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Contents

II *Information*

INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

European Commission

2023/C 185/01	Non-opposition to a notified concentration (Case M.11006 – ONE / MACQUARIE / YTI) ⁽¹⁾	1
2023/C 185/02	Non-opposition to a notified concentration (Case M.11092 – BLACKSTONE / CDPQ / INVENERGY / AEP RENEWABLES / AEP WIND HOLDINGS / TRENT WIND FARM / DESERT SKY WIND FARM) ⁽¹⁾	2
2023/C 185/03	Non-opposition to a notified concentration (Case M.11016 – AIR LIQUIDE / ADP / JV) ⁽¹⁾	3

IV *Notices*

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

Council

2023/C 185/04	Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the outcomes of the 9 th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue	4
2023/C 185/05	Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the revision of the EU Youth Strategy Work Plan 2022-2024	14
2023/C 185/06	Conclusions of the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council on the social dimension of a sustainable Europe for youth	21
2023/C 185/07	Resolution of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, reviewing the representation of the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA and the coordination of Member States' positions prior to WADA meetings	29

EN

⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance.

2023/C 185/08	Council resolution on The European Education Area: Looking to 2025 and beyond	35
2023/C 185/09	Council conclusions on at-risk and displaced artists	39
2023/C 185/10	Council conclusions on further steps to make automatic mutual recognition in education and training a reality	44
2023/C 185/11	Notice for the attention of persons and entities subject to the restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision 2013/255/CFSP and in Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria	51
2023/C 185/12	Notice for the attention of the data subjects to whom the restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision 2013/255/CFSP, as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/1035 and Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012, as implemented by Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1027 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria apply	52
European Commission		
2023/C 185/13	Euro exchange rates – 25 May 2023	54
2023/C 185/14	Commission notice on current State aid recovery interest rates and reference/discount rates applicable as from 1 June 2023 (<i>Published in accordance with Article 10 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 794/2004 of 21 April 2004</i>)	55

V Announcements

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

European Commission

2023/C 185/15	NOTICE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 29(2) OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS – Publication of a vacancy for the function of Head of Representation in Sofia – Representation in Bulgaria (Grade AD 14) in the Directorate-General Communication (DG COMM) – COM/2023/10433	56
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OTHER ACTS

European Commission

2023/C 185/16	Publication of a communication of approval of a standard amendment to a product specification for a name in the wine sector referred to in Article 17(2) and (3) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/33	57
2023/C 185/17	Publication of an approved standard amendment to a product specification of a protected designation of origin or protected geographical indication in the agricultural products and foodstuffs sector, as referred to in Article 6b(2) and (3) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 664/2014	64

II

*(Information)*INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES
AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case M.11006 – ONE / MACQUARIE / YTI)****(Text with EEA relevance)**

(2023/C 185/01)

On 4 May 2023, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the internal market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾. The full text of the decision is available only in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- in the merger section of the ‘Competition policy’ website of the Commission (<http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/>). This website provides various facilities to help locate individual merger decisions, including company, case number, date and sectoral indexes,
- in electronic form on the EUR-Lex website (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en>) under document number 32023M11006. EUR-Lex is the online point of access to European Union law.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case M.11092 – BLACKSTONE / CDPQ / INVENERGY / AEP RENEWABLES / AEP WIND HOLDINGS / TRENT WIND FARM / DESERT SKY WIND FARM)****(Text with EEA relevance)**

(2023/C 185/02)

On 3 May 2023, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the internal market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾. The full text of the decision is available only in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- in the merger section of the ‘Competition policy’ website of the Commission (<http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/>). This website provides various facilities to help locate individual merger decisions, including company, case number, date and sectoral indexes,
- in electronic form on the EUR-Lex website (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en>) under document number 32023M11092. EUR-Lex is the online point of access to European Union law.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration
(Case M.11016 – AIR LIQUIDE / ADP / JV)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2023/C 185/03)

On 12 May 2023, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the internal market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾. The full text of the decision is available only in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- in the merger section of the ‘Competition policy’ website of the Commission (<http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/>). This website provides various facilities to help locate individual merger decisions, including company, case number, date and sectoral indexes,
- in electronic form on the EUR-Lex website (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html?locale=en>) under document number 32023M11016. EUR-Lex is the online point of access to European Union law.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

IV

*(Notices)*NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND
AGENCIES

COUNCIL

**Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States
meeting within the Council on the outcomes of the 9th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue**

(2023/C 185/04)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

RECALLING THAT:

1. The aims of this resolution are to ensure that the outcomes of the 9th cycle of the European Union Youth Dialogue (EUYD) are recognised and followed up by relevant stakeholders at local, regional, national and European levels, and to ensure quality and continuity in the implementation of the EUYD process and its outcomes. This document further aims to contribute to increased transparency in the EUYD and to provide feedback from the work that has been done within the 9th cycle and previous cycles.
2. This resolution builds on the Resolution on the European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 ⁽¹⁾ and its European Youth goals, as well as Annex I of the Resolution establishing guidelines on the governance of the EUYD, and the outcomes of the previous cycles of the EUYD. The EU Youth Strategy calls for a greater involvement of young people in dialogue with decision-makers, and for the engagement of young people from diverse backgrounds and social groups.
3. The decision (EU) 2021/2316 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 December 2021 on a European Year of Youth (2022) (hereinafter 'EYY') highlights the need to give young people opportunities for a future that is greener, more digital and more inclusive.
4. The EUYD is a participation mechanism for young people in the EU. It serves as a forum for continuous joint reflection and for consultations on the priorities, implementation and follow-up of cooperation at EU level in the field of youth between decision-makers, young people and their representative organisations as well as researchers. The EUYD makes possible a continuous partnership in the governance of these processes at local, regional, national and European level.

⁽¹⁾ Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the Member States meeting within the Council establishing guidelines on the governance of the EU Youth Dialogue — European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (OJ C 189, 5.6.2019, p. 1).

5. The outcomes of the 9th cycle of the EUYD are based on the cycle's three EU Youth Conferences, on feedback from national and European qualitative consultations and events from the dialogue phase, and on the results from the implementation phase in the Member States and at European level. These outcomes contribute to mainstreaming the multi-level and cross-sectoral implementation of Youth Goal #10 'Sustainable Green Europe' and of Youth Goal #3 'Inclusive Societies' under the title 'Engaging Together for a Sustainable and Inclusive Europe'.
6. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact ^(?) on the participation of young people and increased inequalities between groups of young people. Furthermore, the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, and the consequent energy crisis, increased migration and global inflation have serious effects on young people and communities in Europe. The fact that young people with fewer opportunities have less access to human and especially social rights than young people with more opportunities became even more evident during these crises.
7. The invitation from the 8th cycle to the European Commission and the Member States is to
 - strengthen long-term institutional memory and continuity of work between EUYD cycles;
 - call for regular exchanges and coordination that is youth led and adequately supported between the Presidency trios, the Commission and the European Youth Forum to be organised, and for the documentation of the European Steering Group to be made public in the European Youth Portal;
 - provide continuous feedback to young people and youth organisations involved in all stages of the EUYD process in order to ensure meaningful dialogue and youth participation at all levels;
 - prioritise and give visibility to the EUYD in national and EU-level events and promote youth participation in decision-making processes at all levels.
8. The 9th cycle EUYD toolkit provided means for the National Working Groups to collect data on plans they created for the cycle, and on good practice examples they identified in the five key domains, namely:
 - a) information and education,
 - b) action and empowerment,
 - c) governance,
 - d) mobility and solidarity,
 - e) access to infrastructure.

This process collected the opinions of young people and contributed to the development of working methods and best practices, facilitating the implementation of the 9th cycle of the EUYD.

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT:

9. The EUYD is based on the leadership and shared ownership of the National Working Groups, where possible, coordinated by the National Youth Councils. This enables a diversity of young people to participate in the dialogue and connects different national, regional and local stakeholders with the process.
10. The contribution of International Non-Governmental Youth Organisations (INGYOs) is important in bringing a range of perspectives from across Europe to the policy dialogue and in ensuring quality input on the transnational dimension of the EUYD process.

^(?) Eurofound (2021), impact of COVID-19 on young people in the EU, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

CONSIDER THAT:

11. The National Working Groups and the INGYOs used a variety of methods, such as dialogue and round table events (both online and offline), social media polls and targeted activities with young people with fewer opportunities.
12. Putting young people and youth organisations at the core of the design, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and follow-up of the cycle and all its activities, for example by ensuring that the presidency's National Youth Councils had the right to co-chair the European Steering Group, was a key aspect of the implementation of the 9th cycle of the EUYD.

NOTE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EU YOUTH CONFERENCE ⁽³⁾:

13. Recommendation for subtheme 1 on information and education: 'We request that Member States ensure equal access to user-friendly information on sustainability and climate change through inclusive and empowering non-formal and formal education fostering intergenerational dialogue and learning'.
14. Recommendation for subtheme 2 on action and empowerment: 'We urge Member States to guarantee independent advisory boards on a local level (e.g., youth councils) consisting of, and selected by, young people with an intersectional emphasis on young people with fewer opportunities, taking a sustainable approach'.
15. Recommendation for subtheme 3 on governance: 'We recommend developing legislation ensuring accountability and transparency in environmental and sustainable development policymaking processes and supporting participation and evaluation mechanisms which enable this (e.g., youth bodies, youth tests) at local, regional, and European level'.
16. Recommendation for subtheme 4 on mobility and solidarity: 'We urge the European Commission and the Member States to create action plans, aimed at the formal education sector and at the labour market, in order to ensure formal recognition of experience and key competences acquired through participation in volunteering and learning mobility'.
17. Recommendation for subtheme 5 on access to infrastructure: 'We recommend the European Commission and the Member States to provide an affordable and accessible "Youth Climate Ticket" as a universal multimodal tool for public transportation at the regional, national, and international levels, and the European Commission to support Member States in advancing sustainable ways of public transportation'.

RECOGNISE THAT:

18. The participants of the EU Youth Conference emphasised the need in making all aspects of the EUYD more inclusive and diverse and to improve its outreach to various groups of young people, including through a long-term communication strategy e.g., by a common logo, widescale promotion of results and accessible and youth-friendly information, reaching beyond the conference delegates and core participants at the EUYD.
19. The participants of the EU Youth Conference further stressed that efficient cross sectoral co-operation at both national and EU level was important to bring the results of the EUYD outside of the youth policy sphere to create impact beyond the youth sector. It was further noted that Member States and National Working Groups had a key role in providing systematic monitoring and feedback in order to enhance the internal transparency of the process.

⁽³⁾ These are the recommendations formulated at the EU Youth Conference in March 2023 at the end of the 9th cycle of the EUYD. See further supporting abstracts to recommendations 1 to 5 in Annex II to the annex.

WELCOME:

20. The decision on a European Year of Youth (2022) ⁽⁴⁾, drawing attention to young people and their important role in society as well as empowering and restoring confidence to the young generation that suffered the most during the COVID-19 pandemic.
21. The evolution of the European Youth Portal and its reaffirmed function as a one stop shop for the EUYD and related documents as a contribution to ensuring the institutional memory between cycles.
22. The conclusions of the Council on fostering engagement among young people as actors of change in order to protect the environment, especially the emphasis put on supporting young people in their engagement to the environment and their agency in the ongoing development of society as a whole.
23. The conclusions of the Council on promoting the intergenerational dimension in the youth field to foster dialogue and social cohesion, in particular highlighting the benefits of bringing together the experience and competencies of different generations in building peaceful and cohesive societies.
24. The emphasis of the 8th cycle of the EUYD on the Youth Goal #9 'Space and Participation for All' and the participatory process that led to the approval of the Council conclusions on strengthening the multilevel governance when promoting the participation of young people in decision-making processes and the Council conclusions on safeguarding and creating civic spaces for young people that facilitate meaningful youth participation.
25. The active participation of young people and of the National Working Groups in the 9th cycle of the EUYD and the inclusion of youth organisations in a variety of events providing feedback throughout the cycle and the implementation of the EYY. Further, the youth participation in the informal meeting of Ministers for Education and Youth in Strasbourg, in the seminar on the participation of young people in the European Project in Strasbourg, and in the conference 'Claim the Future' in Brussels to summarise the achievements of the EYY and to reflect upon its legacy.

INVITE THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION, IN LINE WITH THE SUBSIDIARITY PRINCIPLE, AND WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE SPHERES OF COMPETENCE, TO:

26. Consider, where appropriate, the recommendations mentioned above in paragraphs 13 to 17 when implementing and evaluating relevant policy responses relating to subthemes 1 to 5 of the 9th cycle of the EUYD.
27. Consider the outcomes of the 9th cycle of the EUYD, when implementing and evaluating current youth policies and designing future youth policies, in synergy with all policies affecting young people. Explore further ways of implementing European Youth Goals #10 and #3 and their sub-targets.
28. Encourage, acknowledge and, where appropriate, financially support actions and programmes initiated and led by young people in sustainable development, particularly those combating climate change and increasing inclusion, so that they can be agents of change within society as a whole.
29. Strengthen and improve the EUYD process by considering and, where possible, applying best practices from the 9th cycle of the EUYD and the principles that guided its implementation, in particular by putting young people and youth organisations at the core of the process and ensuring that the EUYD is a youth-led process in which young people and decision-makers have a constructive solution-seeking dialogue.

⁽⁴⁾ Decision (EU) 2021/2316 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 December 2021 on a European Year of Youth (2022) (OJ L 462, 28.12.2021, p. 1).

30. Empower the National Youth Councils, where applicable, in their role as leading stakeholders in the National Working Groups to enable them to coordinate and implement the EUYD at the national level.
31. Call on relevant parties to ensure stable administrative and financial support, as well as the necessary tools, to the National Youth Councils for co-chairing the European Steering Group, where applicable, to enable them to take on a leading role in the EUYD during the presidency term of their Member State, especially through the Youth chapter of the Erasmus+ programme in line with its legal basis and the EU Financial regulation.
32. Encourage young people, youth organisations and other stakeholders in the youth field to make more use of the funding possibilities offered by the Youth chapter of the EU programme Erasmus+ in order to strengthen youth participation and youth dialogues at local, regional and national level and, where appropriate, to link them more closely to the EUYD process.
33. Recognise the involvement and contribution of INGYOs in the EUYD process as important actors for ensuring that the dialogue has a strong European dimension and, where appropriate, provide necessary preconditions for their active participation and involvement in the EUYD process.
34. Continue the work that was done at all levels during the EYY to prioritise and increase the visibility of the EUYD in local, regional, national and EU-level events and promote inclusive youth participation in decision-making processes at all levels in line with best practice for youth inclusion.
35. Ensure that there is a long-term communication strategy at European level to increase outreach regarding the EUYD in a youth friendly manner and, where appropriate, provide National Working Groups with additional support to enhance their own EUYD communication. The communication strategy should preferably be created under the co-leadership of youth organisations, including a common EUYD logo, labelling all EUYD actions, at European, national, regional and local level.
36. Take appropriate measures to mainstream meaningful youth participation across all relevant policy fields, in line with the activities carried out during the EYY, to foster a youth perspective in all relevant policy areas. The youth policy area should act as a bridge to other areas of policymaking, to ensure that the voices of children and young people are amplified and included in other sectors.
37. Further develop monitoring and feedback related to the outcomes of the EUYD to increase transparency and to ensure meaningful youth participation in all parts and at all stages of decision-making processes.
38. Provide support as well as targeted tools and methods to reach and prepare young people who usually do not participate, including young people with fewer opportunities, in the EUYD. These could be tailored to specific groups needs on a case-by-case basis. The objective would be to provide simple communication tools to explain the EUYD and the role of the European institutions in a youth friendly way and provide appropriate support throughout the process.
39. Where appropriate, develop methods and implementation tools at local, regional, national and EU levels on how to take action on the messages and demands that emanate from the EUYD and the EU Youth Conferences, as well as from the EYY.

INVITE THE COMMISSION, IN LINE WITH THE SUBSIDIARITY PRINCIPLE, TO:

40. Further develop the EU Youth Portal and other relevant communications tools in a youth friendly manner in order to increase the user-friendliness and visibility of the EUYD, building on good practices from the EYY and the 9th cycle of the EUYD.

41. Further engage the EU Youth Coordinator in mainstreaming youth participation across all relevant EU policy fields in line with the EYY legacy and give increased visibility to the EUYD as an instrument for mainstreaming youth participation.

