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Agriculture and Fisheries

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President

Michel Barnier

French Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

P R E S S

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Main results of the Council

*The Council reached political agreement on emergency measures to deal with the **crisis** in the **fisheries** sector.*

*The Council held a policy debate on the "**Health Check**" of the Common Agricultural Policy reform.*

The Council adopted a regulation concluding a protocol provided for in the partnership agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauretania.

Without discussion, the Council adopted a regulation reviewing fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks for 2008.

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- 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.

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PARTICIPANTS

The Governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Ms Sabine LARUELLE

Minister for SMEs, the Self-Employed, Agriculture and Science Policy

Mr Kris PEETERS

Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister for Institutional Reform, Ports, Agriculture, Sea Fisheries and Rural Policy

Bulgaria:

Mr Valeri TSVETANOV

Minister for Agriculture and Food Supply

Czech Republic:

Mr Petr GANDALOVIČ

Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Ms Kjer Eva HANSEN

Minister for Food

Germany:

Mr Horst SEEHOFER

Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

Estonia:

Mr Helir-Valdor SEEDER

Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Brendan SMITH

Mr Tony KILLEEN

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with special responsibility for Fisheries and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Alexandros CONTOS

Minister for Rural Development and Food

Spain:

Ms Elena ESPINOSA MANGANA

Minister for the Environment, and the Rural and Marine Environment

France:

Mr Michel BARNIER

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Luca ZAIA

Minister for Agricultural and Forestry Policy

Cyprus:

Mr Michalis POLYNIKI CHARALAMBIDES

Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

Latvia:

Mr Mārtiņš ROZE

Minister for Agriculture

Lithuania:

Ms Kazimira Danutė PRUNSKIENĖ

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN

Minister for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development, Minister for Small and Medium-sized Businesses, the Liberal Professions and the Self-Employed, Tourism and Housing

Hungary:

Mr József GRÁF

Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development

Malta:

Mr George PULLICINO

Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs

Netherlands:

Ms Gerda VERBURG

Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

Austria:

Ms Edith KLAUSER

Director-General, Federal Ministry of Agriculture,
Forestry, the Environment and Water Management

Poland:

Mr Marek SAWICKI

Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development

Portugal:

Mr Jaime SILVA

Mr Luís VIEIRA

Minister for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries
State Secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries

Romania:

Mr Dacian CIOLOȘ

Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development

Slovenia:

Ms Branka TOME

State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Food

Slovakia:

Ms Zdenka KRAMPLOVÁ

Minister for Agriculture

Finland:

Ms Sirkka-Liisa ANTILA

Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

Sweden:

Mr Eskil ERLANDSSON

Minister for Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr Jonathan SHAW

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Marine,
Landscape and Rural Affairs, and Minister for the
South East

Mr Richard LOCHHEAD

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment,
Scottish Government

Commission:

Mr Joe BORG

Member

Ms Mariann FISCHER BOEL

Member

Ms Androulla VASSILIOU

Member

ITEMS DEBATED

PRESIDENCY WORK PROGRAMME

Mr Michel Barnier briefly described the Presidency work programme for the coming six months to Ministers ([11147/08](#)). The central topics are:

In agriculture:

1. The "health check" following the 2003 reform of the Common Agriculture Policy;
2. Free distribution of fruit and vegetables to schoolchildren from 6 to 10 years of age;
3. Provision of food items to the most deprived;
4. Sustainable use of forest resources;
5. The Commission Green Paper on quality policy;

In the veterinary, plant health and public health fields:

1. The legislative package on the sustainable use of pesticides and marketing of plant health products;
2. The Community animal health policy strategy (2007-2013);
3. The maximum permissible limits for veterinary medicinal product residues;

4. Compliance with Community standards for food imports;
5. Taking forward bilateral negotiations with third countries in connection with sanitary and phytosanitary agreements and multilateral negotiations within the *Codex Alimentarius* and the International Epizootics Organisation (OIE);

In fisheries:

1. Emergency measures to deal with the economic crisis in the fisheries sector;
2. The traditional October and end-of-year negotiations on the total admissible catch (TAC) for Community fishing and the allocation of quotas for the Member States concerned (including the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea and deep-water species).

