Council Decision (EU) 2019/853 of 21 May 2019 determining the composition of the European Economic and Social Committee

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 301 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) Article 300 of the Treaty sets out the rules for the composition of the European Economic and Social Committee.

(2) Council Decision (EU) 2015/1157[(1)] adapted the composition of the European Economic and Social Committee following the accession of Croatia. The number of members for each of Estonia, Cyprus and Luxembourg was reduced by one in order to address the discrepancy between the maximum number of members of the European Economic and Social Committee set out in the first paragraph of Article 301 of the Treaty and the number of members of the European Economic and Social Committee following the accession of Croatia.

(3) The preamble to Decision (EU) 2015/1157 states that that Decision is to be revised in time for the mandate of the European Economic and Social Committee starting in 2020.

(4) On 18 September 2018, the European Economic and Social Committee adopted recommendations to the Commission and to the Council on its future composition.

(5) The current balance in the composition of the European Economic and Social Committee should as far as possible be maintained as it is the result of successive Intergovernmental Conferences.

(6) The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union would result in 24 vacant seats in the European Economic and Social Committee. Therefore, the balance in the allocation of seats that existed before the adoption of Decision (EU) 2015/1157 should be restored,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1 The number of members of the European Economic and Social Committee shall be as follows:

Belgium	12

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Decision (EU) 2019/853. (See end of Document for details)*

Bulgaria	12
Czechia	12
Denmark	9
Germany	24
Estonia	7
Ireland	9
Greece	12
Spain	21
France	24
Croatia	9
Italy	24
Cyprus	6
Latvia	7
Lithuania	9
Luxembourg	6
Hungary	12
Malta	5
Netherlands	12
Austria	12
Poland	21
Portugal	12
Romania	15
Slovenia	7
Slovakia	9
Finland	9
Sweden	12.

2 In the event that the United Kingdom is still a Member State of the Union at the date of application of this Decision, the number of members of the European Economic and Social Committee shall be that provided for in Article 1 of Decision (EU) 2015/1157 until the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union becomes legally effective. From the date that the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union becomes legally effective, the number of members of the European Economic and Social Committee shall be that provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.