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#### 'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

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Subject: Draft Council conclusions on the EU and its Member States' medium-term priorities for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
*- Adoption*

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1. In the second half of 2017, under the Estonian Presidency, the Coordination Working Party (FAO) started discussions aimed at developing a strategic medium-term vision of the EU and its Member States for the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO). Delegations agreed that developing such a vision was particularly important with a view to the election of the new Director-General of the FAO scheduled for June 2019.<sup>1</sup>
2. In the first half of 2018, the Bulgarian Presidency took discussions on this issue forward and tabled a draft text for Council conclusions, which was discussed in detail at four successive Working Party meetings,<sup>2</sup> in parallel with an extensive written consultation process.

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<sup>1</sup> In parallel to the discussions on the strategic vision for the FAO, the Working Party also started discussions on a strategic and coordinated approach aimed at identifying a 'single EU candidate' for the 2019 election of FAO's new DG.

<sup>2</sup> 14 February, 2 March, 5 May and 25 May 2018.

3. In the context of the above discussions, delegations acknowledged in particular that the FAO, as a global knowledge-based organization within the UN system, had a key role to play in advancing the global sustainability and climate agenda in relation to agriculture, forestry, fisheries, as well as food security and nutrition. They also stressed that the FAO had to ensure that adequate and appropriate technical expertise was available at its headquarters in Rome and at the FAO's decentralised offices, and that continued efforts were needed to ensure that the FAO is an efficient, effective and transparent organization that is fit for purpose in the wider UN system. Finally, with regard to the cooperation with the FAO, delegations highlighted the essential contribution which the EU and its Member States make to the FAO's work in all its dimensions, including as prime contributors to the overall FAO budget, and committed themselves to continuing to actively support the FAO in its core mandate and in its standard-setting and normative activities.
4. At its meeting on 25 May 2018, the Working Party reached an agreement on the final text of the draft Council Conclusions<sup>3</sup>.
5. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to confirm the agreement reached by the Working Party and to recommend that the Council adopt, at its forthcoming session on 18 June 2018 as an "A" item on the agenda, the conclusions as set out in the doc. 9469/18 ADD 1.

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<sup>3</sup> WK 13797/17.