AGRICULTURE

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Health Check

The Council held a policy debate on the Health Check of the CAP, as reformed in 2003-2004 (9656/08).

The debate was structured by a Presidency questionnaire relating to four important aspects of the proposal: modulation, market management mechanisms, dairy quotas and cross compliance ([11488/08](#)).

Regarding the **increase** in the rate of compulsory **modulation** proposed by the Commission, several delegations wanted to continue exploring the other options for the funding needed to meet the new challenges. Some Member States reiterated their preference for keeping a strong Pillar I, while others considered that Pillar II already took on board the new challenges.

The "soft landing" principle for the phasing out of **milk quotas** was accepted by a majority of delegations. However, a number of them considered the level of the proposed annual increases (5 times 1 %) inadequate. The report envisaging a reassessment of the situation by the end of June 2011 was welcomed by some Member States, while others thought an immediate decision should be taken.

All delegations welcomed the effort made to simplify the **cross compliance** rules and hoped it would continue, and that the rules would be made more transparent both for operators and for the authorities monitoring their application.

A large number of delegations felt that **good agricultural and environmental practices** (GAEP) should remain indicative, in order to take account of the specific situations in the individual Member States.

The Council instructed the preparatory bodies to continue their technical and political proceedings with a view to reaching agreement on this matter in November.

On 20 May 2008, the Commission adopted proposals as a follow-up to the CAP Health Check, on which the Council had adopted conclusions on 17 March.

Legal basis proposed: Article 37 of the Treaty – qualified majority required for a Council Decision; consultation of the European Parliament compulsory.

Fruit and vegetables in schools

The Commission submitted a proposal to the Council amending Regulations (EC) No 1290/2005 on the financing of the common agricultural policy and (EC) No 1234/2007 establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products in order to set up a School Fruit Scheme ([11380/08](#)).

The proposed Regulation will provide for the co-financing, with a sum of EUR 90 million, of schemes for the free distribution of fruit and vegetables in schools to 6 to 10-year-olds, i.e. around 26 million children in the 27 Member States.

Apart from the nutritional benefits of inculcating good eating habits in young children and thus helping to combat obesity, the schemes will also comprise educational material for teaching children about the common agricultural policy.

Council conclusions of 6 December 2007 on the strategy for Europe on nutrition, overweight and obesity-related issues ([15612/07](#)).

World Health Organisation - Childhood overweight and obesity:

<http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/childhood/en/index.html>

European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/fruitveg/sfs/index_fr.htm

Genetically modified organisms

Under the committee procedure rules, the Council was asked to adopt a qualified majority position on two proposals for Commission Decisions authorising the placing on the market of products containing genetically modified **soybean** A2704-12 (ACS-GMØØ5-3) ([8996/08](#)) and products containing genetically modified **cotton** LLCotton25 (ACS-GHØØ1-3) ([9070/08](#)) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003.

The Council confirmed the absence of the qualified majority required to take a decision on the Commission proposals. The proposals will therefore be sent back to the Commission for a decision to be taken.

– Genetically modified cotton LLCotton (ACS-GHØØ1-3)

On 3 March 2005, Bayer CropScience AG submitted to the competent authority of the Netherlands, pursuant to Articles 5 and 17 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, an application for the placing on the market of food and feed containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified LLCotton25.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was consulted and delivered its opinion on 16 April 2007.

On 12 February 2008 the Commission consulted the relevant regulatory committee, which was unable to issue an opinion.

Accordingly, on 30 April 2008 the Commission submitted a proposal to the Council which was required to act by a qualified majority within three months from that date (i.e. by 30 July 2008).

