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## INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	12940/1/15 REV1
Subject:	Common approach on sharing EU classified information among EU institutions, agencies, offices and bodies - positive reply from the Commission

1. A common approach on sharing EU classified information with EU institutions, agencies, offices and bodies has been drafted jointly by the Security Directorates/Offices of the Council General Secretariat, the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) as a trilateral concept so as to ensure to maximum extent possible a unified practice in that respect.
2. On 2 December 2015 COREPER approved the common approach on sharing EUCI among EU institutions, agencies, offices and bodies. COREPER approved also the letters to the High Representative and to the President of the EC seeking their agreement to this common approach. The letters were sent out the very same day.
3. Positive replies to these letters agreeing to the text of the common approach together with the Council's subsequent approval of the text will constitute a formal agreement on the common approach on sharing EUCI with EU institutions, agencies, offices and bodies.
4. On 20 June 2016 the Commission sent out the letter expressing the agreement on the text of the common approach on EUCI sharing which is annexed to this note.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Secretariat-General

The Secretary-General

Brussels, *Ares(2016)2864981 - 20/06/2016*  
HR/DS.3

**Subject: Common approach on sharing EU classified information with EU institutions, agencies, offices and bodies**

Dear Ambassador,

I am replying to the letter with reference LT 294/15 of 2 December 2015, sent to President Juncker by your predecessor Ambassador Christian Braun, in his role as the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee. In this letter, he invited the Commission to endorse the text of the common approach on sharing EU classified information (EUCI) with EU institutions, agencies, offices and bodies. This text has been drafted and agreed at technical level by the security directorates/offices of the Commission, the Council General Secretariat and the European External Action Service.

The proper management and protection of EUCI through its life cycle is a fundamental component of the EU security framework and I concur that it is in our collective interest to have a unified approach on sharing EUCI with other EU entities. The concept of the common approach developed for sharing EUCI is a significant step forward in addressing these concerns.

I am therefore pleased to express the Commission's agreement to this text and acknowledge that this reply, together with the Council's subsequent approval of the text, will constitute a formal agreement on the common approach on sharing EUCI with EU institutions, agencies, offices and bodies.

This reply is based on the Commission's understanding that the common approach addresses the sharing of EU classified information between Council, Commission or EEAS and a specific EU institution, agency, office or body as listed in the Annex to the common approach, and this on a need to share and need to know basis.

Yours faithfully,



  
Alexander Italianer

H.E. Ambassador Pieter de Gooijer  
Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee  
Council of the European Union

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