



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 20 March 2014

8024/14

CSC 67

“I/A” ITEM NOTE

From: Council Security Committee
To: COREPER/Council
Subject: Amendment of Appendix B to the Council Security Rules

1. The UK has recently notified all members of the Council Security Committee and the General Secretariat of the Council of changes concerning its national security classifications. From April 2014 the UK is adopting a new three tier classification policy of "OFFICIAL", "SECRET" and "TOP SECRET".
2. The main change in the new policy is that the UK is consolidating its national "UNCLASSIFIED", "RESTRICTED" and some "CONFIDENTIAL" information into the single "OFFICIAL" tier. Particularly sensitive information within "OFFICIAL" will attract a caveat "SENSITIVE". The UK will use this when exchanging such information with other Member States and international partners so that they may distinguish that it is required to be treated in their systems as "RESTRICTED" rather than unclassified/non-classified information. As for "CONFIDENTIAL" classified information provided by other Member States or international partners to the UK, it will be protected as "SECRET" under the UK classification policy.

3. Accordingly, Appendix B (table of equivalence of security classifications) to Council Decision 2013/488/EU of 23 September 2013 on the security rules for protecting classified information¹ needs to be modified.
4. The UK will also make the necessary formal notification pursuant to Article 3(3) of the intergovernmental agreement (doc. 13886/09) once it enters into force.
5. On 21 February 2014, the Council Security Committee reached agreement on the draft Council Decision amending Appendix B to Council Decision 2013/488/EU.
6. In the light of the above, COREPER is invited to recommend that the Council adopt the Council Decision amending Council Decision 2013/488/EU adopting the Council's security rules, as set out in doc. 7288/14, after finalisation of the text by legal linguistic experts.

² OJ L 274, 15.10.2013, p. 1