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#### 'I' ITEM NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)

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Subject: Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the 2030 Policy Programme “Path to the Digital Decade”  
- Optional consultation of the Committee of the Regions<sup>1</sup>

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1. On 15 September 2021 the Commission submitted to the Council the Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the 2030 Policy Programme “Path to the Digital Decade”<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The sole purpose of this note is to decide on the consultation of another institution/body and not on the substance.

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 11900/21.

2. The proposal aims to ensure that the European Union achieves its objectives and targets towards a digital transformation of EU's society and economy in line with its values, reinforcing EU's digital leadership and promoting human centred, inclusive and sustainable digital policies empowering citizens and businesses. The objective is to deliver the EU's digital transformation in line with this vision by establishing a clear, structured and collaborative process to achieve such result.
3. To this end, the "Path to the Digital Decade" sets out the concrete digital targets which the Union as a whole is expected to achieve by the end of the decade, as first delineated in the Digital Compass Communication. It then sets out a novel form of governance with Member States, through a mechanism of annual cooperation between the Unions institutions and the Member States to ensure that the Union jointly achieves its ambition. The digital targets for 2030 are based on four cardinal points: digital skills, digital infrastructures, digitalisation of businesses and of public services.
4. The proposal is based on Article 173(3) TFEU, which provides for the European Parliament and for the Council to act in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee. Thus, in principle, the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions is not required. However, taking into account the subject matter of the proposal in question and its possible impact for public and private entities also on sub-national level, it would appear appropriate to also consult the Committee of the Regions on the present Proposal.
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to decide, in accordance with Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to consult the Committee of the Regions on the above Proposal and to request it to give its opinion as soon as possible.