



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

2988th Council meeting

### **Environment**

Brussels, 22 December 2009

President

**Mr Andreas CARLGREN**  
Minister for the Environment of Sweden

# **P R E S S**

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## **Main results of the Council**

*Environment ministers discussed the outcome of and follow-up to the **Copenhagen climate conference**. They emphasised that the EU strives for an international agreement that is legally binding for all parties and sufficiently ambitious to limit global warming to well below two degrees Celsius. In the process following the Copenhagen summit, the EU should continue to offer ambition and leadership.*

*Without discussion, the Council reviewed **restrictive measures** against persons, groups and entities subject to the EU's autonomous regime **to combat terrorism**. It also amended restrictive measures against persons and entities associated with Usama bin Laden, the Al-Qaida network and the Taliban.*

*The Council also prolonged by 15 months **anti-dumping duties** on imports into the EU of footwear with leather uppers from China and Vietnam.*

*In addition, the Council extended **restrictive measures against the Republic of Guinea**, following the violent crackdown on political demonstrators in Conakry on 28 September 2009 and the subsequent human rights violations. It also suspended the fisheries partnership agreement with the Republic of Guinea.*

*The Council amended **restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea** so as to include the EU list of persons and entities subject to restrictive measures.*

*Finally, the Council appointed new members and alternate members of the **Committee of the Regions** for the next term of office from 26 January 2010 to 25 January 2015.*

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- <sup>1</sup>
- 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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## **PARTICIPANTS**

The governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

### **Belgium:**

Mr Paul MAGNETTE  
Ms Evelyne HUYTEBROECK

Minister for Climate and Energy  
Minister of the Brussels Capital Regional Government,  
with responsibility for the Environment, Energy and Water  
Policy

### **Bulgaria:**

Ms Nona KARADJOVA

Minister for the Environment and Water

### **Czech Republic:**

Mr Jan DUSÍK

Minister for the Environment

### **Denmark:**

Mr Troels Lund POULSEN  
Ms Lykke FRIIS

Minister for the Environment  
Minister for Climate and Energy

### **Germany:**

Mr Norbert RÖTTGEN

Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature  
Conservation and Nuclear Safety

### **Estonia:**

Mr Gert ANSU

Deputy Permanent Representative

### **Ireland:**

Ms Geraldine BYRNE NASON

Deputy Permanent Representative

### **Greece:**

Mr Léonidas C. ROKANAS

Deputy Permanent Representative

### **Spain:**

Ms Teresa RIBERA RODRÍGUEZ

State Secretary for Climate Change

### **France:**

Ms Chantal JOUANNO

Minister of State with responsibility for Ecology, attached  
to the Ministre d'État, Minister for Ecology, Energy,  
Sustainable Development and Marine Affairs, responsible  
for green technologies and climate negotiations

### **Italy:**

Mr Roberto MENIA

State Secretary for the Environment, the Protection of  
Natural Resources and the Sea

### **Cyprus:**

Ms Egly PANTELAKIS

Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture,  
Natural Resources and Environment

### **Latvia:**

Mr Raimonds VĒJONIS

Minister for the Environment

### **Lithuania:**

Mr Gediminas KAZLAUSKAS

Minister for the Environment

### **Luxembourg:**

Mr Claude WISELER

Minister for the Civil Service and Administrative Reform,  
Minister for Public Works

Mr Marco SCHANK

Minister for Accommodation, Minister of State for  
Sustainable Development

### **Hungary:**

Mr István KLING

State Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Water

### **Malta:**

Mr George PULLICINO

Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs

### **Netherlands:**

Ms Jacqueline CRAMER

Minister for Housing, Spatial Planning and the  
Environment

**Austria:**

Mr Nikolaus BERLAKOVICH

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment  
and Water Management**Poland:**

Mr Janusz ZALESKI

Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of the Environment

**Portugal:**

Mr Humberto ROSA

State Secretary for the Environment

**Romania:**

Mr Dan CARLAN

State Secretary for Water, Ministry of the Environment

**Slovenia:**

Mr Karl Viktor ERJAVEC

Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning

**Slovakia:**

Mr Jaroslav JADUŠ

State Secretary, Ministry of the Environment

**Finland:**

Ms Paula LEHTOMÄKI

Minister for the Environment

**Sweden:**

Mr Andreas CARLGREN

Minister for the Environment

Ms Åsa-Britt KARLSSON

State Secretary to the Minister for the Environment

**United Kingdom:**

Mr Hilary BENN

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural  
Affairs**Commission:**

Mr Stavros DIMAS

Member



**ITEMS DEBATED**

**INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY** - *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted conclusions on international biodiversity beyond 2010. The text is set out in [17785/09](#).

