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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 - Policy Debate

I. STATE OF PLAY IN THE COUNCIL

1. Following the presentation of the first block of possible elements for a future draft Negotiating Box, the Ad Hoc Working Party on the Multiannual Financial Framework (AHWP MFF) has carried out intensive work on the bracketed elements of the proposals under Heading 1 ('Economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture, rural and maritime, prosperity and security') throughout the month of October.
2. On the basis of those discussions, the Presidency has gathered the most politically sensitive elements related to the proposed Heading 1 which would require guidance from the political level.
3. In the month of November, the Presidency plans to complete the examination of the bracketed elements related to Headings 3 ('Global Europe') and 4 ('Administration') and to revenue in the AHWP MFF. The Presidency will prepare a third block of possible elements for a future draft Negotiating Box on that basis.

4. In parallel, work continues on all sectoral proposals in the responsible AHWP MFF subgroups and other Council preparatory bodies.
5. The Presidency intends to prepare a first draft Negotiating Box covering all politically sensitive horizontal elements of the MFF package for the General Affairs Council in December ahead of the European Council.
6. The draft Negotiating Box and any elements elaborated in its preparation are drawn up and developed under the sole responsibility of the Presidency. They are not binding on any delegation.

II. QUESTIONS FOR THE MINISTERS

7. The Presidency has taken note of the comments made by delegations during preparatory discussions. Against this background, Ministers are invited to concentrate on the following questions with regard to Heading 1 of the MFF proposal:

How can regional and local administrations be appropriately involved in the preparation and implementation of the future National and Regional Partnership Plans?

How can the support of policies stemming from Treaty obligations be given greater visibility under the Plans while preserving the overall ambition of simplification and agility?
