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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: Working Party on Information
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
No. prev. doc.: 15686/14 INF 333
Subject: Communicating Europe - Communication priorities for 2015-2016

INTRODUCTION

1. In their political declaration on "Communicating Europe in Partnership" ⁽¹⁾ of 22 October 2008, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission expressed the common wish to encourage the convergence of views on the communication priorities of the European Union as a whole.
2. At its meetings on 17 October and 28 November 2014, the Working Party on Information (WPI) discussed the possible communication priorities for 2015-2016 on the basis of a proposal made by the Italian Presidency ⁽²⁾ which draws inspiration from the strategic agenda approved by the European Council in June 2014 ⁽³⁾ as well as from the 18-month Trio Programme ⁽⁴⁾ and the priorities of the current semester.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 13, 20.1.2009, p. 3.

⁽²⁾ docs 14055/14 INF 289 and 15686/14 INF 333

⁽³⁾ doc. EUCO 79/14.

⁽⁴⁾ doc. 10948/1/14 REV 1

3. At the abovementioned meetings of the WPI, delegations reached agreement on the following themes as communication priorities for the next two years:
 - a. EU's support to foster sustainable growth, innovation, competitiveness and employment;
 - b. Freedom, security and justice (including "immigration/integration", with due attention to sustainable and coordinated policies);
 - c. Energy and climate change;
 - d. EU's role in the world, with focus on contribution to the neighbourhood's stability. Communication on this topic will also include the European Year of Development (EYD) 2015, having regard to its transversal character and the unanimous engagement of all Member States in the implementation of the Year.

4. Following the Council's adoption of the above-mentioned communication priorities, the Council's position should be discussed with the European Parliament and the Commission with a view to political endorsement of joint communication priorities for 2015-2016 by the Inter-institutional Group on Information (IGI).

CONCLUSION

5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
 - a. confirm delegations' agreement on the abovementioned list of communication priorities ensuing from the debate within the WPI;
 - b. recommend that the Council endorses it as an "A" item at one of its next meetings.