



Council of the  
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#### 'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
No. Cion doc.:	C(2016) 2164 final
Subject:	Commission Delegated Decision (EU) .../... of 15.4.2016 amending Annex III to Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council granting an EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank against losses under financing operations supporting investment projects outside the Union, as regards Belarus - Intention not to raise objections to a delegated act

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#### DECLARATION BY LITHUANIA

Lithuania does not intend to raise objections against the Delegated Decision, with the understanding that EIB's financing operations under the Bank's external lending mandate will be subject to Belarus' compliance with the international environmental and nuclear safety standards and in line with the Council's conclusions on Belarus of 15 February 2016, in particular reaffirming that good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation are important elements for enhancing EU-Belarus cooperation, reiterating the importance of ensuring nuclear safety beyond the borders of the EU and calling on Belarus to cooperate constructively with the relevant international authorities in this regard.

Lithuania notes that in 2014 the United Nations Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (the Espoo Convention) and the United Nations Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention) acknowledged that Belarus had been in non-compliance with the provisions of the mentioned Conventions with regard to the Belarus NPP in Ostrovets project. This acknowledgement was reiterated by Espoo Implementation Committee on 15 March 2016, suggesting to establish Inquiry Commission for the respective assessment.

Lithuania emphasizes the necessity to scrutinize Belarus' adherence to the international standards of environmental and nuclear safety, stressing importance of the accomplishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Site & External Events Design peer review mission in its full scope and performing comprehensive risk and safety assessment ("stress-test") for Belarus NPP.

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