



Brussels, 12 May 2021
(OR. en)

8530/21

POLGEN 63
INST 176
JUR 260

'A' ITEM NOTE

From:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
To:	Council
Subject:	Extension of the temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure

1. With a view to ensuring continuity of the Council decision-making in the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council adopted Decision 2020/430¹ which introduces a derogation from the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure as regards decisions to use the ordinary written procedure, where those decisions are taken by Coreper. The Decision provides that it is renewable, if justified by continued exceptional circumstances. That derogation, initially foreseen to last until 23 April 2020, was subsequently extended by seven Council decisions² for further periods of a limited duration. The latest Council decision extended the derogation until 21 May 2021.

¹ Council Decision (EU) 2020/430 of 23 March 2020 on a temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union (OJ L 88I, 24.3.2020, p. 1)

² Council Decision (EU) 2020/556 of 21 April 2020, Council Decision (EU) 2020/702 of 20 May 2020, Council Decision (EU) 2020/970 of 3 July 2020, Council Decision (EU) 2020/1253 of 4 September, Council Decision (EU) 2020/1659 of 6 November 2020, Council Decision (EU) 2021/26 of 12 January 2021 and Council Decision (EU) 2021/454 of 12 March 2021.

2. Given that exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic continue, it is necessary to extend the above-mentioned derogation for a further limited period until 16 July 2021.
 3. On 12 May 2021, the Permanent Representatives Committee confirmed its agreement on the text of the Council decision further extending the temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure introduced by Council Decision (EU) 2020/430, in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union.
 4. In view of the above, the Council is invited to adopt the decision further extending the temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure introduced by Council Decision (EU) 2020/430, in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union, set out in document 8487/21.
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