– ***Genetically modified soybean (A2704-12 (ACS-GM005-3))***

On 1 July 2005 Bayer CropScience AG submitted to the competent authority of the Netherlands, pursuant to Articles 5 and 17 of Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003, an application for the placing on the market of food, food ingredients and feed containing, consisting of, or produced from soybean A2704-12.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was consulted and delivered its opinion on 10 August 2007.

On 12 February 2008 the Commission consulted the relevant regulatory committee, which was unable to issue an opinion.

Accordingly, on 29 April 2008 the Commission submitted a proposal to the Council, which was required to act by a qualified majority within three months from that date (i.e. by 29 July 2008).

FISHERIES

Economic crisis in the fisheries sector

The Council held a policy debate on the package of measures proposed by the Commission to deal with the economic crisis in the fisheries sector, as set out in a Commission communication ([11370/08](#)).

Following the debate, political agreement was reached on the key element of these measures, viz. the proposal for a Regulation instituting a temporary specific action aiming to promote the restructuring of the European Union fishing fleets affected by the economic crisis ([11369/08](#)).

On 10 July 2008 the European Parliament delivered an emergency opinion on the proposal adopted by the Commission on 8 July. The Regulation will be adopted as an "A" item at a forthcoming Council meeting ¹ after legal/linguistic editing.

The series of measures has a dual aim: to provide **immediate, temporary aid** to those fishermen most affected by the rise in the price of fuel, and to seek a **sustainable** solution to the in-built over-capacity of European fishery fleets, thereby creating the conditions for greater **profitability** in the sector.

The Regulation, which will remain in force until 31 December 2010, provides for temporary derogations from certain provisions of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) ² and contains four kinds of measures:

- Emergency measures:
 - exceptional emergency aid for the **temporary cessation** of fishing activities for a maximum period of three months, provided that the vessel in question is covered by a restructuring plan within the six months following the entry into force of the Regulation; the aid may cover part of the costs of crew salaries and the vessel's fixed costs.

¹ Probably on 23 July 2008.

² Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 of 27 July 2006 on the European Fisheries Fund (OJ L 223, 15.8.2006, p. 1).

- Measures for vessels participating in a Fleet Adaptation Scheme: (these measures apply only to fleets whose energy costs represent at least 30 % of production costs and which undertake to reduce their fishing capacity permanently by at least 30 %).
 - removal of all restrictions on access to **premiums for permanent cessation** of fishing activities;
 - aid for an **additional period of temporary cessation** of activity of from 6 weeks to 3 months, as appropriate;
 - reduction in the level of mandatory **private financial participation** for the modernisation of gear and engines;
 - where vessels are replaced by smaller vessels which consume less fuel, a **premium for partial decommissioning**, depending on the capacity scrapped and subject to certain conditions.

- General measures which are not covered by Fleet Adaptation Schemes:
 - increase in the rate of EFF co-financing of **fuel-saving investments**, including the replacement of gear and engines;
 - extension of EFF early departure aid, including **early retirement aid**, for fishermen, to cover other workers in fisheries-related activities;
 - EFF support for **energy and restructuring audits and advice**, and pilot projects to improve energy efficiency in the fisheries sector.

- Measures to facilitate use of the Fund's resources:
 - raising of the level of **EFF cofinancing** of action under the Regulation to 95 % of the total public expenditure;
 - doubling of **EFF prefinancing** of operational programmes, from 7 % to 14 %.

Besides this Regulation, the Commission communication envisages a number of additional measures:

- Market measures:

Member States would be encouraged to make use of the scope afforded by the EFF and by the common organisation of the market in the fisheries sector¹, inter alia to:

- strengthen fishermen's commercial position vis-à-vis the processing industry and distributors, by means of producer organisations and local marketing associations;
 - promote product quality and consumer information;
 - set up a price monitoring system.
- Amendment of the *de minimis* scheme, whereby **national aid** below a certain threshold is not subject to Community rules on state aid: subject to more detailed economic analysis, the Commission envisages applying the current threshold (EUR 30 000) not to the firm but to the vessel, within the limit of an overall cap per firm (EUR 100 000).

