



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 20 October 2009

13644/09

LIMITE

PV/CONS	48
COMPET	397
RECH	289

DRAFT MINUTES ¹

Subject : **2963rd** meeting of the Council of the European Union (**COMPETITIVENESS (Internal Market/Industry/Research)**) held in Brussels on 24 and 25 September 2009

¹ Information concerning the final adoption of Council acts which may be released to the public may be found in Addendum 1 to these minutes.

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1. **Adoption of the agenda**

13337/09 OJ CONS 48 COMPET 387 RECH 281

The above agenda was adopted with the addition of Any Other Business item (I) –
"Automotive industry: the state of play concerning Opel".

2. **Approval of the list of "A" items**

13394/09 PTS A 40

The "A" items listed in 13394/09 were approved.

Information relating to items 1 and 16–23 is set out in Addendum 1 to these minutes.

The documents in item 15 should read as follows:

Item 15: 13403/09 CDR 82
13404/09 CDR 83
+ REV 1 (mt)

3. **Reviewing Community innovation policy in a changing world**

- Information from the Commission
- Policy debate
(Public debate, pursuant to Article 8(3) CRP (proposed by the Presidency))
12905/09 COMPET 360 RECH 257 EDUC 126 ECOFIN 548 SOC 486 ENV 542
ENER 278 TELECOM 175 MI 312 IND 98 MAP 8
13097/09 COMPET 376 RECH 272 EDUC 134 ECOFIN 559 SOC 506 ENV 559
ENER 291 TELECOM 183 MI 327 IND 110 MAP 12

After a presentation by Commission Vice President VERHEUGEN, the Council proceeded to a policy debate among Ministers, on the basis of a Presidency questionnaire (13097/09).

4. **"Making the Internal Market work better"**

- (a) **Commission Recommendation on measures to improve the functioning of the Single Market**
- (b) **Internal Market Information System (IMI)**
- (c) **Internal Market Scoreboard**
- (d) **Contact points (Services Directive and the Regulation of Mutual Recognition)**
 - Adoption of Council conclusions
13024/09 COMPET 371 MI 324 SOC 499 CONSOM 170

The Council adopted the conclusions in 13024/09.

5. **State of play of the implementation of the Services Directive**

- Information from the Commission
- Exchange of views
13022/09 COMPET 369 SOC 497 JUSTCIV 188 MI 322

The Council held an exchange of views on the state of play of the implementation of the Services Directive in the Member States based on information from the Commission and a background note from the Presidency (13022/09). Following the exchange of views the Presidency noted that, although progress has been made, a considerable amount of work still remains for the Directive to be fully implemented on schedule by the end of December. This requires determined efforts by the Member States and continued support from the Commission.

6. **Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 78/660/EEC on the annual accounts of certain types of companies as regards micro-entities**

- Policy debate
(Public deliberation pursuant to Article 8 (1) CRP)
7229/1/09 DRS 18 COMPET 125 ECOFIN 176 CODEC 298 REV 1
13114/09 DRS 59 COMPET 379 ECOFIN 561 CODEC 1072

The Council held a policy debate on the Commission's proposal on the basis of the question set out in 13114/09 and took note of delegations' positions. The Presidency will continue contacts with the other institutions involved and will examine possible ways to find a suitable solution to reduce the administrative burdens for very small companies in the area of accounting.

7. **The development of the European Research Area and policy issues concerning research based innovation**

- Policy debate
(Public debate, pursuant to Article 8(3) CRP (proposed by the Presidency))
9374/09 RECH 129 COMPET 246
+ ADD 1
12905/09 COMPET 360 RECH 257 EDUC 126 ECOFIN 548 SOC 486 ENV 542
ENER 278 TELECOM 175 MI 312 IND 98 MAP 8
13047/09 RECH 268 COMPET 372
13070/09 RECH 270 COMPET 374 EDUC 133

The Council held a public debate on the future development of the European Research Area (ERA) and policy issues concerning research-based innovation on the basis of questions set out in 13047/09. This debate constituted a preparatory step to the December 2009 Competitiveness Council, where the Presidency intends to adopt integrated Council conclusions to provide an input to the future European Innovation Act as well as conclusions and a resolution on the structuring of the ERA.

8. Any Other Business

(a) **Better Regulation**

- Information from the Presidency
13544/09 COMPET 395

The Council took note of the information from the Presidency about its work programme in the area of Better Regulation and was informed by the Commission about the state of play with regard to the reduction of administrative burdens on enterprises.

(b) **Memorandum of understanding with the Brazilian competition authorities**

- Information from the Commission
13451/09 RC 13 COMPET 389 AMLAT 94

The Council took note of the intention of the Commission's DG Competition to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Brazilian competition authorities on enhanced cooperation in competition matters at an administrative level.

(c) **Work of the High Level Group on the competitiveness of the Agro-food industry**

- Information from the Commission
13076/09 COMPET 375 AGRI 381

(d) **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a harmonised methodology for classifying and reporting consumer complaints and enquiries**

- Information from the Commission
11978/09 CONSOM 148 MI 272
+ ADD 1
13373/09 CONSOM 176 MI 341

(e) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the enforcement of the consumer acquis

- Information from the Commission
11817/09 CONSOM 147 JUSTCIV 168
13374/09 CONSOM 177 JUSTCIV 193

(c) to (e) : The Council took note of the presentations and information from the Commission.

(f) Conference "Safe Products – At the Core of the EU Single Market" (Stockholm, 11 September 2009)

- Information from the Presidency
13545/09 MI 348

The Council took note of the information from the Presidency.

(g) Review of European Research Council

- Presentation by the Chair of the Panel

(h) Information on Joint programming

- Presentation by the Chairs of GPC

(i) Information on International Cooperation in research

- Presentation by the Chair of SFIC

(g) to (i) : The Council took note of the presentations by the Chairs of the respective bodies.

(j) Information on ITER

- Presentation by the Commission
13418/09 RECH 285 ATO 94

The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission.

(k) Information on a Council Recommendation on the launch of the Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) on combating neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer's

- Presentation by the Commission
12382/09 SAN 201 SOC 458 RECH 236
12953/09 RECH 260 SAN 221 SOC 490

The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission.

(l) Automotive industry: the state of play concerning Opel

- Information from the Commission

The Council took note of the information from the Commission.

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