [annotated draft agenda](#), drawn up by the President of the European Council in cooperation with the presidency and the Commission, for the European Council meeting to be held on 20 and 21 October 2016.

The European Council will focus on:

- migration; the European Council will take stock of the latest developments and progress and set out the necessary orientations
- trade issues; the European Council will hold a comprehensive debate on trade issues; it will look at the key files and discuss orientations for the future of the EU's trade policy
- external relations; the European Council will hold a policy debate on relations with Russia

The annotated draft agenda will serve as the basis for draft conclusions, to be prepared in the run-up to the meeting.

### **Follow-up to the June European Council**

The Council took note of the progress made in the implementation of the conclusions adopted by the June European Council.

### **MFF mid-term review**

The Council took note of a presentation by the Commission of its mid-term review of the EU's multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020. It had a first exchange of views on the Commission's proposals.

The MFF regulation sets out annual maximum amounts which the EU is allowed to spend on different policy areas over the period from 2014 to 2020. It translates political priorities into figures, ensures budgetary discipline for the EU and facilitates the adoption of the annual EU budget.

Pursuant to article 2 of the MFF regulation the Commission must present, by the end of 2016 at the latest, a review of the functioning of the MFF that takes full account of the economic situation at that time as well as the latest macro-economic projections.

On 14 September 2016, the Commission presented a package consisting of the following documents and legislative proposals:

- a communication on the [mid-term review/revision of the MFF 2014-2020](#)
- a [staff working document accompanying the communication](#)
- a [proposal to amend the MFF regulation](#)
- a [proposal to amend the interinstitutional agreement on budgetary discipline, cooperation in budgetary matters and sound financial management](#)
- a [proposal amending decision 2015/435 to mobilise the contingency margin](#)
- a [proposal to revise the EU financial regulation and to make the corresponding changes to 15 sectorial legislative acts](#)

### **Commission work programme for 2017**

The Council exchanged views on a [Commission letter of intent](#) on its work programme for 2017. In its letter of intent the Commission sets out items of major political importance for next year.

The exchange of views provided the Commission with broad indications of the priorities for 2017 which were of importance to the Council and its member states. The views expressed will be summarised in a presidency letter. This will allow the Commission to take ministers' comments into account before adopting its work programme in October. Following which the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission will agree a joint declaration on priorities for 2017.

## **OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

### **ENLARGEMENT**

#### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

The Council adopted conclusions on the application of Bosnia and Herzegovina for membership of the European Union ([12123/16](#)).

With these conclusions the Council requests the Commission's opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for EU membership.

### **ECONOMY AND FINANCE**

#### **National productivity boards**

The Council issued a recommendation on the establishment of national boards to analyse developments in relation to productivity and competitiveness.

See [press release](#)

#### **EU - Andorra - taxation agreement**

The Council approved the conclusion of an EU agreement with Andorra aimed at improving tax compliance by private savers.

See [press release](#)

#### **Eesti Pank - External auditors**

The Council adopted a decision approving KPMG Baltics OÜ as external auditors of Eesti Pank, Estonia's central bank, for the period from 2016 to 2020 ([11565/16](#) + [11492/16](#)).

## **Markets in financial instruments - Delegated acts**

The Council decided not to object to two Commission regulations:

- supplementing directive 2014/65/EU on markets in financial instruments with regard to regulatory technical standards specifying information to be notified by investment firms, market operators and credit institutions ([11817/16](#) + [10785/16](#));
- supplementing regulation 600/2014 on markets in financial instruments with regard to regulatory technical standards specifying the obligation to clear derivatives traded on regulated markets and the timing of acceptance for clearing ([11818/16](#) + [10786/16](#)).

The regulations are delegated acts pursuant to article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. They can now enter into force, unless the European Parliament objects.

The Council also decided to extend the period for raising objections relating to two other Commission regulations:

- supplementing directive 2014/65/EU with regard to regulatory technical standards specifying the organisational requirements of investment firms engaged in algorithmic trading ([11850/16](#) + [11747/16](#));
- supplementing regulation 600/2014 with regard to regulatory technical standards for the reporting of transactions to competent authorities ([11851/16](#) + [11748/16](#)).

