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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
Subject: EU-Canada Ocean Partnership
- Approval

1. On 8 March 2018, the Council gave the Commission the authorisation to open negotiations, on behalf of the European Union, for an ocean partnership with Canada (6384/18).
2. On 28 March 2018, 27 June 2018, 7 September 2018, 4 December 2018 and 14 February 2019, the Friends of the Presidency Working Group - Integrated Maritime Policy (FoP IMP) received information from the Commission regarding the status of the negotiations.

3. On 25 March 2019 and following the informal silence procedure, the FoP IMP agreed on the text presented by the Commission as the outcome of the negotiations with Canada:
'Declaration by the European Union and Canada concerning the establishment of an Ocean Partnership'.
4. The partnership includes several areas of dialogue and cooperation such as: ocean governance, marine and maritime science, conservation and sustainable management of marine ecosystems, common challenges and opportunities relating to the Arctic Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean, concerted action in implementing the Paris Agreement on climate change, exchange of best practices to prevent, monitor and significantly reduce pollution of all kinds in the oceans, exchange of best practices to establish high-level environmental standards for deep sea exploration, promoting sustainable fishing, as well as strengthening the effectiveness of systems of control, inspection and enforcement concerning both fisheries management and the protection of the marine environment.
5. In the light of the foregoing, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend to the Council to authorise the Commission:
 - to sign the Declaration by the European Union and Canada concerning the establishment of an Ocean Partnership, as set out in document 7999/19, at the forthcoming EU-Canada summit;
 - where necessary, to make minor changes to the following elements of the instrument, which may require finalisation on the spot: (a) reference to SDG14 and SDG17 in the recital on the 2030 Agenda and (b) reference to collaboration on decent living and working conditions with reference to the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 and on safety at sea with reference to the 2012 Cape Town Agreement.