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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2011) 881 final
Subject:	Proposal for a Council Directive on the coordination and cooperation measures to facilitate consular protection for unrepresented citizens of the Union in third countries = Adoption

1. On 19 December 2011, the Commission sent the above proposal to the Council. The aim of this Directive, which repeals Decision 95/553/EC, is to lay down the cooperation and coordination measures to facilitate consular protection for unrepresented citizens of the Union in third countries. These measures should enhance legal certainty to provide consular protection to the unrepresented citizen of the Union, on the basis of non-discrimination, as well as to promote efficient cooperation and solidarity among consular authorities.

2. The proposal is based on Article 23 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

3. The European Parliament adopted its opinion on 25 October 2012.

4. The Working Party on Consular Affairs began examining the proposal in December 2011. The work subsequently continued on the basis of a number of compromise proposals.

5. At its meeting on 6 March 2015, the Working Party on Consular Affairs reached an overall agreement on the final Presidency compromise, subject to a few remaining reservations by BE, BG and DK (Article 5) and BE, CZ, NL and PT (Article 14) and a general reservation by CZ, FI and IE.

6. The Presidency noted that the current reservations do not constitute a blocking minority.

7. It is therefore suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee invite the Council to adopt, as an "A" item, the above-mentioned Directive, as finalised by the legal/linguistic experts and set out in 7228/15.