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European Union

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#### 'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Memorandum of Understanding to establish a partnership on sustainable raw materials value chains with Greenland  
*- Authorisation to negotiate a non-binding instrument*

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1. On 10 October 2022, the Commission informed the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) about its intention to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Union to establish a partnership on sustainable raw materials value chains with Greenland<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> WK 13545/2022.

2. The partnership, as a non-binding instrument, aims in particular to support a closer economic and industrial integration of Greenland and the EU in the strategic value chains of raw materials, in particular through mapping resources, identifying projects throughout the respective value chains, facilitating business opportunities and identifying and deploying financial and investment de-risking instruments. It also aims to support an alignment on high environmental, social and governance standards throughout the raw materials value chains, and the deployment of infrastructure for projects development. Moreover, it aims to support capacity building, training and skills development along raw materials value chains, co-operation on research and innovation including on minerals knowledge, technologies and skills, as well as regulatory alignment, standards and certification.
3. The Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry), at its meeting on 26 October 2022, examined the Commission's intention to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, this non-binding instrument.

Delegations generally welcomed and expressed overall support to the approach proposed by the Commission with the understanding that the Commission will revert to the Council at the end of the negotiation process to seek the Council's authorisation for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Union. Some delegations emphasised the importance of securing high environmental standards.

4. Following the examination by the Working Party, the Permanent Representatives Committee is asked to:
  - confirm its agreement to the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a partnership on sustainable raw materials value chains with Greenland;
  - recommend that the Council, as an 'A' item on the agenda of a forthcoming Council meeting, authorises the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, this non-binding instrument.