



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 21 March 2014
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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	8173/12 ENV 242 MAR 33 TRANS 101 COMER 71 - COM(2012) 120 final
Subject:	Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the ratification of, or the accession to, the Honk Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009, by the Member States in the interest of the European Union
	- Adoption of Council Decision

1. On 15 May 2009, the Hong Kong Convention for the Safe and Sound Recycling of Ships (Hong Kong Convention) was adopted. It needs to be ratified by a sufficient number of both large flag and recycling States in order to enter into force and start producing effects. The Union cannot become a Party to this Convention.
2. At its meeting of 21 October 2009, the Council endorsed the adoption of the Hong Kong Convention and strongly encouraged Member States to ratify the Convention as a matter of priority so as to facilitate its entry into force as early as possible and to generate a real and effective change on the ground.

3. The Commission submitted the abovementioned proposal to Council on 23 March 2012.
4. The Council, on 18 December 2013, requested the consent of the European Parliament on the text of the draft Decision as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts (doc. 15902/13 ENV 1038 MAR 170 TRANS 567 COMER 259), with a view to the later adoption of the Council Decision.
5. At its Plenary meeting on 13 March 2014, the European Parliament gave its consent to the Decision.
6. Consequently, the Committee of Permanent Representatives is invited to suggest that the Council,
 - as an "A" item at a forthcoming session, adopt its Decision concerning the ratification of, or the accession to, the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009, by the Member States in the interests of the European Union as set out in doc. 15902/13 ENV 1038 MAR 170 TRANS 567 COMER 259, with the delegations of Germany, Luxemburg, the Netherlands and United Kingdom voting against;
 - order that the statements of AT, CZ, DE, HU, NL, RO, SI, SK and UK in the addendum to this note be entered in the minutes of that meeting.
