



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



6653/14

(OR. en)

PROVISIONAL VERSION

PRESSE 76
PR CO 7

PRESS RELEASE

3295th Council meeting

Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)

Brussels, 20 February 2014

President **Kostas Hatzidakis**
Minister for Development and Competitiveness of Greece

P R E S S

Rue de la Loi 175 B – 1048 BRUSSELS Tel.: +32 (0)2 281 6319 / 6319 Fax: +32 (0)2 281 8026
press.office@consilium.europa.eu <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/press>

6653/14

1
EN

Main results of the Council

Industrial competitiveness

*Ministers held a debate on **industrial competitiveness** on the basis of the Commission communication “For a European Industrial Renaissance”, which proposes that industrial competitiveness concerns be systematically mainstreamed across relevant EU policy areas such as environmental, climate, energy, trade, competition and state aid and regional policies. The outcome of the debate will feed into discussions on industrial competitiveness to take place at the next EU summit on 20 and 21 March.*

Annual Growth Survey 2014

*Ministers held a debate on the Commission's **Annual Growth Survey (AGS)** for 2014. The AGS is the starting point for the European Semester, which involves simultaneous monitoring of the member states' fiscal, economic and employment policies during a six-month period every year. The AGS 2014 is accompanied by the second edition of the "**State of the Single Market Integration**", a report that shows the state of single market integration in key areas with the greatest economic growth potential.*

Other issues

Without discussion the Council adopted a directive aimed at improving the functioning of copyright collecting societies in the internal market and facilitating cross-border licensing of authors' rights in online music.

It also adopted a regulation concerning the notification to the Commission of investment projects in energy infrastructure within the EU.

CONTENTS¹

PARTICIPANTS..... 5

ITEMS DEBATED

Annual growth survey 2014..... 8

Industrial competitiveness..... 10

ANY OTHER BUSINESS..... 13

Tourism: coastal strategy and quality principles..... 13

Impact of a “traffic light” nutrition labelling system..... 13

State aid reform..... 14

Unified Patent Court Agreement..... 14

e-Invoicing in public procurement..... 14

Statute for a European Foundation..... 15

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

INTERNAL MARKET

– Sound level of motor vehicles..... 16

– Chemicals - Classification and labelling of substances..... 16

– Sectoral product harmonisation - New legislative framework..... 17

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

– Collective management of copyright and licensing of online music..... 18

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.

GENERAL AFFAIRS

- EU cohesion policy - Code of conduct on partnership 18

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- EU-Armenia cooperation agreement- Participation in EU programmes 19

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

- Reduced tax rates on traditional rum from Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Réunion..... 19

TRADE POLICY

- Kimberley Process on control of rough diamonds - Greenland..... 19
- Lifting of tuna import restrictions - Bolivia, Georgia..... 20

ENERGY

- Investment projects in energy infrastructure 20

PARTICIPANTS

Belgium:

Mr Jean-Claude MARCOURT
Mr Philippe COURARD

Mr Olivier BELLE

Bulgaria:

Ms Anna YANEVA
Mr Ivan KRUSTEV
Ms Petia VASSILEVA

Czech Republic:

Mr Jan MLÁDEK
Mr Tomas HRUDA
Mr Karel DOBEŠ

Denmark:

Ms Sofie CARSTEN NIELSEN
Mr Henrik SASS LARSEN

Germany:

Mr Sigmar GABRIEL
Mr Georg SCHÜTTE

Ms Brigitte ZYPRIES

Estonia:

Mr Juhan PARTS
Mr Jaak AAVIKSOO
Mr Clyde KULL

Ireland:

Mr Richard BRUTON
Mr Seán SHERLOCK

Greece:

Mr Konstantinos HATZIDAKIS
Mr Christos VASILAKOS

Spain:

Mr José Manuel SORIA LÓPEZ
Ms Carmen VELA OLMO
Ms Begoña CRISTETO

France:

Mr Arnaud MONTEBOURG
Mr Alexis DUTERTRE

Croatia:

Mr Ivan VRDOLJAK
Mr Saša ZELENKA

Italy:

