



An Roinn Gnó,
Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta
Department of Business,
Enterprise and Innovation

Report of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation to the Oireachtas

Under Section 2 (5) of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002
for the period from July to December 2019

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Introduction

Under the terms of the European Union (Scrutiny Act) 2002, Ministers submit Reports to the Oireachtas every six months on developments at European Union level in their area of responsibility. This Report summarises the key legislative and policy developments within the remit of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation during the six-month period July to December 2019 during which time Finland held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

This report has two parts. The first part sets out the principal developments in the policy areas which fall within the responsibility of this Department at EU level and provides an overview of the incoming Croatian Presidency. The second part provides an update on the EU legislative proposals for which information notes were submitted to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Business, Enterprise and Innovation under the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.

Part I – Developments in the EU

The policy areas which fall within the responsibility of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation at EU level are in the main dealt with by the Competitiveness Council under the headings of Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space, and the Foreign Affairs Council under the heading Trade.

1. Competitiveness Council (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)

The Competitiveness Council is normally held over two days, with Day 1 dedicated to Internal Market and Industry items and Day 2 dedicated to Research and Space items.

1.1. Meetings of the Competitiveness Council (Internal Market and Industry)

The Competitiveness Council (Internal Market and Industry) met on three occasions during the period July to December 2019.

- Informal Competitiveness Council - Helsinki, 5 July 2019
- Formal Competitiveness Council - Brussels, 26 September 2019
- Formal Competitiveness Council - Brussels, 28 November 2019

1.1.1. Informal Competitiveness Council (Internal Market and Industry)-Helsinki, 4/5 July 2019

Ireland was represented by Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection, Mr Pat Breen, T.D. Council was jointly chaired by the Finland's Minister for Employment, Mr Timo Harakka and Finland's Minister for Economic Affairs, Ms Katri Kulmuni. The Commission was represented by the Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Ms Elżbieta Bienkowska.

The theme of the Council was “sustainable growth” and discussions focussed on the integration of the single market, the digital economy and a modern industrial policy. Ministers discussed smart solutions for a competitive and climate neutral Europe.

Council agenda included two themed plenary sessions. The first focussed on “sustainable growth-integration of single market, dynamic economy and modern industry policy.” The session included

three keynote speakers and areas discussed included competition policy, digital technology, the use of digital technology and rail and sustainability around plastics. This was followed by discussions at Ministerial level in four break-out groups where topics discussed included the future of European industries, the Single Market as a services market, boosting digital business in Europe and the external dimension of EU competitiveness. These discussions were followed by a Ministerial working lunch where they heard the conclusions and takeaways from the four break-out groups.

The second plenary session focussed on sustainable growth and smart solutions for competitive and climate neutral Europe. This session included two keynote speakers and topics discussed included turning energy transition into opportunities, leading in digital technologies, European economic industrial policy and a European wide regulatory framework on economic policies in relation to climate. Ministers engaged in a policy debate on the issues post the departure of the keynote speakers.

1.1.2. Formal Competitiveness Council (Internal Market and Industry)-Brussels, 26 September 2019

Ireland was represented at the September Council by Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection, Mr Pat Breen, T.D. Council was chaired jointly by Finland's Minister of Employment, Mr Timo Harakka, and Minister of Economic Affairs, Ms Katri Kulmuni. The Commission was represented by the Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Ms Elżbieta Bienkowska.

The items discussed at the September Formal Competitiveness Council meeting were:

Developing our economic base: Vision for a long-term strategy on sustainable growth
A Presidency Report entitled a "Vision for a long-term strategy on sustainable growth" was the main agenda item. This was by way of follow up to previous Council Conclusions, which called for the Commission to present, by the end of 2019, a long-term vision for the EU's industrial future.

A new Strategic Agenda for the EU 2019-2024 was adopted in June which called for an integrated approach connecting all relevant policy areas. Presidency expressed the view that the Report represents a strategic and ambitious blueprint for sustainable growth and that the messages in the Report should feature strongly in the work programme of the Commission for the next 5 years.

