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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 11 March 2019
To: Delegations

Subject: Working Party on Fundamental Rights, Citizens' Rights and Free
Movement of Persons (FREMP)

1. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law

The Presidency informed delegations about the state of play of negotiations with the European Parliament and presented possible compromise proposals ahead of the fifth trilogue scheduled for that same day in Strasbourg.

2. Eurobarometer on elections

The Commission gave a presentation on the "Special Eurobarometer 477: Democracy and elections", stressing issues related to elections in the digital age, notably the role of online media and the perceived need for them to adhere to the same transparency rules as traditional media.

3. Investor Citizenship and Residence Schemes in the European Union

The Commission presented its report, stressing that the investor citizenship and residence schemes impacted on several policy areas, including immigration and the Schengen system. The Commission further indicated that an expert group would be convened in April and would meet three times by September 2019; the group would bring together experts from Member States, in order to discuss the possible risks arising from those schemes (inter alia: money laundering, corruption, fiscal evasion).

Delegations welcomed the Commission initiative and expressed similar concerns to those highlighted in the report.

4. Combating gender-based and domestic violence – exchange of good practices

a) Project "Effective criminal justice strategies and practices to combat gender-based violence in Eastern Europe"

Romania presented the comprehensive reform of domestic violence legislation, which had been rolled in over the past three years and prepared the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

b) Female genital mutilation: estimating the number of girls at risk in the EU

The representative of the European Institute for Gender Equality presented their latest work on female genital mutilation, stressing the changing pattern of the phenomenon and the elements contained in the new guide to help estimate the number of girls at risk.

5. European Union Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS)

The representative of the Fundamental Rights Agency presented the EFRIS, a new online tool to bring together in a single system the multiple documental sources relating to the various monitoring mechanisms for fundamental rights, stressing that a pilot was ongoing and the system should be fully operational by the end of 2019.

Delegations welcomed the development of such a tool.
