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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Proposal for a Council Decision authorising Member States to sign and/or ratify, in the interest of the European Union, the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel, 1995, of the International Maritime Organisation
- Adoption

INTRODUCTION

1. On 20 August 2013, the Commission submitted this proposal to the Council.
2. The proposal aims at authorising Member States to become parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F Convention).

3. The STCW-F Convention was elaborated under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and adopted in 1995. It entered into force in 2012. The STCW-F Convention is the first attempt to make standards of safety for crews of fishing vessels mandatory internationally.
4. Four EU Member States have already acceded to the STCW-F Convention (Denmark, Spain, Latvia and Lithuania).
5. According to the Commission, some parts of the STCW-F Convention fall within the exclusive competence of the Union on the mutual recognition of qualifications, held by certain categories of fishing vessel personnel, and affect Treaty provisions and secondary Union law, in particular Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council¹. Therefore, Member States need to be authorised by the Council to become parties to the STCW-F Convention.

Work within the Council

6. The proposal was first dealt with in the Working Party on Establishment and Services in October 2013, under the Lithuanian Presidency.
7. Under the Hellenic Presidency, the proposal was transferred to the Shipping Working Party on the request of a number of delegations.
8. The Shipping Working Party examined the proposal at several meetings during the Hellenic and Italian Presidencies.
9. On 3 December 2014, the Council agreed in principle on the draft Council decision and decided to transmit it to the European Parliament for consent.

¹ Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications (OJ L 255, 30.9.2005, p. 22).

10. Greece, Romania and the Commission entered statements to the Council minutes at that occasion².
11. On 17 December 2014, the draft Council Decision was transmitted to the European Parliament for its consent.

Work within the European Parliament

12. The responsible Parliament committee, the Committee for Employment and Social Affairs, appointed Ms Sofia Ribeiro (EPP-PT) as rapporteur.
13. On 28 April 2015, the European Parliament decided to give its consent to the draft Council Decision.

CONCLUSION

14. The Permanent Representatives Committee/Council are invited to adopt the Decision as set out in document 15528/1/14 REV 1, prepared by the legal-linguistic experts.

² Doc. 15863/14 ADD 1 and ADD 2.