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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 a Border Regions' instrument for development and growth (BRIDGEforEU) (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 submitted its proposal¹, based on Article 175 TFEU, to the Council and on 12 December 2023 an amended proposal².
2. The Committee of the Regions delivered its opinion on the initial proposal on 5 December 2012³ and on the amended proposal on 17 April 2024⁴.

¹ 9555/18.

² 16805/23.

³ OJ C 86, 07.3.2019, p. 165.

⁴ OJ C, C/2024/3672, 26.6.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/3672/oj>.

3. The European Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion on the initial proposal on 19 September 2018⁵ and on the amended proposal on 24 April 2024⁶.
4. The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading on the initial proposal on 14 February 2019⁷ and its position at first reading on the amended proposal on 14 September 2023⁸.
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee confirmed on 20 December 2024 the provisional agreement reached by the co-legislators on the above Regulation⁹, after informal contacts had taken place between the Council and the European Parliament.
6. On 5 February 2025, the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development (REGI) confirmed the provisional agreement and its Chair subsequently sent a letter to the Chair of the Permanent Representatives Committee stating that the European Parliament should, at its second reading, approve the Council's position at first reading (following a legal-linguistic revision) without amendments¹⁰.
7. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore asked to suggest that the Council adopt its position at first reading, as set out in 17102/24, and the statement of reasons, as set out in 17102/24 ADD 1, as an 'A' item at a forthcoming meeting, with Czechia abstaining.
8. The statements for the minutes of the Council meeting are set out in the Addendum to this note.

⁵ OJ C 440, 06.12.2018, p. 124.

⁶ OJ C, C/2024/4060, 12.7.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/4060/oj>.

⁷ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0118_EN.html.

⁸ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0327_EN.html.

⁹ 16772/24.

¹⁰ 6445/25.