**COMBINATION EFFECTS OF CHEMICALS** - *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted conclusions on combination effects of chemicals, see [17820/09](#).

## **BIOCIDAL PRODUCTS**

The Council held a policy debate on the proposed regulation on biocides ([11063/09](#)), designed to replace the current directive on the authorisation of such products.

Biocides are non-agricultural pesticides, for instance insecticides, disinfectants, repellents as well as material preservatives. Veterinary or human medical products are not covered.

The discussion focussed on the key changes introduced by the legislative recast:

- Centralised authorisation procedure

There was broad, almost unanimous support for the principle of centralised authorisation for products, as an option in addition to the current system of national authorisations plus mutual recognition. Some pointed out however, that national procedures must be maintained to take account of specific conditions of use in different member states.

Concerning the scope of the centralised authorisation procedure views were quite varied. Some member states suggested that products combining low hazard and low exposure as well as other products with low exposure be included while some others supported the Commission proposal to start with new active substances and low-risk products; others again made further suggestions.

It was also pointed out that a centralised authorisation procedure must not place excessive burdens on SMEs, in particular through fees.

- Exclusion criteria

Many delegations welcomed the Commission's proposal to set criteria identifying active substances which are excluded from use in biocidal products due to their inherent hazardous characteristics. Delegations and the Commission agreed that environmental hazards should be added to the exclusion criteria. In addition, there was broad agreement that active substances that meet the exclusion criteria could be authorised when certain strict risk or socio-economic criteria are met.

– Treated articles and materials

Delegations supported bringing all articles and materials treated with or incorporating biocidal products within the scope of the regulation, e.g. furniture, textiles and food-contact materials. There was also broad support for requiring articles whose primary function is to be biocidal to be authorised as biocidal products. However, some delegations stressed the need for a practical and proportionate approach, particularly as regards labelling.

Contributions from member states are set out in [17630/09](#) + ADD1 + [ADD2](#). The views expressed by ministers will guide further work on this file within the Council.

**MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT**- *Council conclusions*

The Council adopted conclusions on regional approaches to the management of water and the marine environment, including the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region, as set out in [17797/09](#).

**COPENHAGEN CLIMATE CONFERENCE** - *Presidency conclusions*

During lunch, environment ministers discussed the outcome of and follow-up to the Copenhagen climate conference.

The presidency drew the following conclusions from the debate:

The EU strives for an agreement that is legally binding for all parties and sufficiently ambitious to limit global warming to well below 2° C compared to pre-industrial levels by reducing global emissions by 50% by 2050.

The Copenhagen Accord is a first step which involves most parties and gives a basis to reduction commitments, financing, MRVs and the fight against deforestation.

The climate change challenge has not diminished and further work should follow a tight time schedule with clear deadlines and the EU should continue to offer ambition and leadership. To this end, it is necessary to review, assess and learn from the meeting in Copenhagen. It is important to build on the progress made in the UNFCCC negotiations during the last years, including the COP15.

The presidency and the incoming Spanish presidency look forward to, as a first step, an analysis by the Commission in view of the informal meeting of environment ministers in Seville in January 2010.

In the context of the ongoing process, the EU reiterates its conditional offer to move to a 30% reduction by 2020 compared to 1990 levels, provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and that developing countries contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Furthermore, the EU and its member states are ready to contribute with fast-start funding of EUR 2.4 billion annually for the years 2010 to 2012 in the context of implementing the agreement.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **International environmental governance**

The Italian delegation informed the Council of the outcome of the second meeting of the consultative group of ministers or their high-level representatives on international environmental governance, which took place in Rome on 26-29 October 2009 ([17595/09](#)). At the same time, the presidency issued a note on reforming the system of international environmental governance ([17524/09](#)).