## **EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA**

### **Amendment to annex XIX to the EEA agreement**

The Council adopted a decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the EU, in the EEA joint committee concerning an amendment to annex XIX (consumer protection) to the EEA agreement ([10597/16](#)).

This amendment is necessary in order to allow the EEA EFTA States (Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein) to participate in the European online dispute resolution system.

## **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

### **Fight against terrorism**

The Council adopted legal acts which, for the first time, will allow the EU to apply sanctions autonomously to ISIL/Da'esh and persons and entities associated with or supporting them. Until now sanctions could only be applied to persons and entities listed by the United Nations or by member states acting individually.

See [press release](#)

### **UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security**

The Council adopted the revised indicators for the comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security.

### **Sanctions on Libya**

The Council delisted three individuals from the list of individuals targeted by EU restrictive measures in view of the situation in Libya.

### **EU annual report on human rights and democracy**

The Council adopted the "country and regional issues" part of the EU annual report on human rights and democracy in the world in 2015 which complements the thematic part of the report published on 20 June 2016. It provides a short overview of the human rights situation and covers EU policy support on the ground on a country-by-country basis.

[Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world in 2015: thematic part](#)  
[Annual report on human rights and democracy in the world in 2015: country and regional issues part](#)

## **BUDGETS**

### **Supervisory committee of OLAF**

The Council adopted a regulation aimed at ensuring the independence of the supervisory committee of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) ([PE-CONS 25/16](#)). The new regulation notably provides that the financial resources for OLAF's supervisory committee and its secretariat are entered in the Commission budget and are, thus, separate from OLAF's budget.

### **Mobilisation of the EU solidarity fund for Greece**

The Council adopted a decision mobilising an amount of €1.65 million under the EU solidarity fund for Greece. The EU financial assistance demonstrates European solidarity following the earthquake in the Ionian Islands region in November 2015 ([11931/16](#)).

The fund complements Greece's efforts by financing part of its expenditure on essential emergency and recovery operations. This includes restoring infrastructure, providing temporary housing and cleaning up disaster-stricken areas.

## **JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

### **Schengen evaluation - Liechtenstein**

The Council adopted an implementing decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2015 evaluation of Liechtenstein on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of return (11216/16).

### **Schengen evaluation - Germany**

The Council adopted an implementing decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2015 evaluation on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of return by Germany (11704/16).

## **Short-stay visa waiver agreements**

The Council adopted decisions on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the agreements between the EU and Colombia ([12095/15](#)), Peru ([12099/15](#)), Palau ([12080/15](#)) and Tonga ([12089/15](#)) on the short-stay visa waiver.

## **Eurojust**

The Council took note of the 13th annual activity report of the Joint Supervisory Body (JSB) of Eurojust ([11446/16](#)). It provided a summary of the JSB's main activities during 2015.

The JSB was established as an independent body to monitor the activities of Eurojust relating to the processing of personal data. It aims to ensure that these activities are carried out in full respect of the rights of the data subjects.

## **HEALTH**

### **Political agreement on medical devices**

The Council confirmed a political agreement on new rules for medical devices, confirming a deal reached on 25 May 2016 with the European Parliament.

Political agreement means that the full set of texts, in all official languages, resulting from the negotiations with the European Parliament have been endorsed at political level. They will now undergo legal-linguistic revision before formal adoption by the Council at first reading, which is expected early next year. This will be followed by final approval by the European Parliament at second reading.

The agreement comprises a regulation on medical devices ([11662/16](#) + COR 1) and a regulation on *in vitro* diagnostic medical devices ([11663/16](#)). They seek to grant innovative medical devices rapid and cost-efficient market access and to further strengthen patient safety.

For further information about the new regulations see the Council's [press release](#) on the deal reached with the EP on 25 May 2016.

## **RESEARCH**

### **Human frontier research - [Arctic] science - International cooperation**

The Council authorised the signing of international declarations on human frontier research and on [Arctic] science.

– *Human Frontier Science Program Organisation*

The Joint Communiqué of the Intergovernmental Conference on the Human Frontier Science Program Organisation (HFSP) of 10 June 2016 reflects the progress made and future perspectives of the HFSP.

