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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council

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Subject: Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EC) No 219/2007 on the establishment of a Joint Undertaking to develop the new generation European air traffic management system (SESAR) as regards the extension of the Joint Undertaking until 2024
- Adoption

1. The objective of SESAR (Single European Sky ATM Research) Programme is to develop the new generation of air traffic management in Europe. It constitutes the technological element of the Single European Sky. The SESAR Joint Undertaking (SESAR JU) was established in 2007 and was tasked with managing the SESAR Programme's development phase, as well as with the execution of the European Air Traffic Management Master Plan (ATM Master Plan).

2. On 10 July 2013, the Commission submitted the above proposal to the Council, seeking to extend the duration of the SESAR JU from 2016 until 2024. The proposal takes into account that the execution of the ATM Master Plan still requires coordinated development and validation activities, and updates the indicative budgetary amount, to be earmarked under the Union's Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020).
3. On 2 September 2013, in accordance with Article 187 and 188 of the Treaty on the Functioning of European Union (TFEU), the Council sent two letters of consultation to the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.
4. On 10 October 2013, the Council adopted its position on the new Regulation for the extension of the mandate of the SESAR Joint Undertaking (doc. 14302/13). On 10 December 2013, the Economic and Social Committee issued its opinion on the proposal.
5. In the framework of research and innovation policy, the European Parliament and the Council negotiated a final agreement on several proposals in the so-called "Innovation Investment Package" (IIP). The package consisted of nine legislative proposals, among which five proposals for Joint Undertakings based on Article 187 and 188 of the TFEU were examined, including the proposal for the SESAR JU. The agreement reached between Council and the European Parliament on the IIP was endorsed by Coreper on 26 February 2014 (doc. 6722/14 and doc. 6722/14 ADD 5). On 15 April 2014, the European Parliament voted in plenary on the SESAR JU proposal (doc. 9158/14).
6. In the light of the above-mentioned agreement reached on the innovation investment package, the Working Party on Aviation re-examined the text of the Council position on the draft SESAR JU Regulation, and made some further adjustments to the proposal. The text, which has now been finalised by the legal linguistic services, appears in doc. 9391/14.

7. Following the examination of the text, the Committee of the Permanent Representatives could invite the Council to:

- adopt, as an "A" item, the revised version of the draft Regulation at one of its forthcoming meetings; and
 - take note of the statement by the Czech Republic in Annex to this Note, and include it in its minutes.
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Statement by the Czech Republic

"The Czech Republic supports initiatives in view of achieving European system of new generation in air traffic management. However, the Czech Republic regrets that the final text of the proposed Council Regulation is going beyond the agreed extension of the mandate of the SESAR Joint Undertaking and stresses the SESAR JU revised working programme, which will be approved by the Administrative Board at the end of June 2014, must be completed and cover all activities of the Step 2 and Step 3 of the ATM Master Plan."
