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Subject:	Draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 (2018/0209 COD) – Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons – Outcome of the written procedure initiated by CM 2094/21

Delegations are informed that the written procedure, opened by CM 2094/21 on Wednesday, 10 March 2021, was completed on Tuesday, 16 March 2021, and that all delegations voted in favour of the adoption of the Council's position at first reading on the draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013, as set out in document 6077/20 + COR 1 (it), and the statement of the Council's reasons as set out in the ADD 1 to that document.

The required qualified majority has been reached. Therefore, the above position of the Council at first reading and the statement of the Council's reasons are adopted.

The statement by the Commission is reproduced in the Annex to this CM and will be included in the summary of acts adopted by the written procedure as statement to be entered in the Council minutes, in accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

**Commission's statement on the contribution of the LIFE programme
to the biodiversity ambition**

In line with the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources (2018/2070(ACI)), the Commission will set out, in cooperation with the Council and the Parliament, an effective, transparent and comprehensive methodology for tracking biodiversity expenditures in view of working towards the ambition of providing 7.5% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in the year 2024 and 10% of annual spending under the MFF to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027.

Following the definition of this methodology, the Commission will present by 31 July 2022 to the European Parliament and the Council the contributions of the LIFE Regulation to the biodiversity ambition. The spending of the LIFE Programme on biodiversity objectives will be reported annually in the programme statements of operational expenditures. Its contribution to the conservation status of habitats and species will be analysed in the context of the mid-term evaluation foreseen in 2024 and referred to in Article 19 of the LIFE Regulation.
