



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 4 January 2013**

**5007/13**

**POLGEN 1  
ECOFIN 1  
COMPET 1**

**NOTE**

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from: Presidency  
to: Permanent Representatives Committee  
Subject: Impact assessment within the Council  
- Working methods

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1. **In November and December 2011** the Council (ECOFIN and Competitiveness) adopted conclusions on Impact Assessment in the Council<sup>1</sup>;
2. **In June 2012** the Presidency informed the Council on the follow-up given by Coreper to the Council conclusions of 2011. In this context, the Presidency was requested, in collaboration with the Council Secretariat, to report to the Council on the implementation of impact assessment by the end of 2012<sup>2</sup>;
3. On **10 December 2012**, the Council took note of the Presidency/General Secretariat report on Impact Assessment<sup>3</sup> under the "A" part of its agenda;

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<sup>1</sup> Docs. 16976/11 and 17939/11

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 10735/12

<sup>3</sup> Doc. 16569/12

4. Against this background and with respect to the commitments undertaken by the Council, COREPER is now invited to reflect on the trends that emerge from the report, to assess possible follow-up action, and to consider any further necessary steps;
5. In order to take this work forward, the Presidency is of the view that mandating the Mertens Group to prepare Coreper discussions would be an effective way of ensuring the coherence and consistency of this horizontal subject. The Group is therefore asked:
  - To analyse the conclusions of the Report on Impact Assessment;
  - To identify and consider points of special interest or concern and facilitate an exchange of views on suggestions for any further practical and operational action arising from the report. This work should be in support of better law making and the effective and efficient operation of the Council;
  - To keep Coreper informed as necessary on ongoing work with a view to submitting a final report, including any recommendations as appropriate, as soon as possible and no later than 26 April 2013.

In the course of its work, the Mertens Group should consult with other interested Council Groups as appropriate;

6. The Presidency suggests therefore that Coreper agree on the proposed way forward and accept to charge the Mertens Group with the preparation of Coreper discussions on the implementation of Impact Assessment within the Council.