The Commission will sign the draft Joint Communiqué on behalf of the EU by mid-October.

The HFSP is an international program of research support, funding frontier research on the complex mechanisms of living organisms.

– *White House Arctic Science Ministerial*

The declaration aims to assert the importance of improving collaborative science efforts in the Arctic and to recognize the significance of environmental, social and economic change in the Arctic region.

The Commission will sign the draft Joint Declaration of Ministers on behalf of the EU on the occasion of the first White House Arctic Science Ministerial on 28 September 2016.

The Council adopted conclusions on the Arctic on 20 June 2016 ([10400/16](#)).

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

### **eGovernment: Council conclusions**

The Council adopted the following conclusions on the eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020 ([12359/16](#)):

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING

- the conclusions adopted by the European Council on 28 June 2016, especially with regard to paragraph 11, section II (Jobs, Growth and Investment), inviting, in order to bring the full benefits of the Digital Single Market to all stakeholders, governments and EU institutions to meet the targets of the eGovernment Action Plan;
- the Commission Communication of 19 April 2016 entitled "EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020 – Accelerating the digital transformation of government"<sup>1</sup> and the subsequent conclusions on the "Digital Single Market Technologies and Public Services Modernisation" package<sup>2</sup>, adopted by the Council (Competitiveness) on 26 May 2016, especially with regard to paragraph 13 (eGovernment) recognising the need for further elaboration in the Council on the eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020, given its positive potential for modernising the economy and the society;
- the Commission Communication of 6 May 2015 entitled "A Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe"<sup>3</sup>;
- the Commission Communication of 15 December 2010 entitled "The European eGovernment Action Plan 2011-2015 – Harnessing ICT to promote smart, sustainable & innovative Government"<sup>4</sup> and the subsequent conclusions adopted by the Council (Transport, Telecommunication and Energy) on 27 May 2011<sup>5</sup>;
- the objectives of the Ministerial Declaration of the European eGovernment Conference in Malmö on 18-20 November 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> 8097/16 COM (2016) 179 final.

<sup>2</sup> 9524/16.

<sup>3</sup> 8672/15 COM (2015) 192 final.

<sup>4</sup> 18135/10 COM (2010) 743 final.

<sup>5</sup> 10308/11.

## NOTING

- the Conclusions of the Conference entitled "Digital and Open Government: Next Step to Maturity" held in Amsterdam on 2-3 June 2016;
- the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Digital Government Strategies of 15 July 2014<sup>1</sup>.

## RECOGNISING THAT

- the digital transformation of governments is essential to address current economic and societal challenges, while facing budgetary constraints, as stated in the consecutive Annual Growth Surveys;
- the European Commission and Member States, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, have been collaborating on advancing eGovernment at the EU and national levels for over a decade, in particular through the eGovernment Action Plans, with the aim of transforming public administrations by using technology. The Action Plans have also been drivers for the establishment of national eGovernment strategies in Member States;
- the results of the EU-funded Large-Scale Pilots have significantly contributed to the further enhancement of cross-border services in Europe, while acknowledging the positive potential of the future projects, notably on the Once-Only principle;
- the objectives of eGovernment are, among others, to empower citizens and businesses, to increase mobility in the Single Market and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector, which all contribute to the fulfilment of the growth potential of the digital economy and a socially inclusive Europe;
- the facilitation of cross-border digital public services further reduces the administrative burden by making secure interactions of the citizens and businesses with public administrations in other Member States faster, more efficient, convenient and transparent, thereby contributing to the success of the internal market;
- it is important that eGovernment and electronic services are designed in an open and interactive manner in order to ensure maximum benefits for citizens and businesses.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/gov/digital-government/Recommendation-digital-government-strategies.pdf>

