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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council (ECOFIN)
Subject: European Semester: Council Recommendations on the National Reform Programmes 2017 to each Member State and draft Council Opinions on the updated Stability or Convergence Programmes
= Adoption

Under the European Semester 2017, the Commission submitted to the Council on 22 May, for 27 Member States, a Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the National Reform Programme 2017, and delivering a Council Opinion on the updated Stability or Convergence Programme.

These recommendations combine economic and employment recommendations, based on Articles 121(2) and 148(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), with Council opinions on stability and convergence programmes, based on Articles 5(2) and 9(2) of Regulation 1466/97, and, in certain cases, with recommendations on the preventive part of the macroeconomic imbalances procedure under Article 6(1) of Regulation 1176/2011.

These draft recommendations were approved by EPSCO on 15 June, regarding the employment and social aspects, and by ECOFIN on 16 June, as regards the economic/financial and MIP-related aspects. The draft recommendations were generally endorsed by the European Council on 22-23 June.

The ECOFIN Council is invited to proceed on 11 July to the formal adoption of the texts set out in the annex of document 9281/2/17 REV 2, and of the explanations of modifications to Commission Recommendations for the Country-Specific Recommendations ("Comply or explain note") set out in document 9564/17.

Bearing in mind that recommendations falling within the scope of Article 148(4) TFEU form an integral part of the country specific recommendations and that their content is inextricably linked to that corresponding to the Stability and Growth pact, the procedure under Article 121(2) TFEU should apply to both parts of the recommendations.
