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## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	12766/23, WK 11820/23
No. Cion doc.:	11211/23, 11546/23
Subject:	Position paper by the European Union and its Member States concerning the draft Council of Europe Convention superseding and replacing the 1998 Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law - Agreement at technical level

Belgium submitted the following statement for the minutes of the meeting of Coreper at which the text of the position paper will be presented for confirmation:

*“Belgium strongly supports the objective to adopt a new Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law within the Council of Europe. We can furthermore agree with the adoption of the position paper, although we regret the level of ambition included in the comments regarding Article 27 on ecocide. The fight against the crime of ecocide, the deliberate destruction of ecological systems, is very important for Belgium. Therefore, a definition of ecocide should be pursued within international forums, even if this is apparently not an easy task. Belgium deplores that the position paper does not leave room for a discussion on the definition of ecocide in the framework of this draft Convention.”*