## STRESSING THAT

- the principles outlined in the Communication on the EU eGovernment Action Plan 2016 - 2020, namely Digital by default (including making legislative initiatives fit for the digital era), the Once-only principle (in due compliance with data protection rules), Inclusiveness & Accessibility, Openness & Transparency, Cross-border by default (where applicable), Interoperability by default (based on standards and open specifications in accordance with principles on standardisation<sup>1</sup>), Trustworthiness & Security are equally important for the European Commission and for the Member States in the implementation of the eGovernment Action Plan;
- various degrees of digitisation of public services have been achieved in the implementation of eGovernment at national level, as monitored for instance by the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) and, in particular, the eGovernment benchmark. While monitoring of the progress in eGovernment and evaluation of the results achieved through benchmarking among the Member States, is considered useful, NOTES, however, the absence of specific, realistic and measurable targets in the Action Plan;
- an increasing use of cross-border digital public services poses challenges to information security and data protection, since it involves different parties with different responsibilities raising challenges which need to be carefully addressed;
- coherence is necessary between the actions stemming from the eGovernment Action Plan and the concerned EU policies, financial instruments and programmes (including CEF, ISA2, H2020 and ESIF), and can assist Member States with the digital transformation of governments.

## 1. WELCOMES

- a) The main achievements of the eGovernment Action Plan 2011-2015. In particular, the reusable building blocks, such as eIdentification and eAuthentication (eID, eSignature), eDelivery, eInvoicing, Automated Translation and Cyber-Security enable proper functioning and the implementation of the Digital Services Infrastructures at different levels of government, including those which are sector-specific;
- b) The policy priorities as well as the specific actions of the Action Plan which aim to accelerate the digital transformation of governments with ICT by using the key digital enablers, facilitating cross-border mobility with interoperable and secure end-to-end digital public services and facilitating digital interaction between administrations and citizens or businesses;

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<sup>1</sup> Annex II to Regulation 1025/2012

- c) The ambition to provide personalised public services, based on user-needs, enabling all citizens and business in the EU to interact electronically with the governments, while applying user research and participatory approaches to the design and delivery of innovative solutions;
- d) The dynamic and open nature of the Action Plan, recognising the need to adapt to the rapidly changing technological environment and allowing stakeholders, including public administrations at all levels, to suggest adjustments to the Plan.

## 2. INVITES THE MEMBER STATES TO

- a) Collaborate in order to ensure swift implementation of the Action Plan by developing and sharing among themselves their national Action Plans, taking into account the areas highlighted in the Country Specific Recommendations during the European Semester process;
- b) Accelerate their efforts to implement the digital transformation of governments at all levels so that needs-based and user-centric services can be easily provided and continually improved upon, the administrative burden significantly reduced and the efficiency of public administrations increased;
- c) Unlock the full potential of reliable statistics, data science and of data-driven innovation to accelerate the digital transformation of governments, while building in checks and balances for citizens in order to protect their personal data<sup>1</sup> and privacy;
- d) Continue to improve governance, network and information security<sup>2</sup> to protect personal data<sup>3</sup>, the privacy of citizens, business secrecy and sensitive information handled by public administrations against misuse and cyber security threats;
- e) Consider making the necessary financial and other resources available for re-use and uptake of the Digital Service Infrastructures, including for training and awareness raising, while ensuring overall consistency, adherence to the principle of effective public procurement, and ensuring interoperability of the national solutions to enable cross-border use of the digital public services, where applicable;

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation 679/2016

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 194, 19.7.2016, p.1

<sup>3</sup> Regulation 679/2016

- f) Create conditions for businesses, in particular those online, to start and expand their operations within the internal market while simplifying, where applicable, access to information under company law as well as the use of eProcurement;
- g) Encourage uptake of notified eID schemes under eIDAS by citizens, businesses and public administrations;
- h) Open up government data, where legally possible, as requested by businesses and citizens to deliver new added-value products and services;
- i) Stimulate the adoption of user-oriented innovative technologies by implementing pilot projects which promote the use of big data and the internet of things for data-intensive digital public services;
- j) Adhere, where applicable, to the principles stated in the EU eGovernment Action Plan when launching new initiatives at all levels of the public administration and to the principles of the European Interoperability Framework and Strategy in the cross-border dimension;
- k) Cooperate within the eGovernment Action Plan Steering Board, as set out in the Action Plan, to discuss the possible implementation of actions already identified by their target dates and to explore new actions needed, including at local level.

