



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 8 October 2010 (14.10)
(OR. fr)**

14559/10

CCG 8

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: 520th meeting of the Export Credits Group

on: 10 September 2010

Subject: Outcome of proceedings of the 520th meeting of the Export Credits Group on
10 September 2010

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

II. APPROVAL OF MEMORANDA

518th MEETING

(12253/1/10 REV 1 CCG 6)

This memorandum was approved.

519th MEETING

(13417/10 CCG 7)

This memorandum had been circulated in French. The English version would be sent electronically.

This memorandum would be approved at the Export Credits Group's 521st meeting on 13 and 14 October 2010.

III. GROUP OF PARTICIPANTS AND OECD EXPORT CREDITS GROUP

1. Review of the Sector Understanding on Export Credits for Renewable Energies and Water Projects/Enlargement of the Sector Understanding on Climate Change

Further to the discussions at the Participants' meeting in June 2010, the OECD Secretariat had forwarded a revised version of the Sector Understanding on Export Credits for Renewable Energies and Water Projects/Enlargement of the Sector Understanding on Climate Change (TAD/PG (2010)13/PROV) dated 29 July 2010. The deadline for sending comments had been set at 20 September 2010.

The Group had also received a note from the Commission dated 8 September 2010, representing the European Union's draft "reactions" to the aforementioned document of the OECD Secretariat.

The Commission representative took stock of contacts with other Participants, namely, the United States, Canada and Japan. A document from the United States would be forthcoming in the next few days.

Following an exchange of views during which the Member States stated their positions on the OECD Secretariat's document, the Commission representative said that he would pass on the European Union's observations to the OECD Secretariat.

Also, in view of the very tight deadlines, the question was raised of holding an extra meeting of the OECD Participants or, at least, a technical session in Brussels.

The Group would continue its work on this matter at the Export Credits Group's plenary meeting on 13 and 14 October 2010.

2. OECD membership/Outreach

(a) China

The Commission representative took stock of the technical meetings held with Sinosure and China Eximbank and on ongoing contacts with the Chinese authorities, the next stage of which would normally involve a higher-profile meeting in 2011.

Bilateral contacts were taking place between certain Member States and the Chinese authorities. Here, the Commission's "**Speaking lines**" document of 12 July 2010 provided guidelines for use by the Member States in their dialogue with China.

The question was raised whether such contacts ought to remain bilateral or, possibly, be handled by bodies like the G-20, whose chair would shortly be held by France.

The Commission representative also announced his intention of submitting a proposal on "matching" to the OECD in cooperation with the United States delegation.

This item would be placed on the agenda for the October plenary meeting.

3. **Premia**

A meeting of the OECD Premia Group would be held in Paris on 15 and 16 September 2010.

The Premia Group had held a technical meeting in Brussels on 9 September 2010.

The Commission representative gave an oral report on that meeting, which had been attended by 15 Member States.

Member States were asked to send any comments to the Commission ahead of the OECD Premia Group's meeting.

The Presidency reiterated its suggestion to organise a Premia workshop in Brussels, if possible on the sidelines of the October 2010 plenary meeting.

4. **Review of the Common Approaches**

On 30 July 2010 the OECD had circulated a draft Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export (TAD/ECG(2010) 9 PROV). Member States' comments should reach the OECD by 20 September 2010.

Inclusion of the human rights issue in the OECD document was deemed an option to be considered.

5. **Sector Understanding on Export Credits for Civil Aircraft**

A meeting of the "Friends of the Aircraft Sector Group" had been held on 8 September 2010.

The Civil Aircraft Sector Understanding Group would meet in Paris on 13 and 14 September 2010. A European Union coordination meeting would be convened using OLIS.

A further meeting would be held in Ottawa.

The Commission representative gave an update on the dossier.

6. **Sector Understanding on Export Credits for Ships**

A meeting of Working Party No 6 on Shipbuilding would be held in Paris on 4 and 5 October 2010.

