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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Findings and recommendations of the EP Special Committee on Terrorism (TERR) - Approval of a letter

1. On 6 July 2017, the European Parliament (EP) set up a Special Committee on Terrorism (TERR), "*to address the practical and legislative deficiencies in the fight against terrorism across the European Union and with international partners and actors, with a particular focus on cooperation and exchange of information*".
2. On 13 November 2018, TERR's mandate came to an end and its final report, which includes 227 recommendations, was adopted by the EP plenary on 12 December 2018¹. The TERR final report gives a comprehensive overview of the initiatives and measures adopted in recent years for preventing and countering terrorism in Europe and makes recommendations for the way forward.

¹ P8_TA(2018)0512; <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2018-0512+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

3. Since the beginning of TERR's work, the Terrorism Working Party (TWP) has been regularly debriefed by EU institutions, agencies and Member States on the TERR hearings and meetings, in order to exchange views and to coordinate the Council's and Member States' responses. During the TWP meeting of 16 January 2019, delegations had an extensive exchange of views on TERR's findings and recommendations, and many also submitted comments in writing.
4. At the occasion of the informal meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs ministers in Bucharest on 7-8 February 2019, ministers had an exchange of views on the findings and recommendations of the TERR Committee and supported the idea of a letter to the EP President welcoming the report on behalf of the Member States. Discussions on the future priorities in the counterterrorism area took place during the JHA Council of 7-8 March 2019.
5. The draft letter attached was circulated under a silence procedure, which ended on Monday 25 March at 15h00, to the JHA Counsellors. No comments were received.
6. It is therefore suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee approve the letter in the Annex to this note, to be sent to the chairman of the European Parliament with the chairwoman and the two rapporteurs of TERR in copy, in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure (Article 19(7)(k)).

March 2019

Subject: Findings and recommendations of the Special Committee on Terrorism
(2018/2044(INI))

Dear Mr. President,

With this letter, I take the opportunity to express, on behalf of the Council of the European Union, our sincere appreciation for the comprehensive Report of the EP Special Committee on Terrorism (TERR), adopted by the European Parliament (EP) Plenary on 12 December 2018.

Terrorism is a serious and recurrent threat to the security of EU citizens. Further strengthening the EU's ability to prevent and fight terrorism is a common priority for the Member States and EU institutions. The EP, as a co-legislator, has had a decisive role in the adoption of important measures in this area, that contributed to enhancing EU internal security.

The solid outcome of the EP TERR Committee, chaired by Ms. Nathalie Griesbeck, has been a significant contribution to our shared objective. We acknowledge the substantial efforts made, between September 2017 and November 2018, to assess the terrorist threat in Europe and the response of the Member States and the European Union to this threat.

We especially welcome the balanced approach taken by Ms. Helga Stevens and Ms. Monika Hohlmeier, the two co-rapporteurs of the TERR Report, in drafting the recommendations, which address a wide range of important topics. On many of these, work is already ongoing at both Member State and EU-level. In the opinion of Member States, some of the recommendations need further reflection as they fall within Member States' responsibility according to the EU-Treaties.

The Member States have actively contributed to the work of the EP TERR Committee, with relevant national authorities providing information, together with prominent CT-experts. The Council discussed the findings and recommendations of the EP Report, both at technical and ministerial level.

The Council will continue the forward-looking discussions on where to concentrate efforts in our fight against terrorism, in order to efficiently address the different challenges to the security of our citizens, while fully respecting fundamental rights, and in close coordination with all EU institutions and agencies.

As part of our common goal to protect the European citizens against the terrorist threat, we count on your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Luminița Odobescu

Chairwoman of the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)

copy to: Nathalie Griesbeck, former chair of the TERR Committee

Helga Stevens, rapporteur of the TERR Committee

Monika Hohlmeier, rapporteur of the TERR Committee