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'A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: 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

1. The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (the Convention) aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. The EU has been a Party to the Convention since 1 November 1983. The 28 EU Member States are also Parties.
2. The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the decision-making body of the Convention with powers to assess the conservation status of migratory species and, subsequently, to amend Appendices I and II to the Convention which list the migratory species to be conserved. In accordance with Article XI of the Convention, proposals for amendment to the Appendices may be made by any Party.

3. With a view to the twelfth meeting of the COP, which will take place in Manila, the Philippines, on 23-28 October 2017, Parties to the Convention have presented proposals to give protection to several additional species by amending the Appendices to the Convention. Two of these proposals have been made by the EU. ¹
4. On 28 August 2017, the Council received the Commission's proposal ² for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, at the twelfth meeting of the COP with regard to proposals from various Parties to the Convention for amending Appendices I and II.
5. The Working Party on International Environment Issues (WPIEI / Biodiversity) and Working Party on the Environment (WPE) considered the Commission's proposal for a Council Decision at their meetings on 7 and 22 September, respectively. Based on discussions held at these meetings and on delegations' comments, the Presidency prepared a draft Council Decision. After an informal silence procedure that ended on 29 September, the WPE agreed with the draft Council Decision.
6. Spain and Portugal made a statement to be inserted in the minutes of the Council.
7. The Permanent Representatives Committee is, therefore, invited to recommend to the Council to:
 - a) adopt, by qualified majority with the United Kingdom abstaining, the draft Council Decision set out in document 12766/17 (text finalised by the Jurist-Linguists) as an "A" item in the agenda of one of its forthcoming sessions;

¹ Council Decision authorising the Commission to propose, on behalf of the Union, an amendment of Appendix II to the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals with a view to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (doc. 8856/17).

² Doc. 11770/17 - COM(2017) 455 final.

- b) decide that the statement by Spain and Portugal in the Addendum to this note be entered in the minutes of that meeting, and
 - c) decide to inform the European Parliament of the adoption.
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