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ENV 424

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
Subject:	Draft Council Decision authorising the Commission to submit, on behalf of the Union, a proposal for an amendment of the Appendices to the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals with a view to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties - Adoption

1. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. The EU has been a Party to the CMS since 1 November 1983.
2. The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the decision-making body of the CMS with powers to assess the conservation status of migratory species and, subsequently, to amend Appendices I and II to the CMS. The migratory species to be conserved are listed in Appendices I (endangered species) and II (species to be the subjects of agreements) to the CMS.

3. On 7 April 2017, the Council received the abovementioned Commission's proposal ¹. In this proposal the Commission asks for the Council's authorisation to submit an amendment to Appendix II to the Convention with a view to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties which will take place in Manila from 22 to 28 October 2017. According to Article XI(3) of the Convention, proposals for amendments to the Appendices must reach the Secretariat of the CMS no later than 25 of May 2017.
4. The Commission presented the proposal to the Working Party on the Environment (WPE) at its meeting on 2 May 2017. Based on delegations' comments, the Presidency prepared a draft Council Decision. After an informal silence procedure, the WPE agreed with the draft Council Decision, with Bulgaria announcing its intention to vote against and Germany indicating that it will make a statement to be entered in the minutes of the Council (8975/17 ADD 1).
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to recommend to the Council to:
 - a) adopt, by qualified majority, the draft Council Decision set out in document 8856/17 (text finalised by the Jurist-Linguists) as an "A" item on the agenda of one of its forthcoming sessions;
 - b) decide that the statement by Germany, in the Addendum to this Note, be entered in the minutes of that meeting, and
 - c) decide to inform the European Parliament of the adoption.

¹ Doc. 8144/17 - COM(2017) 166 final.