



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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LIMITE

**PV CONS 58
COMPET 353
RECH 283**

DRAFT MINUTES¹

Subject : **2891st** meeting of the Council of the European Union (**COMPETITIVENESS – Internal Market/Industry/Research**) held in Brussels on
25 and 26 September 2008

¹ Information relating to 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**

13109/08 OJ/CONS 49 COMPET 334 RECH 278

The Council adopted the above agenda.

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

13054/08 PTS A 42

The Council approved the list of "A" items in the above document.

Addendum 1 to these minutes gives information on items 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 on that list.

3. (a) **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled: "Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy Action Plan"**

– Draft Council conclusions

– Exchange of views

12026/08 ENV 477 ENT 186 COMPET 277 MI 267 RELEX 571

RECH 228 ECO 92 SAN 152 IND 78 ENER 239 ECOFIN 309

MAP 26 CONSOM 94

12861/2/08 COMPET 316 ENV 542 IND 91 MAP 34 MI 295 RELEX 638

RECH 270 ECO 102 SAN 180 ENER 253 ECOFIN 331

CONSOM 112 REV 2

12987/1/08 COMPET 328 ENV 559 REV 1

The Council held an exchange of views on the action plan on enhancing sustainable means of consumption and production and a sustainable industrial policy.

The exchange of views enabled progress to be made in terms of the substance of the text of the conclusions with a view to facilitating its adoption at the meeting of the Environment Council on 20 October 2008. Discussions focused on the priority measures of the action plan which best fulfil European ambitions and objectives relating to sustainable consumption and production and a sustainable industrial policy. In particular, the discussions analysed the challenge facing European industry in moving towards an economy which should be based on sustainable means of production and consumption.

The Polish delegation stood by its reservation on paragraph 34 (page 19, footnote 27 to 13725/2/08 REV 2) on the treatment of carbon intensive industries in the future ETS scheme. Hence, no agreement was reached on the text.

(b) **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on public procurement for a better environment**

- Adoption of Council conclusions
12041/08 MAP 22 ENV 478
+ REV 1 (en,fr,de)
13067/08 MAP 38 ENV 562 COMPET 332 MI 312

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in 13067/08.

4. **Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, entitled: "Think small first: A Small Business Act for Europe"**

- Exchange of views
 - 11262/08 COMPET 249 IND 68 MI 232 ECO 84
 - 12863/08 COMPET 318 IND 93 MI 297 ECO 104
 - + COR 1 (it)

The Council held an exchange of views on the above communication and was able to work out political guidelines to aid the Council's preparatory fora in discussion of draft conclusions with a view to their adoption at the next Council (Competitiveness) on 1 and 2 December 2008.

Delegations voiced their opinions in particular on identifying the priority measures laid down in the "Small Business Act" (SBA), which could have a rapid impact on growth against a background of economic slowdown. A broad consensus emerged regarding the beneficial effects which implementation of the measures contained in the package could have on SMUs, in particular by facilitating access for SMUs to funding, by acting to reduce and simplify administrative burdens and by favouring undertakings' access to the market.

5. **Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee, entitled: "Towards an increased contribution from standardisation to innovation in Europe"**

- Adoption of Council conclusions
 - 8049/08 COMPET 116 IND 28 MI 110 RECH 108 TELECOM 37
 - + REV 1 (nl)
 - 12791/08 COMPET 303 IND 89 MI 290 RECH 260 TELECOM 130
 - + REV 1 (pt)
 - + COR 1 (sk)

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in 12791/08.

6. **Better regulation**

- Adoption of Council conclusions
13148/08 COMPET 335

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in 13148/08.

7. **Combating counterfeiting**

(a) **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee, entitled: "An industrial property rights strategy for Europe"**

- Presentation by the Commission
12267/08 PI 36 UD 130 COMPET 283 IND 83 MI 275 RECH 233
EDUC 194
+ REV 1 (de)

(b) **Report on the anti-counterfeiting customs action plan for 2005-2008**

- Information from the Commission

(c) **Draft Council Resolution on a comprehensive European plan for combating counterfeiting and piracy**

- Exchange of views
- Adoption
12847/08 PI 48 UD 145

The Council noted the Commission's submissions relating to its communication entitled "An industrial property rights strategy for Europe" (12267/08) and the assessment of the anti-counterfeiting customs action plan for 2005-2008.

On the basis of those submissions, the Council held an exchange of views on the subject of anti-counterfeiting and anti-piracy measures, underlining the need to step up cooperation at European and international level in order to curb this phenomenon, which is damaging the competitiveness of undertakings.

The Council adopted the Resolution set out in 12847/08.

• **Future of European space policy**

- Adoption of a Council Resolution (following the Space Council meeting)
12868/08 RECH 272 COMPET 320

The Council adopted the Resolution set out in 13569/08 RECH 287 COMPET 360
IND 116 TRANS 304 POLARM 28.

9. **Responsible nanosciences and nanotechnologies research**

- Adoption of Council conclusions
12853/1/08 REV 1 RECH 264 COMPET 311

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in 13672/08 RECH 290 COMPET 368.