AND FURTHER NOTE THAT:

42. The overall topic priority of the next trio presidency (Spain, Belgium and Hungary) is 'WE NEED YOUTH'.
 43. The ambition is to further develop and strengthen the EUYD during the 10th cycle taking account of the results, recommendations, celebration and evaluations of the previous cycles.
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ANNEX I

REFERENCES

- Bárta O., Moxon D. (2023). EUYD9 Implementation Phase Report. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.7696299.
 - Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on strengthening the multilevel governance when promoting the participation of young people in decision-making processes (OJ C 241, 21.6.2021, p. 3).
 - Conclusions of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on fostering democratic awareness and democratic engagement among young people in Europe (OJ C 415, 1.12.2020, p. 16).
 - Council conclusions on fostering engagement among young people as actors of change in order to protect the environment, (OJ C 159, 12.4.2022, p. 9).
 - Council conclusions on promoting the intergenerational dimension in the youth field to foster dialogue and social cohesion, (OJ C 495, 29.12.2022, p. 56).
 - Council conclusions on safeguarding and creating civic spaces for young people that facilitate meaningful youth participation, (OJ C 501 I, 13.12.2021, p. 19).
 - Council Resolution on the Structured Dialogue and the future development of the dialogue with young people in the context of policies for European cooperation in the youth field, post 2018 (OJ C 189, 15.6.2017, p. 1).
 - Eurofound (2021), Impact of COVID-19 on young people in the EU, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.
 - Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the outcomes of the 8th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue (OJ C 504, 14.12.2021, p. 1).
 - Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (OJ C 456, 18.12.2018, p. 1).
 - Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the Outcomes of the 7th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue: European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (OJ C 212I, 26.6.2020, p. 1).
 - Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the Member States meeting within the Council establishing guidelines on the governance of the EU Youth Dialogue - European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (OJ C 189, 5.6.2019, p. 1).
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ANNEX II

SUPPORTING ABSTRACTS TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUBTHEMES 1-5 OF THE 9TH CYCLE OF THE EU YOUTH DIALOGUE:

The implementation phase of the 9th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue (EUYD) built on the five subthemes selected by the participants of the EU Youth Conference in Strasbourg, France, in January 2022. The analyses of the implementation phase took place in February and March 2023, providing insights and concretisation of the two main areas of the implementation reporting, namely the range of implementation activities, and the impacts identified as a result of the implementation activities of the 9th Cycle of the EUYD. The implementation phase report ⁽¹⁾ served as a basis for the discussions at the EU Youth Conference in Växjö, Sweden, in March 2023.

This annex contains the supporting abstracts to the recommendations for subthemes 1-5 of the cycle that were drafted by the participants of the Conference.

1. Information and education

‘The aim of our recommendation is to secure trustworthy and inclusive information on sustainability and climate change. Such user-friendly information accessible to people from different ages/stages of life help us achieve a greener Europe. We need to integrate information on these topics into all types of educational content, both non-formal and formal. It is important to learn together and from each other, taking different perspectives into consideration like various cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. Therefore, climate justice should be taken into consideration. It is not fair to burden young people with the consequences of the policies that they, themselves, did not make. We must have all generations actively involved in education about climate change and the solutions needed.

Young people need the skills, knowledge, and platforms to take meaningful action. It is important to utilise the potential of non-formal education and recognise the practical benefits. We foresee the implementation through an interdisciplinary approach and make use of the potential and knowledge of youth organisations and youth information services already available. It is necessary to provide resources for educators to receive the appropriate training and capacity to perform their role. As this is a living process, it needs to be a continuous process of evaluation, monitoring and improvement.’

2. Action and empowerment

‘Time and time again young people are disregarded and excluded in decision making processes that have a grave impact on their future. In order to tackle this issue, we urge the betterment of local bottom-up participation mechanisms through empowering young people, especially those with fewer opportunities.

Although these [advisory boards] currently exist in some countries such as Finland, Estonia, and Sweden, we recognise the need for a Europe-wide framework to establish more efficient models for effective co-decision processes between local youth and decision-makers. This approach needs to be taken in a sustainable and intersectional lens, to ensure both the continuity of the processes, and the inclusion of youth from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences. Taking an intersectional approach implies that a person might be experiencing several forms of discrimination and marginalisation at the same time.

These boards shall be formed through democratic and youth-led processes in which young people choose their own representatives. The exact process and its logistics can be reflective of the respective local context. The members of the boards will act as the voice of the local youth before, after and during the local policy making processes.

It is crucial that Member States prioritise the inclusion and representation of young people in decision-making processes. By implementing independent advisory boards on a local level and empowering young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, we can create a better future for all.’

⁽¹⁾ Bárta O., Moxon D. (2023). EUYD9 Implementation Phase Report. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.7696299.

3. Governance

'The consultations of the 9th cycle of the EUYD showed a high level of mistrust among young people towards the effectiveness of policy making mechanisms regarding economic, social, and environmental policies. Despite aspirations and efforts to include young people in these policy making processes, young people report that their engagement is unlikely to bring about political change.

The purpose of this recommendation is to make sure that young people are included throughout the policy making process, making their voices heard, while monitoring and providing follow-up and feedback to young people on actions taken by policymakers following participation activities and publicly reporting on changes achieved or justifying the lack of changes by given deadlines. This will help increase transparency and accountability at all levels of policymaking.

The recommendation contributes to the empowerment of the role of youth bodies, including local, regional, national and European youth councils, the strengthening of the EUYD and the introduction of impact assessment tools such as the youth tests. This enables better targeted policies that are impactful, work to reduce inequality gaps and support current and future generations.'

4. Mobility and solidarity

'As part of the European Year of Skills 2023, an urgent need was emphasised to promote the mindset of reskilling and upskilling the workforce, contributing to sustainable growth and leading to a well-equipped formal education sector and competitive labour market. Therefore, we strongly encourage the participation of European youth in volunteering and learning mobility as an active learning-process for further skill development. In parallel, there is a growing misunderstanding not only from youth, but from policy decision-makers, formal education institutions and the labour market, preventing the recognition of the value that these experiences have or the competencies that European youth can develop from them.

Mobility is not accessible for a majority of young people due to lack of information, language barriers, insufficient financial resources and other personal duties. Hence, there is a necessity of having youth friendly and accessible information, from a trusted source, as well as a general awareness raising campaign, for all young people in Europe to recognise these opportunities, empowering a more inclusive society, according to Youth Goal #3.

The European Commission should initiate a process engaging Member States to have consultations in order to develop national action plans, in a 2-year timeframe, focusing on making volunteering and learning mobilities more accessible for young people, particularly the ones with limited opportunities. Moreover, Member States should create a framework to recognise the competences and skills learned during short and long-term volunteering and learning mobilities as part of their action plans, acknowledging these experiences as beneficial to their work and curricula.'

5. Access to infrastructure

'Despite existing transportation discounts, due to regional differences, transportation is still an obstacle in the daily life of many young people, especially in rural areas due to it being old and/or insufficient. Transportation affects studying, work, and the daily lives of the youth. Availability, affordability, and universal accessibility are key to advancing our public transportation systems. Utilising public transport by youth decreases rural to urban migration. This helps maintain rural population by decongestion and incentivizing youth to stay while promoting sustainable housing in both rural and urban areas.

The Youth Climate Ticket initiative aims at implementing a simple system for providing young people with accessible, affordable and available public transport on a regional, national and international scale. We believe in a holistic approach to social and environmental sustainability. We also aim at enabling young people to choose sustainable travel options more frequently and for Member States to build more sustainable infrastructure in the long term and enhance mobility and solidarity between Member States.

The EU Youth Climate Ticket is a pilot initiative that works on creating a single digital platform on three different levels: regional, national and international. The first two would be optional, supported by the European Commission only in willing Member States. The international level would be subject to EU harmonisation. The platform will have the function to adapt to national prices and will serve as a forum to showcase best practices. When it comes to sustainable public transportation, we want youth to thrive and not just survive.'

Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the revision of the EU Youth Strategy Work Plan 2022-2024

(2023/C 185/05)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL

RECALLING THAT

1. The Council Resolution on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027, invites the Member States and the European Commission, within their respective fields of competences, to effectively implement the EU Youth Strategy across the EU and in the Member States with specific instruments, including the EU Work Plans for Youth.
2. The EU Youth Strategy follows triennial working periods that spans two presidency trios. The priorities and actions for the respective working periods are presented in the EU Work Plans for Youth. These plans should draw on the guiding principles and priorities of this Strategy, addressing youth issues in other Council configurations and preparatory bodies in relevant policy areas.
3. The EU Work Plan is an instrument that works as a compass and guides Member States, the Commission and all stakeholders towards achieving the objectives of the EU Youth Strategy.
4. The priorities and actions presented in the triennial work programme are to be revised during the first half of 2023 with a view to its approval by the Council and the Member States meeting within the Council by the end of June 2023.

TAKE NOTE THAT

5. The Council sets these EU Work Plans based on preliminary information received by the trio-presidencies from the following countries: France, Czech Republic and Sweden, as well as Spain, Belgium and Hungary.
 6. The Commission can support and complement actions by Member States set out in this Work Plan, in particular by encouraging cooperation, supporting the mobility of young people and youth workers, and encouraging the participation of young people in democratic life. The tools developed to support the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy can be mobilised as appropriate: these include the EU Youth Dialogue, the EU Youth Strategy Platform, the European Youth Portal, the EU Youth Coordinator and mutual learning activities (expert groups, peer learning activities (PLAs) and peer counselling). This is underpinned by regular updates to the Future National Activity Planners, the Youth Wiki, youth indicators, surveys, studies and research. The support is further reinforced through partnerships and cooperation with other international organisations, in particular the Council of Europe, and through programmes in the field of youth (in particular Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps).
 7. A particular highlight of this Work Plan is the European Year of Youth 2022 (EYY). Its outcomes and legacy will be maintained, promoted and reinforced since the evaluation of the EYY will be used in order to enhance and strengthen the Plan in the future. It will further stimulate young people to come forward with contributions to shape the Union's development and society at large, including as part of the Conference of the Future of Europe and the New European Bauhaus initiative. It will raise awareness of the opportunities for young people as well as the support provided for them at the EU, national, regional and local levels.
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Revision of the Work Plan for the EU Youth Strategy 2022-2024 ⁽¹⁾

FR, CZ, SE					
Overall topic: 'Engaging together for a sustainable and inclusive Europe'					
European Youth goals #3 INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES and #10 SUSTAINABLE GREEN EUROPE					
Date	Working method/instrument	Indicative target and output	Related youth goals	Relation to the European Youth Work Agenda ⁽¹⁾	Proposed by
2022 (1 st half)	Council conclusions on fostering engagement among young people as actors of change in order to protect the environment (5 April 2022)	Approval by the Council Encourage policy makers and stakeholders in the youth sector to take the views of young people into account and enable them to be actors in public policies and programmes relating to sustainable development and the fight against climate change	Sustainable green Europe	§10a	FR
2022 (1 st half)	Council Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers across the European Union (5 April 2022)	Adoption by the Council Update the Council Recommendation on the mobility of young volunteers in the European Union adopted under the French Presidency of the EU in 2008, to facilitate youth volunteering in a post-pandemic period	Space and participation for all Connecting EU with Youth Youth organisations and European programmes		FR, (COM)
2022 (1 st half)	European Youth Conference (Strasbourg, 24-26 January 2022)	European Youth Conference	Inclusive societies Sustainable green Europe		FR, COM
2022 (1 st half)	Informal meeting of ministers for youth and for education: 'for a greener and more sustainable Europe'(Strasbourg, 27 January 2022)	Exchanges of best practices Participation of youth delegates from each Member State to share the voice of young people Youth engagement on sustainable development issues	Sustainable green Europe	§10a	FR
2022 (1 st half)	Informal meeting of DG for youth (Bordeaux, 5-6 May 2022)	Themes: — The European Year of Youth (EYY) — The mobility and the recognition of skills of youth workers — Synergies and complementarities between national and transnational volunteering activities	Connecting EU with Youth		FR

⁽¹⁾ Compiled by the SI Presidency based on the Commission's 'Possible actions for a future EU Work Plan for Youth for 2019-2021' (ST-9264/18-ADD-1) and the information updated in 2023 by the trio presidencies FR-CZ-SE and ES-BE-HU.

2022 (1 st half)	Seminar on the participation of young people in the European project: 'Bringing Europe to Life: For and together with young people' (Strasbourg, 9-10 June 2022)	Exchanges of best practices between experts on youth participation Follow up on the 8 th cycle and on the Conference on the future of Europe	Space and participation for all Connecting EU with Youth	§10e	FR
2022 (2 nd half)	Council conclusions on promoting the intergenerational dimension in the youth field to foster dialogue and social cohesion (28 November 2022)	Approval by the Council Integrate the concerns of today's youth and future generations more systematically into policymaking Facilitate recognition of the importance of promoting intergenerational dialogue for fostering intergenerational solidarity and justice for a strong, resilient, green and inclusive Europe	Inclusive societies		CZ
2022 (2 nd half)	EU Youth Conference (Prague, 11-13 July 2022)	EU Youth Conference	Inclusive societies Sustainable green Europe		CZ, COM
2022 2 nd half	Informal meeting of DG for Youth: Links between non-formal learning and formal education in the youth field: youth work responses to Covid-19 learning losses and to Ukrainian refugees' education needs (Prague, 19-20 September 2022)	Exchanges of best practices	Inclusive societies		CZ
2022 2 nd half	Claim the Future (Closing Conference of the EYY, Brussels, 6 December 2022)	Discussion on the legacy of the EYY	Mental Health & Wellbeing Quality Learning		CZ, COM, EP
2023 (1 st half)	EU Youth Conference (Växjö, 20-22 March 2023)	Summary and conclusion of the 9 th Cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue Reflections on the EU Youth Dialogue as a process	Inclusive societies Space and participation for all Sustainable green Europe		SE, COM
2023 (1 st half)	Informal meeting of DG for Youth (Växjö, 22-23 March 2023)	Reflections on the EU Youth Dialogue as a process Discussion on governance and implementation of youth policy and the outcomes of the EU Youth Conference Exchange of best practices	Inclusive societies Space and participation for all		SE

2023 (1 st half)	Council conclusions on the social dimension of a sustainable Europe for Youth (May 2023)	Approval by the Council Policy recommendations on the social dimension of a sustainable green Europe, promoting the inclusion of all young people's voices and ideas on sustainable development	Sustainable green Europe Inclusive societies	§10a §26	SE
2023 (1 st half)	Council Resolution on the outcomes of the 9 th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue (May 2023)	Approval by the Council Summary, reflection and evaluation of the 9 th EUYD cycle. Strengthen the outreach of information to marginalised young people, further develop process/governance of EUYC and EUYD to enhance inclusion and feedback	Sustainable green Europe Inclusive societies Information and constructive dialogue Space and participation for all		SE
2023 (1 st half)	Revision of the Resolution of the Council on the EU Youth Strategy Work Plan 2022-2024 (May 2023)	Approval by the Council Revision of the Resolution of the Council on the EU Youth Strategy Work Plan 2022-2024	Inclusive societies		SE
2023 (1 st half)	Conference on mainstreaming of youth policy into other policy areas (Brussels, 19 June 2023)	Presidency conference on the legacy of the European Year of Youth, objective 4: mainstreaming of youth policy	Information and constructive dialogue Space and participation for all Connecting EU with youth		SE

(¹) See the Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on the Framework establishing a European Youth Work Agenda (2020/C 415/01).