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 of 17 December 1999 on the common organisation of the markets in fishery and aquaculture products (OJ L 17, 21.1.2000, pp. 22-52).

- Reduction of social security contributions: the Commission means to amend the *Guidelines for the examination of state aid to fisheries and aquaculture*, so as to enable Member States to cover part of the social security contributions applicable to fishermen.

Partnership agreement with Mauritania

The Council adopted, by a qualified majority, a Regulation on the conclusion of the renegotiated Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania ([9690/08](#) and [9298/08](#)).

The European Community has negotiated adjustments to the Protocol's provisions, since the Community's vessels were not making full use of the fishing opportunities available to them under it, thus calling into question its economic and financial benefits. On 13 March 2008 a new Protocol was initialled by Mauritania and the European Union, for the period from 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2012.

OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Negotiations in the WTO on the Doha development agenda

Commissioner Fischer Boel reported to the Council on the progress of negotiations in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on agricultural questions, ahead of the special meeting of the General Affairs Council in Brussels on 18 July 2008 and the ministerial meeting of around thirty WTO members in Geneva on 21 July 2008.

The Council reiterated its wish to see the achievement of an ambitious overall agreement striking a balance both between the various areas of negotiations (non-agricultural market access, services, agriculture and rules) and within the agriculture section.

The Presidency also took note of the state of play as presented by the Commission and the red lines identified by the Commission. It listened to the concerns expressed by several delegations on major issues for European agriculture, including:

- discipline as regards the "green box";
- volumes to be opened up for sensitive products;
- the special safeguard clause;
- entry prices for fruit and vegetables;
- the banana production sector;
- parallel movement in the reduction of domestic support;
- arrangements for eliminating export refunds;
- geographical indications.

(b) Synergy in forestry policies - requested by the Romanian delegation

The Council took note of the Romanian delegation's presentation on better coordination of forestry policies, which was supported by the Hungarian, Latvian and Cypriot delegations.

The Commission representative stated that the mid-term report on the EU forestry action plan, due in 2009, would also address this issue.

(c) Non-recoverable VAT on sustainable development investments - requested by the Hungarian delegation, supported by the Spanish, Lithuanian and Slovak delegations

Hungary, supported by the Belgian, Bulgarian, Spanish, Estonian, Greek, Italian, Latvian, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak and Czech delegations, reminded the Council of its wish that the conditions of eligibility of non-recoverable VAT for cofinancing by the EAFRD should be aligned with those applicable to the Structural and Cohesion Funds.

Commissioner Fischer Boel stated that this question had already been referred to her staff, who would be studying it in detail.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

AGRICULTURE

Listing and publishing information in the veterinary and zootechnical fields

The Council adopted a Directive reviewing current procedures for updating and publishing information in the veterinary and zootechnical fields ([10376/08](#)). The adoption followed political agreement at the Council meeting on 23 and 24 June 2008.

The Directive will harmonise such procedures for lists of certain approved **animal health establishments and breeding organisations in Member States**, as well as for information to be provided by Member States regarding equestrian competitions.

For further details, see press release [10590/08](#), page 23.

Community support for rural development

The Council amended Decision 2006/493/EC laying down the amount of Community support for rural development for the period from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013, its annual breakdown and the minimum amount to be concentrated in regions eligible under the convergence objective ([10647/08](#)).

Under this amendment, allocations unused in 2007 are reallocated to the period from 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2013.

Imports of agricultural products, following the Chernobyl accident – codification

The Council adopted a Regulation on the conditions governing imports of agricultural products originating in third countries, following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station (codified version) ([9526/08](#)).

The Regulation codifies and repeals Council Regulation (EEC) No 737/90, replacing and combining the various acts incorporated in it, with only such amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

Identification and registration of pigs – codification

The Council adopted a Directive on the identification and registration of pigs (codified version) ([9531/08](#)).