Council exchanged views in relation to the paper and Member States supported the holistic approach taken in the paper. Several Member States including Ireland welcomed the reference in the Report to deepening the Single Market while Ireland also emphasized the need to monitor performance in this regard. Ireland also welcomed the reference to SMEs in the Report.

Presidency welcomed the support from Member States for an integrated approach on sustainable growth and support for the proposal that the main messages of the Report should contribute to the work programme of the incoming Commission.

Competitiveness 'Check Up': External Dimension of EU Competitiveness

Council took note of a presentation by Commissioner Bienkowska concerning the external dimension of EU Competitiveness. Points highlighted as part of the presentation included the challenges facing the EU in terms of technological disruption, the transition to a low carbon economy and, at international level, trade tensions and access to raw materials.

Commissioner Bieńkowska emphasized that the integration of the Single Market in services is still a key priority for the Commission and that a long-term action plan for better implementation and enforcement of the Single Market rules is being developed by the Commission.

Any Other Business:

Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 715/2007 on type approval of motor vehicles with respect to emissions from light passenger and commercial vehicles

Presidency informed Council that they were trying to complete this file as soon as possible.

Presidency stated it was their intention to get a mandate to engage with the European Parliament as soon as the Parliament agreed its position.

Call of the SME Envoy Network for a vigorous and forward-looking EU policy for small businesses
Germany provided Council with an update on the SME Envoy Network call for a vigorous and forward-looking EU policy for small businesses.

Outcome of a conference on support for SMEs

The Czech Republic provided Council with information on the outcome of a conference on support for SMEs. The Czech Republic put forward the view that it is time to revise the definition of SME. Commissioner Bieńkowska stated that the Commission is analysing the conclusions of the Czech conference and will present their preliminary findings to the new Commission

European Battery Alliance-building a strong strategic battery value chain in Europe

Commissioner Bieńkowska provided a progress update on this work, which commenced 2 years ago. The alliance aims to support the development of a competitive, sustainable and innovative battery value chain in the EU. Commissioner Bieńkowska informed Council that the EU needs to act with speed to capture this market and ensure that the technological ability stays in the Union. The EU needs to manufacture better and greener batteries than the rest of the world.

1.1.3. Formal Competitiveness Council (Internal Market and Industry)-Brussels, 28 November 2019

Ireland was represented at the November Council by Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Mr Damien English T.D. Council was chaired jointly by Finland's Minister of Employment, Mr Timo Harakka. The Commission was represented by Commission Vice President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, Mr Jyrki Katainen.

The items discussed at the November Formal Competitiveness Council meeting were:

Directive on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers, and repealing Directive 2009/22/EC

The Council reached a political agreement on the proposed directive, which will enable the Council to begin negotiations with the European Parliament. The Directive aims to ensure that consumers fully benefit from their rights under Union law and to create the conditions of a fairer competition for compliant traders.

Directive amending Directive 2013/34/EU as regards disclosure of income tax information

The Council examined the latest presidency compromise proposal on the directive.

While there was broad support for enhanced transparency in respect of the business activities of multinational companies in the various member states, Council was not able to gather sufficient support for the Presidency's proposal, in particular as regards the proposed legal basis. The Presidency announced that it would continue work on this file, reflecting on the best way for taking it forward.

External Dimension of European competitiveness

Council debated the Presidency paper on the External Dimension of European Competitiveness. The debate centred on how to ensure that EU businesses remain competitive on the global market. Issues raised in this debate included the need for a competitive and more integrated single market including a long term industrial policy, the need for a common EU data management policy to address the challenges of digitalisation, transition towards a climate neutral economy represents both an opportunity and a challenge for the EU economy and the EU should make maximum effort to preserve the existing rules based trade system established under the WTO but should that fail the EU should not hesitate to pursue its economic interests through alternative multilateral and bilateral trade arrangements.

Any Other Business

Implementation of the new Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Regulation

The Council was informed of the latest state in the practical implementation of the new CPC regulation across the EU, due to become applicable on 17 January 2020. The Commission reiterated the importance of an adequate and timely implementation.

