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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

Subject: Draft Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, with regard to proposals from various Parties to the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals for amendments to the Appendices to the Convention at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

- Adoption
- = Statements

Statement by the Kingdom of Spain and by the Republic of Portugal on the inclusion of the blue shark (*prionace glauca*) in Annex II to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

"Spain and Portugal support the proposal for a Decision to include new species in Annex II to the Convention on Migratory Species, which guarantees the protection of unique species which are a priority for Spain and Portugal, such as the lesser grey shrike, as well as other species whose conservation may be under threat. However, Spain and Portugal do not consider it necessary to include the blue shark within this group of species, given the good conservation status of this resource and the good work done by the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations in support of it. As an example, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) has adopted management measures, including catch limits, data collection and research commitments, which ensure that this resource continues to be exploited responsibly, and therefore its inclusion in Annex II will not lead to a significant improvement in the management of its populations. Moreover, in Spain and Portugal's opinion the inclusion of this species could send a contradictory message as regards other shark populations with different management needs."