Ms Maria Chiara CARROZZA
Mr Enzo MOAVERO MILANESI
Mr Flavio ZANONATO

Vice-President and Minister for Higher Education
State Secretary for Institutional Reforms, attached to the
Prime Minister, and State Secretary for the Buildings
Agency and Sustainable Development, attached to the
Minister for Finance, with responsibility for the Civil
Service
Deputy Permanent Representative

Deputy Minister for the Economy and Energy
Deputy Minister of Education and Science
Deputy Permanent Representative

Minister for Industry and Trade
Deputy Minister for Education
Deputy Minister for Transport

Minister for Science, Innovation and Higher Education
Minister for Business and Growth

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy
State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education and
Research
Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of
Economic Affairs and Energy

Minister for Economic Affairs and Communications
Minister for Education and Science
Deputy Permanent Representative

Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Minister of State with responsibility for Research and
Innovation (Departments of Jobs, Enterprise and
Innovation and Education and Skills)

Minister for Development and Competitiveness
General Secretary for Research and Technology

Minister for Industry, Energy and Tourism
State Secretary for Research, Development and Innovation
Secretary General of Industry for Small and Medium
Enterprises

Minister for Economic Regeneration
Deputy Permanent Representative

Minister for the Economy
Deputy Minister for Science, Education and Sports

Minister for Education, Universities and Research
Minister responsible for European Affairs
Minister for Economic Development

Cyprus:

Mr Stelios D. HIMONAS

Ms Maria HADJITHEODOSIOU

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Commerce,
Industry and Tourism
Deputy Permanent Representative

Latvia:

Ms Ina DRUVIETE

Mr Vjačeslavs DOMBROVSKIS

Minister for Education and Science
Minister for the Economy

Lithuania:

Mr Dainius PAVALKIS

Ms Rasa NOREIKIENĖ

Minister for Education and Science
Vice-Minister for Economy

Luxembourg:

Mr Etienne SCHNEIDER

Mr Claude MEISCH

Vice Prime Minister and Minister for Economy, Internal
Security and Defence
Minister for Higher Education and Research

Hungary:

Mr Zoltán CSÉFALVAY

State Secretary for Parliamentary Affairs and Economic
Strategy, Ministry of the National Economy

Malta:

Mr Christian CARDONA

Mr Stefan BUONTEMPO

Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business
Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth
and Sport within the Ministry for Education and
Employment

Netherlands:

Mr Henk KAMP

Mr Sander DEKKER

Mr Wepke KINGMA

Minister for Economic Affairs
State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science
Deputy Permanent Representative

Austria:

Mr Reinhold MITTERLEHNER

Mr Harald GÜNTHER

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, the Family and
Youth
Deputy Permanent Representative

Poland:

Mr Andrzej DYCHA

Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of the Economy

Portugal:

Mr António PIRES DE LIMA

Mr Nuno CRATO

Minister for the Economy
Minister for Education and Science

Romania:

Mr Andrian VOLINTIRU

Mr Tudor PRISECARU

Secretary of State, Ministry of the Economy
State Secretary, Ministry of National Education

Slovenia:

Ms Andreja KERT

Ms Metka IPAVIC

State Secretary at the Ministry of Economic Development
and Technology
Deputy Permanent Representative

Slovakia:

Mr Pavol PAVLIS

Mr Alexander MICOVČIN

State Secretary at the Ministry of the Economy
Deputy Permanent Representative

Finland:

Ms Marja RISLAKKI

Mr Timo KOPRIJÄRVI

State Secretary, Ministry of Employment and the Economy
State Secretary, Ministry of Employment and the Economy

Sweden:

Ms Annie LÖÖF

Mr Peter HONETH

Minister for Enterprise and Regional Affairs
State Secretary responsible for higher education and
research, Ministry of Education

United Kingdom:

Mr Ian Paul LIVINGSTON

Minister of State for Trade and Investment, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Mr David WILLETTS

Minister of State for Universities and Science, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

.....

Commission:

Mr Joaquin ALMUNIA

Vice-President

Mr Antonio TAJANI

Vice-President

Mr Michel BARNIER

Member

Ms Máire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN

Member

M. Tonio BORG

Member

Ms Maria DAMANAKI

Member

ITEMS DEBATED

Annual growth survey 2014

Ministers held a debate on the Annual Growth Survey 2014, as a part of all relevant Council deliberations in preparation for the spring European Council on 20 and 21 March.