Better regulation in supporting sustainable growth: Work done under the Finnish Presidency
Presidency informed Council of the work done under the Finnish Presidency on the role of Better Regulation in supporting sustainable growth. This included discussions of the Competitiveness and Growth (Better Regulation) Working Party. The key conclusion was a strong will to keep Better Regulation a high priority on the EU political agenda.

Enhancing the digitalisation of the EU Tourism sector: Work done under the Finnish Presidency
The Council took note of the update provided by the Presidency in enhancing the digitalisation of the tourism sector, which is intended to serve as a basis for the new strategic priorities of the European Union for the tourism sector in the area of digitalisation and the work programme for the next European Commission.

Outcome of the “Friends of Industry Ministerial meeting 2019”

The Austrian Delegation provided an update to the Council regarding the outcome of the “Friends of Industrial Ministerial Meeting 2019” which took place on 4 October 2019 in Vienna, at which a political joint declaration was adopted. The four key areas of the declaration are Digitalisation, Industrial Competitiveness, Decarbonisation and Globalisation.

Competition in the European Defence Fund

The Council took note of the information provided by the Danish delegation. The Danish delegation noted that strong competition is essential for the success of the European Defence Fund and its purpose of enhancing the European defence industries competitiveness.

Report of the SME Envoy Network

Commissioner Bieńkowska presented the 2019 Report of the Small Medium Enterprise (SME) Envoy Network to the Council. The report gives an overview of the latest trends in the performance of SMEs in Europe and summarises the work done by the SME envoys in 2019 on the following priority areas, access to finance, public procurement as well as the Call of the SME Envoy Network for a vigorous and forward-looking EU policy for small businesses concerning the future of SME policy.

The key findings from the report were that SMEs account for the majority of the increase in value added, SMEs have made a much stronger contribution to the growth in value added in recent years, most of the increase in EU-28 SME value added was generated in less knowledge intensive industries, labour productivity has grown largely due to the growth in value added, SME value

added and employment grew in all Member States in 2018, trends in SMEs innovation activities vary substantially between Member States and eight of the top 30 start-up ecosystems in the world are in the EU.

Strategic value chains: Report of the Strategic Forum on Important Projects of Common European Interest

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission. Six additional strategic EU value chains were recommended. These are connected, clean and autonomous vehicles, smart health, low-CO2 emission industry, hydrogen technologies and systems, Industrial Internet of Things and cybersecurity.

Work programme of the incoming Presidency

The Croatian delegation informed Council of the work programme of their incoming presidency beginning on 1 January 2020. Priorities include the single market and competitiveness, consumer protection policy and industrial policy

1.2. Meetings of the Competitiveness Council (Research and Space)

The Competitiveness Council (Research and Space) met on three occasions during the second half of 2019:

- Informal Council (Research) – Helsinki, 4 July 2019
- Formal Competitiveness Council (Research) – Brussels, 27 September 2019
- Formal Competitiveness Council (Research and Space) – Brussels, 29 November 2019

1.2.1. Informal Competitiveness Council (Research) – Helsinki, 4 July 2019

Ireland was represented at this Informal Council by Minister of State for Training, Skills, Innovation, Research and Development Mr John Halligan TD. The meeting was chaired by Ms Katri Kulmuni, Finnish Minister of Economic Affairs. The Commission was represented by Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science Mr Carlos Moedas.

Ministers discussed the role of research and innovation as drivers of sustainable growth and on missions in Horizon Europe.

The Finnish Presidency proposed that Research Ministers and Internal Market/Industry Ministers take an integrated approach to developing Europe's future growth agenda. The morning session focussed on the role of research and innovation as drivers of sustainable growth. Following the discussion, the Presidency noted that there had been valuable inputs to the development of the agenda for sustainable growth.

The afternoon session focussed on missions as a strategic tool in Horizon Europe. Commissioner Moedas advised that there were 2,100 applications received for the mission boards and announced the chairs of the five boards. This was followed by break-out sessions to consider how to ensure the missions will address the opportunities and challenges set out in the Sibiu Declaration adopted in May 2019.

1.2.2. Formal Competitiveness Council (Research) – Brussels, 27 September 2019

Ireland was represented at this Council by Minister of State for Training, Skills, Innovation, Research and Development Mr John Halligan TD. The meeting was chaired by Ms Katri Kulmuni, Finnish Minister of Economic Affairs. The Commission was represented by Commissioner Carlos Moedas.

