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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014 as regards the promotion of internet connectivity in local communities (First reading)
- Information from the Presidency on the state of play

1. On 14 September 2016, following President Juncker's State of the Union Speech, the Commission adopted and transmitted to the Council and to the European Parliament the above-mentioned proposal which creates a possibility for the EU to finance the implementation of EU-branded Wi-Fi hotspots to promote Internet connectivity in local communities.
2. The TTE (Telecom) Council, at its meeting on 2 December 2016, adopted a partial general approach on the substance of the proposal, leaving out only the financial elements, as set out in document 14442/1/16 REV1. The text of this partial general approach is reflected in the third column of the Annex 2.
3. The European Economic and Social Committee issued its opinion on 26 January 2017.
4. The Committee of the Regions adopted its opinion on 8 February 2017.

5. On 25 April 2017, the European Parliament's ITRE Committee (rapporteur: Mr Carlos Zorrinho) voted its amendments to the proposal.
 6. On 10 May the Coreper granted the Presidency a mandate on the basis of document 8669/17 to start trilogues with the EP on the above-mentioned proposal.
 7. The first and the only trilogue took place on 29 May. During that trilogue, an agreement was reached on the text of the regulation.
 8. The Presidency informed the Coreper about the successful outcome of this trilogue on 31 May.
 9. The text of the agreement will now be finalised for its adoption in the upcoming months so that public sector bodies and citizens can quickly start benefitting from the scheme.
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