### **Sustainability criteria for biomass**

The Belgian, Dutch and Luxembourg delegations presented an information note in which they insist on a Commission proposal for a framework for harmonised and binding sustainability criteria for biomass used for energy purposes ([17535/09](#)).

### **Genetically modified organisms**

The Dutch delegation presented an information note concerning the international conference on genetically modified organisms in European agriculture and food production, which took place in the Hague on 26 November 2009 ([17500/09](#)).

### **Waste electrical and electronic equipment**

The presidency informed the Council regarding progress in the discussions on a draft directive on waste electrical and electronic equipment ([17345/09](#) + [ADD1](#)) as well as on the proposed directive on the restriction of the use of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment ([17433/09](#) + [ADD1](#)).

**Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of light-duty vehicles**

The presidency reported to the Council on progress concerning a draft regulation setting emission performance standards for new light commercial vehicles ([17431/09](#)).

**Timber products**

The United Kingdom briefed the Council on its views concerning the draft regulation laying down the obligations of operators placing timber and timber products on the market, designed to minimise the risk of illegal timber being placed on the Community market ([17679/09](#)).

**Work programme of the incoming presidency**

The Spanish delegation informed the Council regarding the work programme of its forthcoming presidency.

## **OTHER ITEMS APPROVED**

### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### **Biocidal products - committee procedure with scrutiny**

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission directive concerning the inclusion of warfarin sodium in the list of authorised active substances for biocidal products.

Under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny, the Council can oppose an act which exceeds the implementing powers of the Commission, is not compatible with the aim or content of the basic instrument or does not respect subsidiarity or proportionality if the regulatory committee previously supported the measures envisaged.

### **GENERAL AFFAIRS**

#### **Appointment of the future Secretary-General of the Council of the EU**

The Council appointed Uwe Corsepius Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union for the period from 26 June 2011 until 30 June 2015 ([17603/09](#)). This decision was taken in accordance with article 240(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

Mr Corsepius is currently head of the European Policy Division in the German Chancellery. He was inter alia responsible for negotiations on the 2007 Berlin declaration which led to the Lisbon Treaty. Mr Corsepius is 49 years old and has a doctorate in economics.

He will take over from Pierre de Boissieu who has been Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union from 1 December 2009. Mr de Boissieu was previously Deputy Secretary-General of the Council of the EU from October 1999 to 30 November 2009.

## **EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

### **Restrictive measures against North Korea**

The Council amended common position 2006/795/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in order to include the list of EU autonomous designations of persons and entities subject to restrictive measures (see Official Journal L 346 of 23.12.2009).

Furthermore, the Council amended regulation 329/2007 in order to implement at the level of the Union certain measures of common position 2006/795/CFSP as amended by common position 2009/573/CFSP to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1874(2009) ([17139/09](#)).

On 20 November 2006, the Council adopted common position 2006/795/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the DPRK and implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1718(2006). On 27 March 2007, the Council adopted regulation 329/2007 implementing certain measures of common position 2006/795/CFSP. On 27 July 2009, the Council adopted common position 2009/573/CFSP amending common position 2006/795/CFSP and implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1874(2009) ([12391/09](#)).

### **Restrictive measures against Guinea**

The Council adopted a decision amending common position 2009/788/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against the Republic of Guinea (see Official Journal L 346 of 23.12.2009).

In view of the seriousness of the situation in the Republic of Guinea, the Council decided to impose additional restrictive measures consisting of a freeze of assets against individual members of the National Council for Democracy and Development (NCDD) and persons and entities associated with them. The decision also includes a ban on the export to the Republic of Guinea of equipment which might be used for internal repression. Moreover, additional persons were added to the list of persons subject to restrictive measures.



Furthermore, the Council adopted a regulation implementing certain measures of common position 2009/788/CFSP as amended by the above-mentioned Council decision with a view to ensuring the uniform application of the updated measures by economic operators in all EU member states ([17142/09](#)).

On 27 October, the Council adopted common position 2009/788/CFSP imposing restrictive measures consisting of an arms embargo and a visa ban in order to prevent the entry into the EU territory of members of the NCDD and individuals associated with them, responsible for the repression or the political stalemate in the country following the violent crackdown on political demonstrators in Conakry on 28 September 2009 and the subsequent human rights violations ([14697/09](#)).

