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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions
(match fixing) – ways forward for the EU
- Information from the Danish delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Danish delegation on the above subject, which has been placed under 'Any other business' on the agenda for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 22 and 23 May 2019.

**Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (match fixing) –
ways forward for the EU**

Based on recent information from the Council of Europe, it is very likely that the Match Fixing Convention will soon have been ratified by at least five State Parties, and will therefore enter into force in 2019.

While the Convention has been widely supported by EU Member States, it has however until now not been possible to reach the requested unanimity in Council in order for the EU to accede to the Convention. The present situation threatens the ability of the EU as well as the international community to combat matchfixing globally and it is furthermore a problem for the credibility of the EU in the area of sports.

Several key issues in the Convention remain unresolved and have been left to the discretion of the “Convention Follow-up Committee”. These include important issues such as the list of Sports organisations to be covered by the convention (art. 31.2.), and which criteria are to be met by Sports organisations and are expected to meet in order to benefit from the exchange of information (art. 31.3.a). In order to promote the EU’s interests and to ensure that the Convention will be a strong and relevant instrument in the international fight against match fixing, it would be essential that the EU and its Member States are able to play an active role in the Convention Follow-up Committee from the beginning.

Denmark is confident that European governments have a common vision of a sport without corruption and matchfixing as well as a common interest in working towards this vision. In light hereof, Denmark would invite the Council Member States to discuss in the near future next steps towards ensuring EU’s full participation in the Convention in order to accelerate the fight against matchfixing and to preserve the integrity of sport at an international level.