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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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| From:           | General Secretariat of the Council   |
| To:             | Permanent Representatives Committee/Council  |
| No. prev. doc.: | 10581/20   |
| Subject:        | United Nations Summit on Biodiversity: Leaders' Event<br>for Nature and People<br>- Authorisation to endorse the Leaders' Pledge for Nature on behalf<br>of the European Union |

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1. The Commission has informed the Council preparatory bodies on 7 September 2020<sup>1</sup> about its intention to endorse a voluntary declaration, entitled "Leaders' Pledge for Nature". This declaration will be open for endorsement at the Leaders' Event for Nature and People, which will take place virtually on 28 September, in the context of the UN Biodiversity Summit, to be held virtually on 30 September.
2. The Commission's request for the Council's authorisation to endorse the declaration, together with the final text of the Pledge, was shared with the WPIEI Biodiversity and the WPE on 8 September<sup>2</sup> and considered at the informal videoconference meeting of the WPIEI Biodiversity on 10 September. Subsequently, the agreement on the Commission's request for authorisation at working party level has been reached through an informal silence procedure on 14 September 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> WK 9019/2020

<sup>2</sup> ST 10581/20

3. The text of the Leaders' Pledge for Nature, attached to ST 10581/20, is considered as final and no further changes to the text are expected. However, in case further changes are proposed, they can only be accepted to the extent they are in line with existing Union policies and legislation as well as agreed positions of the EU and its Member States.
  
  4. Against this background, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to suggest to the Council to authorise the Commission to endorse, on behalf of the Union, the Leaders' Pledge for Nature.
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