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**Interinstitutional File:**  
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JAI 348  
FREMP 47  
DROIPEN 46  
COCON 9  
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**'A' ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Council

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Subject: Draft Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to matters related to judicial cooperation in criminal matters  
Draft Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence with regard to Asylum and Non-refoulement  
- adoption

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1. On 8 March 2016, the Commission presented to the Council two proposals for Council decisions: the first on the signing on behalf of the European Union; the second, on the conclusion, by the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 6695/16 and 6696/16.

2. The Council has proceeded to examine these proposals in the relevant preparatory body - the Working Party on Fundamental Rights, Citizens' Rights and Free Movement of Persons (FREMP). The Netherlands, Slovak and Maltese Presidency have diligently ensured discussions on the EU accession to the Istanbul Convention in almost all scheduled FREMP meetings (26 April 2016, 25 May 2016, 11 July 2016, 12 September 2016, 6 October 2016, 10 November 2016, 2 December 2016, 7 February 2017 and 12 April 2017). A discussion was also held at the JHA Counsellors at their meeting of 28 June 2016.
  3. There is common accord as regards Member States' national competences as all Member States have already signed the Istanbul Convention.
  4. The Permanent Representatives' Committee endorsed on 26 April 2017 the draft texts as set out in documents doc. 14756/16 REV3 and 14757/16 REV3 and invited the Council to adopt the draft Decisions after Jurists-Linguists revision.
  5. The Council is invited to adopt the decisions, as finalised by the Jurists-Linguists and set out in 14868/16 (to be issued) + ADD1 and 14869/16 (to be issued) + ADD1 and to inform the European Parliament accordingly.
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