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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Memorandum of Understanding to establish a partnership on sustainable raw materials, batteries and renewable hydrogen value chains with Kazakhstan <i>- Authorisation to negotiate a non-binding instrument</i>

1. On 26 September 2022, the Commission informed the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) about its intention to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Union to establish a strategic partnership on sustainable raw materials, batteries and renewable hydrogen value chains with Kazakhstan¹.
2. The partnership, as a non-binding instrument, aims to support closer economic and industrial integration between Kazakhstan and the EU in the strategic value chains of raw materials, batteries and renewable hydrogen, in particular through mapping resources, aligning high environmental, social and governance standards, identifying projects throughout the respective value chains, and attracting private investment and de-risking in sustainable projects through financial and investment instruments. It also aims at increasing the resilience of raw material, battery and renewable hydrogen supply chains, as well as closer bilateral cooperation on research and innovation, skills and capacity-building.

¹ WK 12579/2022.

3. The Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry), at its meeting on 26 September 2022, examined the Commission's intention to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, this non-binding instrument.

Delegations generally welcomed and expressed overall support to the approach proposed by the Commission with the understanding that the Commission will revert to the Council at the end of the negotiation process to seek the Council's authorisation for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Union.

4. Following the examination by the Working Party, the Permanent Representatives Committee is asked to:
- confirm its agreement to the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a partnership on sustainable raw materials, batteries and renewable hydrogen value chains with Kazakhstan;
 - recommend that the Council, as an 'A' item on the agenda of a forthcoming Council meeting, authorises the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, this non-binding instrument.
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