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From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
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Subject:	Strategic coordination of the work of the Council preparatory bodies in the area of migration

On 5 December 2014, the JHA Council asked Coreper to review the mandates and working methods of the Council preparatory bodies in order to better coordinate the work of home affairs and foreign relations working parties, taking into account the outcome of the discussion held by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Ministers of Interior on 27 November 2014 in Rome.¹ At Coreper on 10 December 2014, the Trio of Presidencies informed on how they would take the matter forward.

Coreper at its meeting on 4-5 March 2015 took note of the information of the Trio of Presidencies (IT, LV, LU) in doc. 6589/15, which provided how the trio intended to organise the work of SCIFA and HLWG, with the addition that this practice would be evaluated and, if necessary, reviewed by the LU Presidency in autumn 2015.

¹ Doc. 16516/14

Following proceedings in HLWG on 1 July 2015 and at the informal SCIFA on 23-24 July 2015, HLWG/SCIFA at its joint meeting on 14-15 September 2015 endorsed the Annex of the Presidency paper in doc. 10249/15 on Strategic coordination of the work of the Council preparatory bodies in the area of migration, which is reproduced in the Annex to the present document.

On this basis, Coreper/Council is invited:

- to endorse the paper on Strategic coordination of the work of the Council preparatory bodies in the area of migration, as set out in Annex;
- to invite the incoming Trio of Presidencies (NL, SK, MT) to prepare the first Trio paper on the Strategic coordination.

**STRATEGIC COORDINATION OF THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL
PREPARATORY BODIES IN THE AREA OF MIGRATION**

Coreper at its meeting on 4 and 5 March 2015 took note of the information provided and the suggestions made by the Trio of Presidencies, in consultation with the future Netherlands Presidency and in close cooperation with the Commission and the EEAS, regarding the organisation of the Council preparatory bodies, as set out in doc. 6589/15.

In accordance with these suggestions, the Latvian Presidency organised one joint meeting and one back to back meeting of SCIFA and HLWG, and has taken steps to ensure coordination of agendas and discussions in the two groups.

In continuation of these efforts, the Luxembourg Presidency proposes to start working on a short and concise paper on the Strategic Coordination of the work of the Council preparatory bodies in the area of migration, in order to better integrate the work on the internal and external aspects of migration and to improve the efficiency and coherence of the Council preparatory bodies in this area. The paper would define, under the responsibility of the Trio of Presidencies, the Strategic Coordination in the area of migration. It should be used to mainstream these priorities into the work of the Council preparatory bodies dealing with migration, in particular SCIFA and HLWG, but also other relevant thematic and geographical groups (CODEV, COHOM, etc.). This paper should not become yet another administrative burden, but should be short and concise, focusing on the main priorities and constituting a practical tool for improving efficiency and coherence.

For this purpose, the Luxembourg Presidency proposes the following:

1. After consultation with all relevant actors, in particular the Commission and the EEAS, and taking into account the technical and statistical input from the EU Agencies, the Presidency would in consultation with the incoming Trio of Presidencies (NL, SK, MT) start preparing a draft paper on Strategic Coordination with the objective of steering the work of these Presidencies throughout 18 months (1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017).

2. The paper should:
 - a) streamline different strands of thematic and geographical priorities from the EU agencies' analytical input and the plethora of existing instruments, programmes and political commitments so as to establish clear and coherent strategic priorities for the work of the Council preparatory bodies in the field of migration, especially by taking into account the EC Conclusions and the ongoing work on the European Agenda on Migration.
 - b) provide political impulse and serve as operational guidelines for the work of the Council preparatory bodies dealing with migration. The Chairs of these Council preparatory bodies would be responsible for mainstreaming the identified strategic priorities into the work of these bodies.
 - c) also make recommendations on the improvement of the working methods of the Council preparatory bodies as well as on the decision-making process in this area. Reorganisation or merger of reporting commitments under different initiatives (such as the EU Action on Migratory Pressures, the Task Force Mediterranean (TFM), JHA Council conclusions of October 2014, European Council conclusions of April 2015, Roadmap, European Agenda on Migration ...) within a clearly defined framework would be treated as a matter of priority.
 - d) look into ways to achieve better synchronization with the financial cycle of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).
3. The Chairs of SCIFA and HLWG of the Trio of Presidencies would draft the Strategic Coordination paper, to be discussed in a joint SCIFA-HLWG meeting. The Trio of Presidencies could invite Coreper and Council to take note of the final paper at the beginning of the Trio of Presidencies (by means of a I/A note), with the understanding that the paper may be adjusted as necessary every six months in view of relevant developments in the areas concerned.

4. SCIFA and HLWG would be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Coordination paper so as to promote coherence between internal and external aspects of migration, while also taking into account the ongoing work related to migration in other Council preparatory bodies. At the end of the Trio of Presidencies, SCIFA and HLWG would make an evaluation on the implementation of the Strategic priorities.
 5. The following Trio of Presidencies would make the necessary arrangements for the purpose of preparing a renewed Strategic Coordination paper in due time.
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