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'A' ITEM NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Council

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Plenary Meeting of the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) or within the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe as regards the decision on granting the Union observer status in GRECO
- Statements

Statement by Ireland:

"Ireland notes that it is intended that the Council will make a decision authorising the participation of the EU as observer in GRECO, less than 3 months after presentation of this proposed decision to the Council.

In these exceptional circumstances, mindful of the importance of the proposed Council Decision and in acknowledgement of the need to allow its speedy adoption, Ireland will not insist, in this instance, upon its right to have 3 months within which to exercise Ireland's option to notify the President of the Council of its wish to participate in the adoption and application of the proposed Council Decision in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of Protocol 21 on the Position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of Freedom, Security and Justice annexed to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union."

Joint Statement by United Kingdom and Ireland:

The United Kingdom and Ireland have a special decision under Protocol 21 to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. Article 3, Protocol 21 provides the United Kingdom and Ireland with a period of three months to consider whether to take part in a measure. That Protocol applies to the proposed Council Decision. The UK Government notes the importance of the UK Parliament's scrutiny. The United Kingdom regrets that it has not been given the full three months in accordance with the treaties to take a decision whether to participate in this measure. The United Kingdom is therefore not taking part in the adoption of the Council Decision and will not be bound by it.
