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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, on behalf of the Union, and provisional application of the Agreement on Air Transport between the State of Qatar, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part - Adoption

1. The above draft Agreement is the result of the negotiations conducted by the Commission based on the authorisation granted by the Council on 7 June 2016 to the Commission to open negotiations with the State of Qatar with a view to conclude an Agreement on Air Transport. The draft Agreement was initialled on 4 March 2019.
2. On 8 April 2021, the Commission presented to the Council its proposals for a Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of the above-mentioned draft Agreement and for a Council Decision on the conclusion of that Agreement (7666/21 and 7665/21 respectively).
3. The members of the Aviation Working Party examined the draft Council Decision on the signing and provisional application during informal videoconferences on 15 April and 29 April 2021. Moreover, delegations were consulted through a written consultation on 20 May 2021.
4. Following the examination at working party level, the text of the draft Council Decision on the signing and provisional application and the text of the draft Agreement have been revised by the Council's legal-linguistic services.

5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to examine the draft Council Decision as set out in J/L document 8457/21 and the text of the draft Agreement as set out in J/L document 7744/21, and suggest that the Council, in part “A” of the agenda of a forthcoming meeting, adopts that Decision so as to permit the signing of the Agreement.
 6. The European Parliament will be informed of the adoption in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU and the Decision will be transmitted to the EP.
 7. In this context, it is noted that the signature of the draft Agreement and its provisional application are also supported by Member States in their capacity as Parties to that Agreement alongside the Union.
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