



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

GENERAL AFFAIRS



27.11.09

General Affairs and External Relations Council

30 November 2009

Extraordinary meeting in the margins of the 7th WTO ministerial conference

The General Affairs and External Relations Council will hold an extraordinary meeting in the margins of the 7th ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation which will take place in Geneva from 30 November to 2 December. The GAERC will prepare the WTO meeting during which ministers will have the opportunity to review the operation and functioning of the multilateral trading system.

Anti-dumping duties

COM (2009)637 - Proposal for a Council Regulation of amending Regulation (EC) No 1911/2006 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of solutions of urea and ammonium nitrate originating, *inter alia*, in Russia

In 2006 the Council imposed, by means of Council Regulation (EC) No 1911/2006, a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of solutions of urea and ammonium nitrate originating, *inter alia*, in Russia.

In March 2009 Acron, an exporting producer in Russia made a request to the Commission to initiate a new exporter review of the measures in force in respect of imports of mixtures of urea and ammonium nitrate in aqueous or ammoniacal solution ('UAN') originating in Russia.



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The investigation confirmed that Acron should be considered a 'new exporter' in accordance with Article 11(4) of Council Regulation (EC) No 384/96.¹ It also showed that dumping took place during the investigation period. The level of the dumping found was higher than the injury elimination level in the original investigation. Thus the Commission is proposing that the Council adopt this proposal in order to amend Council Regulation (EC) No 1911/2006 so as to impose anti-dumping measures at the level of the injury margin found in the original investigation (which corresponds to the countrywide duty on imports of UAN from Russia).

EU 2020 Strategy

COM (2009) 647/3 – Commission Working Document Consultation on the Future "EU 2020" Strategy

EU 2020 is being designed as the successor to the current Lisbon Strategy, which has been the EU's reform strategy for the last decade and has helped the EU to weather the storm of the recent crisis. EU 2020 builds on its achievements as a partnership for growth and job creation, and renewing it to meet new challenges. It also draws on the benefits that have flowed from the coordinated response to the crisis in the European Economic Recovery Plan. The Commission considers that EU 2020 should focus on key policy areas where collaboration between EU and Member States can deliver the best results, and on improved delivery through better use of the instruments at hand.

The Commission considers that the key drivers of EU 2020 should be thematic, focused on the following priorities:

- (1) Creating value by basing growth on knowledge.
- (2) Empowering people in inclusive societies.
- (3) Creating a competitive, connected and greener economy.

The purpose of this consultation paper is to seek the views of the other Institutions and stakeholders on a new approach. The Commission intends to adopt a formal Communication addressed to the Spring European Council early in 2010.

¹ on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Community



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Other matters

COM (2009) 652 - Proposal for a Council Regulation imposing certain specific restrictive measures in respect of Guinea

- On 27 October 2009 the Council adopted Common Position 2009/788/CFSP in response to the violent crackdown by security forces on political demonstrators in Conakry on 28 September 2009, the reported human rights abuses following the crackdown and the violent repression and political stalemate in the country. The Common Position imposed an embargo on the export of arms to Guinea, and imposed a travel ban on 42 individuals named in the Annex to the Common Position, being members of the ruling NCDD and persons closely associated with them.
- Council is preparing a subsequent CFSP Common Position calling for additional restrictive measures including (i) the freezing of funds and economic resources of the individuals and entities listed in the Annex to the Common Position; and (ii) a prohibition on the provision of technical and financial assistance and other services related to military activities to any person in Guinea.
- These measures fall within the scope of the Treaty establishing the European Community. The Commission therefore proposes, in anticipation, a Regulation implementing these restrictive measures.
- The restrictive measures adopted under this Regulation shall be implemented in full respect of fundamental rights, in particular in light of recent case law of the European Court of Justice.
- Several provisions of the proposed Regulation are taken from the Guidelines on Implementation and Evaluation of Restrictive Measures (Sanctions) in the Framework of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy.
- The EU Best Practices for the Effective Implementation of Restrictive Measures provide additional guidance for the application of the proposed measures.

Commissioners designate for the next Commission – 25/11/2009

Following the election of the President of the Commission, José Manuel Barroso, in September, and the naming of the High Representative / Vice President of the Commission, Catherine Ashton, last week, all Member States have now nominated Commissioners designate. President Barroso will now proceed with the allocation of portfolios. Hearings at the European Parliament will then take place in January before the College of Commissioners as a whole will be subject to a vote of approval by the European Parliament. Malta's nomination is Mr. John Dalli.

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