



**Brussels, 15 June 2015**

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FIN 416**

**“/A” ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat  
To: COREPER (Part 2)/Council  
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Subject: Council Decision concerning the rules applicable to experts on secondment to the General Secretariat of the Council and repealing Decision 2007/829/EC  
- Adoption

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1. On 21 April 2015, the Secretary-General of the Council approved the text of a new draft Council Decision 2015 concerning the rules applicable to national experts on secondment to the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) and repealing Decision 2007/829/EC<sup>1</sup> (ST 8023/15). The draft Council Decision is based on Article 240(2) TFEU and adoption by the Council only requires a simple majority.

2. The main underlying reason for proposing new rules was to ensure coherence with the institutional changes following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and to modernise the legal framework of secondment, including the rights and obligations of the seconded experts, in line with the amended provisions of the Staff Regulations of EU officials and the associated implementing provisions within the GSC.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Decision of 5 December 2007 concerning the rules applicable to national experts and military staff on secondment to the General Secretariat of the Council and repealing Decision 2003/479/EC, OJ L 327, 13.12.2007, p. 10.

3. The Latvian Presidency of the Council agreed to the submission of the text for examination to the Council Working Party on Staff Regulations (WPSR).

4. Delegations examined the text at the WPSR meetings on 28 April, 21 May and finally on 9 June 2015. The comments submitted during and after the meetings allowed, *inter-alia*, the clarification of the scope of the new Council Decision by extending it to new categories beyond the well-known concept of "seconded national experts", including cost-free secondments from national administrations and other public bodies in EU Member States as well as from public inter-governmental organisations. These secondments serve the interests of the European Council and of the Council, as they evolve over time and also facilitate the exchange of experience and the transfer of specific knowledge.

5. The UK delegation maintains a general parliamentary scrutiny reservation.

6. Against this background, COREPER is invited to confirm its agreement to the draft Council Decision, and to submit it to the Council for adoption (on the basis of all language versions to be finalised by the lawyer-linguists on 19 June 2015 under ST 9256/15).