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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Outcome of the EU-Arab High Level Meeting on Disability Rights held in Malta on 25 April 2019

Delegations will find in the Annex a note for information from the Maltese delegation on the above subject, with a view to the meeting of the Council (EPSCO) on 13 June 2019 (Any Other Business item).

**Outcome of the EU-Arab High Level Meeting on Disability Rights held in Malta
on 25 April 2019**

The Maltese Government formally collaborated with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to host the first-ever EU-Arab High Level Meeting on Disability Rights on 25 April 2019. Moreover, the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG-EMPL) and the League of Arab States were also key in helping to host this event.

A number of key areas for further cooperation were identified for this meeting, namely accessibility, employment, inclusive education, independent and community living, and cross-sectoral coordination. Furthermore, cooperation on efforts to improve national and regional disability-specific structures mandated by the UNCRPD, through sharing of best practices, were also on the agenda.

Representatives of Governments adopted the Valletta Political Declaration on EU-Arab cooperation in affirming disability rights and creating the EU-Arab cooperation forum in the field of disability rights (informally known as the Valletta Forum). Twenty-two countries and entities adopted the Valletta Declaration: Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Tunisia, together with UN ESCWA and the League of Arab States.

More in-depth discussions between different entities and countries involved are now being conducted as to the next steps vis-à-vis the Valletta Forum, both bilaterally and multilaterally. The aim of these discussions is to clarify the roles assumed by key stakeholders and the extent of their involvement.