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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	12561/18 - COM(2018) 657 final
Subject:	Draft Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury with regard to the adoption of guidelines on the environmentally sound storage of mercury, other than waste mercury, referred to in Article 10(2) and (3) of the Convention - Adoption

1. On 10 October 2013 the Minamata Convention on Mercury (the 'Convention'), which was negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was adopted in Kumamoto, Japan, and entered into force on 16 August 2017. It was concluded by the Union by means of Council Decision (EU) 2017/939[1]. The Convention provides for a framework for the control and limitation of the use, and of anthropogenic emissions and releases, of mercury and mercury compounds to air, water and land, with a view to protecting human health and the environment.

[1] OJ L 142, 2.6.2017, p. 4

2. The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP 2) will be held on 19-23 November 2018 in Geneva and is inter alia called to adopt guidelines on the environmentally sound interim storage of mercury, other than waste mercury, referred to in Article 10(2) and (3) of the Convention.

3. The Commission, on 26 September 2018, proposed a draft Council Decision on the relevant position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at COP 2[2]. The Working Party on the Environment (WPE) considered the proposal on 5 October 2018. The Presidency compromise text[3], submitted subsequently to Member States in writing, was acceptable to all delegations.

8. It is therefore suggested, that the Permanent Representatives Committee recommend that the Council
   - as an "A" item at a forthcoming session, adopt the Decision set out in doc. 13416/18 as finalised by the legal-linguists;
   - inform the European Parliament on its Decision in accordance with Article 218(10) of the TFEU.

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[2] Doc. 12561/18
[3] Doc. 13374/18