Building on the discussions in Helsinki, Ministers exchanged views of a long-term strategy for sustainable growth. The strategy is part of the implementation of the new EU Strategic Agenda 2019-2024. There was broad endorsement for the integrated approach for an innovation-led sustainable growth model as well as the related policy objectives set out in the Presidency report. The Presidency stated that the outcome of the deliberations would feed into the October European Council discussions.

The second policy debate involved an exchange of views on the possible synergies between Horizon Europe and other EU programmes (for example, structural funds, Digital Europe and ERASMUS). There was broad agreement that synergies between the various EU programmes are key to maximising their positive impact on the economy.

1.2.3. Formal Competitiveness Council (Research and Space) – Brussels, 29 November 2019

For both the Research and Space elements of this Council meeting, Ireland was represented by Deputy Permanent Representative Ms Maeve Collins. The meeting was chaired by Ms Katri Kulmuni, Finnish Minister of Economic Affairs. The Commission was represented by Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Mr Carlos Moedas.

Under the Research session, Council agreed a Partial General Approach on Annex IV of the Horizon Europe Regulation which deals with synergies with other EU programmes.

The Council also adopted conclusions on the updated bio-economy strategy for Europe.

A Partial General Approach was agreed on the Regulation on the European Institute of Technology (EIT). The EIT is an independent EU body that aims to increase Europe's competitiveness and drive innovation and entrepreneurship. Similar to other Member States, Irish stakeholders have relatively low levels of engagement with the EIT and the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) and do not receive a significant level of funding from them. Ensuring that the EIT and KICs are open and transparent is critical to enable Ireland and other Member States to engage more actively. Council noted the progress report on the EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda.

A proposal for an Euroatom Regulation to continue the existing programme in the area of research and training for the atomic energy community for the period 2021-2025 was submitted for approval. As Council did not reach a Conclusion, the Presidency closed this item indicating that they would prepare a progress report for the incoming Presidency.

Under any other business, the incoming Croatian Presidency said that work will continue on advancing negotiations when and where possible on Horizon Europe. Brain circulation and future jobs will form the basis of policy debates. Two Competitiveness Council meetings are planned for 28 February and 29 May. The Informal meeting will take place on 3-4 February in Zagreb.

The Council session on Space commenced with the adoption of Council Conclusions on Space solutions for a sustainable Arctic followed by a policy debate on fostering a sustainable space economy.

Council Conclusions were adopted without discussion. The policy debate highlighted the need for the EU to take a leadership role in international discussions on the sustainable use of Space. Space-derived applications were also emphasised as a key driver for economic growth for both the EU space and non-space sectors.

2. Foreign Affairs (Trade) Council

2.1. Meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade)

The Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) met on two occasions during the period July to December 2019:

- Informal Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) Working Lunch – Brussels, 1 October 2019
- Formal Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) – Brussels, 21 November 2019

2.1.1. Informal Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) Working Lunch – Brussels, 1 October 2019

The Finish Presidency had not planned to organise an informal meeting of Trade Ministers under its Presidency, however, an informal working lunch of the EU Trade Ministers took place in Brussels on 1 October 2019 to allow for discussions on the WTO reform process and EU-US trade relations, given the importance of ongoing developments in these areas. Ireland was represented at the Informal Working Lunch by Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms Heather Humphreys TD. The meeting was chaired by Mr Ville Skinnari, Finland's Minister for Development Co-operation and Foreign Trade, with the participation of the EU Commissioner for Trade, Ms Cecilia Malmström.

On the urgent WTO reform agenda Ministers stressed the importance of a well-functioning rules-based, trade regime which is essential for economic growth in support of good jobs and noted the negative impacts for growth and jobs current global trade uncertainties were likely to cause and in this case, expressed strong support for the EU Commission's role in seeking to achieve consensus among WTO Members on necessary reforms.

With regard to EU-US trade relations Ministers urged continued work with the United States on a range of current trade challenges, including working towards a negotiated solution for both the Airbus and Boeing WTO cases.

