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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL laying down specific and temporary measures, in view of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, concerning driver documents issued by Ukraine in accordance with its legislation **(first reading)** - Adoption of the legislative act - Decision to derogate from the eight-week period provided for in Article 4 of Protocol 1 on the role of national parliaments in the EU = Statement

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

concerning the extension of the material and temporal and, consequently, personal scope of the proposed Regulation

The Republic of Poland welcomes the direction of the solutions proposed in the abovementioned draft Regulation. Nevertheless, the Government of the Republic of Poland wishes to draw attention to the following two points.

First, the Government of the Republic of Poland considers that the specific and temporary measures applicable to driver documents issued by Ukraine should not be made conditional upon the Ukrainian national enjoying temporary or adequate protection under national law in accordance with Directive 2001/55/EC and Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382. The aim is for the draft provisions to apply to the maximum possible number of drivers who are Ukrainian nationals. The scope of the draft Regulation as proposed by the European Commission only covers the category of people who have been granted temporary protection, the vast majority of whom are women, people over 60 years old and children. Few of the people in this category hold a driving licence that permits them to drive vehicles used for the carriage of goods or passengers by road.

Second, in the opinion of the Government of the Republic of Poland, the material scope of the draft Regulation should also be broadened so as to extend the period of validity of documents issued to professional drivers after 24 February 2022 – i.e. driving certificates, driver qualification cards, driving licences under code 95 or certificates of professional competence – for one to two years from the date of entry into force of the Regulation or until the end of the period for which so-called temporary protection applies. This solution would ensure the continuity of the rights held and would make it possible, inter alia, to work as a road transport driver.