



**Brussels, 2 October 2018
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**RECH 401
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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft Joint Statement of ministers for the occasion of the second Arctic Science Ministerial meeting
	- Approval

1. The eight Arctic States (Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States), nineteen further States (Australia, Austria, Belgium, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom), and representative of the European Union, joined by representatives of six Arctic Indigenous Peoples Organisations (Aleut International Association, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Gwich'in Council International, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Saami Council), have elaborated a draft Joint Statement of ministers for the occasion of the second Arctic Science Ministerial meeting on 25 and 26 October 2018, Berlin, Germany.
2. The text has been subject to four rounds of comments by governments and representatives of Arctic indigenous peoples'. The last round of comments ended on 24 August 2018. The current draft text has been revised to avoid any committable language and potential financial implications.

3. The Commission submitted on 7 September the draft statement to the Council for approval of the text. At the meeting of the Research Working Party of 10 September the Commission informed about the intention of Commissioner Moedas to sign on behalf of the EU the joint ministerial statement.
4. The Research Working Party agreed on the text of the draft joint statement through a silence procedure on 25 September 2018.
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is, therefore, invited to:
 - to confirm the agreement reached at Working Party level of the text of the draft Joint statement of ministers; and to suggest the Council to approve, as an "A" item of the agenda of one of its forthcoming meetings, the position of the Union on said declaration as contained in document 12678/18 ADD 1.