Finally, Commissioner Malmström updated the Council on the next steps regarding the EU-Mercosur Agreement which was concluded at the end of June 2019.

2.1.2. Formal Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) – Brussels, 21 November 2019

Ireland was represented at the Council by Ambassador Declan Kelleher. The Council meeting was chaired by Mr Ville Skinnari, Finland's Minister for Development Co-operation and Foreign Trade, with the participation of the EU Commissioner for Trade, Ms Cecilia Malmström. The main items discussed at the November Trade Council meeting included, a discussion on WTO reform and state of preparations for the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in June 2020, EU-US trade relations and implementation of EU Free Trade Agreements. Ministers also discussed EU-China trade relations.

Ministers took stock of developments on WTO reform and the state of preparations for the next WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12), which will take place in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, in June 2020. Commissioner Malmström briefed Ministers on the latest initiatives to promote a comprehensive EU approach towards the modernisation of all the main functions of the WTO: rulemaking, monitoring and dispute settlement. The Council affirmed its determination to do everything necessary to maintain the WTO's overall viability and functioning, including a two-step, independent dispute settlement process.

Ministers discussed the latest developments regarding trade relations between the EU and the United States. Ministers highlighted their support for continued engagement with the US on the basis of a positive trade agenda. As regards the Airbus WTO dispute, Ministers regretted the choice

of the US to move ahead with tariffs and reiterated that the EU offer of a negotiated solution remained on the table. The Council also addressed progress made in talks on conformity assessment and cooperation on standards. Ministers acknowledged the Agreement reached between the EU and the US on the importation of non-hormone beef into the EU and its entry into force on 1 January 2020, subject to a positive vote of the European Parliament.

Ministers discussed the implementation of EU trade agreements based on the Commission's third annual FTA implementation report. Ministers acknowledged the role of the Commission, Member States and business with regard to ensuring awareness about the opportunities provided by EU FTAs.

Commissioner Malmström also presented the main findings of the 2019 Eurobarometer survey on international trade.

Finally Ministers discussed trade relations with China and took stock of the state of play in various bilateral trade negotiations.

3. Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU (January – June 2020)

Croatia assumed the rotating Presidency of the Council of the EU on 1 January 2020. The Croatian Presidency work agenda will focus on four main pillars, that will promote a strong, prosperous and sustainable Europe based on common values and the principles of equality, inclusiveness, cohesion and convergence:

- **A Europe that develops:** promote sustainable and inclusive growth of the Union that takes into consideration the specificities and needs of all Member States, their regions and citizens, including establishing measures to stop negative demographic trends as an important cross-cutting theme.
- **A Europe that connects:** promote initiatives contributing to transport, energy and digital connectivity while addressing the challenges that the new technologies and digitalisation are posing to our societies.
- **A Europe that protects:** strengthening security, both internal and external, involving a comprehensive and holistic approach to migration issues.
- **An influential Europe:** strive for a continued credible and effective enlargement policy, as a pledge towards stability, security and further economic development and mutual connection on the European continent.

3.1. Schedule of Meetings during the Croatian Presidency

Scheduled European Council meetings (EU Heads of State or Government)

- European Council – 26/27 March (Brussels)
- EU-Western Balkans Summit – 6/7 May (Croatia)
- European Council – 18/19 June (Brussels)

Scheduled Competitiveness Council meetings

- Informal Competitiveness (Research) Council – 3/4 February (Croatia)
- Formal Competitiveness (Internal Market and Industry) Council – 27 February (Brussels)
- Formal Competitiveness (Research) Council – 28 February (Brussels)
- Informal Competitiveness (Internal Market and Industry) Council – 19/20 March (Croatia)
- Formal Competitiveness (Internal Market and Industry) Council – 27 May (Brussels)

- Formal Competitiveness (Research and Space) Council – 28 May (Brussels)

Scheduled Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) meetings

- Formal Council – 12 March (Brussels)
- Formal Council – WTO Ministerial – 7 June (Nur-Sultan)

3.2. Overview of key issues likely to arise in relevant Councils during the Croatian Presidency

Competitiveness Council (Internal Market and Industry)

The Croatian Presidency will place special emphasis on the further deepening of the single market and on developing the EU's long-term sustainable industrial policy strategy aligned with the requirements of the digital era, EU energy and environmental policies and single market strategy. Special attention will be given to the synergy between industrial strategy and the European Green Deal.

