



Brussels, 29 March 2019

TUSK CALLS EMERGENCY EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 10 APRIL AFTER UK VOTES DOWN DEAL

After the House of Commons again voted down the Withdrawal Agreement this afternoon, European Council President Donald Tusk called an extraordinary European Council on 10 April, just 2 days prior to the new default Brexit date. Earlier in the week, during a plenary debate on the state of play of Brexit negotiations, Tusk urged the European Parliament to be open to a long extension, should the UK wish to rethink its strategy. As things stand, the UK will remain an EU Member State until 12 April. The choice will then be between seeking a further delay beyond the European elections or leaving the EU without a deal on 12 April.

NEW COPYRIGHT RULES FOR THE INTERNET GET SUPPORT IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament adopted the new Copyright Directive by 348 votes in favour, 274 against and 36 abstentions, putting an end to a legislative process that began in 2016. According to rapporteur Axel Voss (EPP, Germany), the new rules will “protect people’s living, safeguard democracy by defending a diverse media landscape, entrench freedom of expression, and encourage start-ups and technological development.” The final text will now need to be formally endorsed by the Council in the coming weeks. Once published on the Official Journal of the EU, Member States will have 24 months to transpose the new rules into their national legislation.

CO-LEGISLATORS CONTINUE PROGRESS ON FINANCIAL SERVICES FILES BEFORE END OF TERM

The European Parliament adopted its report on the “sustainable taxonomy,” which, compared to the ECON-ENVI position, includes amendments that expand the scope to cover all financial products, not just those marketed as having a sustainable goal. MEPs also endorsed the reports adopted in the ECON committee on the Central Counterparties Recovery and Resolution framework and on the European Crowdfunding Service Providers Regulation, in a move to complicate any re-opening of the file under the next European Parliament. Furthermore, EU Ambassadors approved the Council position on the non-performing loans (NPLs) Directive, opening the door to trilogues as soon as the European Parliament finalises its report.

AGREEMENT ON NEW SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR VEHICLES

A provisional agreement on the revised General Safety Regulation was reached in the second round of trilogues. The new rules set out a series of new mandatory safety requirements for both light and heavy vehicles, including advanced features such as drowsiness and distraction detection systems, intelligent speed assistance, lane-keeping assistance and advanced emergency braking. The Commission expects that the rules, which will be rolled out from 2022 onwards, will save over 25 000 lives and avoid more than 140 000 serious injuries by 2038. The file will now be subject to formal approval by the Parliament and Council, expected before the summer break.

PARLIAMENT FINALISES CLEAN ENERGY PACKAGE, ADOPTS SINGLE-USE PLASTICS PROPOSAL

The European Parliament plenary voted to adopt the remaining files of the Clean Energy Package, namely the Directive and Regulation on Electricity Market Design and the Regulations on Risk Preparedness and the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER). The package aims to

further integrate the energy markets of EU member states and speed up the clean energy transition, whilst ensuring competitiveness and energy security. The following day saw the adoption of new rules on single-use plastics, which seek to reduce marine litter by banning selected single-use plastic products and instituting extended producer responsibility as well as measures to reduce consumption.

COMING UP NEXT WEEK:

- **2 April: Informal meeting of energy ministers.**
- **3 April: Informal meeting of competitiveness ministers (research).**
- **3-4 April: European Parliament mini-plenary session.** On the agenda: Brexit, EU-China trade relations, PEPP, work-life balance for parents, debate with Swedish Prime Minister.
- **4 April: EU-Azerbaijan Cooperation Council.**
- **5 April: Eurogroup.** On the agenda: Banking Union – euro area aspects, follow up to the March EUCO, preparation of international meetings, exchange of view with ECON Chair.
- **5-6 April: Informal meeting of economic and financial affairs ministers.**

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