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## NOTE

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| From:           | General Secretariat of the Council                                 |
| To:             | Working Party on Information (Transparency)                        |
| No. prev. doc.: | 13263/24   |
| Subject:        | Sponsorship of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union |

As a follow-up to the discussions that took place at the meeting of the Working Party on Information of 7 April 2025 on the European Ombudsman's closing note on the strategic initiative on sponsorship of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (document 13263/24), delegations are invited to examine the attached draft reply to the European Ombudsman.

Once agreed upon by the Working Party, this draft reply will be submitted as an I item to Coreper for approval.

Ms Teresa Anjinho  
European Ombudsman  
1, Avenue du Président Robert Schuman  
CS 30403  
F-67001 Strasbourg Cedex  
France

Brussels ... 2025

**Subject: Follow-up to the Closing note on the strategic initiative on sponsorship of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (case SI/3/24/MIG)**

Dear Ms Anjinho,

the Council acknowledges receipt of the letter from your services dated 9 September 2024 informing of the Closing note of the European Ombudsman in the case in subject.

In that Closing note, the European Ombudsman commended the Council of the European Union for adopting the Guidance on the use of sponsorship, acknowledging that this was an important step in raising awareness of the risks related to the use of sponsorship by its Presidency. However, the European Ombudsman found that concerns remained and encouraged the Council to assess how best to address these when taking stock of the implementation of the Guidance at the next possible opportunity.

I would like to inform you that the Closing note of the European Ombudsman in this inquiry has been circulated to all delegations and has been discussed on two occasions within the competent Council preparatory body.

On that occasion, a number of delegations indicated their willingness to explore appropriate measures to address the concerns expressed by the European Ombudsman in her Closing note regarding the implementation of the Guidance on the use of Sponsorship. The Council will reflect on how to further consider such measures with a view to addressing the concerns expressed in the context of a future update of the Guidance.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee

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