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CORDROGUE 83

"I" ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
No. prev. doc.:	DS 1369/4/15 REV 4
Subject:	EU common position on UNGASS 2016

1. In December 2012, the General Assembly resolution (67/193) on "International Cooperation against the World Drug problem" decided to convene in early 2016 a Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the World Drug problem (UNGASS) to review the progress made in the implementation of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. It was decided that the UNGASS 2016 will be held on 19-21 April 2016 in New York.
2. In its resolution 68/197, the General Assembly requested the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), as the United Nations organ with prime responsibility for drug control matters, to engage in the preparatory process for the special session CND to engage in the preparatory process. In its resolution 69/200, the General Assembly decided that the Commission, as the central policymaking body within the United Nations system dealing with drug-related matters, should lead this process by addressing all organizational and substantive matters in an open-ended manner.

3. It was also decided that the preparations for the forthcoming UNGASS 2016 will be conducted through the CND sessions, inter-sessional meetings and informal meetings in Vienna.
4. By adopting the EU Drugs Strategy 2013-2020 and the Action Plan, notably the Action 42, it has been agreed that the EU should contribute to shaping the agenda on international drugs policy and should speak with one strong voice in international fora. In this context on 3 July 2015 the Presidency submitted a draft EU common position outlining the priorities and operational recommendations which the EU could advocate and promote during UNGASS 2016 and beyond (doc. DS 1369/15), prepared on the basis of the discussion held at June 2015 HDG meeting (doc. DS 1354/15). The draft EU common position was discussed at the HDG meetings on 9-10 July 2015, 3-4 September 2015, 7-8 October 2015, 3-4 November 2015 and subsequently endorsed through a silence procedure on 6 November 2015.
5. Consequently, COREPER is invited to endorse the text of the EU common position on UNGASS 2016, outlined in doc. ST 13795/15 which will also be the basis for the EU statements at the reconvened 58th CND session in December 2015 (and will be used as a written annex to the oral EU statement), 59th CND session and UNGASS 2016 itself.
