



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 13 January 2012**

**5084/12**

**POLGEN 6  
CODEC 14  
PE 1**

**NOTE**

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Subject : Terminology to be used in Council and COREPER agendas for legislative items under the Ordinary Legislative Procedure (OLP)

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Following the extension of the OLP to most policy areas, it is opportune to clarify and update the terminology used in agendas for COREPER and Council. This need has been highlighted by the fact that certain terms are not used consistently. Not alone does this cause confusion, it can have unplanned procedural consequences.

The terminology to be used at different stages of the Ordinary Legislative Procedure is set out in separate annexes for COREPER and Council, respectively. The indications contained in these annexes do not prejudice the rules governing Council agendas as set out in the Council Rules of Procedure.

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**AGENDA OF THE COUNCIL**  
**WORDING FOR ENTRY OF OLP DOSSIERS**

**FIRST READING**

Proposal for a Directive/ Regulation/ Decision ...[title.....] **(first reading)**

Before the EP plenary vote:

- = Orientation debate / Progress report / State of play  
*(any discussion at Council level which does not involve vote counting)*
- = General approach<sup>1</sup>  
*(a preliminary agreement on a text, pending the European Parliament's vote in Plenary. The term "Partial General Approach" should only be used in situations where agreement on the totality of the text is not possible for reasons independent of the Presidency and delegations)*
- = Information from the Presidency (under AoB items)  
*(to be used if the Presidency wishes to announce that a 1st reading agreement has been provisionally reached with the European Parliament at a trilogue)*

After the EP plenary vote:

- = Adoption of the legislative Act *(prepared by Codecision Unit)*  
*(for final adoption as "A" item of a legislative text resulting from a first reading agreement)*
- = Political Agreement  
*(should only be used to indicate that a definitive position is to be agreed on a text, pending legal linguistic revision. This can be a text previously agreed with the European Parliament: so-called pre-negotiated Council Position at first reading )*
- = Adoption of Council's position at first reading *(prepared by Codecision Unit)*  
and statement of the Council's reasons *(prepared by Service responsible)*  
*(a decision whereby a text, following legal linguistic revision, is adopted)*

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<sup>1</sup> Neither an *Orientation debate* nor a *General approach* are binding. In particular, they do not prejudice either the possibility of subsequently reaching an agreement at first reading with the European Parliament, or the content of a subsequent Political agreement.

## SECOND READING

Proposal for a Directive/ Regulation/ Decision ...[title.....] (**second reading**)

Before the EP plenary vote:

- = Information from the Presidency (under AoB items)  
*(any information at Council level including, if the Presidency so wishes, for the purpose of announcing that a 2d reading agreement has been provisionally reached with the European Parliament at a trilogue)*

After the EP plenary vote:

- = Approval of the European Parliament's amendment(s) (prepared by Codecision Unit)<sup>1</sup>
- = Non-approval of the European Parliament's amendment(s) (prepared by Codecision Unit)<sup>2</sup>

## THIRD READING

- Proposal for a Directive/ Regulation/ Decision...[title...] (**third reading**)
  - = Adoption of the legislative act (prepared by Codecision Unit)
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<sup>1</sup> If the Council approves the European Parliament's amendments, the act is deemed to have been adopted in the exact form as set out in European Parliament's amendments at second reading.

<sup>2</sup> This decision opens the conciliation phase.

AGENDA OF COREPER (PART I, PART II) and SCA  
WORDING FOR ENTRY OF OLP DOSSIERS

**FIRST READING**

**Entry under II**

- Proposal for a Directive/ Regulation/ Decision ...[title.....] **(first reading)**
  - = Progress report / Orientation debate / State of play  
*if the Working Party needs guidance*
  - = Preparation of a General Approach
  - = Analysis of the draft amendments (or of results of the Committee's vote)/  
Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue/  
Preparation for the (next) informal trilogue
  - = Analysis of the final compromise text with a view to agreement<sup>1</sup>
  - = Consideration of the European Parliament's amendments in preparation for political  
agreement *(to be used for "pre-negotiated Council Positions at 1st reading")*
  - = Political agreement

**Entry under I**

- Proposal for a Directive/ Regulation/ Decision...[title.....]...**(first reading)**
  - Before the EP Plenary vote
    - = Approval of the final compromise text<sup>1</sup>  
*(if there is agreement in the Working Party)*
  - After the EP Plenary vote
    - = Adoption of the legislative act *(prepared by Codecision Unit)*  
PE-CONS doc.  
*(if there is agreement at first reading)*
    - = Adoption
      - (a) of Council's position at first reading
      - (b) of the statement of the Council's reasons *(prepared by Service responsible)*  
*(if there is no agreement at first reading)*

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<sup>1</sup> *The letter to be signed by the Chairman of COREPER must not be annexed to the note; the Annex must contain the amendments negotiated.*

## SECOND READING

### Entry under II

- Proposal for a Directive/ Regulation/ Decision...*[title.....]* (**European Parliament second reading**)
  - = Analysis of the draft amendments (or of results of the Committee's vote)/ Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue/ /preparation for the (next) informal trilogue.
  - = Analysis of the final compromise text with a view to agreement <sup>1</sup>

### Entry under I

#### Before the EP Plenary vote:

- Proposal for a Directive/ Regulation/ Decision...*[title.....]* (**European Parliament second reading**)
  - = Approval of the final compromise text<sup>1</sup>  
(*if there is agreement in the Working Party*)

#### After the EP Plenary vote:

- Proposal for a Directive/ Regulation/ Decision *[title.....]* (**Council second reading**)
  - = Request for extension of the time-limit (*prepared by Codecision Unit*)
  - = Approval of the European Parliament's amendment(s) (*prepared by Codecision Unit*)
  - = Non-approval of the European Parliament's amendment(s) (*prepared by Codecision Unit*)

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<sup>1</sup> *The letter to be signed by the Chairman of COREPER must not be annexed to the note; the Annex must contain the amendments negotiated.*

## THIRD READING

### Entry under II

- Proposal for a Directive/ Regulation/ Decision...*[title.....]*...(third reading)
  - = Preparation for the informal trilogue/ Presidency debriefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue/ preparation for conciliation (*prepared by Codecision Unit*)

### Entry under I

- Proposal for a Directive/ Regulation/ Decision...*[title...]*...(third reading)
  - = Request for extension of the time-limit (*prepared by Codecision Unit*)
  - = Adoption of the legislative act (*prepared by Codecision Unit*)

