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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

Subject: Draft Council conclusions on stepping up the fight against illegally traded tobacco products in the EU

1. At its meeting on 13 July 2017, the CCWP started to identify the topics to be addressed in the draft Council conclusions that the Presidency intended to prepare on the Progress report on the implementation of the Commission Communication "Stepping up the fight against cigarette smuggling and other forms of illicit trade in tobacco products- a comprehensive EU strategy".
2. Based on that discussion and contributions received from a number of delegations, draft Council conclusions on measures to step up the fight against illegally traded tobacco products in the EU were presented at the CCWP meeting on 13 September 2017 and discussed at the CCWP meetings on 31 October, 14 November and 28 November 2017. On 28 November 2017, the CCWP agreed on the draft Council conclusions as set out in 11761/3/17 REV 3 + COR 1, and agreed to submit them to COREPER/Council for approval.
3. On that basis, COREPER is invited to submit the above-mentioned draft Council conclusions as set out in 11761/3/17 REV 3 + COR 1 to the Council for adoption.