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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration and Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy adoption
- Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons
= Statements

Latvia has requested that the following statement be entered in the Council minutes

Latvia **supports the final compromise text proposal** for a Directive on Priority Substances amending the Water Framework Directive, the Groundwater Directive and the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD).

It is in Latvia's interest to **safeguard surface and groundwater** from the impact of chemical substances and other micropollutants, while **assessing chemical water quality** against harmonised EU environmental quality standards. Throughout the negotiations, Latvia has consistently expressed support for updating the requirements of these three directives and has engaged in a constructive and cooperative manner.

At the same time, we acknowledge that the **transposition and implementation** of the proposed amendments **will be complex** and **will impose significant financial and administrative burdens** on Member States.

Latvia **remains concerned about the expected scale and cost of monitoring**. Many EQSD priority substances are not detected in our waters using testing methods that meet the required quality standards, yet the Directive continues to obligate regular monitoring of these substances.

Latvia considers the **inclusion of DDT, para-para DDT and cyclodiene pesticides** in the priority substances list to be unjustified, as it **increases monitoring obligations without corresponding environmental benefits**. These substances have long been banned from use, and the proposed change in status would require substantially more frequent sampling and testing, escalating costs that we consider disproportionate. We believe that these substances relevant in certain Member States could instead be designated as river basin-specific pollutants with EU-level environmental quality standards.

Lithuania has requested that the following statement be entered in the Council minutes

Lithuania supports the final compromise text on priority substances in the field of water policy and welcomes its objectives of strengthening water quality and environmental protection.

However, while we recognise the importance of updating monitoring standards and aligning them with scientific progress, we note that implementation may require considerable administrative and financial efforts at national level.