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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Customs Union: - Update of the list of Council preparatory bodies

1. Currently, the two Council working parties serving as preparatory bodies for customs union matters are:
 - the "High Level Working Party of the Directors General of Customs" (G 25) and
 - the "Working Party on Customs Union" (G 8)

Both working parties report to the Competitiveness Council.

2. In most Member States, the responsibility for the customs union is attributed to the Ministry of Finance. There is also a functional link between customs duties and indirect taxation. On several occasions, Member States have therefore expressed their support for the transfer of competence for the customs union from the Competitiveness Council to the Economic and Financial Affairs Council. In May 2019, the Romanian Presidency extensively consulted all delegations in this respect.

3. Following the support received from a large majority of Delegations, the Presidency decided to submit a proposal to the Permanent Representatives Committee that the preparatory bodies mentioned in paragraph 1 will in the future report to the Economic and Financial Affairs Council.
4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to:
- agree that the competence for customs union is transferred from the Competitiveness Council to the Economic and Financial Affairs Council;
 - request the General Secretariat of the Council to update document 15131/18+COR1, which gives an overview of the Council preparatory bodies, by transferring the two working parties mentioned in paragraph 1 (G 8 and 25) to the Economic and Financial Affairs section.
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