ES, BE, HU
Overall topic: 'WE NEED YOUTH'
European Youth goal #3 INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES (1)

Date	Working method/Instrument	Indicative target and output	Related youth goals	Relation to the European Youth Work Agenda	Proposed by
2023 (2nd half)	Council conclusions to promote a European Youth Agenda, ensuring the full enjoyment of young people's rights and placing them at the heart of European engagement	Approval by the Council Contribute to the definition of a European Youth Rights Agenda Strengthen the rights of young people Contribute to defining the challenges of young people Contribute to the development of policies aimed at expanding rights and guaranteeing a full life free of violence	Inclusive societies		ES
2023 (2nd half)	Informal meeting of ministers for youth, universities and education	Exchanges of best practices Develop a European agenda that places youth at the centre	Inclusive societies		ES
2023 (2nd half)	(poss.) Council resolution on the review aim of Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps Programmes to foster the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy	Approval by the Council Reflection and evaluation of the Youth programmes, aims, objectives and actions. Opportunity for solidarity. Reflexion on the Multiannual Framework	Inclusive societies		ES (COM)
2023 (2nd half)	EU Youth Conference (Alicante, 2-4 October 2023)	Topic to be determined among those identified by the conferences/seminars	Inclusive societies		ES, COM
2023 (2nd half)	Informal meeting of DG for youth (Alicante, 4-5 October 2023)				ES
2024 (1 st half)	(poss.) Directors-General meeting on Youth and High-Level exchange with NA directors	Mid-term evaluation of the EU-Youth Strategy 2019-2027; reflections on Erasmus+ 2021-2027 – Youth Chapter and the European Solidarity Corps 2021-2027	All youth goals	§13 (a) Empower/quality, innovation, recognition §36	COM and BE
2024 (1st half)	(poss.) Council conclusions on 'leaving no one behind' (preliminary title)	Approval by the Council Council conclusions 'on leaving no one behind: paving the way towards the social inclusion of all young people' (2)	Inclusive Societies	§3, §4, §5, §6, §10 (d), §13 (b), §16, §19, §20, §21, §22, §33, §34	BE

2024 (1 st half)	(<i>poss.</i>) Conference on inclusive societies for young people	EU Youth Conference	Inclusive Societies	§3, §4, §5, §6, §10 (d), §13 (b), §16, §19, §20, §21, §22, §33, §34	BE
2024 (1 st half)	(<i>poss.</i>) Conference on youth work ⁽³⁾ (with a focus on the local level and democracy: It is where young people's experience of youth work usually starts, and the local level is where most youth work usually happens.)	Policy recommendations Compendium of best practices Aligning with the European Youth Work Agenda/Bonn Process In cooperation with 'Europe goes local' and 'Democracy reloading' Signposts for the Future where the 'local youth work offer' is delineated as the first item of three under the heading 'Youth work provision'. Point 7 of the Final Declaration of the 3 rd European Youth Work Convention says that 'a basic youth work offer should therefore include a clear strategy to enhance social inclusion and diversity among participating young people' ⁽⁴⁾	Youth Organisations and European Programmes Inclusive Societies	§3, §8, §10 (a), §10 (c), §10 (e), §13 (b), §13 (c) §14, §16, §17, §18, §19, §20, §21, §22, §23, §24, §25, §27, §34, §38, §39	BE
2024 (1 st half)	(<i>poss.</i>) Council Resolution on youth work policy in a new Europe	Approval by the Council (<i>poss.</i>) Policy recommendations on the role of youth work in children and youth-friendly cities and the role of public space (e.g., local youth work and youth-friendly cities) Exchanges of best practices with the youth friendly cities label and European Youth Capitals sharing their work on 'public spaces for young people', 'the right to play' and the link with learning (formal, non-formal and informal learning) towards a 'European Learning Area'	All youth goals	§3, §8, §10 (a), §10 (c), §10 (e), §13 (b), §13 (c), §14, §16, §17, §18, §19, §20, §21, §22, §23, §24, §25, §27, §34, §38, §39	BE
2024 (1 st half)	(<i>poss.</i>) Seminar on the evaluation and update of European and international agenda's on children, youth and children's rights	Evaluation and recommendations Update of the Council conclusions Explore the topic of 'the right to play' and the link with formal, non-formal and informal learning	Information and constructive dialogue		BE (and <i>poss.</i> COM)
2024 (1 st half)	European Youth Capital	The BE Presidency will emphasize the role of Ghent as the European Youth Capital in 2024		§10 (c), §39	BE
2024 (2 nd half)	(<i>poss.</i>) Council Resolution on the 10 th cycle of the EU Youth Dialogue	Approval by the Council	Space and participation for all	§1, §2, §6, §21, §22	HU

2024 (2 nd half)	(poss.) Council conclusions on the creation of conditions which enable young people to fulfil their potential in rural areas	Approval by the Council	Moving rural youth forward	§1, §2, §5, §13 (d), §21, §26	HU
2024 (2 nd half)	Conference on the presidency trio's priorities/open method of coordination	EU Youth Conference and DG meeting Final outcome of the EU Youth Dialogue cycle under the ES-BE-HU trio presidencies	Inclusive societies Space and participation for all Moving rural youth forward	§1, §2, §6, §13(b) §19, §21	HU
2024 (2 nd half)	(poss.) Informal meeting of ministers for youth	Exchanges of best practices	Inclusive societies Moving rural youth forward		HU
2024 (2 nd half)	(Conference) Summarising, reviewing and evaluating event for the first 10 cycles of the EU Youth (Structured) Dialogue	Overview of the 10 cycles of the EU Youth (Structured) Dialogue	Space and participation for all Information and constructive dialogue	§1, §2, §6, §26	HU, ES, BE, (poss. COM)
2024 (2 nd half)	(Seminar) Tools to create conditions which enable young people to fulfil their potential in rural areas	Exchanges of best practices at inter-sectoral and inter-institutional levels Forming recommendations.	Moving rural youth forward Space and participation for all Youth organisations and European youth programmes Quality learning.	§1, §5, § 11, §13 (a), §24, §33, §37.	HU (and poss. COM)

(¹) Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027 (2018/C 456/01).

(²) Possible step forward in cross-sectoral cooperation with the social, employment, education health, etc. sectors. Support-background documents requested from the Pool of European Youth Researchers (PEYR).

(³) The European conference will also explore the topic of 'the right to play' and the link with formal, non-formal and informal learning.

(⁴) In close cooperation with the partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth and the Community of practice on the European Youth Work Agenda (EYWA). Support also requested from the PEYR.

**Conclusions of the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States,
meeting within the Council on the social dimension of a sustainable Europe for youth**

(2023/C 185/06)

THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

RECALLING:

1. That the European Youth Goals #3 and #10 as annexed to the European Union Youth Strategy, entitled 'Inclusive Societies' and 'Sustainable Green Europe', set out to 'enable and ensure the inclusion of all young people in society' and to 'achieve a society in which all young people are environmentally active, educated and able to make a difference in their everyday lives' ⁽¹⁾.
2. That young people are powerful agents ⁽²⁾ of change and innovation and essential partners in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and other multilateral agreements and instruments, including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change ⁽³⁾ and the European Green Deal ⁽⁴⁾. Furthermore, the principle that no one will be left behind is reiterated in the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development ⁽⁵⁾. According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, every child has the right to express their views freely in all matters affecting the child ⁽⁶⁾. Young people have the right to participate meaningfully in the development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up of policies that affect them and society at large ⁽⁷⁾.
3. The recognition of intergenerational dialogue and responsibility as a cornerstone of sound policymaking ⁽⁸⁾, the recognition of the crucial role of young people in environmental action and the importance of highlighting the progress made in fostering meaningful youth engagement ⁽⁹⁾.
4. The European Year of Youth 2022 ⁽¹⁰⁾ provided a momentum to empower and support young people, including young people with fewer opportunities, to acquire relevant knowledge and competences in order to become active and engaged citizens and actors of change. In the 'Claim the Future' European Year of Youth's closing conference on 6 December 2022, policy makers and youth stakeholders reiterated their joint commitment to mainstream a youth perspective in policy making and increase their participation in policy making processes. There were also calls for an increased focus on preventative health care, combating mental health problems and loneliness as well as increased participation in organised sports activities.

⁽¹⁾ Annex 3 of the Resolution of the Council of the European Union and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on a framework for European cooperation in the youth field: The European Union Youth Strategy 2019-2027, OJ C 456, 18.12.2018, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Council conclusions on a comprehensive approach to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development – Building back better from the COVID-19 crisis (doc. 9850/21).

⁽³⁾ United Nations, The Paris Agreement, 2015.

⁽⁴⁾ European Commission, Communication from the Commission, The European Green Deal, COM(2019) 640 final.

⁽⁵⁾ Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Publisher, UN General Assembly, A/RES/70/1.

⁽⁶⁾ United Nations, Convention on the Rights of the Child. General Assembly resolution 44/25.

⁽⁷⁾ Council conclusions on safeguarding and creating civic spaces for young people that facilitate meaningful youth participation (OJ C 501 I, 13.12.2021, p. 19).

⁽⁸⁾ Council conclusions on promoting the intergenerational dimension in the youth field to foster dialogue and social cohesion (OJ C 495, 29.12.2022, p. 56).

⁽⁹⁾ Stockholm +50, The Global Youth Policy Paper: Third Official Version, May 2022.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Decision (EU) 2021/2316 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 December 2021 on a European Year of Youth (2022), OJ L 462, 28.12.2021, p. 1.

AWARE THAT:

5. Addressing the social dimension of sustainable development ⁽¹⁾ is a crucial aspect to empowering vulnerable groups in society. Issues of sustainable development are intersectional. Socioeconomic exclusion and democratic exclusion go hand in hand, affecting the extent to which young people are able to engage in actions for sustainable development. Achieving fair, sustainable and inclusive development through democratic processes needs to take all perspectives and opinions into consideration, via the principles of free speech and press freedom and through inclusive processes at all levels.
6. The group that we define as 'youth' consists of a multitude of identities, with different abilities, needs, wills, resources and interests facing diverse challenges and opportunities and comes from various educational, cultural, geographic, economic and social backgrounds. These differences affect their interests, possibilities, and capacity to engage in actions for sustainable development and the environment.
7. Factors such as differences in population density and demographic structure, i.e., between urban, rural and remote, peripheral, less developed areas and outermost regions, also affect the accessibility and availability of sustainable infrastructure for young people.
8. The COVID-19 pandemic, the energy crisis triggered by the Russian Federation's war of aggression against Ukraine, and the climate crisis have shed light on inequalities in our societies as the crises have affected groups of young people differently and some groups disproportionately. The unequal access to human rights for young people with fewer opportunities, such as access to education and healthcare, have become even more evident during these crises. Pre-conditions such as mental and physical health, living and housing conditions, access to formal, non-formal and informal learning, job opportunities and leisure time activities are of crucial importance for young people's resilience and opportunities to live sustainably.
9. Democracy and human rights are indivisible in relation to sustainable development as climate change has a disproportionate impact on marginalised groups in vulnerable situations. People with the fewest resources have the most difficulty in adapting to climate related changes ⁽²⁾ and those at risk of poverty are more likely to face a higher risk of exposure to pollution and environmental problems ⁽³⁾. In addition, young people who are dependent on natural resources in different ways, in order to work, live or engage in their cultural traditions, may be negatively affected by climate change in ways that jeopardise their power to shape their own lives ⁽⁴⁾.

CONSIDER THAT:

10. All young people should have good living conditions, employment perspectives, the power to shape their lives and to influence policymaking and the development of society. Young people are one of our societies' strengths, as well as individual' rights-holders and actors of change ⁽⁵⁾.
11. Young people's knowledge, perspectives and experiences contribute to more purposeful political decisions and are valuable resources in the democratic process. Youth policy should take a dual approach by developing and formulating initiatives directly with, for and by young people through active and meaningful participation by young people, and by mainstreaming youth policy across all policy areas.

⁽¹⁾ For a definition of the 'social dimension of sustainable development', see Annex II to the annex.

⁽²⁾ United Nations, World Youth Report (2020).

⁽³⁾ Eurostat, Quality of life indicators - natural and living environment, 2022.

⁽⁴⁾ Communication from the Commission on Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change COM(2021) 82 final.

⁽⁵⁾ Council conclusions on fostering engagement among young people as actors of change in order to protect the environment (OJ C 159, 12.4.2022, p. 9).

12. EU youth policy, including the EU Youth Dialogue, should contribute to the creation of a society for all present and future generations in which the biggest challenges related to social issues such as poverty, involuntary loneliness⁽¹⁶⁾, mental health, sustainable development and climate change are discussed and solved, without deteriorating the global situation.
13. Increasing the social inclusion of all young people is necessary in order to promote understanding of the interconnected global challenges the world faces and to support young people in acquiring the knowledge, skills and competences needed to live more sustainably and to contribute both individually and collectively to a more sustainable society. The EU youth programmes Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, as well as other EU and national volunteering or civic service schemes and activities where they exist, and initiatives for civic participation, can be useful tools to this end.
14. All young people should have access to verified evidence-based information and data, formulated in a youth-friendly accessible manner and in multiple languages to ensure that all young people can assimilate the information and develop sustainable behaviour and their role as agents of change and as informed citizens.

HIGHLIGHT:

15. That the global nature of challenges such as the COVID 19 pandemic, climate change and biodiversity loss call for the widest possible cooperation, at all levels, safeguarding meaningful and effective youth participation.
16. The need for the further involvement of young people in sustainable development policies at all levels in order to harness the potential and creativity of young people, recognising that investing in young people gives a strong leverage for a sustainable future. The need for dialogue on the ethical and social issues surrounding sustainable development, both among young people and between generations in society, through, for example, intergenerational dialogue, is essential to foster hope and to create understanding of and respect for different perspectives and realities.
17. That many young people in Europe are aware and mobilised for their concerns about sustainability and environmental issues. At the same time, there are young people who are not engaged in societal issues. The level of mobilisation and engagement varies from one young person to another, depending on different factors such as, for example, access to information, educational background, socioeconomic status or geographical location. Different groups of young people need different kinds of encouragement and support in order to participate in the development of society. It is therefore necessary to take on a holistic approach and develop inclusive and participatory actions when addressing such issues, as sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, equal opportunities, social justice and climate change.
18. That youth organisations, youth work and other non-formal and informal learning activities are important for providing information and support to young people who are outside formal structures and are often complementary to services provided by public authorities at all levels.

NOTE:

19. The message from the participants of the EU Youth Conference in March 2023 on the importance in providing young people with trustworthy, accessible and user-friendly information and with access to both formal and non-formal education on sustainability and climate change. Also note their message on the importance in using intergenerational and interdisciplinary approaches to empower young people by providing them with the necessary information, knowledge and tools on how to get involved in sustainable and inclusive practices.

⁽¹⁶⁾ For a definition of 'loneliness', see Annex II to the annex.

INVITE MEMBER STATES, AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVELS, TO:

20. Provide accessible, sustainable and multilevel governance structures ⁽¹⁷⁾ and opportunities for youth organisations and young people, including underrepresented groups of young people, in line with existing best practices, e.g., the Council of Europe Code of good practice for civil participation in the decision-making process ⁽¹⁸⁾, to allow for meaningful involvement and facilitate accessible mechanisms in order to provide feedback and carry out evaluation of such processes.
21. Promote educational opportunities for youth workers to develop the necessary knowledge, skills and competences to address issues of social inclusion and sustainable development in their practices, in a non-formal way.
22. Encourage the development of training and professional learning opportunities for educators ⁽¹⁹⁾ including youth workers, to better inform, educate and empower all young people in matters of sustainable development, in order for young people to have the opportunity to make informed and sustainable choices in everyday life and involve them in decision-making processes.
23. Prioritise mental health and well-being among young people, especially by recognising mental health problems as one of the most significant health concerns for young people ⁽²⁰⁾, by strengthening knowledge-based mental health promotion, mental health literacy and prevention efforts in different settings through cross-sectoral approaches and by promoting and developing equitable access to quality health services that are integrated, safe and people-centred, in order to improve young people's health, welfare and quality of life, thus increasing the strength and resilience of society as a whole.
24. Consider applying a rights-based youth perspective ⁽²¹⁾ to policies for sustainable infrastructure, especially in relation to affordable and accessible public transportation and housing, in order to provide sustainable and green options for all young people.

INVITE THE MEMBER STATES AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, ADHERING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SUBSIDIARITY, IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF COMPETENCE AND AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVELS, TO:

25. Consider the results of the 9th cycle in the EU youth dialogue, in the design and implementation of future policies related to social inclusion and sustainable development.
26. Ensure all young people's access to their rights in accordance with international declarations and conventions by including a rights-based youth perspective in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating measures that affect young people at all levels. It is important to enable decision-makers to have the necessary competences and access to the appropriate tools to create inclusive and participatory decision-making processes.
27. Further support research and analysis, using existing tools such as Youth Wiki ⁽²²⁾, and collect disaggregated data on how social exclusion and climate change relates to young people's mental health, well-being and living conditions, bearing in mind the possible need for new indicators and monitoring mechanisms to measure the impact of social exclusion and climate change.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Council conclusions on strengthening the multilevel governance when promoting the participation of young people in the decision-making processes, OJ C 241, 21.6.2021, p. 3.

⁽¹⁸⁾ Council of Europe, Code of good practice for civil participation in decision-making process, CONF/PLE(2009)CODE1.

⁽¹⁹⁾ For a definition of 'educator', see Annex II to the annex.

⁽²⁰⁾ European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Children and mental health: preventive approaches to anxiety and depression, Publications Office, 2021.

⁽²¹⁾ For a definition of 'rights-based youth perspective', see Annex II to the annex.

⁽²²⁾ The Youth Wiki is an online platform hosted by the European Commission presenting information on European countries' youth policies.

28. Improve the accessibility of different participation mechanisms such as youth councils, youth hearings and participatory conferences, including the EU Youth Dialogue, as well as digital tools for participation, ensuring that they focus on the concerns of different groups of young people in society, including unrepresented and underrepresented groups of young people to participate and take on leading roles in such mechanisms.
29. Make use of the full potential of the Erasmus+ programme, the European Solidarity Corps and the ESF+, including where applicable the ALMA initiative in creating opportunities for more inclusive and sustainable projects and mobility actions, including hybrid mobilities, for all young people. Special emphasis should be placed on the participation of young people with fewer opportunities.

INVITE THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF SUBSIDIARITY, TO:

30. Ensure long-term information measures at European level, including through the European Youth Portal and other relevant information tools, in a youth friendly, inclusive, multilingual, and accessible way in relation to the EU's policies and programmes related to sustainable development and climate change, as well as to participatory processes within the European institutions.
31. Facilitate opportunities for peer learning activities on sustainability and inclusion.
32. Further promote and support a cross-sector approach and synergies with other initiatives such as the 'Education for Climate Coalition', the Council recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development ⁽²³⁾ and the 'New European Bauhaus'.

⁽²³⁾ OJ C 243, 27.6.2022, p. 1.

