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LIMITE

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
Subject:	EU-ASEAN Plan of Action 2023-2027 - Approval of an NBI

1. On 13 June 2022, the Council approved the entering into negotiations for a Plan of Action for implementation of the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership for the period 2023-2027 (9691/22).
2. ASEAN agrees Plans of Action with each of its formal Dialogue Partners. The last such Plan of Action with the EU was agreed in 2017 for the period 2018-2022. It is standard practice for ASEAN to approve these Plans of Action, together with the respective Dialogue Partner, at the Post-Ministerial Conference immediately preceding the new action plan period. This year's Post-Ministerial Conference will be held on 4 August 2022 in Cambodia.

3. The Plan of Action will cover activities under ASEAN's "three pillars", namely political and security cooperation (including human rights and good governance), economic cooperation, and socio-cultural cooperation (including public health, disaster management, environment), as well as "cross-pillar" cooperation in areas such as connectivity or the circular economy. It will not entail any legal commitments.
4. On 14 July 2022, the Asia-Oceania Working Party (COASI) discussed the latest draft of the Plan of Action (WK 7490/22 REV2). Negotiations on the text will be continuing until the start of the Post-Ministerial Conference.
5. Member States stressed that the Action Plan should not diverge from agreed EU language. In addition, they asked EEAS, the negotiator, to retain food security as a topic of EU-ASEAN collaboration and seek to maintain the reference to the rule of law and proportionality in the fight against terrorism. It was also requested to seek a stronger affirmation of the central role of 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Finally, Member States asked EEAS to seek to maintain the level of ambition concerning women, peace and security.
6. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend that the Council
 - approves the text of the EU-ASEAN Plan of Action 2023-2027, as set out in 11386/22, and
 - agrees that if further adjustments of the text are required in order to ensure agreement by the time of the Post-Ministerial Conference, the text may be adapted accordingly provided that the changes do not affect the substance and intent of EU positions.
