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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. prev. doc.: 10919/20, 11111/20

Subject: Commission's intention to submit, on behalf of the EU, an application to become a member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
- Approval of entering into negotiations

1. On 7 September 2020, the Commission submitted to the Council an Information note¹ on its intention to submit, on behalf of the EU, an application to become a member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). The application for ICRI membership is considered to be a non-binding instrument, in accordance with the "Arrangement for Non-Binding Instruments"².
2. The Note from the Commission was examined by the members of the Friends of the Presidency Group on Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) in an informal videoconference on 14 September 2020.

¹ WK 9067/20.

² Based on the Arrangements for Non-Binding Instruments agreed by the Council, the Commission and the EEAS in December 2017 (document 15367/17).

3. The Friends of the Presidency Group on Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) agreed by means of written consultation on 23 September 2020 to submit the request to Coreper and to Council for the approval of entering into negotiations.
 4. It is understood that following approval of the Council, the Commission will send, in due time, the draft EU's application for ICRI membership to the Council for approval.
 5. In light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to confirm the agreement reached by the Friends of the Presidency Group on Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) and to suggest that the Council approve the request of the Commission to enter, on behalf of the EU, into negotiations on EU's application to become a member of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI).
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