For same reasons, the Council also decided to put an end to the provisional application of the EU / Republic of Guinea fisheries partnership agreement (see under "Agriculture and Fisheries").

### **Union for the Mediterranean - Draft EU guidelines**

The Council adopted draft EU guidelines and a proposal for the 2010 work programme of the Union for the Mediterranean. The draft guidelines and proposed work programme cover the following issues: political and security dialogue; economic and financial partnership; social, human and cultural cooperation; justice, freedom and security; and statutes of the secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean.

### **Control of arms exports**

The Council adopted a decision on support for EU activities in order to promote the control of arms exports and the principles and criteria of Council common position 2008/944 among third countries. The decision provided for seminars for experts in the control of arms exports from member states and interested third parties, as well as for inward and outward staff exchanges with certain beneficiaries.

## **Annual reports on the fight against the spread of small arms and light weapons**

The Council took note of the seventh and eighth annual report on the implementation of the Council joint action on the EU's contribution to combating the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons. The two reports contain a description of member states' efforts to address the problems related to small arms and light weapons, summarise international implementation efforts and cover participation in the work of international organisations and regional arrangements in this field.

## **Office of the EU special representative to the African Union**

The Council took note of a presidency report on the organisation of the office of the EU special representative to the African Union ([17360/09](#)).

## **COHESION POLICY**

### **EU's relations with overseas countries and territories - *Council conclusions***

The Council adopted conclusions on the EU's relations with overseas countries and territories, set out in [16710/09](#).

## **HEALTH**

### **Vaccination against seasonal influenza**

The Council adopted a recommendation encouraging member states to adopt action plans to improve seasonal influenza vaccination coverage ([17268/09](#)). Member states are invited to reach as early as possible, and preferably by the winter season 2014/2015, a vaccination coverage rate of 75% for older age groups recommended by the World Health Organisation. Member states should also try to reach this vaccination coverage rate with regards to healthcare workers.

## **ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

### **Common system of value added tax\***

The Council adopted a directive amending various technical provisions of directive 2006/112 on the common system of value added tax ([13812/09](#) + [16683/09 ADD 1](#)).

### **Derogations from the VAT directive - Austria**

The Council decided to authorise Austria to apply measures derogating from the directive on the common system of value added tax.

By way of derogation from article 168 of directive 2006/112, Austria can continue to exclude completely from the right of deduction VAT borne on goods and services when those goods and services are used for more than 90% for the private purposes of the taxable person or of his employees, or for non-business purposes in general ([15980/09](#)).

### **Code of conduct for the convention on the elimination of double taxation**

The Council and the representatives of the governments of the member states approved the revised code of conduct for the effective implementation of the convention on the elimination of double taxation in connection with the adjustment of profits of associated enterprises ([16099/09](#)).

## **BUDGET**

### **Management instruments in the dairy market - Council conclusions**

The Council adopted conclusions on a special report by the European Court of Auditors on management instruments in the dairy market, see [17394/09](#).

### **Executive Agencies - Council conclusions**

The Council adopted conclusions on a special report by the European Court of Auditors concerning the delegation of implementing tasks to executive agencies, see [17386/09](#).

**JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS****EU terrorist list implementing the UN list on Al-Qaida and the Taliban**

The Council updated regulation 881/2002, which imposes certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities associated with Usama bin Laden, the Al-Qaida network and the Taliban.

These amendments are the result of the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Communities in joined cases C-402/05 P and C-415/05 P (Yassin Abdullah Kadi, Al Barakaat International Foundation v Council and Commission). On 3 September 2008, the Court judged that regulation 881/2002 should be amended to provide for a listing procedure ensuring that the fundamental rights of defence, and in particular the right to be heard, are respected.

**EU autonomous terrorist regime: Adoption of new consolidated lists**

The Council adopted amendments to common position 2001/931/CFSP and Council regulation 2580/2001<sup>1</sup> concerning the EU's autonomous regime on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism.

The respective lists annexed to the common position and the regulation have been updated in the light of the latest review. Two changes were introduced:

- Following the judgment of the Court of First Instance of 30 September 2009 in case T-341/07, one person has been removed from the lists.
- In addition, the entry concerning one group in the lists has been amended.