ANNEX I

REFERENCES

In adopting these conclusions, the Council and the representatives of the Governments of Member States meeting within the Council have taken note of the following documents:

- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, The European Green Deal, COM(2019) 640 final.
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change COM(2021) 82 final.
- Council conclusions on a comprehensive approach to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development – building back better from the COVID-19 crisis (doc. 9850/21).
- Council conclusions on safeguarding and creating civic spaces for young people that facilitate meaningful youth participation, (OJ C 501 I, 13.12.2021, p. 19).
- Council conclusions on promoting the intergenerational dimension in the youth field to foster dialogue and social cohesion (OJ C 495, 29.12.2022, p. 56).
- Council conclusions on fostering engagement among young people as actors of change in order to protect the environment, (OJ C 159, 12.4.2022, p. 9).
- Council conclusions on strengthening the multilevel governance when promoting the participation of young people in decision-making processes, OJ C 241, 21.6.2021, p. 3.
- Council of Europe, Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process, CONF/PLE(2009) CODE1.
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- United Nations, Paris Agreement, 2015.
 - United Nations, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Treaty Series 2515, 2006.
 - United Nations, Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, Aarhus, 1998.
 - United Nations, Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) Treaty no. 27531. United Nations Treaty Series, 1577, art. 12.
 - United Nations, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
 - United Nations, Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 'Our common future', [Brundtland report], A/42/427, 1987.
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ANNEX II

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of these Council conclusions, the following definitions apply:

Educators: includes teachers (acknowledged as having the status of a teacher or equivalent according to national legislation and practice) and trainers (anyone who fulfils one or more activities linked to the theoretical or practical training function, either in an institution for education or training or at the workplace). This encompasses teachers in general education and higher education, teachers and trainers in initial and continuing VET, as well as early childhood education and care professionals and adult educators and youth workers ⁽¹⁾.

Loneliness: loneliness has a strong subjective nature. It is the perception of a discrepancy between a person's desired and actual network of relationships. It is lived as a deeply negative experience. It is not only about having too few social contacts per se, but also about the perception that these relationships are not satisfying enough. In other words, loneliness does not mean being alone, but feeling alone. In this respect, loneliness is different from social isolation, which has an objective connotation, defined by an absence of relationships with other people and/or a very small number of meaningful ties ⁽²⁾.

Rights-based youth perspective ⁽³⁾: a rights-based youth perspective links national youth policy objectives with the rights of children and youth such as they are stipulated in international conventions, laws, and regulations. It should be based on research and statistics and aim to create conditions to include young people in the general development of society, both from their own initiatives and from the initiatives of decision-makers. A rights-based youth perspective can function as a method for decision-makers to acquire relevant competences for taking young people's perspectives into consideration in decision-making.

Social dimension of sustainable development: sustainable development is commonly defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs ⁽⁴⁾. It requires meeting the basic needs of all and extending to all the opportunity to fulfil their aspirations for a better life. Sustainable development includes three dimensions: the economic, social, and environmental. The social dimension of sustainable development rests on the basic values of equity and democracy, including the effective fulfilment of all human rights – political, civil, economic, social and cultural – by all people. In 2021, the Council reaffirmed the importance of strengthening the social dimension of sustainable development to promote human rights, gender equality, inclusion, human development, social cohesion and equality in all its forms, as well as social dialogue, occupational health and safety and decent work ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ As defined in the Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on Education and training of youth workers (OJ C 412, 9.12.2019, p. 12) and in the Council Recommendation of on learning for the green transition and sustainable development (OJ C 243, 27.6.2022, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ JRC Science for Policy Report, Baarck, J., Balahur-Dobrescu, A., Cassio, L.G., D'hombres, B., Pasztor, Z. and Tintori, G., Loneliness in the EU. Insights from surveys and online media data, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2021.

⁽³⁾ The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society.

⁽⁴⁾ United Nations, Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 'Our common future', [Brundtland report], A/42/427, 1987.

⁽⁵⁾ Council conclusions on A Comprehensive Approach to Accelerate the Implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development – building back better from the COVID-19 crisis (doc. 9850/21).

Resolution of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, reviewing the representation of the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA and the coordination of Member States' positions prior to WADA meetings

(2023/C 185/07)

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

RECALLING:

1. The conclusions of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 4 December 2000 on combating doping ⁽¹⁾.
2. The conclusions of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 18 November 2010 on the role of the European Union (EU) in the international fight against doping ⁽²⁾.
3. The resolution of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 20 December 2011 on the representation of the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA and the coordination of the EU and its Member States' positions prior to WADA meetings ⁽³⁾.
4. The conclusions of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 15 December 2015, reviewing the 2011 resolution on the representation of the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA and the coordination of the EU and its Member States' positions prior to WADA meetings which provides that by 31 December 2018 the experience gained from the further application of this resolution shall be reviewed once more ⁽⁴⁾.
5. The 2019 resolution of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the representation of the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA and the coordination of Member States' positions prior to WADA meetings (hereinafter '2019 resolution') ⁽⁵⁾.

NOTING THAT:

1. Since the adoption of the 2019 resolution the working methods and practices of WADA have evolved, in particular with regard to the duration of mandates of members of its Foundation Board. These developments make it timely for the Council to update the 2019 resolution to give clearer guidance on the criteria and the duration of the mandates of experts at governmental level designated jointly by the Member States meeting within the Council. The 2019 resolution does not explicitly provide the duration of mandates of the experts at governmental level who replace the expert representative who cease its function at ministerial level in their Member State. Neither does the 2019 resolution take into account the eligibility criteria of WADA's statutes to be a member of the Foundation Board.
2. It is important that the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, continue to review the experience gained from the application of the 2019 resolution on a regular basis.

RECOGNISE THAT:

1. The European Union and its Member States should be able to exercise their competences and play their role during the preparation, negotiation and adoption inter alia of rules, standards and guidelines by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 356, 12.12.2000, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 324, 1.12.2010, p. 18.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 372, 20.12.2011, p. 7.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ C 417, 15.12.2015, p. 45.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ C 192, 7.6.2019, p. 1.

2. Three seats in WADA's Foundation Board are allocated to the representatives from EU Member States.
3. It is necessary to provide for practical modalities concerning the participation of representatives from the EU Member States in WADA's Foundation Board, as well as the coordination of the positions of the EU and its Member States prior to CAHAMA ⁽⁶⁾ and WADA meetings. These practical modalities should reflect the duty of sincere cooperation and seek to promote unity in the EU's external representation while avoiding duplication of the work in CAHAMA.
4. The coordination of European continent positions prior to WADA meetings should take place within CAHAMA and it should be ensured that decisions taken in that body fully respect any applicable EU legislation.
5. There is a strong need for continuity and commitment in the EU Member States representation in the Foundation Board of WADA, which is supported by a political mandate and appropriate expertise.

CONSEQUENTLY, AGREE THAT:

1. The representatives of the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA will be at ministerial level and the seats will be allocated as follows:
 - one seat will be allocated to a person in charge of sport at ministerial level from one of the Member States forming the incumbent Trio Presidency,
 - one seat will be allocated to a person in charge of sport at ministerial level from one of the Member States forming the future Trio Presidency,
 - one seat will be jointly allocated by the Member States meeting within the Council to a person responsible for sport at ministerial level (hereafter 'expert at governmental level').
2. The arrangements regarding EU Member States representation in the Foundation Board of WADA as described in Annex I to the Annex will take effect as from 30 June 2023, without prejudice to mandates approved prior to this date.
3. The representative from the incumbent Trio Presidency in the Foundation Board of WADA will report on the outcome of the meeting of the Foundation Board of WADA at the meeting of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport (EYCS) Council of the EU. This representative will submit a report on the outcome of that meeting to the Working Party on Sport (WPS).
4. While avoiding duplication with CAHAMA, the delegates of the Member States meeting within the Working Party on Sport (WPS) may coordinate a common position on matters falling within the competence of the Member States, provided there is a clear added value of such a common position. The common position is subject to approval by the representatives of the Member States meeting within the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) unless Member States agree differently.
5. Any common position agreed by EU Member States must be consistent with any agreed EU position and will be presented at the CAHAMA meetings by the Presidency. The EU Member States should seek to include this common position in the European continent mandate prepared by CAHAMA.
6. The representatives from the EU Member States in WADA's Foundation Board will speak and vote on matters in accordance with the European continent's mandate agreed by CAHAMA, provided that such position is consistent with the EU acquis.

⁽⁶⁾ The Ad Hoc European Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency (CAHAMA) is a committee of experts responsible for coordinating the positions of States Parties to the European Cultural Convention on issues relating to anti-doping policy development.

7. By 31 December 2025, the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, will review the experience gained from the application of this resolution and consider whether any adjustments to the arrangement established by this resolution are needed.
 8. This resolution, including the attached arrangements regarding the EU Member States' representation in the WADA Foundation Board, and the practical arrangements regarding preparations for the WADA meetings on matters falling within Union competence approved by the Council on 15 May 2023, replaces resolution 2019/C 192/01 of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the representation of the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA and the coordination of the EU and its Member States' positions prior to WADA meetings.
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ANNEX I

Arrangements regarding the EU Member States' representation in the WADA Foundation Board

The EU Member States agree on the following system of representation:

The representatives from the EU Member States at the Foundation Board of WADA shall be nationals from different EU Member States.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MEMBER STATES FORMING THE INCUMBENT AND THE FUTURE TRIO PRESIDENCIES:

- The Member States forming the incumbent Trio Presidency will choose, after internal consultation, one of them as a representative of the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA. The chosen Member State will designate, following its internal procedures, a representative to that effect. This representative will be the person responsible at ministerial level for sport within the Member State and will be eligible to sit on the Foundation board in accordance with the WADA's statutes. The Member State chosen to provide a representative and the name of that representative will be notified to the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU (GSC).
- If the representative ceases his/her functions at ministerial level, that representative will remain in office in the Foundation Board of WADA until the new designation procedure has been completed. The Member State, or if the Trio Presidency agrees on another Member State from the Trio Presidency, that other Member State will designate a replacement who is eligible to represent the EU Member State in the Foundation Board of WADA and who is in charge of sport at ministerial level for the remaining time of the initial three-year term of office in the Foundation Board.
- The representative who ceases his/her function at ministerial level or becomes ineligible to represent the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA shall no longer be a member of the Foundation Board and his/her resignation is automatic when the new designation procedure has been completed.
- The abovementioned rules will also apply to the Member States forming the future Trio Presidency.
- The term of office of the abovementioned representatives is three years.
- The representative from the Member States forming the future Trio Presidency will remain in office also after it has become the incumbent Trio Presidency in order to ensure the continuity and maintenance of the three-year term of office.

EXPERT AT GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL DESIGNATED JOINTLY BY THE MEMBER STATES MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL:

- Proposals for an expert representative will be submitted by the Member States no later than one month before the meeting of the Council of the EU during which the designation is to take place. The proposals will not include ministers from the Member States forming the incumbent Trio Presidency or the future Trio Presidency. The proposals for an expert representative shall be sent to the General Secretariat of the Council.
- In case there is more than one candidature for the expert representative, the Presidency will seek the consensus of the Member States to organise an indicative ballot vote in the WPS in order to designate the expert representative. The voting procedure will be proposed by the Presidency and agreed upon also by consensus among Member States. Any candidate to the expert representative position will be eligible to sit on the Foundation board in accordance with the WADA's statutes.
- The term of office of the expert representative will be three years unless he/she ceases his/her function at ministerial level in his/her Member State or the eligibility requirements to represent the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA applicable at the time of designation are no longer met during his/ her term of office. In this case, a new designation procedure for a new period of three years will be initiated. The current expert representative will remain in place until the new designation procedure has been completed. The term of office will be consistent with WADA's statutes and will in any event be limited to maximum of three terms.

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- The expert representative who has been replaced or becomes ineligible to represent the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA shall no longer be a member of the Foundation Board and his/her resignation is automatic when the new designation procedure has been completed.

TRANSITIONAL RULES:

- The existing rules on the representation of the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA as set out in the above mentioned 2019 resolution will apply until 30 June 2023.

APPROVAL PROCESS BY THE MEMBER STATES MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL:

- The approval of the expert at governmental level and the Member States chosen by the incumbent and the future Trio Presidencies to designate representatives to the Foundation Board of WADA will be made by the Member States meeting within the Council.
 - The names of all the members of the Foundation Board of WADA who are representatives of the EU Member States will be notified via the GSC to WADA, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of 23 October 2018 ⁽¹⁾.
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⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC.

ANNEX II

Practical arrangements regarding preparations for the WADA meetings on matters falling within Union competence

Without prejudice to the Council's Rules of Procedure (CRP) and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provisions regarding the EU's decision-making process, the Council hereby agrees on the following practical arrangements with a view to ensuring predictability and transparency in the process of preparing for the meetings of the European continent coordination in the Council of Europe (CAHAMA) and for WADA meetings:

1. Upon receipt of the documents for the WADA Foundation Board meetings, the representatives from the EU Member States at the Foundation Board shall coordinate among them to forward documents, relevant to establish, if necessary, a possible EU position, to the General Secretariat of the Council in view of the preparation of the Working Party on Sport (WPS).
 2. Ahead of every WADA meeting, the Commission is invited to prepare and submit to the Council a proposal for an EU position on matters within Union competence, with a focus on the EU acquis, sufficiently in advance of the meetings of CAHAMA and of WADA.
 3. This draft EU position will be examined by the WPS.
 4. Once the WPS agrees on a draft EU position on matters falling within the Union competences, such draft EU position will be submitted to COREPER for approval. COREPER may refer the matter to the Council for adoption as necessary or appropriate.
 5. In cases of urgency, when positions need to be adopted in a short time period, the Presidency may seek agreement through written or silence procedure.
 6. In case CAHAMA is called upon to adopt an act having legal effects, the Commission is invited to present a proposal for a Council decision in accordance with Article 218(9) TFEU in respect of that act.
 7. At the CAHAMA meetings the Commission is invited to present the EU position, to the extent permitted by CAHAMA's terms of reference. Otherwise, the representative of the Presidency will present the EU position.
 8. At any time and where necessary, on the spot EU coordination meetings between the Member States and the Commission may be convened and chaired by the Presidency.
 9. These practical arrangements and the resolution of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the representation of the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA and the coordination of Member States' positions prior to the Foundation Board meetings, approved by the Council, replace resolution 2019/C 192/01 of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the representation of the EU Member States in the Foundation Board of WADA and the coordination of the EU and its Member States' positions prior to WADA meetings.
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Council resolution on The European Education Area: Looking to 2025 and beyond

(2023/C 185/08)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

1. RECALLS the political background regarding the European Education Area as set out in the Annex to this resolution.
2. REAFFIRMS that the European Education Area can become a reality by 2025 only through the strong political commitment of Member States and STRESSES the need for continued efforts by both Member States and the Commission, within their respective competences, and as appropriate with the involvement of relevant stakeholders at national and European level, to take the necessary steps to achieve the European Education Area.
3. TAKES NOTE of the Commission communication on progress towards the achievement of the European Education Area ⁽¹⁾.
4. UNDERLINES that education and training in all contexts, at all levels and in all forms are crucial to ensure social cohesion, competitiveness and sustainable growth in the European Union and its Member States and to prepare them for and support them through the green and digital transitions. Especially at a time when it is essential for citizens to find personal fulfilment and well-being as well as to adapt to the challenges of the changing world and to further engage in active and responsible citizenship, STRESSES the importance of high-quality, inclusive and equitable education, training and life-long learning for everyone – children and adults alike.
5. EMPHASISES that the European Education Area should be underpinned by a life-long learning approach that encompasses education and training systems in an inclusive and holistic manner, and covers teaching, training and learning in all contexts, at all levels and in all forms, whether formal, non-formal or informal, from early childhood education and care right through to school education and vocational education and training as well as higher education and adult learning.
6. REITERATES that cross-sectoral cooperation should be enhanced between relevant EU initiatives in education and training and those in related policy areas and sectors — in particular the employment, social policy, research, innovation, environment and youth and cultural and creative sectors while fully respecting the legal basis for the respective policy areas as set out in the Treaties. UNDERLINES the need for coordination and coherence of all EU initiatives in the area of education and training, in particular those concerning skills and competences.
7. NOTES that European cooperation in education and training is crucial for social cohesion and a well-functioning economic landscape in the European Union to ensure the Union's long-term competitiveness and the success of the green and digital transitions and to reduce social, regional and economic inequalities. RECOGNISES therefore the important contribution of European cooperation in education and training, including within the strategic framework, to relevant parts of the European Semester.
8. STRESSES the importance of promoting synergies between the European Education Area, the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area, while avoiding duplication of resources, structures and instruments, as well as using the full potential of the European Universities alliances in all their missions, including supporting their sustainability and continuing to strengthen their research and innovation dimension, in line with the Council Recommendation of 5 April 2022 on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2022) 700 final.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 160, 13.4.2022, p. 1.

9. RECOGNISES that the fundamental and democratic values of Europe are being challenged and that Russia's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine has changed the geopolitical landscape. AGREES that joint efforts and transnational cooperation in education and training not only facilitates and strengthens the Union's and Member States' responses to the needs that have arisen as a consequence of the aggression but also helps reinforce our key educational values and principles, such as inclusion, equity, academic freedom and institutional autonomy, as well as our common values and our unity in the Union.

10. EMPHASISES that identifying and removing the remaining obstacles to learning and teaching mobility is key to the full achievement of a European Education Area and the creation of a resilient, safe, sustainable and prosperous Europe. Transnational cooperation strengthens the inclusiveness, equity, excellence, diversity, attractiveness and global competitiveness of European education and training. AGREES, therefore, that efforts should be made towards making automatic mutual recognition in education and training a reality. Also AGREES that possibilities should be promoted for learners and teachers to be mobile and for institutions in Europe and beyond to cooperate with one another.

