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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Directive 2009/38/EC as regards the establishment and functioning of European Works Councils and the effective enforcement of transnational information and consultation rights **(first reading)** - Adoption of the legislative act - Statement

Statement by Spain

Spain welcomes the adoption of the revision of the European Works Councils Directive, firstly because democracy at work is a top priority in our country, and secondly because the revision of the Directive was long overdue.

Bolstering information and consultation rights in transnational undertakings is not just a matter of social justice, but an essential pillar of a more cohesive, inclusive and equitable Europe.

However, we regret the loss of ambition in some key aspects of the agreement presented to us today. We would have liked to see greater commitment on fundamental issues, such as a broader definition of the concept of a ‘transnational matter’, which is key to the effective exercise of information and consultation rights, real precautionary measures, an enhanced role for trade union representatives and genuine gender balance in the councils.

Despite these limitations, we acknowledge that the text represents a major step forward in several areas which will enable shortcomings in the current framework to be remedied.

Spain will continue to work to make the rights of workers in Europe a tangible and fully guaranteed reality.