Council of the European Union

Brussels, 27 November 2019
(OR. en)

14211/19
ADD 2

Interinstitutional File:
2019/0248(NLE)

MAR 171
OMI 67
CLIMA 304
ENV 928

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	ST 13816/19
Subject:	Draft COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the International Maritime Organization during the 31st session of its Assembly, on the adoption of amendments to resolution A.658(16) on Use and fitting of retro-reflective materials on life-saving appliances, and the adoption of a resolution on Survey Guidelines under the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) – *Joint statement by Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Malta and the Netherlands*

Delegations will find attached a joint statement by Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Malta and the Netherlands to be included in the minutes of the Permanent Representatives Committee and of the Council.

ANNEX

Joint statement by Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Malta and The Netherlands

regarding the adoption of a Council decision on an EU position for the 31st session of the IMO Assembly

We, the undersigned, do not consider the adoption of a Council decision for non-legally binding instruments to be adopted in the IMO reasonable and proportionate. We urge the European Commission to continue the informal coordination of EU positions of the aforementioned elements.

The proposed procedure will have considerable consequences on the work of the Member States in the IMO and within the EU. It will significantly increase the Council's workload on all relevant levels and it will lengthen the EU internal coordination process, as the procedural workload within the EU will by far exceed the procedure for the adoption of relevant non-binding IMO instruments. Furthermore, it limits Member States substantially in their margin of negotiation in the IMO context, without any additional value for securing the EU acquis.

In this context we would like to recall that the Commission has firmly stated on several occasions that the EU's focus should remain "*firmly on the big things, where European action has a clear and demonstrable added value"*.