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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 establishing common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights and Regulation (EC) No 2027/97 on air carrier liability in respect of the carriage of passengers and their baggage by air (third reading) - Adoption of the legislative act = Statement

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

France supports the proposed compromise, which represents a step forward in passenger rights, by providing more legal clarity, consolidating the case-law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, and increasing the effectiveness of passenger rights.

However, France regrets that certain proposals of general interest have not been accepted, in particular those aimed at providing a better framework for the involvement of intermediaries in the handling of complaints. France remains convinced that preference should be given to a direct relationship between the carrier and the passenger, in particular by favouring the payment of compensation to the beneficiary, in order to restrict the abusive practices of certain intermediaries and to ensure that the rights recognised by the European legislator fully benefit passengers.

Subject to these reservations, France supports this Regulation.