On 13 November 2013, the Commission published its [Annual Growth Survey for 2014](#), which is an analysis of the progress on the Europe 2020 targets for the creation of economic growth and jobs.

In order to encourage growth and competitiveness, the communication recommends that EU and national level efforts should continue to focus on the following five priorities:

- Pursuing growth-friendly fiscal consolidation;
- Restoring normal lending to the economy;
- Promoting growth and competitiveness;
- Tackling unemployment and the social consequences of the crisis; and
- Modernising public administrations.

The debate focused on the measures that, under the remit of the Competitiveness Council, can improve the economic performance and create added value in both the short and long term.

The importance of the Annual Growth Survey was largely recognized together with a clear message concerning the need of pursuing in the internal market integration with the aim of creating growth and jobs. All member states reiterated their interest for the deepening of the “Services Directive” and stressed the need for an ambitious implementation.

National reforms stay high on national policy agendas and thus the Commission work programme was welcome. Member states reported on current reforms, stating priority services sectors, such as business services, trade, construction and professional services and considered that transparency, mutual evaluation and exchange of best practices are the right tools for that purpose.

Several delegations also indicated that further work towards lifting barriers to services and products should be promoted in order to enhance the international competitiveness of the EU.

Many emphasized the convenience to closely work in partnership with the Commission so as to be able to reap the full economic benefits out of the implementation of the national reform programmes.

The Annual Growth Survey launches the European semester.

The European semester makes part of a new governance architecture that was approved by the member states in 2010. It is a six-month period every year during which the member states' budgetary and structural policies will be reviewed to detect any inconsistencies and emerging imbalances. The aim is to reinforce coordination while major budgetary decisions are still under preparation.

In a new monitoring cycle, the European Council each March will identify the main economic challenges facing the EU and give strategic advice on policies. Taking this guidance into account, the member states will present their medium-term budgetary strategies in their stability and convergence programs. At the same time, they will draw up national reform programs setting out the action to be undertaken to strengthen their policies in several areas.

Together with the Annual Growth Survey, the Commission presented the second [Single Market integration report](#), aimed at monitoring the functioning of the single market within the European Semester process. The report presents an analysis of the state of single market integration in five sectors with the highest growth potential: services, financial services, energy, transport and digital markets. Some of these issues were the subject of Council conclusions adopted last December ([16443/13](#)).

Industrial competitiveness

Ministers held a policy debate on fostering industrial competitiveness following a presentation by the Commission of the communication "[For a European industrial renaissance](#)". They also heard presentations on three other recent Commission communications in fields relevant to industrial competitiveness and economy recovery:

- "A vision for the internal market for industrial products" ([5742/14](#))
- "Energy prices and costs in Europe" ([5599/1/14 REV 1](#))
- "A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030" ([5644/14](#))

The Presidency, considering that industrial competitiveness is likely to figure prominently on the agenda of the Spring European Council in March on 20 and 21 March, put three questions to the ministers for discussion in order to define the priority actions for improving industrial competitiveness in Europe during the next five years ([5810/14](#)).

Member States in general supported the targets and priorities of the Communication, highlighting the pre-eminent importance of industry for economic growth and focusing on implementing the initiatives proposed by the Commission.

A broad consensus emerged on the importance of intensifying the mainstreaming of industrial competitiveness in other policy areas. The importance of coordinating different European policies was also emphasized. In this context, the need to strengthen the horizontal role of the Competitiveness Council was reiterated.

Energy prices and the need for a single energy market were highlighted as important elements affecting industrial competitiveness. Several Member States pointed to the need for a more balanced approach between the EU's industrial, energy and climate policies.

The uninterrupted supply of raw materials at affordable prices was also said to be critical to the competitiveness of European industry.

Member States were in favour of streamlining all relevant funds, including Structural Funds, in order to stimulate investment and innovation. In this context, they highlighted the important contribution of Smart Specialization in enhancing the specific innovation-related growth potential of the European regions.

Greater support for SMEs with an emphasis on improving the regulatory environment and their access to finance, as well as ensuring a well-functioning internal market, were said to be critical for a European industrial policy that could deliver on growth and job creation.

Several Member States mentioned the need for a harmonized approach to Industrial challenges by focusing mainly on creating the right framework conditions for all industrial sectors.

