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European Union

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DECLASSIFICATION

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Subject:	Adoption of a Council Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt

Delegations will find attached the declassified version of the above document.

The text of this document is identical to the previous version.

RESTREINT UE



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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 10 April 2003 (11.04)
(OR. fr)**

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RESTREINT UE

**RESTRICTED EU DOCUMENT
CIRCULATED TO ACCEDING
STATES**

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ET 2**

ADDENDUM TO "I/A" ITEM NOTE

from :	General Secretariat
to :	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion prop. :	7554/03 RECH 40 ET 1 – SEC(2003) 286 final
Subject :	Adoption of a Council Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt

The annexed Commission statement will be included in the Council minutes when the above Decision is adopted.

Statement by the Commission

The Commission points out that its proposal for a Council Decision concerning the implementation of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement for the Arab Republic of Egypt aims inter alia to ensure greater consistency of the European Union's actions in all areas covered by the Agreement, and specifically a more rational organisation of the implementing mechanisms. The proposal falls within the general context of the European Union's relations with all its partners which have a Euro-Mediterranean Agreement.

The Commission points out that its recommendations for negotiating directives for agreements on scientific and technological cooperation concerning Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia specified that the management of such agreements would be entrusted to "Research and Innovation" subcommittees once these subcommittees had been set up under the Euro-Mediterranean Agreements, thus enabling increased priority to be granted to scientific and technological aspects. A similar approach has, furthermore, already been followed in the case of Russia.

The Commission consequently regrets that the Council has been unable to follow its proposal on this point, and takes the view that this leads to unwieldy administration of relations between the European Union and these three countries as a result of the proliferation of bodies monitoring the Agreements. It reserves the right to return to this question when the Euro-Mediterranean Agreements are actually implemented.