11. ACKNOWLEDGES that progress has been made since 2017 towards establishing the European Education Area and that a broad range of measures to achieve the strategic priorities set out in the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (2021-2030) have been implemented across the EU. Through various initiatives, cooperation and co-creation, the European Education Area is gradually being shaped.

12. AGREES that focusing on implementation at both national and European level, in the context of the strategic framework, in line with the respective competences of each level, and robust monitoring within existing structures, with due regard to administrative burdens, will be key for the remaining period of the first cycle till 2025.

13. UNDERLINES that the five strategic priorities, as set out in the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (2021-2030), constitute the basis for the work and for continued European cooperation in education and training, including towards the achievement of the European Education Area. AGREES that the ongoing midterm review process and the full report on the European Education Area to be published by the European Commission in 2025 should focus on those five strategic priorities, including a more in-depth analysis of the specific areas listed below.

14. RECOGNISES that the follow-up to the EU-level targets shows positive trends with regard to several longstanding indicators such as increased participation in early childhood education and care, a reduction in early school leaving and a higher share of young people with tertiary level attainment. However, it is also evident that many challenges remain, especially the effects of socio-economic status on educational achievement and students' well-being. AGREES, therefore, that a particular focus should be given to the following to achieve a European Education Area by 2025:

- Improving equity, inclusion as well as success for all in education and training and the acquisition of key competences, including basic skills, to enable the full personal, social, civic and professional development of all European citizens;
- Enhancing the teaching profession and addressing teacher shortages; promoting the professional development, mobility opportunities, working conditions and well-being of teachers as key factors in increasing the attractiveness of the profession;
- Removing the remaining obstacles to mobility while encouraging inclusive, sustainable and balanced mobility in the EU, including by achieving automatic mutual recognition in education and training (⁽¹⁾);
- Fostering life-long learning, including adult learning, upskilling and reskilling, with a particular emphasis on skills and competences for the green and digital transitions.

15. WILL REFLECT on the strategic framework and consider revising the priority areas and making any other necessary adjustments for the second cycle leading up to 2030.

(¹) In line with the Council Recommendation of 26 November 2018 on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad, OJ C 444, 10.12.2018, p. 1.

16. UNDERLINES that the successful use of the open method of coordination, drawing on mutual learning, sharing of best practices as well as the use and – where appropriate – the improvement of common reference tools such as DigComp and GreenComp, is key to achieving the European Education Area.
17. RECOGNISES that the Learning Lab on Investing in Quality Education and Training has the potential to be a useful instrument for the Member States, to be used on a voluntary basis, in achieving strategic priorities by providing research and examples of best practice on effective investments and policy interventions while fostering evidence-informed policy making.
18. RECOGNISES that reformed governance and enhanced cooperation at EU level can help Member States to tackle emerging challenges and work together more closely towards achieving the European Education Area. RECOGNISES, also, the progress made in strengthening the High Level Group on Education and Training by redefining its role and introducing the Coordination Board. ACKNOWLEDGES that the new governance structure has proven efficient and useful during crises such as COVID-19 and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.
19. AGREES, however, that further efforts are needed to enable better dissemination of findings as well as information and knowledge sharing between the working groups of the strategic framework, Director-General formations and the High Level Group on Education and Training in order to ensure synergies between the technical and the political level and derive maximum benefit from European cooperation.
20. UNDERLINES the need for a reinforced and purposeful dialogue between the Education Committee and the Employment Committee and, if appropriate and relevant, other parties involved in the European Semester process.
21. INVITES the Member States and the Commission to step up their efforts to co-create the European Education Area, in cooperation with other stakeholders at national and European level when relevant, including education and training providers and institutions, researchers, the social partners and civil society. AGREES that, in this regard, the High Level Group should further discuss the progress made, the remaining challenges and the future developments as well as examine the final report on the European Education Area in 2025. Also CALLS on the High Level Group Coordination Board to coordinate the preparation of a policy agenda in education and training for a period of 18 months for endorsement by the High Level Group on Education and Training, to be communicated to the Council.
22. INVITES the Commission to consider preparing and putting forward, in a timely manner, a proposal on a European Year of Teachers.
23. URGES the Commission to build further on the Council guidance and previous Council conclusions and resolutions on the European Education Area as the foundation for its work when facilitating the midterm review process in 2023 and drafting the full report on the European Education Area by 2025, including the preparatory work which could lead to a possible revision of the EU-level targets by the Council for the second cycle leading up to 2030.
24. CALLS on the Commission to pursue work, with the expert opinion of the Standing Group on Indicators and Benchmarks, on proposals for possible indicators or EU-level targets in the areas of inclusion and equity, of the teaching profession as well as of learning for sustainability, and to report back to the Council.
25. EXPECTS the Commission to make further efforts in line with the strategic priorities agreed by the Council and covering education and training in all contexts, at all levels and in all forms, in close cooperation with the Council.
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ANNEX

Political background***Council of the European Union***

1. Council conclusions on moving towards a vision of a European Education Area, OJ C 195, 7.6.2018, p. 7.
2. Council Recommendation of 26 November 2018 on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad, OJ C 444, 10.12.2018, p. 1.
3. Council Resolution on further developing the European Education Area to support future-oriented education and training systems, OJ C 389, 18.11.2019, p. 1.
4. Council Resolution on education and training in the European Semester: ensuring informed debates on reforms and investments, OJ C 64, 27.2.2020, p. 1.
5. Council Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030), OJ C 66, 26.2.2021, p. 1.
6. Council Resolution on the governance structure of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030), OJ C 497, 10.12.2021, p. 1.
7. Council Recommendation of 5 April 2022 on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation, OJ C 160, 13.4.2022, p. 1.

European Commission

8. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on achieving the European Education Area by 2025 (COM(2020) 625 final).
 9. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on progress towards the achievement of the European Education Area (COM(2022) 700 final).
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COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON AT-RISK AND DISPLACED ARTISTS

(2023/C 185/09)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

ACKNOWLEDGING

1. the importance of creative and cultural rights, as enshrined in global ⁽¹⁾ as well as regional ⁽²⁾ human rights instruments, for maintaining human dignity, cultural diversity, pluralism, democracy and culture's intrinsic value,
2. the work of international organisations on the freedom of artistic expression, such as UNESCO – whose 2005 Convention recognises the need to take measures to protect the diversity of cultural expressions, especially in situations where cultural expressions may be threatened by the possibility of extinction or serious impairment ⁽³⁾ – and the Council of Europe ⁽⁴⁾, particularly with regard to its Manifesto on the Freedom of Expression of the Arts and Culture in the Digital Era,
3. the conclusions of the European Council of 15 December 2022 and of 9 February 2023, which reiterate its resolute condemnation of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, reaffirm the Union's full support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders ⁽⁵⁾, and reiterate the commitment to reinforce support of displaced persons ⁽⁶⁾,
4. the European Parliament resolution on cultural solidarity with Ukraine, which expresses sincere solidarity with artists ⁽⁷⁾, as art and culture will have a fundamental role to play in the healing and rebuilding of Ukraine, and in particular salutes the action of the Ukrainian artists and creators who have acted in resistance to the Russian invasion by practising their art ⁽⁸⁾,
5. the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026 ⁽⁹⁾, which contains several actions ⁽¹⁰⁾ relating to the topic of at-risk ⁽¹¹⁾ and displaced artists.

CONSIDERING THAT

6. artists globally play an important role in the life, development and resilience of society and individuals, and that they should be able to do so while preserving their creativity and freedom of expression,
7. artists should therefore be offered protection, in accordance with existing regulations, against threats and violations of any kind and form that put them in danger because of their artistic work,

⁽¹⁾ *Inter alia* Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2023, or Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

⁽²⁾ *Inter alia* the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

⁽³⁾ UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

⁽⁴⁾ Basing its work on the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the Council of Europe has e.g. published a report on Artistic Freedom and launched the Manifesto on the Freedom of Expression of the Arts and Culture in the Digital Era which states *inter alia* that restrictions on freedom of expression and artistic freedom affect the whole of society, bereaving it of its pluralism and the vitality of the democratic process.

⁽⁵⁾ EUCO 34/22.

⁽⁶⁾ EUCO 1/23.

⁽⁷⁾ See Annex II for the definition of 'artists'.

⁽⁸⁾ European Parliament resolution of 20 October 2022 on cultural solidarity with Ukraine and a joint emergency response mechanism for cultural recovery in Europe (2022/2759(RSP)).

⁽⁹⁾ Council Resolution on the EU Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026 - OJ C 466, 7.12.2022, p. 1.

⁽¹⁰⁾ I.e., on artistic freedom, on preserving cultural heritage and empowering local cultural and creative sectors in Ukraine and on the role of culture and cultural professionals in the promotion and defence of democracy and human rights in fragile contexts.

⁽¹¹⁾ See Annex II for the definition of 'at-risk artists'.

8. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is also an attack on Ukraine's cultural identity, and that the cultural dimension has an important part to play in the different forms of support to Ukraine.

UNDERLINING

9. the courage and determination of all artists, in particular women artists, who raise their voices through the power of culture to promote just and peaceful societies, freedom and democracy, and opposing war, persecution and intolerance,
10. the significant role, historically and today, of exiled artists in promoting peace, mutual understanding, freedom, democracy and cultural diversity, and the importance of at-risk and displaced artists being given the opportunity to continue their artistic work and to continue to bear witness to ongoing events,
11. that artists can no longer continue their artistic work safely in countries all over the world where democratic values are oppressed or prohibited, including Russian and Belarusian artists who are critical of the regime and therefore are particularly subjected to threats and persecution,
12. that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has triggered a large-scale displacement of Ukrainian citizens and a humanitarian crisis on a scale not seen in Europe since the Second World War, with immense impacts, including on artists and their freedom of expression, and has reaffirmed the need for preparedness in Europe to offer support to at-risk and displaced artists in both the short and the long term, through the appropriate institutional and legal frameworks.

WELCOMES

13. the measures taken by the EU and its Member States to provide a safe haven ⁽¹²⁾ for artists, including arts students, and independent journalists ⁽¹³⁾, fleeing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and the initiatives taken in the Creative Europe ⁽¹⁴⁾ programme for supporting Ukrainian artists affected by the war, as well as in the Erasmus+ programme to support Ukrainian arts students.

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES, AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVELS, AND THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS, TO:

14. consider taking further measures to enhance the capacity to offer safe havens and so-called 'cities of refuge' ⁽¹⁵⁾ for at-risk and displaced artists from different parts of the world, and contribute to networking for such artists,
15. consider adapting, where appropriate, regular artistic residencies into emergency residencies, taking into account the needs of at-risk and displaced artists, including those emerging from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine,
16. consider applying a long-term and holistic approach when welcoming at-risk and displaced artists and their families, complementing the urgent need for a safe haven with possibilities to become a part of the local community and cultural life and to remain artistically active and heard, and encouraging the learning of the host country's language.

⁽¹²⁾ See Annex II for the definition of 'safe haven'.

⁽¹³⁾ See for example Council conclusions (2022/C 245/04) on the protection and safety of journalists and other media professions, e.g., inviting Member States and the Commission to support independent and exiled journalists and media professionals, particularly from countries such as Ukraine, Belarus and the Russian Federation.

⁽¹⁴⁾ European Commission, Support for Ukrainian artists, cultural and creative professionals and organisations.

⁽¹⁵⁾ See Annex II for the definition of 'cities of refuge'.

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY POLICY ⁽¹⁶⁾, IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF COMPETENCE AND AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVELS, TO:

17. maintain the dialogue with Ukrainian partners on ways to continue supporting the Ukrainian cultural and creative sectors and encourage the promotion of Ukrainian culture in the EU with participation of Ukrainian artists, including at-risk and displaced artists, and cultural organisations, while fully respecting the autonomy and diversity of the cultural sector,
18. take measures, through all relevant channels, to uphold and protect artistic freedom and the rights of artists globally, including the right to create without censorship or intimidation,
19. continue supporting at-risk and displaced artists in the EU due to the effects of, or their opposition to, oppressive regimes or war, in particular Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine,
20. consult with actors active in providing safe havens for at-risk and displaced artists in advance of the periodic reports to the 2005 UNESCO Convention ⁽¹⁷⁾ and, where relevant, include the issue of safe havens for at-risk and displaced artists in those reports.

INVITES THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY POLICY TO:

21. make available a comprehensive overview outlining up-to-date information on the EU's and the Member States' bilateral assistance to Ukraine in the field of culture and creative sectors, including at-risk and displaced Ukrainian artists,
22. contribute to networking and the exchange of information, best practices and experiences between Member States and non-state actors supporting at-risk and displaced artists,
23. support cross-sectoral transnational policy cooperation on artistic freedom, including supporting actions for at-risk and displaced artists, taking into account experiences from the Creative Europe call for support for Ukrainian displaced people and the Ukrainian cultural and creative sectors.

⁽¹⁶⁾ While respecting the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 TEU.

⁽¹⁷⁾ UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Article 9.

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

Definitions

For the purposes of these Council conclusions, the following definitions apply:

Artist: the definition of 'artist' is to be understood widely, including all professionals within the cultural and creative sectors as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/818 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing the Creative Europe Programme (2021 to 2027) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1295/2013.

Safe haven: a 'safe haven' is defined as an opportunity provided for artists at risk in their home countries to find protection and, should they so wish, remain artistically active, for a limited period of time in another place.

At-risk artists: artists who are threatened by armed conflict, persecution, or oppression.

Emergency residency: a place for the temporary relocation of an artist at risk, providing accommodation and opportunities to continue their work in a safe place. An emergency residency can be formed by already existing artistic residence programmes or by creating new artistic residencies for the specific purpose of supporting displaced artists fleeing armed conflict.

Cities of refuge: according to The International Cities of Refuge Network (ICORN), 'cities of refuge' are cities or regions offering shelter to writers and artists at risk, advancing freedom of expression, defending democratic values and promoting international solidarity. ICORN Member Cities offer long-term, but temporary, shelter to those put at risk as a direct consequence of their creative activities ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ International Cities of Refuge Network.

Council conclusions on further steps to make automatic mutual recognition in education and training a reality

(2023/C 185/10)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

REAFFIRMS its strong political commitment to make the European Education Area a reality by 2025, and RECALLS the political background as set out in the annex.

UNDERLINES that:

1. The 1997 Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon Recognition Convention) and its subsidiary texts, developed by the Council of Europe and UNESCO, provide a legal framework for the recognition of higher education qualifications and upper secondary education and training qualifications that give access to higher education. In the area of vocational education and training (VET), Member States have committed to the Copenhagen Process for enhanced cooperation which promotes mutual trust, transparency and the recognition of qualifications and competences.

2. Building on this legal framework, the Council Recommendation of 26 November 2018 on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad ⁽¹⁾ sets ambitious and clearly defined objectives for the Member States to meet by 2025. In particular, the Council recommended that Member States:

- put the necessary steps in place to achieve automatic mutual recognition of higher education qualifications and of the outcomes of learning periods abroad at higher education level;
- make substantial progress towards automatic mutual recognition of upper secondary education and training qualifications giving access to higher education and of the outcomes of learning periods abroad in upper secondary education and training.

3. The definitions of ‘automatic mutual recognition of a qualification’ and of the ‘outcomes of a learning period abroad’ both at higher education level and at upper secondary education and training level are set out in the annex to the 2018 Recommendation and are fully applicable to the current Council conclusions.

RECOGNISES THAT:

1. It is not possible to achieve a true European Education Area (EEA) without recognising that automatic mutual recognition of qualifications and outcomes of learning periods abroad is one of the fundamental building blocks for fostering learning mobility. When recognition is not automatic, it can entail administrative burdens for institutions, education and training providers and learners alike, affecting equal access to equitable and quality education and training throughout life, and hampering mobility and the acquisition of transversal skills and competences needed for personal, civic and professional development as well as for enhanced employability. For the European Union to retain and enhance its competitive edge, it is imperative that full advantage be taken of the potential of the EEA, so that learners can make the most of all education and training opportunities across the EU.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 444, 10.12.2018, p. 1.

2. Measures to foster transparency, and thereby enhance trust, are crucial to promoting the automatic mutual recognition of qualifications and outcomes of learning periods abroad in higher education and upper secondary education and training (including both general education and VET). The successful implementation of automatic mutual recognition hinges on accelerating as well as sustaining the progress that has been made within the EEA and the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) towards greater transparency and trust.

3. The Member States and the European Commission have worked together successfully to provide a set of instruments, and significant steps have been taken in the Bologna Process to provide Member States with a toolbox to make automatic mutual recognition a practical possibility in higher education. These tools include, among others, the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), the Diploma Supplement, the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), the three-cycle higher education system and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).

4. Important steps have also been taken in the area of VET, including through the Copenhagen Process and notably through the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET).

5. The network of National Academic Recognition Information Centres (NARICs) is central to the implementation of the automatic mutual recognition of qualifications in Europe, in particular in higher education, as the NARICs represent an important source of knowledge, information and good practice for all actors dealing with automatic mutual recognition.

6. Bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements on automatic mutual recognition in the EU can foster trust and transparency, support automatic mutual recognition, and provide inspiration for broader European cooperation with a view to implementing the 2018 Recommendation.