Finally, the role of clusters in creating favourable conditions for innovative SMEs and the development of a digital single market were also mentioned.

In its communication for a European industrial renaissance, the Commission calls on member states to recognise the central importance of industry for boosting competitiveness and sustainable growth in Europe and for a systematic consideration of competitiveness concerns across all policy areas.

It also calls for the endorsement of the reindustrialisation efforts in line with the Commission's aspiration of raising the contribution of industry to GDP to as much as 20% by 2020.

To that end, it considers that the following priorities should be pursued to support the competitiveness of European industry:

- to deepen the mainstreaming of industrial competitiveness in other policy areas;
- to maximise the potential of the internal market for products, capitals and services;
- to implement the instruments of regional development with national and EU instruments in support of innovation, skills and entrepreneurship;
- to encourage investment and facilitate businesses access to critical inputs, such as energy and raw materials, at affordable prices; and
- to facilitate the integration of EU firms in global markets.

Last December, the Council adopted conclusions on industrial policy ([17202/13](#)). The conclusions put forward recommendations on a broad range of issues affecting industrial competitiveness such as innovation, measures to facilitate access to finance, improved market conditions (internal market, third country markets, energy markets, including a level playing field vis-à-vis third country energy producers and access to raw materials) and human capital.

Euro-Mediterranean industrial cooperation

Ministers took stock of the outcome of the 9th ministerial meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean on industrial cooperation held in Brussels on 19 February.

Industrial cooperation under the Euro-Mediterranean partnership is helping to create an area of shared prosperity between the EU and Mediterranean partner countries. EU and Mediterranean industry ministers meet every 2 years to take stock of progress, decide on future priorities and adopt a 2-year work programme. On 11-12 May 2011, industry ministers met for the 8th time in Malta and adopted a work programme for 2011-2012.

<http://ufmsecretariat.org/ufm-ministerial-meeting-on-euro-mediterranean-industrial-cooperation/>

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Tourism: coastal strategy and quality principles

The Council took note of presentations by the Commission on two recent proposals concerning a European strategy for coastal and maritime tourism and a recommendation on European tourism quality principles¹.

The communication on “a European strategy for more growth and jobs in coastal and Maritime Tourism in the EU” aims at promoting the sustainable economic growth of the maritime and coastal tourism sector and to enhance its competitiveness.

The recommendation outlining a set of European Tourism Quality Principles seeks to improve the quality of tourism services across the EU.

The Hellenic Presidency announced the organisation of a a High-Level Conference on tourism in March.

Impact of a “traffic light” nutrition labelling system

The Italian delegation, supported by several delegations, drew the attention of the Council regarding a “traffic light” system for food labelling developed by the United Kingdom aimed at classifying foods on the basis of a colour code, based on the content of the product, and its effects on the free circulation of goods in the internal market as well as the correct information for consumers ([5899/14](#)).

The Commission took note of the concerns expressed by the Italian delegation and recalled that the system developed by the United Kingdom is a voluntary system made possible by the current legislation on labelling. It also indicated that it will examine the requests made by the Italian delegation paying attention that the scheme respects the principles of functioning of the internal market.

The United Kingdom delegation recalled the voluntary nature of the scheme and stated that will continue to monitor the scheme in order to guarantee that it operates without creating obstacles in the functioning of the internal market.

¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-168_en.htm

State aid reform

The Council took note of updated information from the Commission concerning the ongoing reform for the modernisation of state aid rules. Notably of the approval by the Commission today (20 February) of the new guidelines on how member states can support airports and airlines in line with EU state aid rules².

The aviation guidelines are aimed at ensuring good connections between regions and the mobility of European citizens, while minimising distortions of competition in the internal market. They are part of the state aid modernisation strategy, which aims at fostering growth by encouraging more effective aid measures and focusing the Commission's scrutiny on cases with the biggest impact on competition.

Unified Patent Court Agreement

The Council took note of updated information from the Commission concerning the state of preparations for the establishment of a Unified Patent Court.

The so called "patent package" consist of two regulations for establishing the unitary patent system and an international agreement for establishing the Unified Patent Court (UPC).

The UPC has been signed by all member states except Spain, Poland and Croatia. Only Austria and Malta have ratified it so far.

