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**ENFOPOL 475**

**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft COUNCIL DECISION authorising Member States to become party, in the interest of the European Union, to the Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security, and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (CETS n°218) - Request for the consent of the European Parliament

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1. On 27 April 2018, the Commission transmitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the abovementioned subject<sup>1</sup>.
2. The Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events ('the Convention') was done on 3 July 2016 and has been open for signature and ratification since then.
3. However, certain provisions of the Convention may fall under the exclusive competence of the Union within the meaning of Article 3(2) of the TFEU, as they coincide with certain obligations contained in Council Decision 2002/348/JHA concerning security in connection with football matches with an international dimension.

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<sup>1</sup> 8577/18.

4. While Union support for the Convention is important, the Union cannot become party to the Convention, as only States can be parties thereto. Member States should therefore be authorised to sign and ratify the Convention, acting jointly in the interest of the Union, in respect of the provisions which fall under the exclusive competence of the Union.
  5. The United Kingdom and Ireland are bound by Decision 2002/348/JHA, and are therefore taking part in the adoption of this Decision.
  6. The Law Enforcement Working Party examined the above proposal at its meeting on 21 June 2018 and endorsed its text with one change. The draft Council Decision was submitted to legal-linguistic revision in order to allow for the request of the consent of the European Parliament, with a view to the subsequent adoption of the Decision by the Council.
  7. Consequently, COREPER is invited to suggest that the Council, under part "A" of the agenda of one of its forthcoming sessions, decide to forward to the European Parliament for its consent the draft Council Decision as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts in 12527/18.
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