The Directive codifies and repeals Council Directive 92/102/EEC, replacing and combining the various acts incorporated in it, with only such amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

Marketing of vegetable propagating and planting material, other than seed – codification

The Council adopted a Directive on the marketing of vegetable propagating and planting material, other than seed (codified version) ([9532/08](#)).

The Directive codifies and repeals Council Directive 92/33/EEC, replacing and combining the various acts incorporated in it, with only such amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

EU-Denmark and Faroe Islands Agreement – implementing rules

The Council adopted a Decision amending Decision 97/126/EC concerning the conclusion of an agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Government of the Faroe Islands, of the other part ([9910/08](#)).

The Agreement establishes a Joint Committee which is responsible for the administration of the Agreement and ensures its proper implementation. Decision 97/126/EC is amended to allow the Commission to adopt implementing rules for the Joint Committee's decisions, in accordance with Decision 1999/468/EC laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission (Decision as amended by Decision 2006/512/EC, OJ L 200, 22.7.2006, p. 11).

FISHERIES

Vulnerable marine ecosystems in the high seas

The Council adopted a Regulation on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the high seas from the adverse effects of bottom fishing gears ([10428/08](#)).

The adoption of the Regulation follows the unanimous political agreement reached by the Council on 24 June 2008. This agreement enabled two outstanding issues to be resolved:

- the prohibition of bottom fishing gear in those areas where no proper scientific assessment has been carried out and made available;
- 100 % observer coverage.

The two provisions will be reviewed before 20 June 2010 and one year after the publication of the Regulation respectively.

The Regulation introduces measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from the destructive effects of bottom fishing activities, in particular by introducing a special fishing permit, relevant monitoring measures and a precautionary protected boundary within the water column.

The Regulation is in line with the recommendations issued by the United Nations on the pressing need to adopt measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from the destructive effects of bottom fishing activities.

Review of fishing opportunities for certain stocks – 2008

The Council reached political agreement on the proposal for a Regulation revising fishing opportunities for certain stocks in 2008 ([11590/08 ADD 1](#)).

The Regulation aims in particular to define more clearly certain fishing zones referred to in the Regulation on deep-sea fish stocks¹ and to correct certain fishing zone restrictions and footnotes contained in the basic Regulation on TACs and quotas².

The Regulation also transposes into Community legislation the terms of several agreements concluded between the end of 2007 and the spring of 2008, between the European Community and Iceland and between the Community and the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation regarding the management of redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters in the NEAFC Convention area in 2008³. It further transposes the Agreement between the Community and Iceland on capelin quotas for Icelandic vessels, to be fished for from quota allocated to the Community under its Agreement with the Government of Denmark and the local Government of Greenland before 30 April 2008, and on redfish quotas for Community vessels fishing for redfish in the Icelandic exclusive economic zone, to be fished for between July and December.

The Regulation also enables the Community to carry out trials with technical measures for towed gear in order to reduce the proportion of the catch of cod that is discarded to not more than 10 % (by number). Finally, the Regulation amends the TAC for cod in the Celtic Sea.

The Regulation also sets and distributes between the Member States concerned the number of vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna of below the minimum size in the Atlantic, as well as their total allowable catch.

INTERINSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Use of additional languages in the Council – United Kingdom

The Council authorised the signing of an administrative arrangement with the United Kingdom, allowing the use at the Council of languages other than English whose status is recognised in the United Kingdom's constitutional system (10887/08).

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 2015/2006 sets, for 2007 and 2008, the fishing opportunities for Community vessels for certain deep-sea fish stocks.

² Regulation (EC) No 40/2008.

³ As the arrangement concerned is applicable to the whole of 2008, it should apply retroactively from 1 January 2008.

This arrangement puts into practice the Council conclusions on the official use of additional languages within the EU institutions (*see Official Journal C 148, 18.6.2005, p. 1*).

