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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3771st Council meeting

Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)

**Items approved by written procedure between 22-29 September
2020**

Brussels, 29 September 2020

President **Anja Karliczek**
Federal Minister for Education and Research

P R E S S

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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.

ITEMS DEBATED

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED***Temporary derogation from the Council's rules of procedure***

Due to exceptional circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, on 23 April 2020 the Council agreed on a temporary derogation from its rules of procedure to make it easier to take decisions by written procedure ([6891/20](#)). The temporary derogation is currently in force until 10 September (2020/970). It may be renewed if justified by a continuation of the current exceptional circumstances.

The derogation allows member states' EU ambassadors sitting in the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Coreper) to decide to use the written procedure in accordance with the voting rule applicable to the adoption of the act itself. It means that the existing requirement for unanimity for all decisions to use the written procedure no longer applies. The objective is to facilitate the use of the written procedure to help ensure the continuity of Council business.

For more information on the temporary derogation, see the [press release](#).

As the latest formal Council meeting was held on 22 September, results of written procedures concluded between 22-29 September 2020, which would otherwise have been communicated in Outcomes of Council meetings, are presented below. Results which have been communicated by means of a Council press release are not included.

BUDGET

Draft budget for 2021

On 29 September, the Council adopted by written procedure its position on the draft general budget for the year 2021 ([10474/20](#)). In total, the Council's position for next year's budget amounts to €162.9 billion in commitments and €164.8 billion in payments. The 2021 budget will be complemented by actions to support the COVID-19 recovery, which will be funded by Next Generation EU, the EU's €750 billion pandemic recovery plan.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Harmonized System Committee of the World Customs Organization

On 25 September 2020, the Council adopted a decision on the EU's position in the 66th session of the Harmonized System Committee of the World Customs Organization. The position concerns the envisaged adoption of classification opinions, classification decisions, amendments to the harmonized system explanatory notes or other advice on the interpretation of the harmonized system and recommendations to secure uniformity in the interpretation of the harmonized system under the Harmonized System Convention ([10706/20](#) and [10711/20](#)).

SURE - financial support to member states

On 25 September 2020, the Council approved €87.4 billion of financial support to 16 member states in the form of EU loans under SURE – a temporary EU instrument to mitigate unemployment risks during the COVID-19 crisis.

The support will help the member states finance the large increase in public expenditure incurred since 1 February 2020 as a result of the use of national short-time work schemes and similar measures, including for self-employed people, and some health-related measures in response to the pandemic.

Financial support under SURE is granted to member states as follows:

- Belgium - €7.8 billion
- Bulgaria - €511 million
- Croatia - €1 billion
- Cyprus - €479 million
- Czech Republic - €2 billion
- Greece - €2.7 billion
- Italy - €27.4 billion
- Latvia - €193 million
- Lithuania - €602 million
- Malta - €244 million
- Poland - €11.2 billion
- Portugal - €5.9 billion
- Romania - €4.1 billion
- Slovakia - €631 million
- Slovenia - €1.1 billion
- Spain - €21.3 billion

SURE is one of the three safety nets, worth up to €540 billion, that were agreed by the Eurogroup on 9 April 2020 and subsequently endorsed by the EU leaders to protect workers, businesses and sovereigns.

More information in the [press release](#).