### 3. CALLS ON THE COMMISSION TO

- a) Identify specific, realistic and measurable targets for the Action Plan based on key performance indicators in cooperation with the eGovernment Action Plan Steering Board and evaluate their fulfilment;
- b) Present and discuss progress at upcoming eGovernment events organised in the context of the Action Plan with the view of a mid-term evaluation in the first half of 2018;
- c) Improve and extend existing methodologies for monitoring and evaluating progress in the implementation of eGovernment at Member State level;
- d) Facilitate and encourage the exchange of knowledge and expertise between stakeholders;

- e) Set a positive example to the Member States and other EU institutions by its own digital transformation, which should ensure adherence to the principles enshrined in the eGovernment Action Plan in the Commission's interactions with its stakeholders;
- f) Consider its own existing ICT solutions and infrastructures and those in the Member States before proposing new legislation, if necessary, in the areas enabling users to find comprehensive information online and facilitating the completion of electronic procedures;
- g) Further assess the barriers to seamless cross-border operations of citizens and businesses based in the EU, and the potential of digital technologies which could facilitate better alignment of rules and processes and, where appropriate, recommend measures to remove the barriers;
- h) In close collaboration with Member States propose a specific plan for governance, including Member States' involvement, and long-term sustainability of the Digital Service Infrastructures, in particular of the core service platforms and the EU-funded Large-Scale Pilots;
- i) Report to the Council annually in writing on progress made on the Action Plan;
- j) Promote, together with Member States, cross-border principles of the e-Government Action Plan 2016-2020 among the EU, the associated countries and the countries of the Mediterranean and Eastern Partnership;
- k) In consultation with Member States, elaborate a proper mechanism for dynamic updating of the Action Plan.

#### 4. INVITES STAKEHOLDERS TO

- a) Contribute proactively to the advancement of the standardisation agenda at the EU level on the basis of industry best practices and the latest technological progress;
- b) Invest in Research and Development and participate in the H2020 programme in order to develop new solutions and technologies e.g. big data, personal data management systems, high performance computing and the internet of things which address current and future societal challenges;
- c) Pilot the implementation of the newly identified technologies and share experience and best practices;

- d) Use the eIDAS services in digitally enabled businesses to facilitate the use of secure remote authentication, including mobile identification, and trust services, with a view to fully accepting cross-border business exchanges in a paperless way;
- e) Contribute to improving digital skills and digital maturity so that citizens, including the disadvantaged groups, and public administrations can benefit from digital public services;
- f) Contribute proactively, for instance by using open data and open application interfaces, where appropriate, to the public dialogue on accelerating the digital transformation of governments at all levels, including modernisation of public administrations, and on improving the public policy-making and decision-making processes."

## **TRANSPORT**

### **Railway market opening and infrastructure governance**

The Council confirmed a political agreement on a revised regulation governing public service contracts ([10731/16](#)), a revised directive on establishing a single European railway area ([10733/16](#)) and a regulation repealing the regulation on the normalisation of accounts of railway undertakings ([10853/16](#)). Together, the three proposals make up the 'market' pillar of the 4th railway package.

Political agreement means that the full set of texts resulting from the negotiations with the European Parliament have been endorsed at political level. They will now undergo legal-linguistic revision before formal adoption by the Council at first reading. This will be followed by final approval by the European Parliament at second reading.

An informal agreement on the proposals was reached with the European Parliament on 19 April 2016. The deal was confirmed by the Permanent Representatives Committee on 28 April (press release: [More attractive and efficient rail services - member states approve new rules on railway market opening and governance](#)).

### **Air services agreement with the Philippines**

The Council authorised the signing and provisional application of an agreement on certain aspects of air services between the EU and the Philippines (decision on signing: [11260/16](#); agreement: [11261/16](#); statement concerning the decision on signing: [11447/16 ADD 1](#)).

The agreement will supersede or complement provisions in existing bilateral agreements between individual member states and the Philippines. It will bring them into line with EU law, in particular as regards traffic rights, safety, taxation of aviation fuel and competition rules.

### **Aerodromes - French language version**

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption by the Commission of a regulation correcting the French language version of regulation 139/2014 laying down requirements and administrative procedures related to aerodromes pursuant to regulation 216/2008 ([11133/16](#)).