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<sup>1</sup> Official Journal L 344 of 28.12.2001, p. 70.  
Council regulation 2580/2001 of 27 December 2001 provides for a freezing of all funds, other financial assets and economic resources belonging to the persons, groups and entities concerned. It also ensures that no funds, other financial assets and economic resources may be made available to them, whether directly or indirectly.

With regard to the persons, groups and entities to which only article 4 of common position 2001/931/CFSP applies (enhanced police and judicial cooperation among EU member states), the Council confirmed the list as set out in the annex to common position 2009/468/CFSP of 15 June 2009.<sup>1</sup>

After this revision, the list annexed to common position 2001/931/CFSP includes 56 persons and 47 groups and entities. Of these, 25 persons and 29 groups and entities are subject to restrictive measures (e.g. asset freeze) pursuant to Council regulation 2580/2001.

### **European case-law identifier - Council conclusions**

The Council adopted conclusions on the European case-law identifier, set out in [17377/09](#).

### **Discharge to the Director of Europol**

The Council gave discharge to the Director of Europol in respect of the budget implementation for the period from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008 ([16871/09](#)), on the basis of the audit report from the joint audit committee.

### **Budget for SISNET for 2010**

The Council decided to submit the budget for SISNET (communication infrastructure for the Schengen environment) for the year 2010 for adoption to the member states concerned ([16417/09](#)).

### **Strengthening EU research capacity on illicit drugs - Council conclusions**

The Council adopted conclusions on the EU research capacity on illicit drugs, set out in [17177/09](#).

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 151, 16.6.2009, p. 45.

## **Report on implementation of SIS rules concerning stolen, misappropriated or lost vehicles**

The Council adopted a report on the implementation of article 102A of the convention implementing the Schengen Agreement (CISA) during the year 2008. The report will now be submitted to the European Parliament.

Article 102A of the CISA allows those services in EU member states responsible for issuing registration certificates for vehicles to have access to the Schengen Information System (SIS) for the purposes of checking whether vehicles presented to them for registration have not been stolen, misappropriated or lost and that persons applying for a registration certificate are not using identity documents which have been stolen, misappropriated or lost.

## **Consular instructions: New rules for Ethiopian nationals**

The Council amended annex 3, part I, to the common consular instructions on third-country nationals subject to airport visa requirements. The amendment provides that, in the future, only those Ethiopian nationals need an airport transit visa who do not hold a valid visa for an EU member state or for a state party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, Canada, Japan, or the United States of America.

## **Schengen consultation network - EU visa code**

The Council adapted the technical specifications of the Schengen consultation network with a view to its being up-to-date on 5 April 2010, when the Visa Code<sup>1</sup> becomes applicable ([15702/1/09](#)).

## **Schengen evaluations: Interim report**

The Council adopted a presidency interim report on Schengen evaluations. It mainly focuses on a thematic evaluation of trafficking in human beings, on a set of Commission proposals on the new Schengen evaluation mechanism and on the continuing evaluations of Bulgaria and Romania.

On 18 and 19 December 2008, the Council adopted conclusions on implementing a new approach to Schengen evaluations and invited successive presidencies to report regularly on the progress made in this respect.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation 810/2009 establishing the Visa Code (Official Journal L 243, 15.9.2009, p. 1).

## **ENERGY**

### **EU-Russia cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy**

The Council authorised the Commission to negotiate an agreement between Euratom (the European Atomic Energy Community) and Russia for cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

## **TRADE POLICY**

### **Opening of autonomous tariff quotas**

The Council adopted a regulation opening autonomous EU tariff quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products ([16508/09](#)), given that the production in the EU of certain agricultural and industrial products is insufficient to meet the specific requirements of user industries in the European Union. Account is taken of the need not to disturb the markets for such products nor to impede the establishment or development of production within the EU.

### **Suspension of autonomous customs tariff duties**

The Council amended regulation 1255/96 temporarily suspending the autonomous common customs tariff duties on certain industrial, agricultural and fishery products ([16509/09](#)).

