



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 8 September 2014

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CSC 195

## RECOMMENDATION

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from: Council Security Committee (CSC)

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Subject: Consistency in the use of EUCI classification markings

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### Introduction

1. Following an examination of classification markings used by all EU agencies and bodies handling EUCI, the Council Security Committee noted a great variety of languages used, EU/UE designators and originator identifiers. Moreover, the CSC also noted that the wording of the markings of sensitive non-classified information used by the EU agencies and bodies often creates confusion with EU classification markings.
2. When the Council's security rules for protecting EUCI were revised in 2013, the Council, the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy underlined the need for a comprehensive and coherent general framework within the EU for the protection of classified information expressed in the *Declaration (for the Council minutes) on the protection and handling of classified information*<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 12433/13 ADD 1.

3. The Council, the Commission and the High Representative also agreed a declaration stating that they will endeavour to ensure maximum consistency in the application of security rules regarding the protection of EUCI by them by EU agencies and bodies. In particular, the Council and the Commission will ensure that, where such EU agencies and bodies [...] are established, the entity in question applies a level of protection for creating and managing classified information which is equivalent to that afforded by the security rules of the Council or the Commission, as appropriate. The GSC Security Office and the Commission's Security Directorate are available to provide guidance when requested regarding implementation of the Council's or the Commission's security rules in the internal organisation of such agencies and bodies.

### **Recommendation on EUCI markings**

4. In the light of a detailed examination of the situation regarding the use of classification markings, EU/UE designators and originator's identifiers, the Council Security Committee recommends that stakeholders should take all possible steps to the effect that EU classified information created in accordance with the applicable security rules is marked in a consistent way so that it is identifiable as such among the EU family. This includes using standard bilingual EUCI markings accompanied by the EU/UE designator (to indicate it is EUCI) and, where necessary, an originator identifier.
5. All stakeholders should also ensure that markings used in confidentiality rules governing handling of sensitive non-classified information must be sufficiently different to avoid any misleading confusion with EUCI classification markings.
6. The Security Committee is of the opinion that harmonisation of EUCI classification markings will bring practical benefits by ensuring the correct identification and handling of EUCI by all holders and helping to distinguish EUCI from sensitive non-classified information.