WELCOMES the report from the Commission to the Council on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad of 23 February 2023 ⁽²⁾ and NOTES, in particular, that:

1. Even though automatic mutual recognition of qualifications does not mean automatic admission to further studies, there are still challenges relating to the distinction between eligibility to apply for further studies (i.e. recognition) and admission to a specific course or programme. The Commission report further states that, at the institutional level, there may be several reasons for these challenges, including that the concept of automatic mutual recognition is frequently misunderstood and that recognition and admission are often combined, sometimes leading to inconsistencies in decision-making. When there is a lack of consistent approaches to automatic mutual recognition, the result can be diverse and complex processes that may undermine the smooth, fair and transparent automatic recognition of qualifications.

2. Guidance from national authorities and the systematic provision of training and information is still not widespread, in part due to the limited national resources dedicated to supporting the implementation of automatic mutual recognition and the NARICs. Furthermore, the Commission report indicates that the systematic monitoring of recognition practices in education and training is underdeveloped.

⁽²⁾ COM(2023) 91 final.

3. Automatic mutual recognition remains more advanced in higher education than at upper secondary education and training level, including VET, largely due to the framework provided by the Bologna tools. However, these tools are unevenly applied, such as in the case of the use of the information provided by quality assurance agencies registered in EQAR, and the use of the Diploma Supplement, including through the Europass platform.

4. Difficulties persist in achieving automatic mutual recognition after learning periods abroad for students in higher education, in part due to a lack of information and limited use of the 2015 ECTS Users' Guide. Administrative hindrances and varied perceptions regarding quality at faculty level add further complications. While within the Erasmus+ programme, higher education institutions have committed to fully and automatically recognising the credits obtained during a mobility period, recognition is still far from being the norm.

5. Challenges remain for the recognition of upper secondary education and training qualifications, including VET, giving access to higher education in the Member State where the qualification was issued, for access to higher education in another Member State. There are several reasons for this, including the variety of practices and actors involved and the limited use made of the tools available.

6. Likewise, automatic mutual recognition of the outcomes of a learning period abroad for learners in upper secondary education and training, including VET, remains underdeveloped. The diversity of education and training systems in the EU is a strength but it may present a challenge in this context. The recognition of outcomes of learning periods abroad is a complex issue due to, for example, this diversity, variations in recognition procedures and the lack of common frameworks at the appropriate level in the Member States.

AGREES THAT:

1. While progress has been made, the lack of automatic mutual recognition of qualifications and of the outcomes of learning periods abroad continues to hamper learning mobility in the EU.

2. The impetus to lay a solid foundation for automatic mutual recognition in the EU based on trust remains strong. Automatic mutual recognition increases the attractiveness of European learning mobility, strengthens education and training institutions and promotes their internationalisation. It also leads to improved education and training, the acquisition of transversal skills and competences, and better labour market options. Learning periods abroad have the potential to be positive, life-altering experiences for young people and can lead to further mobility later in life. They can contribute to the development of key competences such as multilingualism, citizenship and cultural awareness.

3. It is imperative that greater efforts be made by all the relevant actors to live up to the 2018 Recommendation and to put in place all the necessary steps by 2025. Most importantly, automatic mutual recognition hinges on the Member States working together to foster mutual trust and transparency.

4. Building and sustaining mutual trust and transparency for the promotion of automatic mutual recognition is necessary to future-proof the building blocks of the EEA and the EU as a global actor in education and training. EEA initiatives, such as the European Universities initiative, can be important drivers for automatic mutual recognition and call for a holistic perspective.

5. Trust and transparency amongst education and training systems is a key component to ensure automatic mutual recognition. Thus, efforts to build a culture of trust and transparency around automatic mutual recognition must be stepped up at all decision-making levels, with due respect for subsidiarity. Quality assurance plays a key role in accelerating trust building by highlighting methods and improving transparency. Continuing the important work already accomplished in the context of the Bologna Process and the EU, including the Copenhagen Process, is therefore fundamental to trust-based recognition procedures. For the sake of transparency, clear reasons for negative recognition decisions as well as the possibility to appeal such decisions in the respective systems of the Member States may prove important for individuals and for fostering trust in the recognition system.

6. EU tools and initiatives play a key part in developing more transparency and automating recognition procedures in general. These include the Erasmus+ programme and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), which helps improve the transparency, comparability and portability of qualifications. In this regard, it is important to keep the national qualifications frameworks up-to-date with regard to the EQF.

7. It is important to focus on digitalisation processes and the use of digital tools ⁽³⁾ which enable easier verification of the authenticity of qualifications while allowing for efficient fraud prevention, as well as on the tools developed under the Erasmus+ programme. Together with the Diploma Supplements and the Q-Entry database, these tools can add value by decreasing costs and the administrative burden.

8. Beyond taking full advantage of the tools available, it is essential to foster, sustain and further develop trust among staff involved in the decision-making process as well as to provide them with the relevant training so that they have the necessary knowledge and understanding of the relevant tools and frameworks for recognition and the skills to use them appropriately. Considering that decisions are often taken at institutional or local level, the development of relationships between teachers, trainers, learners, leaders and administrators can play a key role in making automatic mutual recognition a practical possibility. Enabling individual participation in transnational cooperation projects and mobility for stakeholders, such as teachers, trainers and leaders, may play a positive role in furthering automatic mutual recognition.

9. The autonomy of higher education institutions, as well as upper secondary education and training providers depending on the national context, is fundamental to the creation of a successful EEA. At the same time, consistent national approaches to automatic mutual recognition in line with the 2018 Recommendation and monitoring recognition at the national level would reduce complexity and unnecessary divergence in approaches. This could improve predictability while reducing the administrative and financial burden for authorities and learners. The involvement of all relevant actors, such as higher education institutions, NARICs, quality assurance agencies and EQF National Coordination Points, can play a key role in these efforts, including in training, information provision, monitoring and the development of national guidance. In this context, peer learning may play an important role in spreading best practice, both in higher education and upper secondary education and training, to contribute to more consistent national approaches across Member States.

10. Work related to the implementation of the Recommendation can inspire and facilitate progress with regard to the recognition of qualifications gained outside the EU, in line with national circumstances. In line with the tools and the framework of the Bologna Process and of the EU, full advantage should be taken of the UNESCO Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education, since it facilitates international student mobility, puts the development of recognition issues into a global context and thus unlocks potential for the internationalisation of European higher education.

⁽³⁾ Such as the European Digital Credentials for Learning, the European Blockchain Services Infrastructure, the Europass Mobility template and the Europass Certificate Supplement (as part of the Europass platform), as well as national qualifications registers mapped to the Europass platform, and the Database of External Quality Assurance Results (DEQAR).

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES, with due regard for institutional autonomy and academic freedom and in accordance with national circumstances and legislation, to:

1. Consolidate and reinforce their efforts to achieve the automatic mutual recognition of qualifications and of learning periods abroad in their respective education and training systems, in accordance with the 2018 Council Recommendation.
2. Establish the mindset that a qualification giving access to a certain level of higher education in the Member State where it was awarded is automatically recognised for eligibility for access to higher education at the same level in another Member State, without prejudicing the right of a higher education institution to set specific admission criteria for specific programmes, in order to allow citizens to be mobile across the EU.
3. Support higher education institutions in applying automatic mutual recognition as defined in the 2018 Council Recommendation, including by providing clear guidance and relevant training. Where higher education institutions are responsible for automatic mutual recognition, support them in facilitating consistent national approaches.
4. Ensure that external quality assurance in higher education is carried out by independent quality assurance agencies registered with EQAR and operating in line with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG), to promote transparency and thereby foster mutual trust in automatic mutual recognition.
5. In the context of upper secondary education and training, including VET, focus on learning outcomes and continue to develop existing quality assurance instruments in line with EQAVET, to enable the automatic mutual recognition of qualifications and outcomes of learning periods abroad.
6. Foster synergies within the EHEA and the EEA to ensure that they mutually reinforce each other, in order to promote transparent and efficient environments for automatic mutual recognition processes.
7. In this context, ensure that full advantage is taken of the tools of the Bologna Process and the EU, as appropriate, to facilitate automatic mutual recognition in higher education. In the field of vocational education and training, facilitate automatic mutual recognition within the scope of the 2018 Recommendation through the use of the instruments of the Copenhagen Process, as appropriate. These tools include, but are not limited to, the ECTS, the ESG, DEQAR, the EQF, the Q-Entry database, the European Digital Credentials for Learning, the European Learning Model, Europass, the Diploma Supplement, the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), the Europass Mobility Supplement, the Europass Certificate Supplement and the European Student Card Initiative, as well as other tools developed with the support of the Erasmus+ programme and those originating from the Bologna Process.
8. Cooperate at EU level to exchange best practices and support peer learning and the exchange of information in order to build trust and transparency among education and training systems and bolster automatic mutual recognition in higher education, including through the European Universities alliances, as well as in upper secondary education and training, including through the Centres of Vocational Excellence.
9. Support the promotion and dissemination of relevant information about automatic mutual recognition procedures to all relevant actors and stakeholders, e.g. learners, higher education institutions, upper secondary education and training providers, including VET providers, NARICs and quality assurance agencies. This will allow citizens and learners to understand the possibilities that automatic mutual recognition gives them for studying abroad, and to support a consistent approach by the competent recognition authorities.
10. Consider, in this context, the recognition of prior learning and permeability between education and training sectors, in particular promoting transfers among and between VET and higher education, if applicable and taking into consideration the levels of education, to avoid dead ends and to make it easier to take full advantage of mobility opportunities.

11. Further support the NARICs and explore appropriate ways to better monitor and evaluate recognition systems, using the expertise of the NARICs and other competent bodies and institutions where relevant, in order to see whether further action is needed.

12. Encourage cooperation between decision-makers on recognition and the NARICs to avoid inconsistencies, and to make automatic mutual recognition more effective and resource-efficient as well as to correctly apply established tools and instruments. To that end, self-evaluation and peer review of NARICs in line with the voluntary quality assurance system of ENIC-NARIC networks may prove useful.

13. Engage in trust-based, mutually beneficial and generous cross-border cooperation to improve and support mobility opportunities, in particular long-term learning periods abroad in upper secondary education and training. Further efforts should be made to facilitate exchanges between staff, institutions, authorities, and other relevant actors. In this context, greater use should be made of the Erasmus+ programme and other relevant EU funds and programmes for enhanced cooperation and exchanges.

INVITES THE COMMISSION, with due regard for subsidiarity and national circumstances, including institutional autonomy, to:

1. Support and work with the Member States, including in the context of the Bologna Process and the Copenhagen Process, by promoting cooperation and mutual learning on the best ways to implement automatic mutual recognition in higher education and upper secondary education and training, including VET, in particular on those areas in which challenges still remain, including targeted support to actors and stakeholders when relevant.

2. Consider, in close consultation with the Member States, ways to enhance support to the Member States in order to progress in the implementation of the automatic mutual recognition of qualifications and of learning periods abroad in higher education and upper secondary education and training. The objective should be to promote best practices and facilitate the provision of training and peer support to Member States and education and training providers, including teachers and trainers when appropriate. Such support should build on the expertise of the NARIC network and involve quality assurance agencies and other competent bodies and institutions when relevant. In this context, explore how the expertise of the NARICs can be used to further automatic mutual recognition in upper secondary education and training, in general education as well as in VET, where relevant.

3. Continue supporting Member States, including the NARICs, through the Erasmus+ programme, the Technical Support Instrument and other EU financing programmes and instruments with a view to advancing the work on automatic mutual recognition. Furthermore, support the Member States in their use of existing tools to further develop automatic mutual recognition in higher education and upper secondary education and training, as well as in the development of common channels for information and exchanges of best practice.

4. Continue supporting the EQAVET peer review process at VET system level with a view to reinforcing trust and transparency and thereby fostering automatic mutual recognition between Member States.

5. Take a holistic approach to supporting Member States in achieving automatic mutual recognition in higher education and upper secondary education and training by considering how upcoming strategic EEA initiatives to be proposed by 2025 can, in coherence with existing tools, structures and frameworks, support the achievement of the targets set out in the Recommendation of 26 November 2018, and especially how these initiatives can be used to promote trust and transparency.

ANNEX

Political background

1. Council Resolution of 19 December 2002 on the promotion of enhanced European cooperation in vocational education and training, OJ C 13, 18.1.2003, p. 2.
 2. European Council conclusions of 14 December 2017 (EUCO 19/1/17 REV 1).
 3. Council Recommendation of 26 November 2018 on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad, OJ C 444, 10.12.2018, p. 1.
 4. Council Resolution on further developing the European Education Area to support future-oriented education and training systems, OJ C 389, 18.11.2019, p. 1.
 5. Council Recommendation of 24 November 2020 on vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, OJ C 417, 2.12.2020, p. 1.
 6. Council Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030), OJ C 66, 26.2.2021, p. 1.
 7. Council Recommendation of 5 April 2022 on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation, OJ C 160, 13.4.2022, p. 1.
 8. Council conclusions on a European strategy empowering higher education institutions for the future of Europe, OJ C 167, 21.4.2022, p. 9.
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Notice for the attention of persons and entities subject to the restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision 2013/255/CFSP and in Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria

(2023/C 185/11)

The following information is brought to the attention of the persons and entities designated in Annex I to Council Decision 2013/255/CFSP ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/1035 ⁽²⁾, and in Annex II to Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 ⁽³⁾, as implemented by Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1027 ⁽⁴⁾, concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria.

The Council of the European Union, after having reviewed the list of persons and entities designated in the above-mentioned Annexes, has determined that the restrictive measures provided for in Decision 2013/255/CFSP and in Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 should continue to apply to those persons and entities.

The attention of the persons and entities concerned is drawn to the possibility of making an application to the competent authorities of the relevant Member State(s) as indicated on the websites in Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 36/2012, in order to obtain an authorisation to use frozen funds for basic needs or specific payments (cf. Article 16 of the Regulation).

The persons and entities concerned may submit a request to the Council before 16 February 2024, together with supporting documentation that the decision to include them on the above-mentioned list should be reconsidered to the following address:

Council of the European Union
General Secretariat
RELEX.1
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Email: sanctions@consilium.europa.eu

Any observations received will be taken into account for the purpose of the Council's next review, pursuant to Article 34 of Decision 2013/255/CFSP and Article 32(4) of Regulation (EU) No 36/2012, of the list of designated persons and entities.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 147, 1.6.2013, p. 14.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 139, 26.5.2023, p. 49.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 16, 19.1.2012, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 139, 26.5.2023, p. 1.

Notice for the attention of the data subjects to whom the restrictive measures provided for in Council Decision 2013/255/CFSP, as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/1035 and Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012, as implemented by Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1027 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria apply

(2023/C 185/12)

The attention of data subjects is drawn to the following information in accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾.

The legal bases for this processing operation are Council Decision 2013/255/CFSP ⁽²⁾, as amended by Council Decision (CFSP) 2023/1035 ⁽³⁾, and Council Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 ⁽⁴⁾, as implemented by Council Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1027 ⁽⁵⁾.

The controller of this processing is the Council of the European Union represented by the Director-General of Directorate-General for External Relations (RELEX) of the General Secretariat of the Council and the department entrusted with the processing operation is RELEX.1 that can be contacted at:

Council of the European Union General Secretariat
RELEX.1
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175
1048 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Email: sanctions@consilium.europa.eu

The Data Protection Officer of the Council can be contacted at:

Data Protection Officer

data.protection@consilium.europa.eu

The purpose of the processing operation is the establishment and updating of the list of persons subject to restrictive measures in accordance with Decision 2013/255/CFSP, as amended by Decision 2023/1035, and Regulation (EU) No 36/2012, as implemented by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1027.

The data subjects are the natural persons who fulfil the listing criteria as laid down in Decision 2013/255/CFSP and Regulation (EU) No 36/2012.

The personal data collected includes data necessary for the correct identification of the person concerned, the statement of reasons and any other data related to the grounds for listing.

The legal bases for the handling of personal data are the Council Decisions adopted under Article 29 TEU and Council Regulations adopted under Article 215 TFEU designating natural persons (data subjects) and imposing the freezing of assets and travel restrictions.

Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest in accordance with Article 5(1)(a) and for compliance with legal obligations laid down in above-mentioned legal acts to which the controller is subject in accordance with Article 5(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

Processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest in accordance with Article 10(2)(g) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 147, 1.6.2013, p. 14.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 139, 26.5.2023, p. 49.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 16, 19.1.2012, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 139, 26.5.2023, p. 1.

The Council may obtain personal data of data subjects from Member States and/or the European External Action Service. The recipients of the personal data are Member States, the European Commission and the European External Action Service.

All personal data processed by the Council in the context of EU autonomous restrictive measures will be retained for 5 years from the moment the data subject has been removed from the list of persons subject to the asset freeze or the validity of the measure has expired or, if a legal action is brought before the Court of Justice, until a final judgment has been handed down. Personal data contained in documents registered by the Council are kept by the Council for archiving purposes in the public interest, within the meaning of Art. 4(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

The Council may need to exchange personal data regarding a data subject with a third country or international organisation in the context of the Council's transposition of UN designations or in the context of international cooperation regarding the EU's restrictive measures policy.

In the absence of an adequacy decision, or of appropriate safeguards, transfer of personal data to a third country or an international organisation is based on the following condition(s), pursuant to Article 50 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725:

- the transfer is necessary for important reasons of public interest;
- the transfer is necessary for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

No automated decision-making is involved in the processing of the data subject's personal data.