The Croatian Presidency aims to:

- encourage discussion on a long-term action plan for better implementation and enforcement of single market rules.
- propose the adoption of the Council conclusions on better regulation, with proposals for improvement of the principles and methodology for reducing regulatory costs for citizens and business entities.
- support comprehensive activities aimed at increasing the competitiveness of small and medium sized entrepreneurs.
- place emphasis on developing and implementing competition rules, especially in the digital economy.
- finalise the negotiations on the single market programme
- continue to work on legislation related to the protection of the collective interests of consumers (collective redress Directive)
- continue discussions on the digital transformation of European industry
- start discussions on the ethical, legal and social aspects of the use of artificial intelligence.

Competitiveness Council (Research and Space)

Research: The Croatian Presidency will focus on advancing negotiations on Horizon Europe related files. Discussions will be encouraged on both the framework conditions for researchers (brain circulation) and the role of research and innovation for future jobs.

Space: The Croatian Presidency will primarily focus on advancing the final negotiations on the Regulation establishing the European Space Programme. They also intend to explore how space activities will contribute towards creating future jobs during their Presidency.

Foreign Affairs Council (Trade)

With regard to the Trade agenda in particular, the Croatian Presidency have made clear that safeguarding and strengthening the multilateral trading system and pursuing ongoing negotiations

within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will be a key focus of their Presidency and with this in mind they will actively engage in the preparations and the work of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference. The Croatian Presidency will work towards the finalisation of the ongoing trade negotiations, while promoting European values and standards and sustainable development. Discussions on the strengthening of transatlantic trade relations and on balanced trade and investment relations with China will continue during the Croatian Presidency.

Croatia's Presidency will focus on:

- Safeguarding and therefore, strengthening a rules-based multilateral trade system
- Strengthening transatlantic relations
- Intensifying relations with Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Union's strategic partners
- Promoting multilateralism and an international order
- Promoting international development policies in support of sustainable development
- Taking a leading role in fighting climate change

Part II - Oireachtas Scrutiny Proposals July – December 2019

COM Number	Subject	Section	Date Examined by Committee	Current Update on Proposal
COM (2019) 272	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Trade Committee established by the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Korea, of the other part, as regards the amendment of Appendices 2-C-2 and 2-C-3 of Annex 2-C of the Agreement.	Trade Policy Unit		<p>Adopted by Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 15 July 2019</p> <p>Council Decision (EU) 2019/1260 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2019/1260/oj</p> <p>No transposition required</p>
COM (2019) 313	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Joint Committee established under the Agreement between the European Union and Japan for an Economic Partnership as regards the adoption of the List of Arbitrators.	Trade Policy Unit		<p>Adopted by General Affairs council on 09 April 2019</p> <p>Council Decision (EU) 2019/614 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2019/614/oj</p> <p>No transposition required</p>
COM (2019) 330	Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe	IRD Unit		<p>Progress report was presented at Council on 19 November 2019. Croatian Presidency hoping to achieve PGA before end of Q2 2020.</p>

COM Number	Subject	Section	Date Examined by Committee	Current Update on Proposal
COM (2019) 341	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the EPA Committee established under the stepping stone Economic Partnership Agreement between Ghana, on the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, on the other part, as regards the adoption of Protocol 1 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation.	Trade Policy Unit	17/09/2019 Agreed – no further scrutiny	Adopted by Foreign Affairs Council on 09 December 2019. Published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 23/12/2019. (Council Decision (EU) 2019/2208 of 9 December 2019; OJ L 332, 23.12.2019, page 19). No transposition required
COM (2019) 346	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the Trade Committee established under the Interim Partnership Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Pacific States, of the other part, as regards the amendment of Annexes II and VIII to Protocol II of the Agreement	Trade Policy Unit	17/09/2019 Agreed – no further scrutiny	Adopted by Foreign Affairs Council on 11/11/2019. Published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 20/12/2019. (Council Decision (EU) 2019/2143 of 11 November 2019; OJ L 331, 20.12.2019, page 1). No transposition required
COM (2019) 347	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union in the EPA Committee set up by the interim agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the	Trade Policy Unit	17/09/2019 Agreed – no further scrutiny	Adopted by Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 18 November 2019. Published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 27/11/2019. (Council Decision (EU) 2019/1954 of 18 November 2019; OJ L 306, 27.11.2019, page 306).

