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'I' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)

Subject: Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European statistical programme 2013-17, by extending it to 2018-2020

- Optional consultation of the European Economic and Social Committee and of the Committee of the Regions

1. On 7 September 2016, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European statistical programme 2013-17, by extending it to 2018-2020 (doc. 12056/16 + ADD 1-3).
2. The proposal is based on Article 338 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, which does not require the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee and of the Committee of the Regions. Nevertheless, the Commission proposes to consult these bodies.
3. In view of the subject matter of the proposal, it may be appropriate to consult the Committees on this proposal¹.
4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to decide, pursuant to Articles 304 and 307 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and to Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to consult the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the abovementioned proposal, and to request the Committees to give their opinion as soon as possible.

¹ Member States' statistics experts have been consulted within a "*silence procedure*" that ended 29 September 2016. One delegation asked for additional explanation. No delegation voiced objection to the consultation of the two committees.