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LIMITE

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CFSP/PESC 1033
CSC 352
JAI 1067
ESPACE 107**

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations for the amendment of the Agreement between the European Space Agency and the European Union on the security and exchange of classified information

1. On 22 July 2022, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy made a Recommendation for the Council for a Council Decision authorising the High Representative to open negotiations with the European Space Agency (ESA) in order to amend the existing Security of Information Agreement (doc. 11575/22).
2. On 9 September 2022, the Council Security Committee (CSC) endorsed (through written consultation) an amended version of that draft Council Decision (doc. 12313/22).
3. On 29 September 2022, the Space Working Party also endorsed (through written consultation) that amended draft Council Decision (doc. 13002/22).
4. On 6 September 2022, the Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party (RELEX) agreed the draft Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations for the amendment of the Agreement between the ESA and the European Union on the security and exchange of classified information.

5. In accordance with Article 218(10) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the European Parliament will be informed of the Council Decision authorising the opening of those negotiations.
6. In these circumstances, COREPER is invited to:
- confirm the agreement on the draft Council Decision¹;
 - recommend that the Council adopt the draft Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations for the amendment of the Agreement between the ESA and the European Union on the security and exchange of classified information, as set out, after finalisation of the text by the legal/linguistic experts, in document 11576/22 + ADD 1.

¹ In view of its nature, this Decision will not be published in the Official Journal (cf. Art. 17(2)(b) of the Council's Rules of Procedure).