COM Number	Subject	Section	Date Examined by Committee	Current Update on Proposal
	one part, and the Central Africa Party, of the other part, in connection with the adoption of the rules of procedure for mediation, the rules of procedure for arbitration and the code of conduct for arbitrators			No transposition required
COM (2019) 348	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION establishing the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union in the EPA Committee set up by the interim agreement with a view to an Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Central Africa Party, of the other part, in connection with the adoption of the list of arbitrators	Trade Policy Unit	17/09/2019 Agreed – no further scrutiny	Adopted by Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 18 November 2019. Published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 25/11/2019. (Council Decision (EU) 2019/1941 of 18 November 2019; OJ L 303, 25.11.2019, page 26). No transposition required
COM (2019) 331	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast)	IRDP Unit		Partial General Approach was reached at Council on 19 November 2019.
COM (2019) 409	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the General Council of the World Trade organization on the adoption of a decision to extend a WTO waiver	Trade Policy Unit	13/11/2019 No further scrutiny	Adopted by Council on 7 October 2019. Published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 11/10/2019. (Council Decision (EU) 2019/1708; of 7 th October 2019; OJ L260 page 48,). No transposition required

COM Number	Subject	Section	Date Examined by Committee	Current Update on Proposal
	<p>permitting the United States to provide preferential tariff treatment under the US Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA).</p>			
COM (2019) 410	<p>Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the General Council of the World Trade Organization on the adoption of a decision to extend a WTO waiver permitting developing country Members to provide preferential tariff treatment to products of least developed countries</p>	Trade Policy Unit	<p>13/11/2019</p> <p>No further scrutiny</p>	<p>Adopted by Council on 7 October 2019. Published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 11/10/2019. (Council Decision (EU) 2019/1709; of 7th October 2019; OJ L260 page 50,).</p> <p>No transposition required</p>
COM (2019) 424	<p>Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Committee on Rules of Origin set up by the Agreement on Rules of Origin (WTO-GATT 1994), annexed to the final act signed in Marrakech on 15 April 1994.</p>	Trade Policy Unit	<p>13/11/2019</p> <p>No further scrutiny</p>	<p>On 20 September 2019, the Commission submitted to the Council the proposal based on Art. 218(9) of the Treaty of the functioning of the EU. The Working Party on Customs Union examined the Proposal and on 11th October 2019 reached an agreement on the text. The Proposal is currently awaiting a decision of the Permanent Representatives Committee.</p> <p>The draft Council Decision has yet to be adopted.</p>
COM (2019) 457	<p>Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the CETA Joint Committee established under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part as</p>	Trade Policy Unit	<p>13/11/2019</p> <p>No further scrutiny</p>	<p>On 11 October 2019, the Commission submitted to the Council the proposal based on Art. 218(9) of the Treaty of the functioning of the EU. CETA has provisionally applied since 21st September 2017, subject to the eventual application of CETA in full, following ratification by all EU Member States, the CETA Joint Committee would be granted the ability, under this proposal, to adopt a decision</p>

