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'I' ITEM NOTE

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

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Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine fraud: Operational response and preparedness

1. On 4 March 2021, further to the informal videoconference of the members of the European Council of 25-26 February 2021, EUROPOL and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) submitted to COREPER a Briefing¹ highlighting an emerging criminal trend of fraud and fraud attempts with COVID-19 vaccines. This was followed by a detailed presentation at the IPCR working level round table on 8 March 2021.
2. Subsequently, COSI Support Group examined the state of play and identified specific measures for preparedness an operational response to vaccine fraud, integrating also input from a related exchange of the Customs Cooperation Working Party. The outcome was presented to COSI on 16 April 2021.
3. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to take note of the outcome of these discussions, as set out in 8244/21.

¹ WK 2818/21