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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
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Subject:	Rome Declaration on the contribution of the Montreal Protocol to a sustainable cold chain to reduce food losses – Authorisation to sign the Declaration on behalf of the European Union

1. The Rome Declaration on the contribution of the Montreal Protocol to a sustainable cold chain to reduce food losses is scheduled to be adopted by Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer at the 31st Meeting of the Parties (MOP 31) on 4-8 November 2019 in Rome.
2. At its meeting of 20 September 2019, having been informed of the Commission's intention to sign this Ministerial Declaration on behalf of the Union, the Working Party on Environment agreed on the authorisation to be given to the Commission.
3. Against this background, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to suggest to the Council that it authorises the Commission to sign on behalf of the Union the Rome Declaration on the contribution of the Montreal Protocol to a sustainable cold chain to reduce food losses, as laid down in annex.

**Rome Declaration on the contribution of the Montreal Protocol to a sustainable cold chain to
reduce food losses**

We, the ministers and heads of delegation of the Parties [...] to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

Considering the discussions at the Round Table opening the high-level segment of the 31st Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which has a prominent role in reducing food losses;

Recalling that about one-third of all food produced globally for human consumption is either lost or wasted with severe impacts on farmers' income, precious resources such as land, water and energy and which generates greenhouse gases;

Reaffirming the cooperation among Parties in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and recognizing that the Montreal Protocol, and its Kigali Amendment, have raised awareness of the need to develop sustainable and efficient solutions in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector to meet future cooling demand, including cold chain initiatives for food preservation;

Aware of the key role of the cold chain for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to, inter alia, ending hunger and poverty, food security, improved nutrition, climate action, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, health and well-being;

Stress the importance of pursuing national action and international cooperation to promote the development of the cold chain including using sustainable and environmentally friendly refrigeration to reduce food loss;

Underscore the multiple benefits of promoting the exchange of information on the contribution of the cold chain to the SDGs, and encourage the ongoing work of the Montreal Protocol to this end;

Call for strengthening cooperation and coordination between governments, the institutions of the Montreal Protocol, the specialized agencies of the United Nations, existing private and public initiatives and all relevant stakeholders to exchange knowledge and promote innovation of energy efficient solutions and technologies that reduce the use of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol in the development of the cold chain, thereby contributing to the reduction of food loss and waste.

Rome, 7-8 November 2019.
