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#### 'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
No. Cion doc.:	13658/22 - COM(2022) 543 final
Subject:	Draft Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the 42nd meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats (the 'Bern Convention') - Adoption

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1. The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) aims to conserve European wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats. The EU has been a Party to the Convention since 1 September 1982. All 27 Member States are also Parties.
2. The Standing Committee is the governing body of the Bern Convention. It can amend its rules of procedure and adopt amendments to the appendices to the Convention.
3. At the 42nd meeting of the Standing Committee, which will take place in Strasbourg, 28 November to 2 December 2022, Switzerland proposes to move the Wolf (*Canis lupus*) from Appendix II (strictly protected fauna species) to Appendix III (protected fauna species – regulation is possible). The Standing Committee will also be called upon to adopt amendments to its Rules of Procedure.

4. On 14 October 2022, the Council received the Commission's proposal<sup>1</sup> for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, at the 42nd meeting of the Standing Committee with regard to these proposed amendments.
5. The Working Party on International Environmental Issues (WPIEI) examined the Commission's proposal at its meeting on 27 October and the Working Party on the Environment (WPE) considered the Commission's proposal for a Council Decision at its meeting on 4 November. Based on the discussions at these two meetings and on comments sent by delegations, the Presidency prepared a compromise text. An Informal Silence Procedure, which ended on 10 November,<sup>2</sup> confirmed that there was a qualified majority in favour of the Presidency compromise text.
6. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend to the Council to:
  - a) adopt, by qualified majority, the draft Council Decision set out in document 14590/22 (text finalised by the Jurist-Linguists) as an "A" item on the agenda of one of its forthcoming sessions;
  - b) decide to inform the European Parliament of the adoption.

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<sup>1</sup> 13658/22 - COM(2022) 543 final.

<sup>2</sup> WK 15155/2022 + ADD 1.