Two committees are currently in charge of preparing the work for the entry into force of the new patent system: the Select Committee for the unitary patent, operating under the auspices of the European Patent Organisation in Munich, and the Preparatory Committee for the Unified Patent Court, operating as an intergovernmental body

e-Invoicing in public procurement

The Council took note of information provided by the Presidency on the political agreement achieved with the European Parliament in first reading on a draft directive on electronic invoicing in public procurement. A final vote in the plenary session of the European Parliament is scheduled to take place on 11 March.

See press release:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/intm/140787.pdf

² http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-12-458_en.htm

Statute for a European Foundation

The Council took note from the Presidency of the state of play regarding a draft regulation aimed at establishing the Statute for a European Foundation.

The proposal has been examined under the successive previous Presidencies without reaching the required unanimity in the Council .

In November last year, the EU's Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER) agreed to have tax provisions deleted from the proposal. Although the Commission regretted this deletion, it paved the way for a renewed examination of the proposal.

The Presidency announced its intention to take the work forward without delay with a view to making rapid progress in the negotiations.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

INTERNAL MARKET

Sound level of motor vehicles

The Council adopted its first-reading position on a draft regulation aimed at reducing the noise of motor vehicles³ ([17695/13](#) + [ADD 1](#) + [ADD 1 COR 1](#)).

The text of the Council's position reflects the compromise reached with the European Parliament last November (see press release [16326/13](#)). It will have to be confirmed through a vote in the European Parliament in second reading.

The regulation seeks to improve the functioning of the internal market by establishing the administrative and technical requirements for the EU type-approval of certain new vehicles with regard to their sound level and their exhaust systems, and for the sale and entry into service of parts and equipment intended for those vehicles. It takes also into account the objectives of protection of public health and protection of the environment.

The regulation will introduce a new testing method for measuring the sound emissions of motor vehicles as well as lower noise limit values for different categories of light, medium-sized and heavy vehicles. It will also provide for a minimum sound level in the case of electric and hybrid-electric vehicles.

Chemicals - Classification and labelling of substances

The Council adopted a directive updating five existing directives in the area of health and safety at work to take account of the new system for the classification and labelling of substances and mixtures within the Union ([PE-CONS 125/13](#)).

The amended directives (92/58/EEC, 92/85/EEC, 94/33/EC, 98/24/EC and 2004/37/EC) contain references to EU chemical classification and labelling legislation which became outdated following the adoption of regulation 1272/2008 on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures. This regulation implements the United Nations Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling⁴ within the EU.

³ The Dutch delegation voted against ([6414/14 ADD 1 REV 1](#)).

⁴ http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_welcome_e.html

Sectoral product harmonisation - New legislative framework

The Council approved the recast of eight directives in order to adapt them to the new EU's legislative framework on sectoral product harmonisation.

The recast seeks to further harmonise and simplify national laws applicable to:

- explosives for civil uses ([PE-CONS 47/13](#), [6386/14 ADD 1](#))
- simple pressure vessels ([PE-CONS 48/13](#), [6387/14 ADD 1](#))
- electromagnetic compatibility ([PE-CONS 49/13](#), [6389/14 ADD 1](#))
- non-automatic weighing instruments ([PE-CONS 50/13](#), [6390/14 ADD 1](#))
- measuring instruments ([PE-CONS 51/13](#), [6391/14 ADD 1](#))
- lifts and safety components for lifts ([PE-CONS 52/13](#), [6392/14 ADD 1](#))
- equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres ([PE-CONS 53/13](#), [6393/14 ADD 1](#))
- electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits ([PE-CONS 54/13](#), [6395/14 ADD 1](#))

The EU's "new legislative framework", which was adopted in 2008,

is a general measure of the internal market whose objective is to strengthen the effectiveness of the Union's legislation on product safety, its implementation mechanisms, and ensure a greater consistency throughout all the different economic sectors. This framework is also part of the Union's policy in terms of simplification of regulations and the reduction of administrative burdens.

Its effective implementation brings about a modernised legal environment for the companies, strengthens the safety of products available on the market, and ensures a better functioning internal market through, *inter alia*, equal treatment of economic operators on the market.

It is made up of two complementary texts: regulation 765/2008 outlining the requirements concerning accreditation and surveillance for the marketing of products, and decision 768/2008/EC relating to a common framework for the marketing of products.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Collective management of copyright and licensing of online music

The Council adopted a directive on collective management of copyright and multi-territorial licensing of online music ([PE-CONS 115/13](#) and [6434/14 ADD 1](#)).

