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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union for an agreement with the Kingdom of Norway laying down the rules for participation of the Kingdom of Norway in the Union Secure Connectivity Programme and in the GOVSATCOM component of the Union Space Programme, and access to their governmental services - adoption

1. On 10 October 2024, the Commission submitted to the Council the draft Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union for an agreement with the Kingdom of Norway laying down the rules for participation of the Kingdom of Norway in the Union Secure Connectivity Programme and in the GOVSATCOM component of the Union Space Programme, and access to their governmental services¹.

¹ Doc. 14441/24 + ADD1.

2. The decision will allow the Commission to open negotiations with the Kingdom of Norway as regards its participation Norway in the Union Secure Connectivity Programme and in the GOVSATCOM component of the EU Space Programme. The purpose of the negotiations is to reach an agreement establishing the rights and obligations of the Kingdom of Norway for this participation.
3. The Space Working Party was informed of the proposal at its meeting on 10 October 2024, and examined it on 6 November 2024. A written procedure was organised and concluded on 19 November 2024, after which no comment was received. Some limited amendments to the initial proposal are proposed to align the text to the standard language and have been circulated to delegations.
4. The draft decision specifies that the role of the special committee, which the Commission has to consult during the negotiations with the Kingdom of Norway in accordance with Article 218(4) TFEU, should be exercised by the Space Working Party.
5. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend that the Council, in part "A" of the agenda of a forthcoming meeting, adopts the Council decision authorising the opening of negotiations with the Kingdom of Norway laying down the rules for participation of the Kingdom of Norway in the Union Secure Connectivity Programme and in the GOVSATCOM component of the Union Space Programme, and access to their governmental services, to adopt the Council Decision as revised by the lawyer-linguists and set out in document 16060/24, as well as the negotiating directives as set out in document ST 16060/24 ADD 1.
6. The European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU, and the Decision and the negotiating directives will be transmitted to the European Parliament.
7. The Council decision will be published in the Official Journal in accordance with Article 17(2)(b) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.
