Council of the European Union

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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Draft Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council empowering France to negotiate an agreement supplementing its existing bilateral Treaty with the United Kingdom concerning the construction and operation by private concessionaires of a Channel Fixed Link **(first reading)** - Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption of the legislative act

1. On 27 July 2020 the Commission sent its proposal[1], based on Articles 2(1) and 91 TFEU, to the Council. On 14 September 2020 the Commission sent a corrigendum of its proposal, adding Article 2(1) TFEU as an additional legal base[2].

2. The European Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion on 16 September 2020[3].

3. The Committee of the Regions was consulted.

4. The European Parliament will adopt its position at first reading on the Commission proposal at its plenary on 5-8 October 2020.

1 9974/20.
2 9976/20 COR1
3 Not yet published in the OJ.

5. Due to the special circumstances, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision (EU) 2020/1253[4], that the Council uses the written procedure for the adoption of the draft Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council empowering France to negotiate an agreement supplementing its existing bilateral Treaty with the United Kingdom concerning the construction and operation by private concessionaires of a Channel Fixed Link, as set out in document PE- CONS 31/20[5].

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[4] Council Decision (EU) 2020/1253 of 4 September 2020 further extending the temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure introduced by Decision (EU) 2020/430, and extended by Decisions (EU) 2020/556, (EU) 2020/702 and (EU) 2020/970, in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union (OJ L 294, 8.9.2020, p. 1–2)

[5] PE-CONS 31/20 will be available in due time.