Data subjects have the right of information and the right of access to their personal data. They also have the right to correct and complete their data. Under certain circumstances, they may have the right to obtain the erasure of their personal data, or the right to object to the processing of their personal data or to ask for it to be restricted.

Data subjects can exercise these rights by sending an e-mail to the controller with a copy to the Data Protection Officer as indicated above.

Attached to their request, the data subjects must provide a copy of an identification document to confirm their identity (ID card or passport). This document should contain an identification number, country of issue, period of validity, name, address and date of birth. Any other data contained in the copy of the identification document such as photo or any personal characteristics may be blacked out.

Data subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with the European Data Protection Supervisor in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 (edps@edps.europa.eu).

Before doing so, it is recommended that data subjects first try to obtain a remedy by contacting the controller and/or the Data Protection Officer of the Council.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

25 May 2023

(2023/C 185/13)

1 euro =

Currency	Exchange rate	Currency	Exchange rate		
USD	US dollar	1,0735	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,4599
JPY	Japanese yen	149,63	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	8,4092
DKK	Danish krone	7,4502	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,7655
GBP	Pound sterling	0,86793	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,4515
SEK	Swedish krona	11,5490	KRW	South Korean won	1 424,30
CHF	Swiss franc	0,9708	ZAR	South African rand	20,7466
ISK	Iceland króna	150,70	CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	7,5891
NOK	Norwegian krone	11,7695	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	16 040,83
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	MYR	Malaysian ringgit	4,9655
CZK	Czech koruna	23,645	PHP	Philippine peso	60,132
HUF	Hungarian forint	372,30	RUB	Russian rouble	
PLN	Polish zloty	4,5110	THB	Thai baht	37,154
RON	Romanian leu	4,9495	BRL	Brazilian real	5,3320
TRY	Turkish lira	21,3944	MXN	Mexican peso	19,0797
AUD	Australian dollar	1,6443	INR	Indian rupee	88,8055

⁽¹⁾ Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

Commission notice on current State aid recovery interest rates and reference/discount rates applicable as from 1 June 2023

(Published in accordance with Article 10 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 794/2004 of 21 April 2004 ⁽¹⁾)

(2023/C 185/14)

Base rates calculated in accordance with the Communication from the Commission on the revision of the method for setting the reference and discount rates (OJ C 14, 19.1.2008, p. 6.). Depending on the use of the reference rate, the appropriate margins have still to be added as defined in this communication. For the discount rate this means that a margin of 100 basispoints has to be added. The Commission Regulation (EC) No 271/2008 of 30 January 2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 794/2004 foresees that, unless otherwise provided for in a specific decision, the recovery rate will also be calculated by adding 100 basispoints to the base rate.

Modified rates are indicated in bold.

Previous table published in OJ C 141, 24.4.2023, p. 3.

From	To	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL	ES	FI	FR	HR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK	UK
1.6.2023	...	3,64	3,64	2,15	3,64	7,43	3,64	3,54	3,64	3,64	3,64	3,64	3,64	3,64	15,10	3,64	3,64	3,64	3,64	3,64	3,64	3,64	7,62	3,64	8,31	3,21	3,64	3,64	4,24
1.5.2023	31.5.2023	3,06	3,06	1,80	3,06	7,43	3,06	3,54	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	15,10	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	7,62	3,06	8,31	3,21	3,06	3,06	4,24
1.4.2023	30.4.2023	3,06	3,06	1,51	3,06	7,43	3,06	3,54	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	15,10	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	7,62	3,06	8,31	3,21	3,06	3,06	3,52
1.3.2023	31.3.2023	3,06	3,06	1,10	3,06	7,43	3,06	2,92	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	15,10	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	3,06	7,62	3,06	8,31	2,96	3,06	3,06	3,52
1.2.2023	28.2.2023	2,56	2,56	0,79	2,56	7,43	2,56	2,92	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	15,10	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	7,62	2,56	8,31	2,44	2,56	2,56	2,77
1.1.2023	31.1.2023	2,56	2,56	0,36	2,56	7,43	2,56	2,92	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	15,10	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	2,56	7,62	2,56	8,31	2,44	2,56	2,56	2,77

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 140, 30.4.2004, p. 1.

V

(Announcements)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

NOTICE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 29(2) OF THE STAFF REGULATIONS**Publication of a vacancy for the function of Head of Representation in Sofia – Representation in Bulgaria (Grade AD 14) in the Directorate-General Communication (DG COMM)****COM/2023/10433**

(2023/C 185/15)

The European Commission has published a vacancy notice (reference COM/2023/10433) for the function of Head of Representation in Sofia – Representation in Bulgaria (Grade AD 14) in the Directorate-General Communication (DG COMM).

To consult the text of the vacancy notice in 24 languages and to submit your application, please visit this dedicated webpage on the European Commission's website: <https://europa.eu/tGQCxB>

OTHER ACTS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Publication of a communication of approval of a standard amendment to a product specification for a name in the wine sector referred to in Article 17(2) and (3) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/33

(2023/C 185/16)

This communication is published in accordance with Article 17(5) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/33 ⁽¹⁾.

COMMUNICATION OF APPROVAL OF A STANDARD AMENDMENT

‘Coteaux de l’Aubance’**PDO-FR-A0149-AM03****Date of communication: 27 February 2023**

DESCRIPTION OF AND REASONS FOR THE APPROVED AMENDMENT

1. Official Geographic Code

The municipalities making up the geographical area and the area in immediate proximity have been updated in line with the *Code officiel géographique* [Official Geographic Code].

This does not affect the boundary of the demarcated geographical area.

Points 6 and 9 of the single document have been amended.

2. Spacing between vines

The minimum spacing between the individual vines in the same row has been changed from 1 m to 0,90 m.

The purpose of this amendment is to allow greater planting density without altering the spacing between the rows of vines.

A special provision has also been added for vines located on slopes of over 10 %, for which a minimum spacing of 0,80 m between plants is permitted.

This addition has been made to take into account the particular situation of vines planted on steep slopes, which require special arrangements during planting: rows parallel rather than perpendicular to the slope.

Point 5 of the single document has been amended.

3. Pruning

The pruning rules have been aligned with those of the other designations in the Anjou Saumur area in the Val de Loire.

This alignment is intended to ensure that winegrowers are better informed, and to simplify inspections. This amendment gives winegrowers the possibility of adapting when frosts occur, which is happening later and later in the year.

Point 5 of the single document has been amended.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 9, 11.1.2019, p. 2.

4. Link

The Link section has been edited, and the reference to the year 2018 has been changed to 2021.

Point 8 of the single document has been amended.

5. Transitional measures

Transitional measures no longer in force have been deleted.

The single document has not been amended.

6. Main points for checking

Harvesting by hand in multiple passes has been added to the main points to be checked.

The single document has not been amended.

7. Editorial amendments

A number of editorial amendments have been made to the specification.

These amendments do not require any amendments to the single document.

8. Labelling

The rules on labelling have been clarified and aligned with those of the other designations in the Anjou Saumur area in the Val de Loire. This is a purely editorial amendment.

Point 9 of the single document has been amended.

9. Reference to the inspection body

The reference to the inspection body has been reworded to align it with the wording used in other product specifications. This is a purely editorial amendment.

This amendment does not lead to any changes to the single document.

SINGLE DOCUMENT

1. Name(s)

Coteaux de l'Aubance

2. Geographical indication type

PDO – Protected Designation of Origin

3. Categories of grapevine product

1. Wine

4. Description of the wine(s)

CONCISE TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

These white wines are still with residual sugar. They are made from grapes harvested when over-ripe (natural concentration on the vine, with or without noble rot). These harmonious wines develop aromas of white and citrus fruit as well as floral scents and late-harvest aromas - with the same harmony in the mouth in terms of richness in sugar, acidity and structure. Ageing brings out their elegance and complexity. They have: a minimum natural alcoholic strength by volume of 14 %; in order to be eligible for the term '*sélection de grains nobles*', a minimum natural alcoholic strength by volume of 19 %; a fermentable sugar (glucose and fructose) content after fermentation greater than or equal to 34 g/l. The total acid and total sulphur dioxide content are those set out in EU legislation. After fermentation, wines with a natural alcoholic strength by volume below 18 % have a minimum actual alcoholic strength by volume of 11 %.

General analytical characteristics	
Maximum total alcoholic strength (in % volume)	
Minimum actual alcoholic strength (in % volume)	
Minimum total acidity	
Maximum volatile acidity (in milliequivalents per litre)	25
Maximum total sulphur dioxide (in milligrams per litre)	

5. Wine-making practices

5.1. Specific oenological practices

Enrichment is permitted according to the rules set out in the specification.

The use of wood chips is forbidden.

The wines are aged according to the conditions laid down in the specification.

In addition to the above provisions, the oenological practices concerning these wines must meet the requirements laid down at EU level and in the Rural and Maritime Fishing Code.

1. Density

Growing method

The minimum vine planting density is 4 000 plants per hectare. Spacing between vine rows must not exceed 2,50 metres, and spacing between plants in the same row must be at least 0,90 metres.

Grape harvests are eligible for the controlled designation of origin if they come from vineyard parcels with spacing of at least 0,80 metres but less than 0,90 metres between plants in the same row, where they are on slopes of more than 10 %.

In the case of vineyard parcels where the planting density is at least 3 300 but less than 4 000 plants per hectare, the harvests are eligible for the controlled designation of origin provided that they comply with the rules on trellising and foliage height laid down in this specification. The spacing between the rows of the vines must not exceed 3 metres, and the spacing between plants in the same row must be at least 1 metre.

2. Vine pruning and trellising

Growing method

The vines are pruned with a maximum of 12 buds per plant, regardless of whether spur pruning, cane pruning or mixed pruning is used.

At the phenological stage corresponding to 11 or 12 leaves (separate buds), the number of fruit-bearing branches for the year per plant must not exceed 12.

The height of the foliage when trellised is at least 0,6 times the spacing between the rows. This height is measured from the lowest point of the foliage, set at a minimum of 0,4 metres above the ground, to the highest part of the canopy, set at a minimum of 0,2 metres above the height of the upper trellising wire.

In the case of vineyard parcels where the planting density is at least 3 300 but less than 4 000 plants per hectare, the following trellising rules apply: the minimum height of the trellising posts above the ground is 1,9 m; there are 4 levels of trellising wires; the minimum height of the highest wire is 1,85 metres above the ground.

3. Irrigation

Growing method

Irrigation is prohibited.

4. Harvesting

Growing method

The wines are made from grapes that are harvested late. A feature of wines eligible to bear the term '*sélection de grains nobles*' is the further concentration on the vinestock due to the action of noble rot.

The grapes are harvested by hand in multiple passes.

5.2. Maximum yields

40 hectolitres per hectare

6. Demarcated geographical area

All stages of production take place in the geographical area, which encompasses the municipalities of the Maine-et-Loire department named below, on the basis of the Official Geographic Code of 2021: Brissac Loire Aubance (for the single territory of the delegated municipalities of Brissac-Quincé, Saint-Saturnin-sur-Loire and Vauchrézien), Denée, Les Garennes sur Loire, Mozé-sur-Louet, Mûrs-Erigné, Saint-Melaine-surAubance and Soulaines-sur-Aubance.

Maps showing the geographical area can be viewed on the website of the National Institute of Origin and Quality.

7. Wine grape variety(-ies)

Chenin B

8. Description of the link(s)

a) - Description of the natural factors relevant to the link

The geographical area is characterised by a landscape of numerous low and gentle slopes of varying orientations. Altitudes range between 50 and 90 metres to the south-west of the city of Angers. As of 2021, the geographical area extends across seven municipalities. It is bordered to the west by the confluence of the River Aubance with the Loire; to the east by a Cretaceous plateau at the edge of the Paris basin; to the north by the course of the Loire; and at the southern edge by the forests of Brissac and Beaulieu.

The Aubance is a small tributary of the Loire, emblematic of this geographical area. It flows northwards from its source to the municipality of Brissac-Quincé, which is famous for its sixteenth century castle. The Aubance then takes a north-west course as far as the municipality of Mûrs-Erigné from where it flows parallel to the Loire to a point south-west of the city of Angers.

The soils developed on the schist, or schist and sandstone, substratum of the Armorican Massif, which forms a plateau tilting slightly towards the Loire. Usually shallow with good thermal performance, the soils are characterised by limited water reserves. The western part of the geographical area is studded with subvolcanic rocks formed of igneous rocks of an acidic (rhyolite) or basaltic (spilite) nature producing very stony soils. A foundation of schist and slate formations is a characteristic of the municipalities in the north of the geographical area. For centuries these were used to build the walls of houses, to construct roofs, to lay floors and even to make fixtures such as sinks, tables or staircases. All of this demonstrates the unique nature of this land. These elements are very apparent in the landscape and contribute to vineyard identity.

The geographical area is an enclave with limited irrigation, benefiting from a foehn effect, sheltered from maritime mists by the higher slopes of Choletais and Mauges. Annual rainfall is around 585 millimetres, compared with 800 millimetres in Choletais. The figures recorded in Brissac-Quincé are the lowest among the meteorological stations in the department of Maine-et-Loire. Similarly, during the growing cycle, there is a difference in rainfall levels of around 100 millimetres compared with the rest of the department. The average annual temperatures are relatively high, around 12 degrees, which is 1 degree higher than the rest of the department of Maine-et-Loire as a whole. The characteristic mesoclimate of this area is evident in the Mediterranean nature of the vegetation, which includes holm oak and umbrella pine.

b) - Description of the human factors relevant to the geographical link

Some of the emblematic properties of the 'Coteaux de l'Aubance' vineyards are of ancient origin, dating back to the end of the sixteenth century. The vineyards themselves were first identified at the close of the nineteenth century, immediately following the phylloxera crisis that destroyed over three quarters of the vineyards of Anjou. Neighbouring wine-producers from the Layon region were seeking unaffected land parcels away from their own vineyards. They planted the traditional Chenin B variety. In 1922, the name 'Coteaux de l'Aubance' was mentioned for the first time in a harvest declaration. In 1925, the Syndicat des viticulteurs (wine-growers' union) of Coteaux de l'Aubance was founded. The stated aim in the union's statutes is: 'to bring to the attention of the whole world wines renowned for their terroir but nevertheless unknown further afield'.

The proximity of the city of Angers plays an important role in vineyard development. The Aubance area has become an important source of supplies for beverage retailers in the surrounding municipalities, especially in Mûrs-Erigné and Saint-Mélaine-sur-Aubance.

Historically, grapes were harvested when ripe to make dry or semi-dry wines. However, the practices of the neighbouring Layon region were quickly adopted, i.e. late harvesting and multiple passes producing a concentrated harvest for making semi-sweet wine.

The controlled designation of origin 'Coteaux de l'Aubance' was recognised by a Decree of 18 February 1950 as a white wine made from grapes harvested late with multiple passes. In 2009, vineyards covered 200 hectares.

c) - Information on the quality and characteristics of the product

The wines are still white wines with fermentable sugars.

They are fully harmonious wines. Harmonious on the nose, they frequently have aromas of white and citrus fruit blended with floral scents, combined with late-harvesting aromas such as dried or candied fruit. The same harmony is also found in the mouth with the richness in sugar, the acidity and the structure.

Ageing, which can last for several decades, heightens the finish and complexity of these wines.

d) - Causal interactions

The vineyards are planted in shallow, stony soils on clearly demarcated land parcels that demonstrate the methods in use. The topography is hilly with gentle slopes, and the nearby rivers, the Loire and the Aubance, provide atmospheric moisture that encourages the noble rot. All of these factors combine in the geographical area to produce favourable conditions for the late harvesting of grapes naturally concentrated on the vine, with or without the noble rot. They account for the characteristics of a product for which people have learned to adapt their techniques. The late harvest with hand-picked multiple passes is proof of the concern for quality.

9. **Essential further conditions (packaging, labelling, other requirements)**

Labelling: traditional term 'Sélection de grains nobles'

Legal framework:

EU legislation

Type of further condition:

Additional provisions relating to labelling

Description of the condition:

The controlled designation of origin 'Coteaux de l'Aubance' may be supplemented by the traditional term '*sélection de grains nobles*', in accordance with the provisions laid down in the specification. Wines eligible to bear the term '*sélection de grains nobles*' must also state the vintage.

Labelling: Optional terms

Legal framework:

National legislation

Type of further condition:

Additional provisions relating to labelling

Description of the condition:

Under EU rules, the use of optional terms may be regulated by the Member States. On the labels, the size of the letters used for such terms must not be larger, either in height, width or thickness, than double the size of the letters forming the name of the controlled designation of origin.

Labelling: geographical designation 'Val de Loire'

Legal framework:

National legislation

Type of further condition:

Additional provisions relating to labelling

Description of the condition:

The name of the controlled designation of origin may be followed by the geographical designation 'Val de Loire', in accordance with the rules laid down in the specification regarding use of this geographical designation. The size of the letters of the geographical name 'Val de Loire' may not be larger, either in height or width, than two thirds of the size of the letters forming the name of the controlled designation of origin.

