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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

Subject: Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments **(first reading)**
- Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons

1. On 29 May 2018 the Commission sent its proposal¹, based on Articles 178, 209(1), 212(2) and 349 TFEU, to the Council.
2. The European Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion on 19 September 2018².
3. The Committee of the Regions delivered its opinion on 5 December 2018³.
4. The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading on 26 March 2019⁴.

¹ 9536/18 + ADD 1

² OJ C 440, 6.12.2018, p. 116–123

³ OJ C 86, 7.3.2019, p. 137–164

⁴ 7716/19

5. The Permanent Representatives Committee confirmed on 16 December 2020 the provisional agreement reached by the co-legislators.
6. On 18 December 2020, the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development (REGI) confirmed the provisional agreement, and its chair subsequently sent a letter to the chair of Coreper declaring that the European Parliament should, at its second reading, approve the Council's position at first reading (following a legal-linguistic review) without amendments.
7. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore asked to suggest that the Council:
 - adopt its position at first reading, as set out in document 5488/21, and the statement of reasons, as set out in document 5488/21 ADD 1, as an 'A' item at a forthcoming meeting;
 - decide that the statements in Addendum 1 to this note be entered in the minutes of that meeting.
8. At the same time, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision (EU) 2021/454⁵, that the Council use the written procedure for the adoption of the abovementioned Regulation if, due to the circumstances related to COVID-19, no Council meeting takes place before 29 May 2021.

⁵ Council Decision (EU) 2021/454 of 12 March 2021 further extending the temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure introduced by Decision (EU) 2020/430, in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union (OJ L 89, 16.3.2021, p. 15–16)