



Brussels, 3 April 2019
(OR. en)

7962/19

LIMITE

ECOFIN 350
UEM 112
DEVGEN 65
CADREFIN 180

'A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION on the establishment of a High-level Group of Wise Persons on the European financial architecture for development

1. As a follow up to the Meseberg declaration from June 2018, in September 2018 Germany and France launched an initiative to establish a High-level Group of Wise Persons on the European financial architecture for development by circulating a proposal for Terms of Reference (WK 13633/2018).
2. The initiative was followed up by the Permanent Representatives Committee with a mandate to the Financial Counsellors Working Party to work on the issue in the course of October and November 2018, including through exchanges with delegates from the Working Party on Development Coordination (CODEV) and the Ad Hoc Working Party on the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).
3. To frame the discussion the Austrian Presidency circulated a questionnaire to ask for delegations' guidance on the creation of the Wise Persons Group, including on the scope of the mandate, association of relevant bodies, secretarial support, budget, coordination, information and follow-up. Based on the replies received and the discussion on 11 December 2018 with the Financial Counsellors Working Party, CODEV and NDICI delegates, the draft Terms of Reference for the group were developed.

4. At the meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee on 6 February 2019, there was a broad support for the proposed Terms of Reference and for Thomas Wieser as designated Chair. He was mandated to propose a group of six to eight experts, taking into consideration the principles reflected in the draft Terms of Reference (gender and geographical balance, professional and technical expertise and experience in finance, development and the respective institutional landscape).
 5. Candidatures were received from 14 experts. On the basis of the principles outlined in the Terms of Reference and after a careful assessment of all candidates, Thomas Wieser proposed a group of 8 experts.
 6. The proposed composition of the Wise Persons Group as well as its Terms of Reference have been laid out in a draft Council Decision (ST 6559/1/19 REV 1) establishing the group, which was endorsed by the Permanent Representatives Committee on 3 April 2019.
 7. Further to endorsement by the Permanent Representatives Committee, the draft Council Decision is sent for adoption to the General Affairs Council of 9 April 2019.
-