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LIMITE

ENV 826

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
Subject:	Draft Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the eighth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds with regard to certain amendments to Annex 3 to the Agreement - Adoption

1. The Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) ('the Agreement') aims to conserve migratory waterbirds and their habitats across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Greenland and the Canadian Archipelago. The Agreement entered into force on 1 November 1999 and it was concluded by the Union through Council Decision 2006/871/EC.¹
2. The Meeting of the Parties (MOP) is the principal decision-making body of the Agreement and has powers to amend its Annex 2 (species to conserve) and Annex 3 (Action Plan for priority species).

¹ Council Decision 2006/871/EC of 18 July 2005 on the conclusion on behalf of the European Community of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds. OJ L 345, 8.12.2006, p. 24.

3. With a view to the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP 8) (Hungary, 27-30 September 2022), Parties to AEWA have submitted proposals to amend the annexes to the Agreement. On 27 July 2021, the Commission submitted its proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union with regard to certain amendments to Annex 3 to the Agreement.²
4. The Working Party on International Environment Issues (WPIEI) (Biodiversity) considered the Commission's proposal for a Council Decision at several meetings throughout 2021 and 2022, as AEWA MOP 8 was continuously postponed due to the Covid-19 health crisis and respective travel restrictions. More recently, the WPIEI (Biodiversity) and the Working Party on the Environment (WPE) examined the draft decision at their meetings on 13 July 2022 and 25 July 2022, respectively. Discussions held at these meetings showed that there was a qualified majority in favour of the Presidency's compromise text.³
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is, therefore, invited to recommend to the Council to:
- a) adopt, by qualified majority, the draft Council Decision set out in document 11609/22 (text finalised by the Jurist-Linguists), as an "A" item on the agenda of one of its forthcoming sessions;
 - b) decide to inform the European Parliament of the adoption.
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² ST 11087/21.

³ ST 11389/22.