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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. Cion doc.:	11845/15 ASIM 81 COWEB 86 CODEC 1171 + ADD 1
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an EU common list of safe countries of origin for the purposes of Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection, and amending Directive 2013/32/EU - Optional consultation of the European Economic and Social Committee and of the Committee of the Regions

1. On 9 September 2015, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an EU common list of safe countries of origin for the purposes of Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection, and amending Directive 2013/32/EU (doc. 11845/15).
2. The proposal, which is based on Article 78(2)(d) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, does not require the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee and of the Committee of the Regions. Nevertheless, the Commission proposes to consult these bodies.

3. In view of the subject matter of the proposal, it is deemed appropriate to consult these Committees.
 4. Coreper is therefore invited to decide, pursuant to Articles 304 and 307 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and to Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to consult the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the above mentioned proposal, and to request the Committees to give their opinion as soon as possible.
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