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European Union

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"A" ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Commission's Annual Work Programme 2015 = Draft Council conclusions

On 16 December 2014, the Commission presented its Communication entitled "Commission Work Programme 2015 : A New Start"¹.

In response to this Communication, the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part II) examined on 5 February 2015 a set of draft Council conclusions tabled by the Presidency. Following these discussions, unanimous agreement has been reached on the text contained in the annex to this note.

The Council (General Affairs) is therefore invited to adopt these conclusions under the "A" items in its session of 10 February 2015.

¹ 5080/15 POLGEN 4

Commission's Annual Work Programme 2015**Draft Council Conclusions**

1. The Council welcomes the Commission's 2015 Work Programme and the dialogue with the Commission both in the run-up to its adoption and on the adopted programme. The Council looks forward to strengthening the process in view of the 2016 Work Programme, while respecting the Commission's right of initiative. In this context, the timely submission of a detailed Commission letter of intent will be a key step in a strengthened dialogue between the Council and the Commission on work ahead.
 2. The Council welcomes the focus of the Commission's 2015 Work Programme on a set of well-targeted priority initiatives broadly reflecting the Strategic Agenda. It looks forward to the submission of concrete proposals in 2015, to which it will devote its full attention.
 3. The Council takes note of the list of envisaged withdrawals and modifications, while recalling its role and the role of its Presidency in setting the agenda and organizing legislative work in the Council. The Commission's approach of thoroughly reviewing the relevance of pending proposals is in line with the general objective of better regulation, despite possible divergences of view on specific legislative files. The Council encourages the Commission to apply the same approach in future Annual Work Programmes and to engage in timely consultations with the co-legislators to that end, in order to ensure that strategic priorities are respected.
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