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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: Fifth centenary of the first circumnavigation of the world, led by Fernão de Magalhães and Juan Sebastián Elcano
- Information from the Spanish and Portuguese delegations

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Spanish and Portuguese delegations on the above subject, which has been placed under 'Any other business' on the agenda for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 22 and 23 May 2019.

Fifth centenary of the first circumnavigation of the world, led by Fernão de Magalhães and Juan Sebastián Elcano

This year 2019 marks the 500th anniversary of the departure of the expedition commanded by Fernão de Magalhães and completed by Juan Sebastián Elcano, that ended the first circumnavigation of the world three years later, in 1522. This expedition crossed the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans and the coasts of territories that today are the countries of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, the Philippines, Indonesia, Cape Verde, Brunei, East Timor, South Africa and Malaysia.

This expedition, which could be considered the first major milestone in the globalization of our planet, was made up of 239 men from different territories of the current Member States of the European Union, which gives this commemoration a marked European character.

The voyage promoted enormous advances in scientific, cultural and economic fields; revolutionized nautical, hydrographic and cartographic sciences, and, for these reasons, communications, transport and commerce also suffered a huge evolution, unveiling unknown connections and configuring the world as we know it today.

The Ministers of Culture of Spain and Portugal will inform the Council about the extensive program of activities to commemorate this anniversary from 2019 until 2022, and will invite everyone to participate. This program includes, amongst others, the following activities: an international conference, a large itinerary exhibition, circumnavigation trips, audiovisual co-productions, academic studies, conferences, nautical races and scenic representations.