



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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"A" ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

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Subject: Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union at the International Maritime Organization during the 66th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee on the adoption of amendments to MARPOL Annex VI concerning the delay of the Tier III NOx emission standards

- Decision not to work further on the Commission proposal

Delegations will find attached a statement by the Commission to the minutes of the TTE Council of 14 March 2014.

STATEMENT BY THE COMMISSION

**in relation to the draft Council decision for an IMO MEPC66 position on
the postponement of the entry into force of NOx emission standards**

The Commission notes that its proposal has not been formally rejected.

It recalls that following corresponding coordination in view of MEPC 58 (ref. Working Document 2008/88 Rev1 of the Council Shipping Working Party), Member States had unanimously voted in favour of the current time limit of 2016 in Annex VI to Marpol.

The Commission considers that maintaining the initial time limit is in line with the Union's objectives of a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment.

During MEPC 66, IMO Member States parties to MARPOL Annex VI will need to vote on whether the time limit for the Tier III Nox emission standards, laid down in Marpol Annex VI, should be postponed from 2016 to 2021.

The Commission recalls that in line with ECJ jurisprudence, its proposal represents the point of departure for concerted Union action, underlines that Member States must act in accordance with the position presented in that proposal and that they are bound by the duty of sincere cooperation under Article 4(3) TEU.
