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CORDROGUE 60

'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
No. prev. doc.:	12119/1/20 REV 1; 12563/20
Subject:	Draft Council Decision on the position to be taken, on behalf of the European Union, at the reconvened sixty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on the scheduling of cannabis and cannabis-related substances under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 - Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption

1. The United Nations (UN) Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Conventions') are the main international drug control treaties, together with the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.
2. States parties to the Conventions are required to ensure that the mandatory control measures are applied to the substances listed in the Schedules annexed to the Conventions. The purpose of this listing is to control and limit the use of these drugs according to a classification of their therapeutic value, risk of abuse and health dangers, and to minimise the diversion of precursor chemicals to illegal drug manufacturers.

3. Decisions to change the scope of control of substances are taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), through decisions to make certain changes to the Schedules of the Conventions, on the basis of recommendations by the World Health Organisation.
4. The CND, during its reconvened sixty-third session of 2 to 4 December 2020 in Vienna, is to adopt decisions on the scheduling of cannabis and cannabis-related substances under the Conventions.
5. On 16 October 2020, Commission presented a proposal for a Council decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the 63rd CND session on the scheduling of cannabis and cannabis-related substances under the Conventions (ST 12016/20 + ADD 1).
6. The members of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG) discussed the Commission proposal at their informal videoconference on 29 October 2020. There was an agreement on the above-mentioned draft Council decision, as set out in document ST 12119/20 REV 1.
7. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited:
 - a) to confirm its agreement on the text of the Council Decision on the position to be taken, on behalf of the European Union, at the reconvened sixty-third session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on the scheduling of cannabis and cannabis-related substances under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 (ST 12119/20 REV 1), as finalised by lawyer-linguists (ST 12563/20);
 - b) to decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision 2020/430, that the Council use the written procedure for the adoption of the Decision referred to in point (a).