The OECD Secretariat had circulated messages to the experts. Written contributions had to be submitted to the OECD Secretariat by 3 September 2010. The Commission had replied on 28 August 2010.

7. **Other items on Participants'/OECD ECG agenda**

For the record

IV. EXPORT CREDITS AND THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

1. National measures

There had been no recent developments in connection with this dossier.

2. Community measures

The Short-term Communication and temporary framework introduced to mitigate the financial crisis would expire at the end of 2010.

The Commission representative stated that the Competition DG was still working on a possible extension of the temporary framework and the Short-term Communication. Once the outcome was available, the Commission would transmit all this information to the Group.

Several delegations voiced concern at the Competition DG's delay in forwarding information, notably for new short-term transactions with payment terms between 90 and 120 days.

This item would be placed on the agenda for the plenary meeting on 13 and 14 October 2010.

3. International measures (OECD and G-20)

There were no new developments to report here.

V. LISBON TREATY AND EXPORT CREDITS/TEXT OF THE ARRANGEMENT

The Commission representative stated that, regarding the text of the Arrangement, the European Parliament's INTA Committee had not received any amendment requests from the Rapporteur, Mr JADOT. The INTA Committee was examining the text. The European Parliament should be holding a preliminary vote in October.

In the event of amendments, the Council (Export Credits Group) could re-examine the text.

The Council Legal Service took stock from a procedural angle, pointing out that this was an ordinary legislative procedure (currently in the first-reading stage). It pointed out that once the INTA Committee had submitted its report, it would be for the Council to take a view and reach agreement with the European Parliament.

Regarding the text of the 2006 Arrangement, which had not been transposed into Union law, it pointed out that informal contacts were in progress.

On future amendments to the text of the Arrangement, it highlighted the possibility of an accelerated procedure using delegated acts, but pointed out that other options could be considered.

It added that the Commission Legal Service would be contacted. Following these contacts, a note would be drawn up for the Plenary Group.

The Chairwoman informed the Group that a European Parliament workshop would be held on 27 September 2010.

This item would be placed on the agenda for the plenary meeting on 13 and 14 October 2010.

VI. RAILWAY SECTOR

At the June meeting, the Spanish Presidency had presented a document concerning the railway sector, drawing a parallel between that sector and others which had concluded specific agreements at the OECD.

The Group welcomed this initiative, and the Spanish delegation suggested holding a workshop on this matter in Madrid, for which the Group was given a choice of dates in November 2010.

The Spanish delegation would keep the Group posted on the workshop's dates and agenda.

VII. LONG-TERM AGENDA

In July 2010 the Belgian Presidency had circulated an informal "non-paper" on the long-term agenda for the Export Credits Group.

The Group had strongly welcomed that document.

The German, Czech and Greek delegations had already sent written comments.

Other delegations undertook to forward written contributions.

In view of the importance of the matter, the Chairwoman felt that half a day should be devoted to studying this issue in order to define priorities, the strategy to be used, etc. Pending the substantive debate, she said that all suggestions for avenues of reflection were welcome.

This item would be considered in greater detail at the plenary meeting on 13 and 14 October 2010.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Iran: restrictive measures

Following the adoption of restrictive measures against Iran by the United Nations Security Council (Resolution 1929), the Foreign Affairs Council adopted at its 3029th meeting on 26 July 2010 a number of measures to implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1929 in the European Union. These measures covered a whole range of sectors, including trade and the financial sector.

Action by the Council's Export Credits Group centred on:

- a ban on loans in the energy sector;
- a ban on financial support to the Iranian Government;
- a ban on medium- and long-term insurance;
- restrictions on investments for prohibited dual-use consumer goods and energy.

(b) WTO

There were no new developments to report here.

(c) "Presidency meeting" of the Export Credits Group

This meeting was scheduled for 14 and 15 October 2010. The Presidency provided delegations with practical information.