Those conclusions aim to facilitate the use by the Union's institutions and bodies of languages whose status is recognised by a Member State's constitution, on the basis of an administrative arrangement allowing for:

- the making public of translations in those languages of acts adopted by the European Parliament and the Council under the co-decision procedure;
- the use by a Member State's government of one of those languages in speeches;
- citizens' option of addressing EU bodies in those languages and receiving a reply in those languages.

COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty – weapons of mass destruction

The Council adopted a Joint Action on support for the activities of the Preparatory Commission of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) in order to strengthen its monitoring and verification capabilities (*9797/08*).

The Joint Action comes within the framework of implementation of the EU strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and aims to support projects with the following specific objectives:

- continuing support for the development by the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO of capacity in the area of noble gas monitoring and verification, for the detection and identification of possible nuclear explosions, and
- providing technical assistance to African countries, aimed at fully integrating signatory States into the CTBTO monitoring and verification system.

The financial reference amount for the implementation of these projects is EUR 2 316 000.

In 2003 the European Council adopted the EU strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The early entry into force and universalisation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the strengthening of the monitoring and verification system of the Preparatory Commission of the CTBTO are important objectives of this strategy.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Democratic Republic of the Congo – restrictive measures

The Council adopted a Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 889/2005 imposing certain restrictive measures in respect of the Democratic Republic of Congo ([10779/08](#)).

By means of Resolution 1807 (2008) of 31 March 2008, the UN Security Council decided, *inter alia*, to amend the scope of the restrictive measures on certain technical assistance so as to limit the restrictions to non-governmental entities and individuals operating in the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On 14 May 2008 the Council adopted Common Position 2008/369/CFSP, which gives effect to Resolution 1807 (2008). Council Regulation (EC) No 889/2005 has been amended accordingly.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

EU list of persons, groups and entities subject to specific measures with a view to combating terrorism

- *Adoption of a new consolidated list*

The Council carried out a detailed re-examination of the EU list of persons and entities involved in terrorist acts (Common Position 2001/931/CFSP and Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001¹).

¹ OJ L 344, 24.12.2001, p. 70.
Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 of 27 December 2001 provides that all funds belonging to the persons, groups and entities concerned should be frozen and that measures should be taken to prohibit funds, other financial assets or economic resources from being rendered directly or indirectly for the benefit of such persons, groups or entities.

In the light of that re-examination, the Council unanimously adopted a Common Position updating Common Position 2001/931/CFSP on the application of specific measures with a view to combating terrorism.

It also unanimously adopted a Decision concerning the persons and entities listed under Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism.

The specific information on which this Council Decision is based will be communicated to the parties concerned by means of a "letter of notification"¹.

The parties concerned may ask the Council to re-examine their cases on the basis of documentary evidence. The persons and entities subject to restrictive measures under Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 may also contest the Council's decision before the Court of First Instance, pursuant to the fourth and fifth paragraphs of Article 230 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

The above two acts, including the new consolidated lists, will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

For further information: information sheet on the EU list of persons, groups and entities subject to specific measures to combat terrorism.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/080206_combatterrorism_EN.pdf

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Economic Partnership Agreement – Caribbean Forum States

The Council adopted a Decision authorising the signing and provisional application of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Caribbean Forum States (CARIFORUM) ([7507/08](#)) and [11139/08 ADD 1](#)).

¹ For those whose address is unknown, a notice indicating that they may submit a request to obtain the Council's statement of reasons concerning them will be published in the Official Journal ("C" series).

This Decision follows the initialling of a regional EPA on 16 December 2007 with the CARIFORUM States (Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago).

The objectives of the Agreement include: helping to reduce and eradicate poverty; regional integration, economic cooperation and good governance; improving the capacity of the CARIFORUM States in terms of trade policy; and encouraging the conditions for increasing investment, competitiveness and economic growth in the region.

