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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
Subject:	EU-Canada Ocean Partnership - Authorisation to open negotiations

1. On 20 February 2018, the Friends of the Presidency Working Group - Integrated Maritime Policy (FoP IMP) examined an information note from the Commission (WK 232/2018) regarding the Commission's intention to enter into negotiations on an ocean partnership between the Union and Canada. The instrument should provide a general framework and establish areas of cooperation on ocean affairs, building on existing cooperation frameworks and based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. No objections were raised from delegations.

2. It is understood that the Commission will revert to the Council at the end of the negotiations to seek the Council's authorisation for the signature of the instrument on behalf of the Union.
 3. In the light of the foregoing, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to suggest to the Council that it authorises the Commission to open negotiations on the EU-Canada Ocean Partnership.
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