



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 3 April 2008

7679/08

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SUMMARY RECORD

**Subject : 2221st meeting of the PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE
held in Brussels on 19 March 2008**

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 - (b) 2799th meeting (General Affairs and External Relations), held in Brussels on 14 May 2007
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 - (d) 2822nd meeting (Economic and Financial Affairs), held in Luxembourg on 9 October 2007
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11. Council's second reading of Draft Amending Budget n° 1 to the budget for 2008 : Statement of expenditure by Section - Section III - Commission
12. Special Report n° 1/2008 concerning the procedures for the preliminary examination and evaluation of major investment projects for the 1994-1999 and 2000-2006 programming periods
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1. Adoption of the provisional agenda and items "I"

doc. 7680/08 OJ/CRP1 11

7540/08 OJ/CRP2 11 COMIX 228

The above mentioned agenda is approved.

The Committee approves the "I" items as set out in the summary. Details are contained in the document quoted under item 1.

Coreper Part 1

II

5. **Setting of the provisional agenda for the Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 14 April 2008**
(For the items within the remit of the Permanent Representatives Committee)

The Committee agrees the provisional agenda for the forthcoming Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 14 April 2008 as set out in 7987/08.

6. **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Training Foundation (recast) (First reading)**
- **Preparation for the informal trilogue**
7530/08 EDUC 81 MED 24 SOC 167 PECOS 9 CODEC 357

The Committee examined the outstanding issues on the basis of the text contained in 7530/08, with a view to providing the Presidency with a solid basis on which to approach the European Parliament and explore the possibility of an agreement at first reading.

As regards the governance aspects of the Foundation, while the Commission continued to stand by its original proposal, unanimous support among the Member States was obtained in favour of the option which in essence consists of maintaining the current status quo. This therefore is the position which the Presidency will use as a basis for the forthcoming informal tripartite talks aimed at achieving a first reading agreement with the Parliament on this file.

7. **Amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the further implementation of the European satellite radionavigation programmes (EGNOS and Galileo) (First reading) (This item will be dealt in restricted session)**
- **Preparation for the informal trilogue**
7657/08 TRANS 84 MAR 46 AVIATION 78 RECH 95 CAB 16 FIN 95 CODEC 380

The Committee examined and agreed on the Council's position to be presented by the Presidency at the next informal trilogue on 25 March 2008.

8. Preparation for the Council meeting (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 7 April 2008

1. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on airport charges

- **Political agreement**
(Public deliberation, pursuant to Article 8(1)(b) CRP)
5887/07 AVIATION 27
7628/08 AVIATION 76 CODEC 372

The Committee examined the draft political agreement on the above proposal and agreed to pursue the examination of the only outstanding issue at its meeting on 2 April, in view of the TTE Council on 7 April 2008.

2. Road transport

- (a) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on common rules for access to the international road haulage market (recast)**
- (b) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing common rules concerning the conditions to be complied with to pursue the occupation of road transport operator**
- (c) **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on common rules for access to the market for coach and bus services (recast)**
- **Policy debate/Progress report**
(Public deliberation, pursuant to Article 8(1)(c) CRP)
10092/2/07 TRANS 189 CODEC 599 REV 2
10114/1/07 TRANS 194 CODEC 602 REV 1
10102/2/07 TRANS 191 CODEC 601 REV 2
7366/08 TRANS 71 CODEC 333 + ADD 1 + ADD 2 + ADD 3

The Committee took note of the report on the above dossiers and decided to submit it for a policy debate/progress report to the TTE Council on 7 April 2008.

3. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on compliance with flag State requirements

- **Policy debate/Progress report**
(Public deliberation, pursuant to Article 8(1)(c) CRP)
6843/06 MAR 23 ENV 131 CODEC 201
7630/08 MAR 43 ENV 167 CODEC 374

The Committee examined and took note of the progress report and the questions to be submitted to the upcoming TTE Council on 7 April 2008.

- 4. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the civil liability and financial guarantees of shipowners**
- **Policy debate/Progress report**
(Public deliberation, pursuant to Article 8(1)(c) CRP)
5907/06 MAR 10 CODEC 94 ENV 51
7632/08 MAR 44 ENV 168 CODEC 376

The Committee examined and took note of the progress report and the questions to be submitted to the upcoming TTE Council on 7 April 2008.

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20. **Presentation of the agenda for the Council meeting (Justice and Home Affairs), on 18 April 2008**

The JHA Council was presented by the Presidency. The Committee was informed that the Council was going to be a one-day meeting on the 18th of April.

The Commission, supported by several delegations, asked for the inclusion on the Agenda of the "Draft Council Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement between the European Community and the United States of America regarding certain conditions for access to the United States' Visa waiver programme in accordance with section 711 of the "Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007"".

Some delegations expressed their opinion that such a discussion at Council level was premature.

21. **Follow up to the Council meeting (General Affairs and External Relations), on 10/11 March 2008**

Le Comité est informé par la Présidence des suites que celle-ci entend donner à certains points ayant fait l'objet des délibérations du Conseil.

22. **Relations with Russia**

- **Additional elements to complete the overall package for the adoption of Council Negotiating Directives for a new Agreement to provide a comprehensive framework for EU-Russia relations**
7655/08 PESC 341 COEST 58 NIS 50 ENER 82 RESTREINT UE

The Committee discussed additional elements related to the draft Council Negotiating Directives for a new Agreement to provide a comprehensive framework for EU-Russia relations. The Committee did not reach final agreement on the issue.

23. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Western Balkans

- **Enhancing the European perspective**
 - = **Presentation by the Commission**

7702/08 COWEB 82 ELARG 20 + ADD 1

The Committee heard a short presentation by the Commission on its Communication of 5 March (Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council "Western Balkans: Enhancing the European perspective"; ST 7702/08 COWEB 82 ELARG 20). Most delegations welcomed the document as a sound and balanced basis for a meaningful discussion on the EU's policy towards the Western Balkans region with a view to the informal Foreign Minister's meeting between the EU and the countries from Western Balkans on 29 March in Slovenia.

24. Neighbourhood Investment Facility

Following a number of technical meetings between the Commission and the Member States, the Committee was asked to confirm agreement reached on the operational aspects of the Neighbourhood Investment Facility. The Commission responded to a few technical questions raised by Member States (UK, FR, ES), who in the vast majority welcomed the work that has been carried out so far (UK, FR, ES, IT, SE, CZ, DE, PT, MT). One Member State (DK) reiterated its concerns over the procedures followed but stated that it would not hold up consensus. The Presidency concluded that the agreement reached was confirmed and that the operational phase of NIF can now proceed with the holding of the first meeting of the NIF Board.

- **Any other business**

- **Outcome of the European Union - United States Ministerial Troika Meeting on Justice and Home Affairs, 12-13 March 2008, Bled/Brdo pri Kranju**
7360/08 JAI 120 RELEX 157 USA 13

The Committee took note of an oral presentation by the Presidency and the Commission on the abovementioned meeting, highlighting questions relating to Visa reciprocity, Data protection as well as cooperation between law enforcement authorities.

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