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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on
procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in
criminal proceedings **(first reading)**
- Adoption of the legislative act **(LA + S)**
= Statement

Statement by Italy

Italy welcomes the adoption of the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings, as a further step in the completion of the Roadmap on procedural rights of suspected and accused persons adopted by the Council in 2009.

Italy maintains concerns about the level of protection accorded by this instrument to children involved in criminal proceedings, considering their particular situation of vulnerability and the importance of the rights at stake. This particular position of children, together with the principles deriving from the Charter, the European Convention on Human Rights and the case-law of the European Court of Human rights, should be at the heart of the interpretation of the provisions contained in the instrument. When implementing this Directive, Italy will continue to be inspired by the high levels of protection its legal system already provides for children in criminal proceedings.