Labelling: specifying a smaller geographical entity

Legal framework:

National legislation

Type of further condition:

Additional provisions relating to labelling

Description of the condition:

Wines with the controlled designation of origin may specify a smaller geographical unit on their label, provided that: it is a place name listed in the land registry; it appears on the harvest declaration. The place name must be printed in letters no larger, either in height or in width, than half the size of the letters forming the name of the controlled designation of origin.

Area in immediate proximity

Legal framework:

EU legislation

Type of further condition:

Derogation concerning production in the demarcated geographical area

Description of the condition:

The area in immediate proximity, defined by derogation for wine-growing, production and ageing, comprises the territory of the following municipalities of the department of Maine-et-Loire, on the basis of the Official Geographical Code of 2021: Aubigné-sur-Layon, Beaulieu-sur-Layon, Bellevigne-en-Layon, Blaison-Saint-Sulpice, Bouchemaine, Brissac Loire Aubance (for the single territory of the delegated municipalities of Alleuds, Charcé-Saint-Ellier-sur-Aubance, Chemellier, Coutures, Luigné, Saint-Rémy-la-Varenne and Saulgé-l'Hôpital), Chalonnes-sur-Loire, Chaufonds-sur-Layon, Chemillé-en-Anjou (for the single territory of the delegated municipalities of Chanzeaux and Valanjou), Doué-en-Anjou (for the single territory of the delegated municipality of Brigné), Gennes-Valde-Loire (for the single territory of the delegated municipalities of Chênehutte-Trèves-Cunault, Gennes, Grézillé, Saint-Georges-des-Sept-Voies and Le Thoureil), Lys-Haut-Layon (for the single territory of the delegated municipality of Tigné), Parnay, Rochefort-sur-Loire, Sainte-Gemmes-sur-Loire, Savennières, Terranjou, Tuffalun and Val-du-Layon.

Link to the product specification

https://info.agriculture.gouv.fr/gedei/site/bo-agri/document_administratif-c3ae57c9-8342-4de4-8756-38a6322eacae

Publication of an approved standard amendment to a product specification of a protected designation of origin or protected geographical indication in the agricultural products and foodstuffs sector, as referred to in Article 6b(2) and (3) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 664/2014

(2023/C 185/17)

This communication is published in accordance with Article 6b(5) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 664/2014 ⁽¹⁾.

Communicating the approval of a standard amendment to the product specification of a protected designation of origin or protected geographical indication originating in a Member State

(Regulation (EU) No 1151/2012)

‘Prés-salés du Mont-Saint-Michel’

EU No: PDO-FR-0813-AM01 – 27.2.2023

PDO (X) PGI ()

1. Name of product

‘Prés-salés du Mont-Saint-Michel’

2. Member State to which the geographical area belongs

France

3. Member State authority communicating the standard amendment

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty

4. Description of the approved amendment(s)

1. Geographical area

Description

The definition of the geographical area has been amended. The geographical area covered by the ‘Prés-salés du Mont-Saint-Michel’ PDO has been extended to include the following four municipalities in the department of Manche: Montsenelle, Baupte, Auvers and Méautis.

The list of municipalities in the geographical area covered by the product specification has been updated to bring it into line with the 2021 Official Geographical Code, in accordance with national requirements.

The amendment affects the single document.

2. References to the inspection structures

Description

In accordance with the requirements established by the French authorities, the heading ‘References to the inspection structures’ has been amended.

The amendment does not affect the single document.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 179, 19.6.2014, p. 17.

SINGLE DOCUMENT

'Prés-salés du Mont-Saint-Michel'

EU No: PDO-FR-0813-AM01 – 27.2.2023

PDO (X) PGI ()

1. Name(s) [of PDO or PGI]

'Prés-salés du Mont-Saint-Michel'

2. Member State or Third Country

France

3. Description of the agricultural product or foodstuff**3.1. Type of product [as in Annex XI]**

Class 1.1. Fresh meat (and offal)

3.2. Description of the product to which the name in (1) applies

Meat bearing the 'Prés-salés du Mont-Saint-Michel' designation of origin is obtained from lambs which are up to 12 months old and which feed on maritime pasture, which gives them their distinctive features. These lambs are the offspring of rams of the following breeds: 'Suffolk', 'Roussin', 'Rouge de l'Ouest', 'Vendéen', 'Cotentin', 'Avranchin', 'Charollais', or of rams born of mothers reared by breeders entitled to use salt marshes as pasturage. The breeding females are the offspring of ewes which were reared in the geographical area by breeders using salt marshes as pasturage.

The carcasses have the following features:

- minimum weight: 14 kg;
- slim carcass profile: 'straight to subconcave profile' and 'good to generous muscle development' (classes U, R and O on the EUROP grading scale);
- fat cover: 'slightly to well covered' (class 2 or 3 on the EUROP grading scale);
- firm, white to creamy-white external and internal fat, spread evenly around the body.

The meat is offered for sale chilled. It may not be sold thawed and chilled.

3.3. Feed (for products of animal origin only) and raw materials (for processed products only)

The lambs and ewes feed mainly on salt marsh pastures. The lambs are reared over the course of successive periods: the post-natal period, the period of maritime pasture and sometimes a finishing period.

In all cases, the maritime pasture period, including grazing in retreat zones on days when the salt marsh is covered by the spring tides, is equal to at least half of the animal's lifetime.

The fodder consumed by the animals during the various rearing periods comes from the geographical area and consists of fresh grass, grazing grass or grass preserved as hay or haylage with a dry matter content of over 50 %, roots, tubers and vegetables.

The distribution of maize silage has been forbidden since 1 June 2013.

100 % of the forage comes from the geographical area, compared to 50 % for the concentrates.

Only plants, co-products and feedstuffs derived from non-transgenic products may be used in the animal feed. No product of animal origin, apart from dairy products, may be added to the lambs' feed.

- During the post-natal period, which lasts for at least 45 days and up to a maximum of 105 days after birth, the lambs feed mainly on their mother's milk, sometimes supplemented by powdered milk, fodder or concentrates.

- During the maritime pasturing, which lasts for at least 70 days, the lambs are kept on the salt marshes within specific, independent tracts of pasturage. The animals withdraw to retreat zones when the pastures are flooded. They feed mainly or exclusively on grass (a maximum of 400 g of concentrates per day, served in the evening, can be tolerated on top of grazing).
- During the (optional) finishing period, which lasts for a maximum of 30 or 40 days according to the season and concerns lambs having fed exclusively on grass during the maritime grazing period, the lambs feed on fodder and concentrates and no longer graze on the salt marshes.

The concentrates given to the ewes and/or lambs during the various rearing periods are made up of the following ingredients:

- cereals and their products and by-products: barley, maize, wheat, triticale, oats,
- oil seeds and their products and by-products: soya, sunflower, colza and linseed oilcakes, soya beans and husks,
- protein crops; lupin, beans and field beans,
- tubers and roots and their products and by-products: beet pulp,
- forage: alfalfa, straw,
- molasses: sugar-cane molasses,
- additives,
- minerals, vitamins.

3.4. *Specific steps in production that must take place in the identified geographical area*

Birth, rearing and slaughter.

3.5. *Specific rules concerning slicing, grating, packaging, etc. of the product the registered name refers to*

—

3.6. *Specific rules concerning labelling of the product the registered name refers to*

At the end of the chilling period carcasses of lambs covered by the designation of origin 'Prés-salés du Mont-Saint-Michel' are identified and labelled with a permanent stamp in indelible ink marked 'Prés-salés MSM' on the main areas (shoulders, ribs and legs).

Up to the final distribution stage, the carcass and pieces of meat cut from it are accompanied by a label displaying at least:

- the designation,
- the abbreviation 'PDO' or the words 'protected designation of origin'.
- the European Union PDO logo,
- the breeder's name,
- the number of the holding,
- the national identification number of the lamb,
- the date of slaughter,
- the place of slaughter and slaughter number,
- the sentence 'the meat matures on the bone for at least 4 full days between the date of slaughter and the date of retail sale to the final consumer'.

4. **Concise definition of the geographical area**

The geographical area within which the birth, rearing and slaughter of the lambs takes place comprises the following 26 cantons, 14 of which belong in part to the departments of Manche and Ille et Vilaine:

Department of Manche:

All of the municipalities belonging to the cantons of Bréhal, Bricquebec-en-Cotentin, Cherbourg-en-Cotentin (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), Granville, La Hague, Les Pieux and Pontorson.

In the canton of Agon-Coutainville, the municipalities of Agon-Coutainville, Blainville-sur-Mer, Geffosses, Gouville-sur-Mer, Muneville-le-Bingard, Saint-Malo-de-la-Lande and Saint-Sauveur-Villages (only for the territory of the delegated municipalities of Ancteville and La Ronde-Haye).

In the canton of Carentan-les-Marais, the municipalities of Auvers, Baupte, Méautis, Picauville (only for the territory of the delegated municipality of Les Moitiers-en-Bauptois).

In the canton of Isigny-le-Buat, only the municipalities of Avranches, La Godefroy, Saint-Brice, Saint-Loup, Saint-Senier-sous-Avranches, Isigny-le-Buat and Tirepiéd-sur-Sée (only for the territory of La Gohannière).

In the canton of Quetteville-sur-Sienne, the municipalities of Annoville, Hauteville-sur-Mer, Lingreville, Montmartin-sur-Mer, Quetteville-sur-Sienne (only for the territory of the delegated municipalities of Contrières, Hérenguerville, Hyenville, Quetteville-sur-Sienne and Trelly).

In the canton of Valognes, the municipalities of Brix, Huberville, Lieusaint, Montaigu-la-Brisette, Saint-Joseph, Saussemesnil, Tamerville, Valognes and Yvetot-Bocage.

In the canton of Villedieu-les-Poêles-Rouffigny, only the municipality of Le Tanu.

The municipalities of the canton of Avranches, with the exception of the delegated municipality of Braffais in the municipality of Le Parc.

The municipalities of the canton of Coutances, with the exception of the municipalities of Camprond and Monthuchon.

In the canton of Créances, with the exception of the municipality of Le Plessis-Lastelle.

The municipalities of the canton of Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët, with the exception of the municipalities of Savigny-le-Vieux and Buais-Les-Monts.

The department of Ille-et-Vilaine:

All the municipalities in the cantons of Fougères-2.

In the canton of Vitré, the municipalities of Balazé, Châtillon-en-Vendelais, Montautour, Princé, Saint-M'Hervé and Vitré.

The municipalities of the canton of Dol-de-Bretagne, with the exception of the municipalities of Châteauneuf-d'Ille-et-Vilaine, Lillemer, Miniac-Morvan, Plerguer, Saint-Guinoux, Saint-Père-Marc-en-Poulet, Saint-Suliac, Le Tronchet and La Ville-ès-Nonais.

The municipalities of the canton of Fougères-1, with the exception of Livré-sur-Changeon.

The municipalities of the canton of Val-Couesnon, with the exception of the municipalities of Aubigné, Feins, Mouazé and Montreuil-sur-Ille.

5. Link with the geographical area

The geographical area is located around the Norman-Breton Gulf, including the coastal part of the departments of Manche and Ille-et-Vilaine. Its most notable features are its extensive coastal area and the strong maritime and oceanic influence on its climate. In the heart of this geographical area lies grassland which is regularly covered over by the sea, known as salt or grass marshes, which provide most of the animals' food. These salt marshes make up the upper part of the intertidal zone. They have developed locally within the Bay of Mont-Saint-Michel and the estuaries on the western seaboard of the Cotentin region, shielded from waves and strong currents and characterised by fine sedimentation. The substrate of the salt marsh is known as sea sand ('tangué'), which is made up of very fine silt and sand which are rich in calcium. The marshlands are deeply perforated by channels which break down into secondary channels, forming an extremely dense network which divides the grassland into several operational units and creates obstacles hindering the movement of the sheep.

The vegetation is made up of plants known as halophytes, which are adapted to the saltness of the soil and to flooding. Several of these plants, including puccinellie (*Puccinellia maritima*), troscart (*Triglochin maritima*) and obione (*Halimione portulacoides*), especially when frozen, are much appreciated by 'Prés-salés du Mont-Saint-Michel' lambs and therefore account for most of their diet.

Lamb production in the Mont-Saint-Michel Bay can be traced back to the 10th century, when local monks had the right to 'brebiage' (lamb rearing). Sheep production also took place at the same time in the Contentin port region according to the founding charter of the Lessay abbey, whereby the abbey was endowed with two sheepfolds; by 1181, sheep wool made up two thirds of the abbey's 'tithe' (tax income) under the Charter of Henry II Plantagenet.

Up until the first half of the 20th century the sheep were herded in groups of two to four, tied together, except in the polders of Mont-Saint-Michel where relatively large herds were led by shepherds onto the salt marsh. As from the second half of the 20th century, sheep rearing became more specialised with the use of sheepfolds.

In order to overcome the geographical constraints of the area, farmers have always selected their breeding stock in a specific manner so as to make the best use of the females' reproductive capacity and the ability of the animals to move on unstable ground, whilst ensuring that the lambs' growth is adapted to the growth cycle of the plants on the salt marsh. Thus the females belong to the flock while the males, which are bought from outside, belong to breeds which are well suited to the living conditions of the salt marsh and whose muscle growth is relatively slower.

The rearing of 'pré-salés' lambs also developed thanks to the construction of sheepfolds and when the meadows located on firmer ground near the maritime marsh were made fit for that purpose. The sheepfolds are crucial for sheltering the ewes when they give birth and when the maritime meadows are flooded by the spring tides.

Farmers have developed breeding and dietary strategies which are well suited to the geographical area so as to take account of weather hazards and the rate of growth in individual lambs within the herd, which varies greatly. When the animal shelters are near the coastline, feed supplements are sometimes distributed in the evening after grazing. When the shelters are far away, all breeders can do is carry out finishing procedures before slaughter. This feed is produced mainly within the geographical area, although part of it can come from outside, especially feed with nitrogenous content.

Built on local relations between breeders, butchers and slaughterers, this particular sheep-rearing tradition has resulted in consistent use being made of nearby slaughterhouses where the means and know-how for slaughtering sheep have been maintained over time. The main features of the specific expertise used in slaughtering the animals are a short waiting period in comfortable conditions between arrival at the slaughterhouse and slaughter, and a particularly careful form of slaughter, cutting-up and evisceration which preserves the fat cover and prevents any contamination of the carcass. There are also rules governing primary chilling and maturing. The conformity of the carcasses is assessed following these operations, particularly in relation to the quality of the fat and the appearance of the carcasses.

The carcasses have a white, firm and evenly spread fat cover. They range between slightly covered in fat to well covered and are relatively slim. The legs are slender. Distinguishing features of the meat are its strong pink colour, fibre length and marbled appearance (from intramuscular fat). The meat remains very juicy after cooking and when chewed and produces intense, lasting flavours in the mouth, with no taste of wool grease.

The specific qualities of the meat have been recognised for a long time, as reflected in the words of Pierre Thomas du Fosse, a scholar and man of letters from Rouen who went to Pontorson during the summer of 1691: 'The grass near the coast is like wild thyme: it gives the mutton and lamb such an exquisitely delicious taste that one would be tempted to give up partridges and pheasants.'

This long-standing fame was also confirmed more recently in a ruling of the Caen appeal court of 24 January 1986, stating that sheep bred at regular intervals on pastures which are periodically flooded by the sea are normally known as 'pré-salés' sheep and that high-quality meat is obtained from animals bred in that way.

The link between 'Prés-salés du Mont-Saint-Michel' meat and its production area is explained by the specific vegetation of the salt marshes on which the sheep feed, as well as the physical exercise they have to do to reach it. Physical exercise plays an important role in the link to the geographical area in the salt marshes of the Mont-Saint-Michel Bay, which provide large open spaces in which to graze, and also in the salt marshes of the port region of Cotentin, even though the grasslands are smaller there. This is because the feed value of the salt marshes is fairly low, and the rarity of the particular type of grass on which the sheep graze means that they have to cover long distances to find sufficient food. This results in slim carcasses and strongly coloured meat.

The meat's distinguishing features are reinforced by the other constraints of this area of loose terrain, which is divided up by a network of deep channels and exposed to a harsh climate. Given these rough conditions, often the animals cannot arrive on the salt marshes too young and must stay there long enough for their specific diet to have its full effect on the meat obtained from them.

These rearing conditions result in animals with slim carcass conformations, a light and firm fat cover and a distinctive flavour without any taste of wool grease.

The fact that slaughtering takes place near the holdings helps preserve these features. This proximity limits travelling times, thus sparing the animals any stress which might cause the meat to deteriorate and allowing its organoleptic qualities, acquired as a result of the rearing process, to be preserved. In addition, this sheep-rearing tradition has made it possible for slaughterhouses in the geographical area to develop and maintain a specific know-how which respects the quality of the raw material (for example by keeping the fat cover intact and prohibiting spraying), while facilitating compliance checks on the carcasses.

The succulence of 'pré-salés' meat, recognised by gourmets, has given it a strong reputation which is reflected in its sale price: for more than a century the price has been 50-100 % higher than that of common lambs' meat.

Reference to publication of the specification

https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/download/pdf?id=yUNSnznfq_FUS9VY3CTgn4PCIFRafx3LLgujSD-i24w=

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