Council of the European Union

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Singapore, of the other part - Adoption

1. On 25 November 2004, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Singapore on a Framework Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation[1]. In the Negotiating Directives it was stipulated whether the agreement should be concluded inter alia by the Community and its Member States or by the Community and the European Union would be determined at the end of the negotiations and on the basis of the text resulting from these negotiations.

[1] Council Negotiating Directives for Individual Framework Agreements on Partnership and Cooperation with the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Singapore, the Republic of The Philippines, Malaysia, and Negara Brunei Darussalam (doc. 14844/04 EU RESTRICTED).

2. Negotiations with Singapore were launched in October 2005 and were finalised at the end May 2013. The two sides initialled the PCA in Singapore on 14 October 2013.

3. On 17 February 2014, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Singapore, of the other part and, at annex, the final result of the negotiations in the form of a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Singapore, of the other part (6634/14 + ADD1). Furthermore, the Commission submitted a draft Joint Declaration on the new Global Standard on Automatic Exchange of Information as adopted by the OECD (6634/14 ADD2).

4. At its meeting on 23 May 2018, the Asia-Oceania Working Party confirmed its approval of the proposals and reached agreement in principle on the texts. The Joint Declaration on the new Global Standard on Automatic Exchange of Information as adopted by the OECD was considered no longer relevant. The possibility of provisional application would be dealt at a later stage.

5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is accordingly invited to recommend that the Council at one of its upcoming meetings:

   – adopts as an 'A' item the Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the Union, of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Singapore, of the other part as set out after finalisation by the Legal/Linguistic experts in document 7322/18, and thereby authorise the signature of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and of the Side Letter attached to the Agreement as set out in documents 8224/14 + COR 1(ro) + COR 2 (pt) + COR 3 (fr) + COR 4 (es) + COR 5 (de) + REV 1 (da, nl) + REV 3 (et).