



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 6 September 2013**

**13321/13**

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**Interinstitutional File:  
2013/0168 (NLE)**

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**ENV 798  
COMER 202  
MI 724  
ONU 88**

**“I/A” ITEM NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council

to: Coreper/Council

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No. Cion prop.: 10462/13 ENV 499 COMER 138 MI 499 ONU 58 + ADD 1 -  
COM(2013) 325 final

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Subject: Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union,  
of the Minamata Convention on Mercury  
- Adoption

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1. On 31 May 2013, the Commission submitted to the Council the above proposal. The proposal is based on Art. 192(1) in conjunction with Art. 218(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
2. On 10 June 2013 the Working Party on International Environmental Issues (WPIEI) examined the Commission proposal; on 8 July 2013, the Working Party on the Environment (WPE) considered a Presidency draft of the Council Decision based on the Commission proposal. The text resulting from those discussions and as set out in the JL document 11995/13 is acceptable to all delegations.

3. The aim of the draft Council Decision is that the Council authorises, firstly, the signing, on behalf of the EU, of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and, secondly, the Presidency to designate the person(s) empowered to sign on behalf of the Union. The Commission stated that it considered that it is for the Commission to decide who would represent the Union when signing the Convention, not for the Presidency.
4. The Minamata Convention will be opened for signature at the Diplomatic Conference which will be held in Minamata and Kumamoto, Japan, from 9 to 11 October 2013.
5. The Committee of Permanent Representatives is invited to recommend that the Council on 23 September 2013 adopts the Decision as set out in the JL document 11995/13 + ADD 1<sup>1</sup> as an "A" item and informs the European Parliament of the adoption of this Decision.

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<sup>1</sup> Text only in English