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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
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Subject:	Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic carrier bags - Optional consultation of the Committee of the Regions ¹

1. On 5 November 2013 the Commission submitted to the Council the abovementioned proposal, based on Article 114 TFEU.
2. The proposal, introduces in Directive 94/62/EC the obligation for all Member States to reduce the consumption of lightweight plastic bags, while allowing for the choice of national reduction targets and the measures to achieve those targets. It is therefore likely to have a wide and differentiated impact, including at sub-national level.

¹ The sole purpose of this note is to decide on the consultation of another institution/body and not on the substance.

3. Article 114 TFEU provides for the European Parliament and for the Council to act in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee. Thus, in principle, the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions is not required. However, taking into account the subject matter of the Commission's proposal, it would appear appropriate to also consult the Committee of the Regions on the present proposal.

4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to decide, in accordance with Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to consult the Committee of the Regions on the above proposal and to request it to give its opinion as soon as possible.
