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Subject: Recommendation for a Council Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate a Protocol on Nitrogen Oxides and related substances under the UN-ECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution

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

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

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RESTREINT

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat

to: COREPER/COUNCIL

Subject: Recommendation for a Council Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate a Protocol on Nitrogen Oxides and related substances under the UN-ECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution

1. The Working Party on the Environment last examined this Recommendation on 27 May 1998 and agreed on the conclusions attached to the present note (the Danish delegation maintains a parliamentary reservation).
 2. The Permanent Representatives Committee could therefore invite the Council to adopt the attached conclusions as an "A" item at one of its next meetings.
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**Draft Council conclusions concerning the participation of
the Community in the negotiation of a Protocol on Nitrogen Oxides and related Substances under
the UN-ECE Convention on long Range Transboundary Air Pollution**

The Council adopts the following conclusions:

With regard to matters within the Community's field of competence, the Community will participate, within the framework of the UN-ECE Convention on long Range Transboundary Air Pollution, in the negotiations of a Protocol on Nitrogen Oxides and related Substances;

The Commission will conduct these negotiations in consultation with a committee of representatives of the Member States in Brussels or on the spot within the framework of the following negotiating directives;

With regard to matters under the Protocol which fall partly within the jurisdiction of the Community and partly within the jurisdiction of the Member States, the Presidency, the Commission and the Member States should by means of coordination in Brussels or on the spot ensure close cooperation during the negotiating process.

Negotiating directives

1. The Commission shall ensure that the dispositions of the Protocol on Nitrogen Oxides and related Substances are consistent with relevant Community legislation.
2. The Commission shall ensure that the draft Protocol on Nitrogen Oxides and related Substances contains appropriate provisions enabling the European Community to become a contracting Party.
3. The Commission shall regularly report to the Council on the outcome of the negotiations and, where appropriate, on any problem that may arise during the negotiations.

4. The Commission shall conduct the negotiations with a view to achieving reductions in emissions of acidifying, ozone-forming, and eutrophying air pollutants in the whole UN-ECE region that will contribute to the largest extent possible to the attainment of the general objective stated in Council conclusions of 16 December 1997 on a Community strategy to combat acidification and of the environmental quality objectives set out in Community legislation.
5. The European Community should strive to ensure the use of compatible and, where possible, common approaches and methodologies in the LRTAP Convention and the European Community in the development and refinement of measures aimed at reducing acidification, formation of ozone and eutrophication.

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