COM Number	Subject	Section	Date Examined by Committee	Current Update on Proposal
	regards the adoption of a decision setting out the administrative and organisational matters regarding the functioning of the Appellate Tribunal			<p>setting out the administrative and organisational matters regarding the functioning of the appellate tribunal.</p> <p>The draft Council Decision has yet to be adopted.</p>
COM (2019) 458	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the CETA Joint Committee established under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part as regards the adoption of a decision on the procedure for the adoption of interpretations in accordance with Articles 8.31.3 and 8.44.3(a) of CETA as Annex to its Rules of Procedure	Trade Policy Unit	13/11/2019 No further scrutiny	<p>On 11 October 2019, the Commission submitted to the Council the proposal based on Art. 218(9) of the Treaty of the functioning of the EU. CETA has provisionally applied since 21st September 2017, subject to the eventual application of CETA in full, following ratification by all EU Member States, the CETA Joint Committee would be granted the ability, under this proposal, to adopt a decision on the procedure for the adoption of interpretations in accordance with Articles 8.31.3 and 8.44.3 (a) of CETA as Annex to its Rules of Procedure.</p> <p>The draft Council Decision has yet to be adopted.</p>
COM (2019) 459	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Committee on Services and Investment established under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part of the other part as regards the adoption of a code of conduct for Members of the Tribunal, the Appellate Tribunal and mediators	Trade Policy Unit	13/11/2019 No further scrutiny	<p>On 11 October 2019, the Commission submitted to the Council the proposal based on Art. 218(9) of the Treaty of the functioning of the EU. CETA has provisionally applied since 21st September 2017, subject to the eventual application of CETA in full, following ratification by all EU Member States, the Committee on Services and Investment established under CETA would be granted the ability, under this proposal, to adopt a code of conduct for members of the tribunal, the appellate tribunal and mediators.</p> <p>The draft Council Decision has yet to be adopted.</p>

COM Number	Subject	Section	Date Examined by Committee	Current Update on Proposal
COM (2019) 460	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Committee on Services and Investment established under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part as regards the adoption of rules for mediation for use by disputing parties in investment disputes	Trade Policy Unit	13/11/2019 No further scrutiny	On 11 October 2019, the Commission submitted to the Council the proposal based on Art. 218(9) of the Treaty of the functioning of the EU. CETA has provisionally applied since 21st September 2017, Subject to the eventual application of CETA in full, following ratification by all EU Member States, the Committee on Services and Investment established under CETA would be granted the ability, under this proposal, to adopt rules for mediation for use by disputing parties in investment disputes The draft Council Decision has yet to be adopted.
COM (2019) 469	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Council for Trade in Goods of the World Trade Organisation as regards the rules of procedure of the Committee on Trade Facilitation.	Trade Policy Unit	Has yet to be examined	Adopted by Council on 8 November 2019. Published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 14/11/2019. (Council Decision (EU) 2019/1908; of 8 th November 2019; OJ L293 page 109). No transposition required
COM (2019) 563	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the General Council of the World Trade Organisation	Trade Policy Unit	Has yet to be examined	Adopted by Council on 21 November 2019. Published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 27/11/2019. (Council Decision (EU) 2019/1955; of 21 st November 2019; OJ L306 page 20). No transposition required

COM (2019) 596	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1388/2013 opening and providing for the management of autonomous tariff quotas of the Union for certain agricultural and industrial products	Inward Investment & North South Unit	Not examined	Regulation came into effect EU-wide on 1 January 2020. This regulation is updated twice a year – January and July - to include new quotas and delete old ones and operates in tandem with 1387/2013. Discussions take place one year in advance so there is currently no action required.
COM (2019) 599	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EU) No 1387/2013 suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural and industrial products	Inward Investment & North South Unit	Not examined	Regulation came into effect EU-wide on 1 January 2020. This regulation is updated twice a year – January and July - to include new suspensions and delete old ones and operates in tandem with 1388/2013. Discussions take place one year in advance so there is currently no action required.
COM (2019) 606	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Association Committee in Trade configuration	Trade Policy Unit	Has yet to be examined	Adopted by Council on 19 December 2019. Published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 30/12/2019. (Council Decision (EU) 2019/2245; of 19 th December 2019; OJ L336 page 283). No transposition required
COM (2019) 623	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) No 654/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the exercise of the Union's rights for the application and enforcement of international trade rules	Trade Policy Unit	Has yet to be examined	The Proposal was introduced on the 12 December 2019 regarding the amendment of the current Enforcement Regulation – regulation (EU) No 654/2014 and the Working Party on Trade Questions is in the process of examining the Proposal and discussions are ongoing. The draft Council Decision has yet to be adopted.