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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. prev. doc.:	10567/23 + ADD1-2, 11872/23, 12011/23
Subject:	Proposal for a EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION establishing the composition of the European Parliament - Agreement in principle

1. According to Article 14(2) TEU:

"The European Parliament shall be composed of representatives of the Union's citizens. They shall not exceed seven hundred and fifty in number, plus the President. Representation of citizens shall be degressively proportional, with a minimum threshold of six members per Member State. No Member State shall be allocated more than ninety-six seats.

The European Council shall adopt by unanimity, on the initiative of the European Parliament and with its consent, a decision establishing the composition of the European Parliament, respecting the principles referred to in the first subparagraph."

2. At its sitting of 15 June 2023, the European Parliament adopted on the basis of Article 14(2) TEU a proposal for a decision of the European Council establishing the composition of the European Parliament (EP)¹.
3. In light of the exchanges held on the proposal, the Presidency put forward a compromise text (11103/23) that was discussed at the meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee on 14 July. An adjusted version of the text (12011/23) was discussed at the Permanent Representatives Committee meeting on 19 July. All delegations but one could support the revised text, so the Chair of COREPER decided to revert to the matter at the next meeting (on 26 July).
4. Several delegations have underlined, in the course of discussions, that the adoption of the European Council's decision establishing the composition of the European Parliament for the 2024-2029 parliamentary terms is urgent, given their internal procedures for the preparation of the elections to the European Parliament which are to take place in June 2024.
5. Under Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Council, decisions of the European Council on an urgent matter may be adopted by a written vote at the initiative of the President of the European Council. Written votes may be used where all members of the European Council having the right to vote agree to that procedure.
6. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
 - reach an agreement in principle on the text of the draft European Council decision, as it appears in document 12011/23, subject to legal-linguistic revision; and
 - invite the Chair of COREPER to inform the President of the European Council of this agreement in principle and forward to him the text of the draft European Council decision, as revised by the legal-linguistic experts (which will be contained in document EUCO 13/23).

¹ 10567/23 + ADD1 + ADD2.