10. **Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, entitled:**

"Better careers and more mobility: A European partnership for researchers"

- Adoption of Council conclusions
10059/08 RECH 187 EDUC 155 COMPET 200
12854/08 RECH 265 COMPET 312 EDUC 205

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in 13671/08 RECH 289 COMPET 367 EDUC 226.

11. **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, entitled: "Towards joint programming in research: Working together to tackle common challenges more effectively"**

- Presentation by the Commission
- Policy debate
 - 11935/08 RECH 223 COMPET 270
 - 12855/08 RECH 266 COMPET 313

The Council held a policy debate on methods and prospects for joint programming, following the presentation by the Commission of its communication "Towards joint programming in research: Working together to tackle common challenges more effectively" (11935/08). The communication had already been discussed informally at the informal meeting of Research Ministers in Versailles on 17 July 2008.

The debate made possible a useful contribution to pursuing discussions in the Council preparatory bodies with a view to drawing up draft conclusions on this subject, which could be adopted by the Competitiveness Council in December (12855/08).

12. **Common commitment by the Member States to combat neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Alzheimer's**

- Adoption of Council conclusions
 - 12856/08 RECH 267 SAN 178

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in 13668/08 RECH 288 SAN 203.

13. Other business

(a) **Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council revising Council Directive 88/378/EEC of 3 May 1988 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the safety of toys**

- Information from the Presidency on the state of play
5938/08 MI 40 ENT 18 CONSOM 14 SAN 20 ECO 16 CODEC 120
+ ADD 1
+ ADD 2

The Presidency reported on progress on a proposal to revise Directive 88/378/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the safety of toys.

The Commission forwarded its proposal to enhance the safety of toys (5938/08) to the European Parliament and the Council on 28 January 2008, and made a presentation of it to the Council on 29 May 2008.

(b) **Internal market scoreboard**

- Presentation by the Commission
11740/08 MI 249 COMPET 265

Commissioner McCreevy presented Internal Market Scoreboard No 17 concerning the state of transposition of internal market legislation into national law.

- (c) **Ljubljana process – Definition of "Vision 2020" for the European research area**
– Information from the Presidency on the state of play
12852/08 RECH 263 COMPET 310

The Presidency reported on progress in the definition of the way ahead between now and 2020 for the ERA, which was an essential component of the Ljubljana Process. Conclusions were planned for adoption in December (12852/08).

- (d) **Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, entitled: "A European strategy for marine and maritime research – A coherent European research area framework in support of a sustainable use of oceans and seas"**
– Presentation by the Commission
12699/08 RECH 249 COMPET 297 ENV 516 TRANS 274 PECHE 220
POLGEN 89

Commissioner POTOČNIK presented the broad outlines of the communication entitled "A European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research – A coherent European Research Area framework in support of a sustainable use of oceans and seas", sent to the Council on 5 September 2008.

- (e) **Proposal for a Council Regulation on the legal framework for a European research infrastructure**
– Presentation by the Commission
12259/08 RECH 232 COMPET 282

The Commission gave a presentation on the draft Regulation on the Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure (ERI).

The proposed Regulation, which was sent to the Council on 29 July 2008, is designed to facilitate the joint establishment and operation of research facilities of European interest between several Member States and countries associated with the EU R&D Framework Programme. It has been drawn up in response to requests from the Member States and the scientific community.

(f) Commission communication on a strategic European framework for international science and technology cooperation (including nuclear aspects)

- Presentation by the Commission
13498/08 RECH 284 COMPET 354 RELEX 690 DEVGEN 161

The Commission presented its communication on a strategic European framework for international science and technology cooperation (including nuclear aspects). The communication is in response to the Council conclusions of February 2008 and is one of the Commission's five initiatives on the European Research Area.

(g) Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the methodology and terms of reference to be used for the review to be carried out by independent experts concerning the European Research Council structures and mechanisms

- Presentation by the Commission
12557/08 RECH 242 COMPET 293

The Commission presented its communication on the review of European Research Council structures and mechanisms, to be carried out by independent experts, as provided for by the legislation relating to the 7th EU research Framework Programme.

- (h) **Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, entitled: "Ex-post evaluation of the "information society technologies (IST)" thematic priority in the sixth framework programme for research, technological development and demonstration (RTD)"**

– Presentation by the Commission
12718/08 RECH 252 COMPET 299 TELECOM 124

The Commission presented its communication entitled: "Ex-post evaluation of the "Information Society Technologies" Thematic Priority in the Sixth Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration".

- (i) **Inauguration of the European Institute of Technology**

– Information from the Presidency
13275/08 RECH 281 COMPET 338

The Presidency reported on the EIT's inauguration ceremony, held in Budapest (Hungary) on 15 September 2008.

- (j) **Transatlantic economic dialogue**

– Information from the Commission
13408/08 COMPET 348 IND 106

Commission Vice-President G. Verheugen gave an oral briefing on future prospects with regard to the transatlantic economic dialogue.

(k) Impact of the energy-climate package on electricity prices

- Information from the Polish delegation, supported by the Romanian delegation
13280/08 COMPET 339 IND 100 ENV 574

The Polish delegation provided information concerning the possible consequences of future measures under the climate-energy package for the level and stability of electricity prices.
