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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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AG 4 PE 48

Subject: Determination of equivalence pursuant to Article 8(3) of the Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) between the European Parliament and the Council concerning the forwarding to and handling by the European Parliament of classified information held by the Council on matters other than those in the area of common foreign and security policy

1. The Interinstitutional Agreement (IIA) between the European Parliament and the Council concerning the forwarding to and handling by the European Parliament of classified information held by the Council on matters other than those in the area of common foreign and security policy entered into force on 1 April 2014, after the Council had determined that equivalence has been established in accordance with Article 8(3) of the IIA regarding information classified RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED in paper form in the European Parliament premises in Brussels (see doc. 6716/14).
2. It was also confirmed that documents classified at the level CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL and/or above should not be provided under the IIA until equivalence has been established in respect thereof (doc. 6716/14).

3. GSC Security Office experts conducted a follow-up technical visit to the European Parliament premises in Brussels on 16 October 2015. The Security Committee examined the report of that visit (doc. 15489/1/15 RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED) at its meeting on 23 February 2016. The Committee concluded that although the global security project has not yet been fully implemented, the physical, organisational and procedural measures in place would already allow handling and storing of classified information at the levels CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL and SECRET UE/EU SECRET and their equivalent in hard copy in the European Parliament premises in Brussels.
4. The Working Party of General Affairs, at its meeting of 22 April 2016, took note of the CSC recommendation (doc. 7997/16) to determine that equivalence has been established in accordance with Article 8(3) of the IIA regarding information classified at CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL and SECRET UE/EU SECRET in paper form in the European Parliament premises in Brussels.
5. In the light of the above, and subject to confirmation by COREPER, the Council is invited to determine that equivalence has been established in accordance with Article 8(3) of the IIA regarding information classified at CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL and SECRET UE/EU SECRET in paper form in the European Parliament premises in Brussels.
