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'I' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union in the Joint Committee established by the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part, regarding the adoption of its Rules of Procedure
- Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption

1. On 22 February 2019, the Commission submitted to the Council a Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union in the Joint Committee established by the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part, regarding the adoption of its Rules of Procedure (6795/19 + ADD 1).
2. On 6 March 2019, COREPER held an exchange of views and agreed to add a CFSP legal base to the abovementioned Council Decision proposal.

3. Following examination of a revised proposal (WK 3282/2019), the Asia Oceania Working Party agreed on the draft Council Decision on 8 March 2019.
4. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Foreign Minister of Japan envisage the political launch of the Joint Committee in Tokyo on Sunday 24 March, to be followed by the formal holding of the Joint Committee thereafter. Adoption of the Council Decision is therefore an urgent matter.
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is accordingly invited to agree that the Council:
 - uses the written procedure to adopt the Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union in the Joint Committee established by the Strategic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Japan, of the other part, regarding the adoption of its Rules of Procedure as set out after revision by the Legal/Linguistic experts in document 7340/19 + ADD 1. Due to the urgency of the matter, the written procedure would be launched immediately after the Committee's agreement, with the deadline for replying set at Thursday evening 21 March COB.
