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From: Presidency
To: Council

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Subject: Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the accessibility of public sector bodies' websites.
- Information from the Presidency

1. The Commission adopted its proposal for a *Directive of the EP and of the Council on the accessibility of public sector bodies' websites*¹ on 3 December 2012 with Article 114 TFEU as a legal basis. The proposal aimed to approximate the laws, regulations and administrative practices of the Member States related to the requirements for web accessibility of public sector bodies' websites, in order to improve the functioning of the internal market.
2. After a first presentation of the proposal and of its impact assessment in January 2013, the Council Working Party on Telecommunications and the Information Society (WP TELE) discussed the proposal under the different Presidencies until a negotiating mandate was finally reached at the end of the Luxembourg Presidency. Building on the momentum created, the Dutch Presidency immediately started the negotiations with the European Parliament.

¹ Doc 17344/12

3. After three trialogues, on 26 January, 2 March and 3 May, the Presidency was able to reach a political agreement with the European Parliament. This political agreement was discussed in the COREPER yesterday (*25 May*).
4. Compared to the initial proposal of the Commission, the agreement is very ambitious. The initial scope only covered twelve online public services. The scope now includes all websites and mobile applications of all public sector bodies, as well as their intranets.
5. The adoption process is now starting so that the Directive enters into force during the autumn. Member States will have 21 months to transpose it into their national law.
6. This Directive is crucial to improve the internal market of services relating to the digital accessibility of information, and to ensure the complete inclusion of all citizens, in particular elderly people and persons with disabilities in the digital society.
