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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States **(first reading)**

- Adoption of the legislative act
- = Statement

Statement by the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom acknowledges the importance of the PRIMA initiative to the Euro-Mediterranean region and that the topic of food security, which is the current focus of PRIMA, is pertinent both to the Euro-Mediterranean region itself and to the wider world.

We acknowledge the opportunity for developing better research and innovation links with the participating countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region and in particular with Southern Neighbourhood countries.

However the UK is concerned about the potential for the PRIMA initiative to set a precedent for the allocation of EU research and innovation funding on the basis of geography rather than excellence. We believe that excellence should be the main criterion for the allocation of Horizon 2020 funding. The UK has therefore abstained from this decision.