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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations (**first reading**)
- Adoption of the legislative act (**LA + S**)
= Statements

Statement by the Netherlands

- regarding the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations, and

- the proposal for an amendment to the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 as regards the financing of European political parties.

The Netherlands considers the current proposal as a significant improvement compared to the original proposal of September 2012.

Despite this, the Netherlands has strong fundamental objections against the assessment of the EU's values in the process of registration and verification of the European political parties. The Netherlands attaches great value to the independent position of political parties. The Netherlands is of the opinion that it is primarily up to the voters and secondarily to the judiciary to assess the programme and activities of political parties. Such an assessment should not be part of the registration and verification process.

Therefore, the Netherlands will vote against the proposals concerned.

Déclaration de la Belgique

Quoique favorable au développement d'un espace politique européen et au renforcement des partis politiques européens, la Belgique ne peut se rallier au projet de règlement soumis par la présidence au Conseil pour adoption.

La Belgique regrette l'incertitude qui, aux termes des articles 17 et 18, subsiste quant aux répercussions que pourraient avoir les campagnes menées par les partis politiques européens dans le contexte des élections européennes sur l'application des législations nationales relatives aux dépenses électorales.. Elle rappelle qu'aux termes de l'Acte du 20 septembre 1976 portant élection des membres du Parlement européen au suffrage universel direct, la procédure électorale reste régie, dans chaque État membre, par les dispositions nationales.

La Belgique ne peut par ailleurs accepter le rehaussement à 18.000 € du plafond des dons admissibles.

Statement by Italy, Portugal and Slovakia

While acknowledging the importance of adopting the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the statute and funding of European Political Parties and European Political Foundations within the current legislature, Italy, Portugal and Slovakia would like to express their concerns over the composition of the “Authority” foreseen in Article 5a which as it stands in the text to be proposed to the European Parliament is placed in the hands of one single person.

Italy, Portugal and Slovakia believe that such a composition is not consistent with the highly sensitive decisions the Authority is going to be entrusted with, which include: a) registration/de-registration of European political parties and European Political Foundations as foreseen by Articles 5a, 5b, 6a, 7, 22 (1); b) imposing financial sanctions on European political parties and European Political Foundations in the cases foreseen by Article 22 (2). Italy, Portugal and Slovakia observe that such a solution represents a major shift with respect to the current discipline of Regulation 2004/2003 where such responsibilities, far from being conferred upon a single person, are entrusted to the European Parliament.

In particular, Italy, Portugal and Slovakia would like to express their deep concern over the lack of adequate checks and balances for the hypothesis that the “Authority”- contrary to the opinion of the Committee of independent eminent Persons foreseen in article 7a - decides not to de-register a EPP/EPF which would have been found in breach of the values on which the European Union is founded as referred in articles 3(1)(c) and 3(2)(c).