



**COUNCIL OF
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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**)
= Statement

Statement by Malta

Malta considers the Development Co-operation Instrument as an important instrument critical to increase the effectiveness of the EU development cooperation. It is imperative that EU development policy takes into consideration a changing world, the emergence of new donors, and new challenges in formulating and developing its assistance. The promotion of human rights, democracy and good governance should always remain central to this policy together with inclusive and sustainable growth.

In this context, Malta reiterates its position that any recommendation or commitment made by the European Union related to Development Assistance should not in any way create an obligation on any party to consider abortion as a legitimate form of reproductive health or rights or commodities.