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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion doc.: 9574/13 - COM(2013) 267 final

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
on protective measures against pests of plants
- *Political agreement*

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 6 May 2013, the Commission submitted to the European Parliament and to the Council the above-mentioned proposal, based on Article 43 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union¹.
2. The Economic and Social Committee issued its opinion on 10 December 2013, and on 13 January 2014 the Committee of the Regions informed the Council that it would not issue an opinion.

¹ Doc. 9574/13

3. The European Parliament adopted its opinion at first reading on 15 April 2014². This position was subsequently confirmed by the newly elected Parliament and Mrs. Anthea McINTYRE, ECR (UK) was appointed as the Rapporteur.
4. Two national parliaments have delivered opinions on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality³.
5. Following the preparatory work carried out by the Working Party on Protection and Inspection – Plant Health, the Working Party of the Chief Plant Health Officers (COPHS) and the Working Party of Agricultural Attachés/Phytosanitary experts, the Permanent Representatives Committee at its meeting of 30 June 2015, gave a mandate⁴ to the Presidency to enter into negotiations with the European Parliament.
6. Following a number of technical meetings and informal trilogues during the Luxembourg Presidency, a tentative agreement on a compromise text was reached in a trilogue on 16 December 2015⁵. That compromise text was endorsed by the Permanent Representatives Committee on 18 December 2015.
7. On 3 May 2016, the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Parliament addressed a letter to the President of the Permanent Representatives Committee stating that, if the Council adopts its position at first reading in accordance with the above-mentioned compromise, he would recommend to the Plenary that the Council's position be accepted without amendment, subject to legal-linguistic verification, at Parliament's second reading.
8. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend to the Council to confirm, under the "A" items list of one of its future meetings, a political agreement on the draft Regulation as set out in Addendum 1 to the present Note⁶.

² Doc. 8307/14

³ Doc.11870/13 and 12254/13

⁴ Doc. 10108/15 REV2

⁵ Doc 15142/15 + ADD1, doc.15143/15.

⁶ To be followed by a formal adoption of the Council's position as soon as the legal/linguistic revision of the text has been completed.