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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice programme for the period 2028-2034 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2021/693 - Optional consultation of the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

1. On 3 September 2025, as part of its legislative package for the 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework, the Commission submitted to the Council the Justice sectoral proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Justice programme for the period 2028-2034 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2021/693¹.

¹ 12488/25

2. This proposal provides the specific legal framework towards an effective, efficient, accessible, resilient and digitalised Union area of justice. The new Justice Programme, amounting to nearly €800 million, will continue to support judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters and judicial training, further promote the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and ensure equal access to justice for all citizens and businesses, based on the rule of law, mutual recognition and mutual trust.
3. This proposal is based on Article 81(1) and (2) and Article 82(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).
4. The above-mentioned legal bases do not require the consultation of the European Economic and Social Committee or of the Committee of the Regions.
5. In its proposal, the Commission suggests that the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions are consulted on an optional basis. Considering that building an effective Union area of justice has profound implications for the political, social and economic life of the EU as well as tangible benefits for people's day-to-day lives and business operations, it would be prudent to adopt a more consistent and comprehensive approach. In this context, it appears appropriate to consult both the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.
6. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to:
 - Decide, in accordance with Article 304 TFEU and Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure², to consult the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on this proposal³.
 - Request the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions to give their opinion by 15 May 2026.

² Council Decision 2009/937/EU of 1 December 2009 adopting the Council's Rules of Procedure, OJ L 325, 11.12.2009, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2009/937/oj>.

³ The sole purpose of this note is to decide on the consultation of another institution/body and not on the substance.