



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 24 July 2023
(OR. en)

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LIMITE

COVEME 3

'I' ITEM NOTE

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| From: | Presidency |
| To: | Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2) |
| No. prev. doc.: | 11727/23 |
| Subject: | Commission Information Note - Closing of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism for Bulgaria and Romania |
| | - Approval of a letter |

1. By way of an Information Note of 5 July 2023¹, the Commission has informed the Council of its intention to formally close the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM) for Bulgaria and Romania by the beginning of September. The Commission, citing also recent reform progress made by the two Member States, concludes that the conditions for the final closures of the CVM have been met. The Commission also recalls that the CVM will be fully replaced by the annual Rule of Law cycle established in 2020, covering all Member States.
2. The Commission, in line with the principle of loyal cooperation and the Commission's obligations to inform the Council in good time before revoking the CVM and to duly take into account any observations of the Council in this respect, has invited the Council to make observations by 25 August 2023.

¹ 11532/23

3. The Commission's Information note was presented and discussed in the Council's Ad-hoc Working Party on the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM) on 14 July 2023 and in COREPER on 19 July 2023. In light of the positions expressed, the Presidency proposes that the Council conveys its observations by way of a letter.
 4. The Coreper is invited, in accordance with Article 19(7)(k) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to approve the draft letter in ANNEX to be sent to the Commission in reply to its Information Note.
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To: The President of the Commission

Dear Ms President,

The Council takes note of the Commission's Information note "Closing of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism for Bulgaria and Romania" of 5 July 2023. The Information note was presented and discussed in the Council's Ad-hoc Working Party on the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM) on 14 July 2023 and in COREPER on 19 July 2023.

The Council acknowledges the significant progress in the area of rule of law registered by Romania and Bulgaria, as well as the Commission's intention to repeal Commission Decisions 2006/928/EC and 2006/929/EC by the beginning of September 2023, based on its assessment that the benchmarks stated therein have been fulfilled. The Council takes note that cooperation on the reform process that was followed under the CVM will continue, as indicated in the Commission's Information note, under the annual Rule of Law cycle and in the context of other parts of the rule of law toolbox, as for all Member States.

Regarding the Commission's intention to revoke the CVM Decisions by the beginning of September, one delegation has asked to the Commission an extension in order to inform the national Parliament. Two delegations supported this request.