



Brussels, 24 September 2021
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ENV 668

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

Subject: International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) - Intention of the European Commission to join a ministerial declaration on behalf of the EU with the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (8 February 2022, Vienna, Austria)
– Approval

1. On 27 August 2021, the Commission submitted to the Council an information note¹ setting out its intention to enter into discussions on a non-binding Ministerial Statement “Our Danube: A sustainable future for a shared river basin” scheduled to be adopted at the occasion of the ministerial meeting of the ICPDR² on 8 February 2022 in Vienna, Austria.
2. On 8 September 2021 and 17 September 2021 respectively, the Working party on International Environmental Issues and the Working Party on Environment examined this information note which was subsequently agreed by informal silence procedure.³

¹ Doc. WK 10031/21

² The Contracting Parties to the ICPDR are Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Ukraine and the European Union.

³ Doc. WK 10981/21 + ADD 1

3. The Ministerial Statement to be presented at the above ministerial meeting constitutes a non-binding instrument that contains political commitments, in accordance with the Arrangements on Non-Binding Instruments (NBI) agreed by the Council, the Commission and the EEAS.⁴
 4. In light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to confirm the agreement reached as set out above at Working Party level and authorise the Commission to enter into negotiation on behalf of the Union on a draft ministerial declaration “Our Danube: A sustainable future for a shared river basin” scheduled to be adopted at the occasion of the ministerial meeting of the ICPDR on 8 February 2022 in Vienna, Austria.
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⁴ Doc. 15367/17