### **Anti-dumping measures**

#### **Footwear with leather uppers from China and Vietnam**

The Council adopted a regulation extending the anti-dumping duty on imports of certain footwear with leather uppers from China and Vietnam, following an expiry review pursuant to article 11(2) of regulation 384/96 ([16851/09](#)).

#### **Ferro-silicon from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

The Council repealed the anti-dumping duty imposed by regulation 172/2008 on imports of ferro-silicon originating in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia ([17023/09](#)).

## **Asian countries - Negotiations on free trade agreements**

The Council authorised the Commission to pursue negotiations with individual countries belonging to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations interested in negotiating free trade agreements bilaterally, starting with Singapore.

See also: <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=504>

## **TRANSPORT**

### **Airworthiness of aircraft and aeronautical products - committee procedure with scrutiny**

The Council decided not to oppose the adoption of a Commission regulation on the continued airworthiness of aircraft and aeronautical products, parts and appliances, aimed at maintaining a high uniform level of aviation safety in Europe.

Under the regulatory procedure with scrutiny, the Council can oppose an act which exceeds the implementing powers of the Commission, is not compatible with the aim or content of the basic instrument or does not respect subsidiarity or proportionality if the regulatory committee previously supported the measures envisaged.

## **AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES**

### **State aid in Hungary**

The Council adopted a decision stating that the exceptional aid granted between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2013 by the Hungarian authorities for the purchase of agricultural land was considered compatible with the internal market.

The total exceptional aid for the period 2010-2013 amounts to HUF<sup>1</sup> 4 000 million for Hungary ([16848/09](#)).

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<sup>1</sup> Hungarian forints (about EUR 14.83 million).



**Republic of Guinea - Termination of the provisional application of the fisheries agreement**

The Council adopted a decision with a view to putting an end to the provisional application of the fisheries partnership agreement (FPA) with the Republic of Guinea ([16976/09](#)).

By means of this decision, the Council notified the Republic of Guinea of the EU's intention to terminate the provisional application of the FPA, in accordance with article 25(2) of the Vienna convention on the law of treaties, following the violent crackdown on political demonstrators in Conakry on 28 September 2009 and the subsequent human rights violations.

A fisheries protocol to the EU / Republic of Guinea agreement has been provisionally applied since 1 January 2009, pending the final conclusion of the agreement.

**Conservation measures established by the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission - *Council conclusions***

The Council adopted conclusions lodging EU objections to recommendations by the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission, set out in [17309/09](#).

## **TRANSPARENCY**

### **Transparency - public access to documents**

The Council adopted

- the reply to confirmatory application No 28/c/01/09 ([16298/09](#));
- the reply to confirmatory application No 29/c/02/09 ([16342/09](#));
- the reply to confirmatory application No 30/c/01/09, the Danish and Swedish delegations voting against ([16347/09](#));
- the reply to confirmatory application No 31/c/01/09, the Dutch, Finnish and Swedish delegations voting against ([16469/09](#)); and
- the reply to confirmatory application No 33/c/01/09 ([17213/09](#)).

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **Committee of the Regions - New members for the period 2010 to 2015**

The Council adopted a decision appointing new members and alternate members of the Committee of the Regions for the period from 26 January 2010 to 25 January 2015.

The complete list of members is set out in [16538/09](#).

The term of office of the current members and alternate members is due to expire on 25 January 2010.

A new decision will be taken at a later date for the appointment of other members and alternate members whose nominations have not been communicated to the Council before 14 December 2009.

## **Committee of the Regions**

The Council appointed for the remainder of the current term of office, ending on 25 January 2010, as members of the Committee of the Regions: Mr Konstanty DOMBROWICZ, Prezydent Miasta Bydgoszczy (change of mandate), Mr Marcin JABŁOŃSKI, Marszałek Województwa Lubuskiego, Mr Jan KOZŁOWSKI, Marszałek Województwa Pomorskiego, and Mr José MACÁRIO CORREIA, Presidente da Câmara Municipal de Faro.

## **WRITTEN PROCEDURES**

### **Adjustment of salaries of EU civil servants**

The Council adopted, by written procedure concluded on 23 December, a regulation adjusting the remuneration and pensions of officials and other servants of the EU under the annual review for 2009 ([16488/3/09](#)).

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