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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3774th Council meeting

Foreign Affairs

Items approved by written procedure between 30 September - 12 October 2020

Brussels, 12 October 2020

President

Josep Borrell
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security
Policy

P R E S S

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ITEMS DEBATED

none

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¹ • 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.

ITEMS DEBATED

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED***Temporary derogation from the Council's rules of procedure***

Due to exceptional circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 23 April 2020 the Council agreed on a temporary derogation from its rules of procedure to make it easier to take decisions by written procedure ([6891/20](#)). The temporary derogation is currently in force until 10 September (2020/970). It may be renewed if justified by a continuation of the current exceptional circumstances.

The derogation allows member states' EU ambassadors sitting in the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper) to decide to use the written procedure in accordance with the voting rule applicable to the adoption of the act itself. It means that the existing requirement for unanimity for all decisions to use the written procedure no longer applies. The objective is to facilitate the use of the written procedure to help ensure the continuity of Council business.

For more information on the temporary derogation, see the [press release](#).

As the latest formal Council meeting was held on 29 September, results of written procedures concluded between 30 September 12 October 2020, which would otherwise have been communicated in Outcomes of Council meetings, are presented below. Results which have been communicated by means of a Council press release are not included.

ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS**International meetings**

On 2 October 2020, the Council approved the EU Terms of Reference for the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting on 14 October 2020 and EU statement for the IMFC Annual meeting on 15-16 October 2020.

EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes

On 6 October 2020, the Council approved the report by the Code of Conduct Group (business taxation) suggesting amendments to the Annexes of the Council conclusions of 18 February 2020 ([11054/1/20 REV 1](#) + [COR 1](#)).

It decided to add Anguilla and Barbados to the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes. Cayman Islands and Oman were removed from the list, after having passed the necessary reforms to improve their tax policy framework.

[EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes: Anguilla and Barbados added, Cayman Islands and Oman removed \(press release, 6 October 2020\)](#)

Taxation of energy products and electricity - Germany

On 7 October 2020, the Council adopted an implementing decision authorising Germany to continue to apply a reduced rate of taxation to electricity directly provided to vessels at berth in a port ('shore-side electricity') in accordance with Article 19 of Directive 2003/96/EC restructuring the Community framework for the taxation of energy products and electricity ([10524/20](#)).

With the reduced tax rate, Germany aims to continue promoting the use of shore-side electricity. The use of such electricity is considered to be an environmentally less harmful way of satisfying the electricity needs of vessels at berth in a port than the burning of bunker fuels by those vessels.

This decision will apply until 31 December 2025, unless the Council adopts any general provisions on tax advantages for shore-side electricity which would become applicable before that.

ECB Executive Board - new member

On 9 October, the Council recommended to the European Council that Mr Frank ELDERSON be appointed as a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank for a term of office of eight years with effect from 15 December 2020.

The recommendation followed the Eurogroup's support for Mr Elderson's candidacy on 5 October.

The European Council will now consult the European Parliament and the Governing Council of the ECB. It is expected to adopt its final decision by the end of the year.

The new member of the executive board will replace Yves Mersch, whose mandate ends on 14 December 2020, and who served a non-renewable 8-year term.

[ECB Executive Board: Eurogroup gives support to Frank Elderson's candidacy \(press release, 5 October 2020\)](#)

BUDGETS

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Spain

On 6 October 2020, the Council adopted a decision mobilising €2.1 million under the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) to provide support to workers made redundant in the Galicia region of Spain ([11018/20](#)).

The EGF aims to provide support for workers made redundant and self-employed persons whose activity has ceased as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, as a result of a continuation of the global financial and economic crisis, or as a result of a new global financial and economic crisis, and to assist them with their reintegration into the labour market.

Budgetary procedure in 2020

On 6 October 2020, the Council approved the joint statement on the dates for the budgetary procedure and modalities for the functioning of the Conciliation Committee in 2020 ([11077/20](#)).

Relocation of the European Ombudsman's office

On 9 October 2020, the Council approved the European Ombudsman's project to relocate its Brussels office to a new building ([11478/20](#)).

TRANSPORT**Inland waterways vessels - technical requirements**

On 12 October 2020, the Council adopted, by written procedure, a decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the EU in the European Committee for drawing up Standards in the field of Inland Navigation and in the Central Commission for the Navigation on the Rhine on the adoption of standards concerning technical requirements for inland waterways vessels ([11361/20](#) + [COR 1](#)).

TRANSPARENCY**Transparency - Public access to documents**

On 8 September 2020, the Council adopted by written procedure the draft letter to the European Ombudsman on the Complaint 640/2019/TE (see CM 3994/20).

- Ref. document: [9063/20](#)

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA**EEA Agreement - Cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms**

The Council adopted five decisions establishing the EU position to be taken in the Joint Committee of the European Economic Area (EEA). The decisions concern amendments to Protocol 31 to the EEA agreement on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (3927/20, 3928/20, 3929/20, 3930/20, 3931/20)

The aim of the five decisions is to allow the contracting parties of the EEA Agreement to continue their cooperation in 2019 in the Union actions funded from the general budget regarding:

- Social security
- Financial services
- Internal Market and Internal Market Governance Tools
- Company Law
- Preparatory action for defence research