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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol = Information from the UK delegation

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the UK delegation on the above subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 13 October 2017.

Ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol**- Information from the UK delegation -**

The UN Montreal Protocol is the treaty to protect the ozone layer. It has phased out most ozone depleting substances which have been replaced in many cases by hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which do not damage the ozone layer but are still powerful greenhouse gases. Last October, agreement was reached to amend the Protocol to phase down HFCs globally by around 85% by the mid-2040s. This could avoid up to 0.5 degrees Celsius of global warming by the end of the century, making a major contribution to the Paris climate goal of a 2 degree limit.

The Kigali amendment will come into force in 2019 as long as at least 20 countries have ratified by then. The 30th anniversary Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol takes place this November, and the Canadians, who are hosting the meeting, are urging as many as possible to ratify by then.

Maintaining international momentum on climate change is crucial, in particular ahead of the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. The UK would like to draw attention to the opportunity for continued European leadership on this important issue and recall the need for ratification ahead of the November deadline.
