



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 27 March 2012

8194/12

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"I" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Committee of Permanent Representatives

No. Cion. prop.: 7641/12 DROIPEN 29 COPEN 57 CODEC 656 + ADD 1 + ADD 2

Subject : Proposal for a Directive on the freezing and confiscation of proceeds of crime in the European Union
- Optional consultation of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions¹

1. By letter of 12 March 2012, the Commission presented the above mentioned proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the freezing and confiscation of proceeds of crime in the European Union.
2. The text of the proposal is set out in 7641/12 DROIPEN 29 COPEN 57 CODEC 656.
3. The proposal is based on Articles 82(2) and 83(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

¹ The sole purpose of this note is to decide on the consultation of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions and not on the substance of the proposal.

4. In the accompanying letter to the proposal the Commission suggests to the Council to consult the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions. The procedure is in accordance with Articles 304 and 307 TFEU respectively and Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

5. In view of the above, COREPER is invited to:
 - request the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions to deliver their opinion on the Commission proposal set out in 7641/12 DROIPEN 29 COPEN 57 CODEC 656 as soon as possible and at the latest by November 2012.
