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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council

No. Cion doc.: 7873/17 RECH 98 MED 23 AGRI 179 MIGR 43 RELEX 286 + ADD 1 (EU RESTRICTED/UE RESTREINT)

Subject: Recommendation for a Council decision authorising the opening of negotiation on agreements between the European Union and third countries laying down the terms and conditions for their participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), jointly undertaken by several Member States
- Adoption

1. On 18 October 2016 the Commission submitted to the Council the proposal for the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), jointly undertaken by several Member States based on Article 185 TFEU¹. It also includes third countries to be associated to this programme. For this purpose, dedicated international agreements will need to be negotiated on the basis of Article 218 (3) and (4) TFEU.
2. On 26 April 2017 the Permanent Representatives Committee agreed to the final text of PRIMA and on the final list of third countries for which a dedicated international agreement will have to be negotiated².

¹ Doc. 13296/16

² Doc. 8251/17

3. On 30 March 2017 the Commission submitted to the Council its recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on agreements between the European Union and third countries laying down the terms and conditions for the participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), jointly undertaken by several Member States.
4. At its meeting on 3 April the Research Working Party examined the Commission recommendation and the negotiating directives. Member States comments have been included in the text to align the text of the Council decision to the basic act of PRIMA, in particular the updated list of participating countries and countries to conclude an international agreement with.
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is, therefore, invited to recommend to the Council, as an "A" item in one of its next sessions:
 - to adopt the Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on an agreement to participate in PRIMA with Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco as finalised by the legal linguists and set out in document ST 9111/17;
 - to call on the Commission to conduct these negotiations on the basis of the negotiating directives as contained in document ST 9111/17 ADD1 (RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED); and
 - to inform the European Parliament on the above-mentioned Council decision.