The directive pursues two complementary objectives:

- to increase transparency and efficiency in the functioning of copyright collective management organisations, and
- to facilitate the granting of cross-border licensing of authors' rights in online music.

For more information see press release [6654/14](#).

GENERAL AFFAIRS

EU cohesion policy - Code of conduct on partnership

The Council decided not to object a Commission regulation providing for a European code of conduct on partnership ([5703/14](#)).

Partnership is one of the key principles of the European Union funds managed by the EU and Member States together in "shared management". The partnership principle implies close cooperation between public authorities at national, regional and local levels in the member states and with the private and other sectors.

Experience shows, however, that member states implement the partnership principle in very different ways, depending on national institutional set-ups and traditions of stakeholder involvement. The code of conduct is intended to provide a framework for partnership, in accordance with member states' institutional and legal frameworks, taking account of national and regional competences.

The regulation is a delegated act pursuant to article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU. This means that now that the Council has given its consent, the act can enter into force, unless the European Parliament objects it.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EU-Armenia cooperation agreement- Participation in EU programmes

The Council approved the conclusion of a protocol to the EU-Armenia partnership and cooperation agreement on the principles for the participation of the Armenia in EU programmes.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Reduced tax rates on traditional rum from Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Réunion

The Council adopted a decision authorising France to apply reduced rates of excise duties and of the contribution levied for the national sickness insurance fund (cotisation sur les boissons alcooliques) to traditional rum produced in the four outermost regions of Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Réunion and sold on the French mainland ([6240/14](#)).

The Council decision is aimed at addressing the difficulty for traditional rum to compete on the EU market due to higher production costs, higher freight costs and higher taxes (since traditional rum is typically marketed at higher levels of alcohol, ranging from 40° to 59°).

The cumulative fiscal advantage authorised must not exceed 50% of the full rate for alcohol. The derogation applies until 31 December 2020 and is limited to an annual quota of 120000 hectoliters of pure alcohol.

TRADE POLICY

Kimberley Process on control of rough diamonds - Greenland

The Council adopted a decision setting out the rules for the participation of Greenland in the system of certification on trade controls for rough diamonds ([17985/13](#)).

The EU is a participant in the Kimberley Process (KP) certification scheme for the international trade in rough diamonds. As a participant it has to ensure that a certificate accompanies each shipment of rough diamonds imported into or exported from the territory of the Union.

The decision will enable Greenland to export rough diamonds accompanied by the EU certificate issued for the purposes of the KP certification scheme.

The Council also amended regulation 2368/2002, which sets up the EU system of certification for the purposes of implementing the KP certification scheme ([PE-CONS 136/13](#)).

Lifting of tuna import restrictions - Bolivia, Georgia

The Council adopted a regulation repealing regulation 827/2004 on the prohibition of imports of Atlantic bigeye tuna originating in Bolivia, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia and Sierra Leone.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in 1998 adopted a resolution identifying Bolivia, Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia and Sierra Leone as countries whose vessels fish Atlantic bigeye tuna in a way that diminishes the effectiveness of its conservation and management measures. This led to the adoption of regulation 827/2004.

In 2005, the Council amended the regulation to lift the prohibition on imports of Atlantic bigeye tuna and its products from Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea and Sierra Leone after the ICCAT acknowledged the efforts had been made by the three countries to address its concerns. In 2011, the ICCAT also acknowledged the actions taken by Bolivia and Georgia. The regulation is therefore repealed.

ENERGY

Investment projects in energy infrastructure

The Council adopted a regulation concerning the notification to the Commission of investment projects in energy infrastructure within the EU ([PE-CONS 117/13](#)).

Obtaining an overall picture of the development of investment in energy infrastructure in the Union is essential for the development of European energy policy. The availability of regular and up-to-date data and information will enable the Commission to make comparisons and evaluations, or to propose relevant measures, in particular concerning the future energy supply/demand balance. In this way, greater attention will be paid to investment in energy infrastructure in the Union, in particular with a view to anticipating problems, promoting best practices and establishing greater transparency in the future development of the Union's energy system.

For more details see press release [6754/14](#).