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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Supporting the Olympic Truce during the Winter Olympic Games of Pyeongchang, South Korea (9-25 February 2018) <i>- Information from the Greek delegation</i>

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Greek delegation on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under 'Any other business' for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 20-21 November 2017.

Supporting the Olympic Truce during the Winter Olympic Games of Pyeongchang, South Korea (9-25 February 2018)

Ahead of the XXIII Winter Olympic Games – Pyeongchang 2018 – most, if not all, of the member states of the United Nations (UN), including the European Union member states, will, on 13 November 2017, adopt a resolution brought to the UN General Assembly by the country hosting the Olympic Games; in this case, the Republic of Korea. The Resolution issues a call to honour the Olympic Truce (‘Ekecheiria’ - that is cessation of hostilities) as was done in antiquity – starting seven days before the opening of the Olympic Games, and until seven days after the closing of the Paralympic Games – to ensure unhindered and safe access to the Games for officials, other accredited persons and of course the athletes taking part in the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Pyeongchang. The Resolution further calls on Member States to cooperate and take concrete actions at national, regional and international level, and highlight the value of sport as a tool for sustainable development and peace building.

From the country where the Olympic Games and Ideals were born, Greece calls on you, in a globally turbulent time, to declare our unswerving resolve regarding the need to honour the Olympic Truce spirit in accordance with the United Nations Resolution and to support efforts to promote community development and peace through sport in the lead up to the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympic Games and beyond. Greece is confident that the European Union needs to project its soft but effective power and influence following the adoption of the UN Resolution on "Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal," and that the best way to do this is to unite in supporting the Pyeongchang Olympic Winter Games to bring the world together in a safe and peaceful environment that will inspire the citizens of the world, and the present and future young generations, around peace.