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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	5282/18 RECH 15 COMPET 22 IND 14 TELECOM 11 IA 11
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION on establishing the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking - Adoption

1. On 11 January 2018, the Commission submitted its proposal for a Council Regulation on establishing the European High Performance Computing (HPC) Joint Undertaking. The draft Regulation is based on Article 187 and the first paragraph of Article 188 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
2. The key objective of the proposal is to develop, deploy, extend and maintain in the Union an integrated world-class supercomputing and data infrastructure and to develop and support a highly competitive and innovative HPC ecosystem. The Joint Undertaking should be set up and start operating at the latest by early 2019 in order to reach the target of equipping the Union with an infrastructure of pre-exascale supercomputers by 2020, and developing the necessary technologies and applications for reaching exascale capabilities around 2022 to 2023.

3. On 21 February 2018, the Council consulted the European Parliament which voted its report on 3 July¹.
4. On 21 February 2018, the Council also consulted the Economic and Social Committee which adopted its opinion on 23 May 2018².
5. The Research Working Party intensively examined the Commission's proposal from January to May 2018, with a General Approach³ reached at the Council (Environment) on 25 June 2018.
6. Since 25 June 2018, additional countries have shown an interest to participate as founding members in the HPC Joint Undertaking. To formalise these new interests as well as to confirm the intentions of the countries that have signed the declaration, the Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission sent letters to the Member States and Norway and Switzerland on 1 August 2018. Following this, 24 countries confirmed their participation, while 1 declared to abstain from participating as a founding member of the Joint Undertaking.
7. Consequently, Article 2(1)(b) of the Statutes was adapted to reflect the confirmations and abstentions received. A silent procedure was launched on 11 September 2018 for Member States to approve the changes introduced in this Article. As one further Member State broke the silent procedure to confirm its participation, a new silent procedure had to be launched on 13 September 2018. At the end of the silent procedure on 14 September 2018, no Member State had objected to the adaptations to Article 2(1)(b) of the Statutes.
8. The Permanent Representatives Committee is thus invited to suggest that the Council, in part "A" of the agenda of its meeting on 27-28 September 2018, adopts the Council Regulation on establishing the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking as revised by the legal-linguists and contained in document 10594/18 RECH 305 COMPET 487 IND 183 TELECOM 205 CYBER 154.

¹ Legislative resolution of the European Parliament, P8_TA(2018)0271 of 3 July 2018.

² Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee, TEN/659 of 23 May 2018.

³ Doc. 10175/18.