



Brussels, 9 December 2014
(OR. en)

16682/14

FIN 985
INST 615

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: New draft budget for 2015
- *Information to national Parliaments*

1. On 28 November 2014, the Commission submitted to the Council a new draft budget for 2015 on the basis of Article 314(8) of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union.
2. In order to allow the Council to adopt a position on the new draft budget for 2015¹ as soon as possible, with a view to a budget being definitively adopted before the beginning of the financial year 2015, the Council has to decide, considering the urgency of the matter, to shorten, in accordance with Article 3(3) of its Rules of Procedure, the eight-week period, as well as the ten-day period laid down in Article 4 of Protocol No 1 on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union.

¹ The Council's position on the new draft budget for 2015 shall contain a recital stating that "*given the need to adopt a Council position on the new draft budget as soon as possible with a view to a budget being definitively adopted before the beginning of the financial year 2015, thus ensuring the continuity of the Union's action, it is justified to shorten, in accordance with Article 3(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, the eight-week period for the information of national Parliaments, as well as the ten-day period foreseen for placing the item on the Council's provisional agenda laid down in Article 4 of Protocol No 1.*"

3. National Parliaments have to be informed thereof.
 4. Accordingly, the Permanent Representatives Committee is requested to suggest that the Council:
 - decide, on the basis of Article 3(3) of its Rules of Procedure, to shorten the eight-week period for the information of national Parliaments, as well as the ten-day period foreseen for placing the matter on the Council's provisional agenda laid down in Article 4 of Protocol No 1 on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union;
 - approve the attached communication to be addressed to national Parliaments by the General Secretariat of the Council.
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DRAFT COMMUNICATION

To: National Parliaments

As you know, the Conciliation Committee convened in the framework of the budgetary procedure¹ could not reach an agreement on the draft budget for 2015 submitted by the Commission on 25 June 2014. This has led to a new draft budget being submitted by the Commission on 28 November 2014 on the basis of Article 314(8) of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union.

The Council considers that there is a chance to avoid the major disruption in the activities of the European Union that the absence of an EU budget would entail as from 1 January 2015, provided that very swift action is taken by all actors. In this perspective, the Council wishes to inform national Parliaments that, in accordance with Article 3(3) of its Rules of procedure, it has to shorten the eight-week period, as well as the ten-day period laid down in Article 4 of Protocol No 1 on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union, in order to be able to adopt a position on the new draft budget for 2015 in a timely manner.

The Council trusts that the urgency of the matter will be widely understood and shared by national Parliaments.

(complementary close)

¹ See Article 314(5) TFEU.