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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Council

Subject: **Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on package travel and assisted travel arrangements, amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004, Directive 2011/83/EU and repealing Council Directive 90/314/EEC (First reading)**
- Note by the Presidency with a view to reaching a general approach

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 9 July 2013, the European Commission submitted the above-mentioned proposal based on Article 114 of the Treaty, as well as a communication on "Bringing the EU package travel rules into the digital age".

2. The existing Directive, adopted in 1990, created rights for travellers purchasing package holidays, typically consisting of passenger transport and accommodation. However, back in 1990 the travel market was much simpler and on-line sales did not exist. That being the case, the Commission considers that it remains unclear to what extent modern ways of combining travel services are covered by the existing Directive and it has highlighted significant differences in the legislation of the Member States due to the minimum harmonisation approach.
3. The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading on 12 March 2014. The current European Parliament appointed in November 2014 Ms. Birgit COLLIN-LANGEN (PPE/DE) as rapporteur.

II. STATE OF PLAY

4. The examination of the proposal by the Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information started in September 2013 and has since continued uninterrupted.
5. A progress report was presented to the Council (Competitiveness) on 26 May 2014. Based on that progress report which identified the scope, insolvency protection as well as the level of harmonisation as the main outstanding issues, the Presidency stepped up efforts to reach an agreement on a general approach before the end of this year.
6. The Working Party on several occasions discussed the main issues and was able to find compromise which was presented to the Permanent Representatives Committee on 26 November 2014 to pave the way for a general approach at the forthcoming Competitiveness Council.
7. The Presidency compromise text as set out in document 15951/14 INIT was discussed at the Permanent Representatives Committee on 26 November 2014 which agreed to submit it for a general approach to the Competitiveness Council on 4 December 2014. However, 8 delegations (BE, CZ, DE, EE, MT, NL, RO and SK) indicated that they can not agree to the text proposed by the Presidency.

III. CONCLUSION

8. In the light of the above, the Council (Competitiveness) is invited to confirm the agreement on the general approach on the basis of the Presidency compromise as set out in document 16054/14, and invites the Presidency to start negotiations with the European Parliament on the basis of this general approach, with a view to reaching an agreement at second reading.
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