

2004-12-21 Software Patents Withdrawn from the Agenda of the Council of Agriculture and Fisheries at Poland's Request

<http://swpat.ffii.org/lisri/04/cons1221/index.en.html>

Workgroup

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The Software Patent Directive has been withdrawn from the Agenda of the Council of Agriculture and Fisheries. Poland's Minister of Science and Computerisation, Włodzimierz Marcinksi, firmly requested the item be withdrawn from the agenda. The Agriculture Commissioner expressed regret, but the A-item was deleted and will not now be adopted this year.

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- See Wiki Version for more¹

*<http://www.ffii.org/~phm>

¹<http://wiki.ffii.org/Cons041221En>

1 Story

Few people had expected the appearance of the Polish Vice Minister of Science and Computerisation (literally “State Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Science and Informatisation”), Włodzimierz Marcinski. Marcinski came personally to Brussels to present Poland’s point of view, because the permanent representatives of Poland at the EU had been put under great pressure by the Dutch Presidency to accept the text, rather than to communicate the wishes of the Polish government.

After having been targeted by a demo campaign², Germany’s minister of agriculture, Renate Künast of the Green Party, stayed away from the meeting³. Instead a diplomat from the German representation in Brussels was sent with instructions to nod off the text. This openly showed a rift within the government. Meanwhile the German minister of justice hinted a possible will to make concessions and renegotiate the Council Agreement⁴. Her ministry had, in spite of unanimous criticism from all parties in the parliament⁵, tried to push the agreement through today.

It is not yet clear what will happen next⁶. With luck, the Luxembourg presidency will take a less rigid line, and allow the text to be reconsidered. However, it is not impossible that today’s text could resurface again as an “uncontroversial” A-item in the Agricultural Council on the 10th of January, in the Economics and Finance Council of the 18th, or in the Competitiveness Council in March.

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⁵<http://localhost/swpat/lisri/04/bundestag041130/index.en.html>

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