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#### **INFORMATION NOTE**

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**From:** General Secretariat of the Council  
**To:** Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)  
**Subject:** European Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) Action Plan  
implementation  
- Presidency information note

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1. On 27 June 2016, the Friends of Presidency Group (EUMSS) held an exchange of views on the Joint Commission-EEAS Staff Working Document on the implementation of the EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) Action Plan (AP) <sup>1</sup>, following presentations by the Commission, EEAS and European Defence Agency (EDA). This first implementation report since the EUMSS was adopted in 2014 is based on cross-sectoral, inter-institutional cooperation, and on contributions from a large number of Member States.
2. The Group broadly welcomed the report and the conclusions therein as a very good basis for further work on implementation of the EUMSS AP. The Group agreed on the importance of further awareness-raising and of keeping up momentum on the implementation of the AP. It also agreed to keep COREPER informed of the main outcomes of the discussion and next steps.

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<sup>1</sup> 10625/16 of 24 June 2016

3. Delegations generally welcomed the concrete progress achieved so far on the implementation of the EUMSS Action Plan, both at EU and Member State level, as reflected in the report.
4. At the same time, delegations agreed that further efforts could be made in a number of areas, including on cooperation between the EU and NATO, the results of which could be further assessed; enhancing focus on the geographical strategies, notably in the Gulf of Guinea; enhancing data exchange and CISE <sup>2</sup>; enhancing Member States' coordination of maritime surveillance, and further strengthening cooperation in the Mediterranean. Some delegations suggested that certain actions could be extended to the Baltic Sea region.
5. Delegations also stressed the importance of enhanced cooperation between EU agencies, including as a means to raise common awareness of the situation at sea, and welcomed progress on the European Border and Coast Guard package.
6. Delegations agreed on the need for further awareness-raising, both at public and EU level, through appropriate communication strategies on the increasing and cross-cutting importance of the EU Maritime Security Strategy in the current global security context. It was also suggested that a day could be dedicated to the EUMSS, and that the European Maritime Day yearly organised by the Commission could possibly focus more on the EUMSS in future.
7. With a view to next year's implementation report, delegations welcomed the Commission's initiative to develop a tool that would help improve and simplify Member States' reporting.
8. The Group agreed that the 2017 Joint report should go beyond a factual depiction of the state of implementation of the Action Plan, and delegations suggested a focus and strategic approach towards possible improvements in the AP and its implementation, building *inter alia* on Member States' suggestions and on the conclusions included in the report, and in the light of developments and priorities emerging in the maritime domain. The Presidency invited the Commission and EEAS to present this strategic approach in the Group before the Action Plan's next implementation report is completed. Meanwhile, efforts towards implementation of the priorities and actions identified in the AP should continue.

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<sup>2</sup> Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain