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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the International Maritime Organization's Marine Environment Protection Committee at its second extraordinary session as regards the adoption of amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) - Adoption

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 30 July 2025, the Commission transmitted the above-mentioned proposal to the Council.
2. The proposal concerns the establishment of the Union position during the second extraordinary session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), taking place from 14 to 17 October 2025 (MEPC/ES.2) as regards the adoption of amendments to Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) on the designation of the North-East Atlantic as a new Emission Control Area (regulations 13 and 14 and Appendix VII of Annex VI to MARPOL), on the accessibility of the IMO Ship Fuel Oil Consumption Database (IMO DCS) and the review clause of the short-term greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measure (regulations 20, 25, 27 and 28 of Annex VI to MARPOL), and on the IMO Net-Zero Framework (new chapter 5 of Annex VI to MARPOL).

3. The amendments to MARPOL, which are expected to be adopted during MEPC/ES.2, will be capable of decisively influencing the content of Union law, namely Regulations (EU) 2015/757¹ and (EU) 2023/1805² of the European Parliament and of the Council and Directives (EU) 2016/802³ and (EU) 2023/959⁴ of the European Parliament and of the Council.
4. The amendments are in line with the Union's objectives to improve maritime safety and to protect the marine environment and human health, in particular by preventing, reducing and controlling air pollutant emissions from ships, and by reducing GHG emissions.

II. WORK WITHIN THE COUNCIL PREPARATORY BODIES

5. The proposal was examined by the Shipping Working Party on 8 and 15 September 2025. The Presidency compromise proposal presented at that last meeting was accepted by delegations.
6. The Shipping Working Party agreed to adapt the proposal, as far as relevant, to previous similar Council Decisions, including safeguards on the division of competences between the Union and the Member States and on the exercise of competence by the adoption of this Council Decision.
7. The Commission voiced concerns on some of the amendments made to its original proposal.
8. Following the agreement reached at working party level, the text of the draft Council Decision was revised by the Council's legal-linguistic services.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2015/757 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 on the monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions from maritime transport, and amending Directive 2009/16/EC.

² Regulation (EU) 2023/1805 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 September 2023 on the use of renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport, and amending Directive 2009/16/EC.

³ Directive (EU) 2016/802 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 relating to a reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels.

⁴ Directive (EU) 2023/959 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 May 2023 amending Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a system for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Union and Decision (EU) 2015/1814 concerning the establishment and operation of a market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading system.

III. CONCLUSION

9. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to examine and endorse the draft decision, as set out in document ST 12915/25, prepared by the legal-linguistic experts, and transmit it to the Council with a view to adoption at a future session.
 10. The European Parliament will be informed of the adoption in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU.
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