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POLGEN 59  
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CSDP/PSDC 339  
AGRI 331  
TRANS 235  
JAI 575  
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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Friends of the Presidency Group, 6 June 2016  
- Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)

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### 1. Arctic Communication

The Commission representative, in presenting the Joint Communication on "**An integrated European Union policy for the Arctic**"<sup>1</sup>, recalled that it was building on previous initiatives, such as the first Commission Communication on the Arctic in 2008<sup>2</sup>, and the second one in 2012<sup>3</sup>, which had respectively led to the Council adopting conclusions<sup>4</sup> (and Parliament a Resolution) on each of them.

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<sup>1</sup> 8408/16 of 27 April 2016

<sup>2</sup> Communication "The European Union and the Arctic region" of 20 November 2008  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52008DC0763&from=EN>

<sup>3</sup> Joint Communication "Developing a European Union Policy towards the Arctic Region: progress since 2008 and next steps"  
[http://www.eeas.europa.eu/arctic\\_region/docs/join\\_2012\\_19.pdf](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/arctic_region/docs/join_2012_19.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> "Council conclusions on Arctic issues" of December 2009  
[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/111814.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/111814.pdf)  
"Council conclusions on developing a European Union Policy towards the Arctic Region" of May 2014  
[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/142554.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/142554.pdf)

The present Communication was focusing on three main EU policy objectives :

1. Addressing Climate Change and Safeguarding the Arctic Environment;
2. Sustainable Development in and around the Arctic;
3. Promoting international Cooperation on Arctic Issues.

On the process, draft Council Conclusions were under consideration in another Council preparatory body with a view to their adoption at a forthcoming Council (Foreign Affairs).

Delegations welcomed the Communication and the selected policy objectives, whilst some of them stressed that this process was one element of a wider international framework for Arctic governance, including the International Polar Code.

Some delegations regretted the absence of a reference to the Climate Diplomacy Action Plan recently adopted by Council. The Commission representative reassured delegations about the importance attached to it throughout discussions.

## 2. Any other business

### – **European Maritime Day (19/20May 2016, Turku, Finland)**

The Commission representative expressed satisfaction at the success of and the record number of participants at the event, the focus of which had been this year on investing in competitive and sustainable blue growth - and innovation (smart and sustainable solutions) - in the context of the maritime economy. Important aspects to develop in future were, *inter alia*, promoting related skills and encouraging and motivating people to embrace a career in the maritime economy, fostering investments and funding in the maritime economy, and further improving ocean governance and ensuring the regulatory framework was fit for purpose.

Delegations were invited to apply in the Friends of Presidency group to host the European Maritime Days (EMD) to take place as of 2020 (the last confirmed venue was in 2019 in Lisbon). The decision would then be taken by the Working Party.

– **Ocean governance**

Referring to progress on preparations for the Commission's awaited initiative on the issue, the Commission representative outlined the complex issues at stake with regard to ocean governance, and the reasons for the EU, as a major player on oceans and with one of the biggest transport fleets worldwide, to play an active role, notably in international ocean governance fora.

The PT delegation referred to a joint PT-FR-IT "Input paper on advancing global ocean governance as a tool of security" in the run-up to the EU global strategy on Foreign and Security Policy<sup>5</sup> under preparation by the EEAS.

– **Nautical tourism**

The Commission representative referred to the 2014 **European Strategy for more Jobs and Growth in Coastal and Maritime Tourism**<sup>6</sup>, which had been launched to boost the competitiveness and sustainability of the sector, and unlock its potential for growth and jobs. It included 4 pillars, 14 actions at EU level, and required joint implementation by the Member States to stimulate performance and competitiveness, promote skills and innovation, strengthen sustainability and maximize available EU funding.

Coastal and maritime tourism (CMT) was the most important subsector of tourism and the largest maritime activity in Europe. It represented over one third of the maritime economy, employed some 3.2 million people, and generated a total of €183 billion in gross value added. The Commission, based on a study, had identified the following areas where policy action could help unlock a growth potential, and which were outlined in the presentation:

1. Skippers' licences
2. Boat recycling
3. Development of marinas and boating activities
4. Local & regional development around marinas
5. Combined nautical and coastal tourism products
6. On-board safety equipment incl. the potential for satellite applications

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<sup>5</sup> <http://europa.eu/globalstrategy/en/global-strategy-foreign-and-security-policy-european-union>

<sup>6</sup> (CMT) COM (2014) 86

– **Ministerial Meeting at the Oceans Meeting 2016, Lisbon (2 and 3 June 2016)**

The PT delegation referred to the Declaration adopted at the above Ministerial Meeting.<sup>7</sup>

– **Debrief HLFP in Turku - 19 May 2016**

The Presidency expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the High Level Focal Points (HLFP) meeting held on 19 May in Turku in the margins of the EMD. The last HLFP meeting had taken place in 2013 and the level of participation at the event confirmed delegations' interest and their commitment to the IMP, and to the HLFP as a useful forum for discussing the focus and way forward on the IMP. The Presidency announced a report setting out the main operational conclusions of the meeting and noted that the EMD in Poole (UK) next year could provide a good opportunity for follow-up to the HLFP in Turku.

– **Presentation on next Presidency programme**

The incoming Presidency informed delegations about the arrangements for running the FoP IMP/EUMSS decided within the Trio, and about the focus for work in the coming months on Ocean Governance, nautical tourism and the West Med Sea Basin Initiative. Three meetings were scheduled, one in September, one in November and one in December.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/ministerios/mm/documentos/20160603-dec-min-encontro-internacional-oceanos.aspx>