



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 8 October 2012

14588/12

**Interinstitutional File:
2012/0237 (COD)**

**INST 567
PE 441
FIN 723
CODEC 2300**

"I" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Coreper

No. Cion prop. : 13842/12 INST 536 PE 416 FIN 662 CODEC 2154

Subject : Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations
- Optional consultation of the European Court of Auditors, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions¹

1. On 12 September 2012, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations.
2. In its proposal, the Commission has provided for the consultation of the European Court of Auditors on an optional basis, given the strong link between this proposal and the forthcoming proposal for an amendment to the Financial Regulation introducing a new title on the financing of European political parties², on which the Court of Auditors has to be consulted.

¹ The sole purpose of this note is to decide on the consultation of another institution/body and not on the substance.

² Commission working document of 12 September 2012 prefiguring the proposal for an amendment to the Financial Regulation introducing a new title on the financing of European political parties (doc.13777/12)

3. In its transmission letter, the Commission also suggested that the Council consult the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on an optional basis in view of the subject matter of the proposal.
4. Article 224 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, on which the proposal is based, does not require neither the opinion of the European Court of Auditors, nor that of the European Economic and Social Committee, nor that of the Committee of the Regions.
5. Nevertheless, for the reasons mentioned above, it is considered appropriate to follow the suggestions of the Commission and to consult the European Court of Auditors, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on an optional basis.
6. Coreper is therefore invited to decide, pursuant to Articles 287, 304 and 307 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU and to Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to decide to consult the European Court of Auditors, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the above proposal and to request them to give their opinion as soon as possible.
