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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020 (**first reading**)

- Adoption of the legislative act (**LA + S**)

= Statements

Declaration by the European Commission on the strategic dialogue with the European Parliament¹

On the basis of Article 14 TEU, the European Commission will conduct a strategic dialogue with the European Parliament prior to the programming of the Regulation (EU) No .../2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020⁺ and after initial consultation of its relevant beneficiaries, where appropriate. The European Commission will present to the European Parliament the relevant available documents on programming with indicative allocations foreseen per country/region, and, within a country/region, priorities, possible results and indicative allocations foreseen per priority for geographic programmes, as well as the choice of assistance modalities*. The European Commission will present to the European Parliament the relevant available documents on programming with thematic priorities, possible results, choice of assistance modalities*, and financial allocations for such priorities foreseen in thematic programmes. The European Commission will take into account the position expressed by the European Parliament on the matter.

The European Commission will conduct a strategic dialogue with the European Parliament in preparing the mid-term review and before any substantial revision of the programming documents during the period of validity of this Regulation.

The European Commission, if invited by the European Parliament, will explain where the European Parliament's observations have been taken into consideration in the programming documents and any other follow-up given to the strategic dialogue.

¹ The European Commission will be represented at the responsible Commissioner level

* Where applicable.

⁺ OJ: Please insert the number and date of the regulation in doc 2011/0406(COD).

Declaration by the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on point (ii) of point (b) of Article 5(2) of Regulation No .../2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... establishing an instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020⁺

With regard to the application of point (ii) of point (b) of Article 5(2) Regulation No .../2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... establishing an instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020⁺ at the time of entry into force of that Regulation, the following partner countries are considered eligible for bilateral cooperation, as exceptional cases, including in view of the phasing out of development grant aid: Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and South Africa.

Declaration by the European Commission on Article 5 of Regulation No .../2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... establishing an instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020⁺

The European Commission will seek the views of the European Parliament before changing the application of point (ii) of point (b) of Article 5(2) of Regulation No .../2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... establishing an instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020⁺.

⁺ OJ: Please insert the number and date of the regulation in doc 2011/0406(COD).

Declaration by the European Commission on allocation for basic services

The Regulation No .../2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... establishing an instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020⁺ should enable the Union to contribute to fulfilling the joint Union commitment of providing continued support for human development to improve people's lives in line with the Millennium Development Goals. At least 20 % of allocated assistance under that Regulation will be allocated to basic social services, with a focus on health and education, and to secondary education, recognising that a degree of flexibility must be the norm, such as cases where exceptional assistance is involved. Data concerning the respect of this declaration will be included in the annual report referred to in Article 13 of the Regulation No .../2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of ... laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instrument for financing external action⁺⁺.

⁺⁺ OJ: Please insert the number and date of the regulation in doc 2011/0415(COD)