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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration and Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy – Mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 22 of June 2022, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Directive amending Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration and Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy[1].

[1] Doc. 14265/22 + ADD 1-3.

2. The proposal aims to update the Annexes of these directives containing the lists of pollutants and quality standards, to improve monitoring of chemical mixtures, streamline future updates according to scientific findings, improve access to, transparency and re-use of data and set new standards for a series of substances of emerging concern.

3. The Economic and Social Committee adopted its opinion on the proposal on 22 February 2023. The European Parliament appointed MEP Milan Brglez (S&D) as Rapporteur. The EP's position at first reading[2] was adopted in Plenary on 24 April 2024, with 452 votes in favour, 43 votes against and 83 abstentions.

II. WORK IN THE COUNCIL

4. Within the Council, the Working Party on the Environment (WPE) is responsible for examining the proposal at technical level. Under the ES and BE Presidencies, the WPE pursued an intensive examination of the proposal. Evolving Presidency compromise texts have been put forward, reflecting discussions held at 10 WPE meetings and subsequent comments from delegations.

5. On 12 June 2024, the Presidency sought guidance from Coreper.[3] Discussions in Coreper indicated an overwhelming support for the Presidency compromise text.[4] Discussions also indicated support for a couple of changes requested by Member States. These concern the inclusion of an additional recital on green transition and a terminology change to Article 12 of the Water Framework Directive. The Presidency has revised its compromise text accordingly and it can be found in document 10860/1/24 REV 1.

2 T9-0358/2024.
3 Doc. 10796/24.
4 Doc. 10860/24.

III. CONCLUSION

6. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the revised Presidency compromise text as set out in document 10860/1/24 REV 1, containing the mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament.

7. On 12 June 2024, Coreper agreed to make public the text of the mandate once approved, in accordance with the approach to legislative transparency endorsed by Coreper on 14 July 20203[5], and in full consistency with Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 and the Council's Rules of Procedure.

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[5] Doc. 9493/20.

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