



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 3 November 2014

15057/14

CSC 236

**“/A” ITEM NOTE**

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From: The Council Security Committee  
To: COREPER/Council

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Subject: Declaration by the Council on the role of the Council Security Committee in ensuring consistency within the Council on matters relating to the protection of classified information  
- Adoption of the declaration

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1. On 23 September 2013, the Council adopted the Decision on the security rules for protecting EU classified information<sup>1</sup>. Article 17(1) of that Decision provides that: "[the Security Committee] shall examine and assess any security matter within the scope of this Decision and make recommendations to the Council as appropriate."
2. With a view to ensuring consistency in all legal acts by the Council which relate to protecting EU classified information and given the existence of cases where the Council Security Committee had only been informed at a very late stage, it would be appropriate to reinforce the application of this provision by requiring that the Security Committee issues recommendations prior to any decisions by the Council on matters relating to the protection of EU classified information.

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<sup>1</sup> 2013/488/EU of 23 September 2013, OJ L 274, 12.10.2013, p. 1

3. On 23 September 2014, the Council Security Committee accordingly agreed on the draft Declaration in the annex on the role of the Council Security Committee in ensuring consistency within the Council on matters relating to the protection of classification information. The Committee noted that the GSC is also taking practical steps to ensure that the Security Committee is notified in due time of legal acts under discussion in the Council preparatory bodies.
  
  4. In the light of above and subject to confirmation by COREPER, the Council is invited to adopt the draft declaration as set out in the Annex to this note.
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**Declaration by the Council on the role of the Council Security Committee  
in ensuring consistency within the Council on matters relating to  
the protection of classified information**

The Council requests COREPER to ensure that the Council Security Committee is consulted on any legal act containing provisions on the protection of classified information prior to its adoption by the Council in order to help ensure consistency of application of the Council's security rules.

The Council notes that the Council Security Committee will take all practical steps to issue recommendations as expeditiously as possible, including, where appropriate, by developing standardised provisions for certain types of acts, particularly where rapid decisions need to be taken by the Council.