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from : Presidency
to : Permanent Representatives Committee (part 2)/Council

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Subject: Cohesion Policy legislative package
- Statements

**Joint Statement of the Council and the Commission on Article 137(6) of the
Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)**

"The Council and the Commission confirm that for the purpose of Article 137(6) CPR the reference to the term "applicable Union and national law" in relation to the assessment of serious deficiencies in the effective functioning of management and control systems includes interpretations of this law made either by the Court of Justice of the European Union, by the General Court of the European Union or by the Commission (including Commission interpretative notes) applicable at the date when the relevant management declarations, annual control reports and audit opinions were submitted to the Commission."

Statement by Italy, Poland and Slovakia on ensuring political discussion on coordinating the CSF funds and other EU policies and instruments

"With a view to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the EU budget IT, PL and SK recall the need to ensure a coherent governance system for all Union policies and instruments delivering Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The European Semester cycle should allow for an enhanced coordination of the Union policies and instruments both within the Commission and the Member States.

In this framework an annual debate at political level on Cohesion policy and its achievements is needed, to improve the quality of spending, and the effectiveness of the policy, in line with EU governance and Europe 2020.

This regular political debate should be set within the formal framework of the Council and constitute an important input to the Spring European Council's overall assessment of all Union policies and instruments to deliver growth and jobs across the European Union. Such a debate should provide the necessary impetus and guidance to a result-oriented development of cohesion policy, also with a view to improve coordination between EU and national policies towards reinforcing economic, social and territorial cohesion in the most effective way. The debate would also better contribute to exploit synergies, and reduce overlaps, complexity and administrative burden.

Therefore, IT, PL and SK call for reflecting in the Cohesion Policy legislative package 2014-2020 the formal framework for an annual debate at political level, which would build upon the Presidency Conclusions from the Informal Meeting of Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy adopted in Nicosia on 6th November 2012."