The Commission regulation is subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that, now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt the regulation unless the European Parliament objects.

### **Civil aviation security - derogation criteria**

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption by the Commission of a regulation amending regulation 1254/2009 as regards certain criteria to allow member states to derogate from the common basic standards on civil aviation security and to adopt alternative security measures ([11247/16](#)).

The Commission regulation is subject to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. This means that, now that the Council has given its consent, the Commission may adopt the regulation unless the European Parliament objects.

### **Aviation safety - derogation regarding installation of components**

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption by the Commission of a decision authorising France to derogate, pursuant to article 14(6) of regulation 216/2008, from certain common aviation safety rules concerning the installation of components ([11249/1/16 REV 1](#)).

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

## **INTERNAL MARKET**

### **Type-approval for agricultural and forestry vehicles**

The Council decided not to object to the adoption by the Commission of a regulation:

- amending regulation 167/2013 on the approval and market surveillance of agricultural and forestry vehicles as regards the list of requirements for EU type-approval, and
- amending and correcting delegated regulations 1322/2014, 2015/96, 2015/68 and 2015/208 with regard to vehicle construction and general requirements, to environmental and propulsion unit performance requirements, to vehicle braking requirements and to vehicle functional safety requirements.

The amendments are needed in order to correct errors identified in [regulation 167/2013](#) and the delegated acts of this legislative package, which became mandatory on 1 January 2016 ([11364/16 + 11364/16 ADD 1](#)).

The amending Commission regulation is a delegated act pursuant to article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. The act can now enter into force, unless the European Parliament objects.

### **Type-approval for L-category vehicles**

The Council decided not to object to the adoption by the Commission of a regulation amending delegated regulations 3/2014, 44/2014 and 134/2014 with regard, respectively, to vehicle functional safety requirements, to vehicle construction and general requirements and to environmental and propulsion unit performance requirements.

The amendments aim to ensure improvement and adaptation to technical progress of type-approval for L-category vehicles ([11339/16 + 11339/16 ADD 1](#)).

The three amended delegated acts supplement [regulation 168/2013](#), which contains technical requirements and test procedures for the approval and market surveillance of two- or three-wheel vehicles and quadricycles.

The amending Commission regulation is a delegated act pursuant to article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. The act can now enter into force, unless the European Parliament objects.

## **FOOD LAW**

### **Food additives and extraction solvents for the production of foods**

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of the following three Commission acts:

- a regulation amending annex II to regulation 1333/2008 authorising the use of Sucralose (E 955) as a flavour enhancer in chewing gum with added sugars or polyols ([11462/16](#))
- a regulation amending the annex to regulation 231/2012 amending the specifications of the food additive Steviol glycosides (E 960) ([11659/16](#))
- a directive amending directive 2009/32/EC amending the maximum residual limit for dimethyl ether (DME) as an extraction solvent in defatted animal protein products and allowing DME for the extraction of protein products to yield gelatine ([11675/16](#))

The Commission acts 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.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Endangered species of wild fauna and flora**

The Council adopted a decision establishing the EU position regarding certain proposals submitted to the upcoming meeting of the parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This 17th meeting of the conference of the parties to the convention (COP17) will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 24 September to 5 October 2016.

CITES is an international agreement that aims to ensure that trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

## **TRANSPARENCY**

### **Public access to documents**

On 20 September 2016, the Council approved:

- the reply to confirmatory application No 10/c/01/16 ([12004/1/16 REV 1](#)).

## **WRITTEN PROCEDURE**

### **Money laundering and terrorist financing - High risk countries**

On 8 September 2016, the Council decided not to object to a Commission regulation supplementing directive 2015/849 on the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, identifying high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies ([11285/16](#)).

The regulation is a delegated act pursuant to article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. It can now enter into force, unless the European Parliament objects.

### **Transparency - Public access to documents**

On 9 September 2016, the Council adopted unanimously by written procedure the replies to confirmatory applications No 15/c/01/16 and No 16/c/01/16 (see documents [10410/16](#) and [10549/16](#)).

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