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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on Soil Monitoring and Resilience (Soil Monitoring Law) (first reading) - Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons = Statement

Statement by Sweden

Sweden appreciates that the final compromise text to a large extent safeguards the flexibility and control of Member States. Sweden acknowledge that Article 10 has moved substantially in line with Sweden's position with the deletion of legally binding common sustainable management principles and with the deletion of Annex III.

Nevertheless, Sweden's underlying concern with the proposed Directive remains. Sweden still believes the proposal will incur additional costs in relation to its benefits and fails to see a clear added value that justifies the administrative burden of a legally binding common monitoring framework. The cost-efficiency of the monitoring framework is still uncertain and there is a lack of evidence-based quality assurance that the proposed framework will be feasible and properly applicable to different types of soils. The transboundary nature of soil health is limited and adjoins national competence.

The final compromise text results in a Directive that is closer to Sweden's position compared to the commission proposal and Sweden can therefore, in the spirit of compromise, accept the final compromise text. However, Sweden underlines the concerns stated above, as well as that there is no guarantee that the framework will work in practice.
