



**Brussels, 30 November 2015
(OR. en)**

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

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

Subject: Authorization to the Commission to sign the Joint Declaration of the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)

1. On 23 November 2015, the Commission submitted to the Council the text of the Joint Declaration of the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)¹ it intends to sign on behalf of the EU in the margin of the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change. The declaration aims at addressing the challenges of deforestation and forest degradation to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss, on which the Council has adopted a number of Conclusions².

¹ See doc. 14732/15.

² Council Conclusions on "addressing the challenges of deforestation and forest degradation to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss", Brussels, 4 December 2008.
Council Conclusions on "A new EU Forest Strategy: for forests and forest-based sector" Brussels, 19 May 2014
Council conclusions on "a transformative post-2015 agenda", General Affairs Council meeting, Brussels, 16 December 2014.
Council conclusions on "An effective post -2015 international arrangement on forests", Brussels 20 April 2015

2. The Working Party on Forestry considered through an informal written procedure that there are no objections to the authorization to the Commission to sign the CAFE declaration.
 3. The Working Party of Agricultural Counsellors/Attachés confirmed on 30 November 2015 its support to the authorization to the Commission to sign the CAFE declaration.
 4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited:
 - to confirm the agreement reached at Working Party level, and
 - to suggest the Council to confirm, as an "A" item of the agenda of one of its forthcoming meetings, that it authorizes the Commission to sign the Declaration of the Central African Forest Initiative, as set out in doc. 14732/15.
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