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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. prev. doc.:	9937/25
Subject:	Sponsorship of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union - Draft reply to EO's closing note

1. By a letter dated 15 March 2024, the European Ombudsman opened a strategic initiative on the sponsorship of Council Presidencies, asking for an update of the Council's experience following the adoption in June 2021 of internal guidance on the best practice regarding the use of sponsorships by Council Presidencies.¹
2. By a second letter, dated 9 September 2024, the European Ombudsman informed the Council of the findings of that strategic initiative and of her decision to close it.²
3. At its meeting on 19 June 2025, the Working Party on Information (Transparency) endorsed the draft Council reply to the Ombudsman's closing note as contained in document 9937/25.
4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to approve this reply, as set out in the Annex, and authorize its Chairperson to send it to the European Ombudsman on behalf of the Council.

¹ Document 8298/24.

² Document 13263/24.

Ms Teresa Anjinho
European Ombudsman
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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
