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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	D045385/06 - ST 11556/19
Subject:	COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) .../... of XXX amending Regulation (EU) No 546/2011 as regards the assessment of the impact of plant protection products on honeybees - <i>Decision not to oppose the adoption</i>

Statement by the French delegation

France takes note of today's Council decision not to oppose the adoption of the draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 546/2011 as regards the assessment of the impact of plant protection products on honeybees. As indicated in its proposal for an objection, France considers that the EFSA guidance document from 2013 should be applied more comprehensively, as was originally proposed by the Commission. As it stands, the amendments laid down by the Regulation in question are insufficient to meet the goals of protecting pollinators, and the uniform principles should reflect the most recent and in-depth methods for assessment and decision.

France opposed the draft Regulation at the Standing Committee on 16 and 17 July and proposed that the Council object to its adoption by way of the regulatory procedure with scrutiny on the grounds that it is not consistent with the objectives of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 (the basic act), for compelling reasons relating to the protection of pollinators in the light of scientific and technical knowledge. France regrets this decision at a time when the decline of pollinators is a major issue for both the protection of the environment and agricultural production.
