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REPORT

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

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Subject: Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council
amending Directive 2008/106/EC on the minimum level of training of
seafarers and repealing Directive 2005/45/EC
- Statement by Latvia

Delegations will find in annex a statement by Latvia on the above proposal.

Statement by the Republic of Latvia

"Latvia agrees that it is necessary to simplify EU's acquis in the field of training and certification of seafarers and mutual recognition of the certificates issued by the Member States. We would like to thank Austrian Presidency for its work and efforts to balance interests and achieve solution acceptable to all Member States.

At the same time, while assessing the text prepared by the Presidency for the Council's General Approach Latvia still has concerns about the principle of better regulation regarding seafarers' training issues not being ensured in the articles of the proposal.

Latvia, in the spirit of compromise, can support the General Approach. However, Latvia considers that it is very important to retain current wording of recital (3a) in the future negotiations. This is essential in order to prevent any unwarranted situations when seafarers for the purpose of certification would be requested to repeatedly complete training course programme established by the STCW Convention.

Latvia would like to emphasise the importance of continuation of the actions mentioned in the EU policy documents in order to make seafaring profession more attractive, by creating the interest in the maritime transport sector for future generations. The Members States have undertaken this by Council conclusions on "Priorities for the EU's maritime transport policy until 2020: Competitiveness, Decarbonisation, Digitalisation to ensure global connectivity, an efficient internal market and a world-class maritime cluster" adopted by the Council at its meeting held on June 8 2017."