The Agreement provides for provisional application, pending its final entry into force.

The EPAs comprise measures relating to trade and development with a view to helping the group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) to increase investment, production, trade and employment. Those agreements are intended to replace the provisions under which the EU had granted unilateral trade preferences to ACP developing countries, but which violated WTO rules, since they were unilateral and non-reciprocal in nature. A derogation granted within the framework of the WTO, according to which no measures could be taken against non-compliant trade preferences, expired on 31 December 2007.

In its conclusions of 26 and 27 May 2008 ([9629/08](#)), the Council examined the adjustments and reforms which regional integration and the EPAs could entail for the economies and policies of the ACP States, reaffirming the EU's commitment to increase its trade-related assistance to EUR 2 billion per annum by 2010.

It also reaffirmed the importance of an appropriate follow-up system to evaluate progress achieved in implementing the EPAs and their impact on development and trade.

The framework for relations between the EU and the ACP States is the Cotonou Agreement.

COMMERCIAL POLICY

Community management of quantitative quotas – codification

The Council adopted a Regulation establishing a Community procedure for administering quantitative quotas (codified version) ([9529/08](#)).

This Regulation codifies and repeals Council Regulation (EC) No 520/94, superseding and combining the various acts incorporated in it, with only such amendments as are required by the codification exercise itself.

Guidelines for employment policies

Following the political agreement reached at the EPSCO Council meeting on 9 and 10 June 2008, the Council adopted a Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States ([10614/08](#)).

These guidelines form part of the integrated guidelines for 2008-2010, which are based on three pillars: macroeconomic policies, microeconomic reforms and employment policies. At its meeting on 13 and 14 March 2008, the European Council confirmed that the present integrated guidelines remain valid and should be used for the period 2008-2010.

Belarus – textile products

The Council adopted a Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations for renewal of the Agreement on trade in textile products with Belarus.

ENERGY

Energy Community – enlargement to include Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine

The Council adopted negotiating directives for the Commission concerning arrangements for the accession of Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine to the Energy Community.

The Energy Community Treaty entered into force on 1 July 2006. The Energy Community extends the EU internal energy market to contracting parties from South-Eastern Europe and beyond. It thereby provides a stable investment environment, based on the rule of law, and ties the contracting parties to the EU. Through its action, the Energy Community makes a large contribution to security of supply in the wider Europe.

INTERNAL MARKET

Units of measurement

The Council unanimously reached political agreement on a proposal for a Directive aimed at improving the system of units of measurement in the EU ([11242/08](#)). The Council will adopt a common position on this draft Directive at a forthcoming meeting and send it to the European Parliament for a second reading, in accordance with the codecision procedure.

The text amends Directive 80/181/EEC, defining legal units of measurement within the EU, which is based on the "International System of Units" (SI)¹.

¹ The International System of Units is based on the 1875 Paris Convention and is regularly updated by the General Conference on Weights and Measures. The most well-known SI units are the metre, the kilogram and the second.

The new provisions of the Directive are aimed at:

- enabling the United Kingdom and Ireland to continue using limited local exceptions for the pint, the mile and the troy ounce, where these are still applied (the basic Directive set deadlines for the use of non-SI units of measurement by those two countries);
- widening the Directive's scope to include consumer and environmental protection;
- extending the use of supplementary indications indefinitely (the basic Directive provided for their use until the end of 2009). The importance of using supplementary indications lies, for example, in trade with economic partners not using the same units of measurement (e.g. the gallon in transactions with the United States of America);
- introducing three new SI-derived units:
 - the katal (kat) as a unit of catalytic activity (used in medicine and biochemistry);
 - the radian (rad) as a unit of plane angle (used in geometry and physics);
 - the steradian (sr) as a unit of solid angle (used in geometry and physics);
- abolishing the acre as a unit of land measurement (this unit is no longer used in the United Kingdom and Ireland).

The text should apply to Member States with effect from 1 January 2010.
