



Brussels, 7 July 2023
(OR. en)

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
Subject:	Memorandum of understandin between the European Union and the Argentine Republic on cooperation related to energy - Authorisation to sign a non-binding instrument

1. On 18 April 2023, the Commission informed the Working Party on Energy of its intention to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation related to energy with the Argentine Republic, with a view to its signing, on behalf of the EU, before the EU-CELAC Summit in July 2023¹.
2. The Energy Working Party discussed the approach proposed by the Commission, with the understanding that the Commission will inform the Working Party on the advancement of the negotiations with the Argentine Republic and will revert to the Council at the end of the negotiation process to seek the Council's authorisation for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the EU.

¹ WK 4324/23.

3. On 12 June 2023 the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate on behalf of the EU such a Memorandum of Cooperation (ST 8347/23).
4. On 6 July 2023, the Working Party on Energy discussed the text of the Memorandum set out in document ST 11188/23. There were few additional drafting proposals to the text. Therefore, the text was revised and the final version was submitted to the Working Party on Energy for informal written consultation. During the consultation, delegations did not raise any additional remarks. The final text is set out in document ST 11635/23.
5. In light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
 - confirm its agreement on the text of the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and the Argentine Republic, as set out in document ST 11635/23;
 - invite the Council to authorise the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the EU and Argentina, as set out in document ST 11635/23, subject to possible small adjustments as a result of negotiations with the relevant partners, but without changes in substance.
