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| From: | General Secretariat of the Council |
| To: | Delegations |
| Subject: | AOB for the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council on 15 July 2025: QMV in CFSP - Explanatory note from Germany, Belgium, Finland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden |

The AOB will address an update of the work of the Group of Friends on Improved Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) Decision-Making. The Group of Friends was founded in May 2023 with the aim of exploring ways to make use of the already existing treaty options on qualified majority voting (QMV) in CFSP. It focuses on improving the effectiveness and speed of decision-making in CFSP by exploring the options for QMV which are already provided by the Treaties.

Current Members of the Group of Friends are: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. All Member States are welcome to join.

Reflections within the Group of Friends have led to “*Options in the Treaties for improved decision-making in CFSP, including the safety net*” which some Members of the Group of Friends (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden) forwarded to the EEAS.

The options paper is intended as a contribution to the task in the Mission Letter for High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Kallas to make use of the clauses enshrined in the Treaties that allow decisions in the CFSP to be taken by QMV, while protecting vital national interest of all Member States. It is intended

to be a first step and a living document, open to take more Member States on board, and subject to future deliberation amongst Member States on any concrete decisions to expand the use of QMV within CFSP.

