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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations for an agreement between the Union and the Council of Europe Development Bank on the conditions for the Union's membership
– Adoption

1. On 24 March 2026, the Commission submitted to the Council a Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on the conditions for the Union's membership in the Council of Europe Development Bank, as set out in document ST 7686/26 + ADD 1. The substantive legal bases are Articles 175(3) and 212 TFEU, while the procedural legal basis for the recommended decision to authorise the opening of negotiations of the envisaged agreement are laid out in the Article 218(3) and (4) TFEU.
2. The Working Party of Financial Counsellors discussed the recommendation at its meetings on 14 April and 28 April 2026.
3. On 28 April 2026, the Presidency put forward a compromise text which included limited amendments to the draft Decision and the negotiating directives aimed at reinforcing the Council's institutional rights during the negotiations, as set out in document WK 5861/26.

4. The Working Party of Financial Counsellors endorsed the Presidency compromise text through an informal written consultation which concluded on 30 April 2026.
 5. Against this background, it is suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee confirms the agreement on the text and recommends the Council to adopt in one of its forthcoming meetings the draft Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on the conditions for the Union's membership in the Council of Europe Development Bank, already revised by lawyer-linguists and set out in document 8533/26, as well as the negotiating directives set out in the ADD 1 of such document.
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