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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

Subject: Council Decision on the partial suspension of the application of the Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Vanuatu on the short-stay visa waiver
– Statement by Malta

STATEMENT BY MALTA

Malta acknowledges that on the basis of the findings of the European Commission it would appear that there are security issues in how the citizenship-by-investment processes are being conducted in Vanuatu and that the suspension of the short-stay visa waiver as proposed by the European Commission is justified on such grounds. This is particularly in view of the lack of rigorous due diligence processes, which should be an essential feature of any citizenship-by-investment scheme. Malta nevertheless recalls the sovereignty of the State on citizenship matters.