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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2018) 358 final
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL DIRECTIVE establishing an EU Emergency Travel Document and repealing Decision 96/409/CFSP - Adoption

1. On 31 May 2018, the Commission submitted the above proposal to the Council. The aim of the proposal, which repeals Decision 96/409/EC, is to update the rules, format and security features of the EU Emergency Travel Document ('EU ETD'). The proposal also seeks to ensure consistency between the specific conditions and procedure for issuing EU ETDs and the general rules on consular protection laid down by Directive (EU) 2015/637 of 20 April 2015 on the coordination and cooperation measures to facilitate consular protection for unrepresented citizens of the Union in third countries and repealing Decision 95/553/EC. This should facilitate consular protection of unrepresented citizens of the Union by means of issuance of safe and widely accepted emergency travel documents.
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 16 January 2019.

4. During the Austrian Presidency, the Working Party on Consular Affairs examined the proposal at its meetings on 28 September, 30 October and 30 November 2018. During the Romanian Presidency, the Working Party continued its examination of the proposal at its meetings on 7 February and 2 April and finally reached an overall agreement on the basis of a revised Presidency compromise proposal following a silence procedure on 11 April 2019. UK indicated its intention to abstain.
 5. The Presidency notes that the current reservations do not constitute a blocking minority.
 6. It is therefore suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee invites the Council to adopt, as an "A" item, the abovementioned Directive, as finalised by the legal/linguistic experts and set out in 8596/19 + COR1.
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