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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
Subject:	Commission's intention to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Honduras and the European Union on a Forest Partnership - Authorisation to sign an NBI

1. On 5 June 2023, CODEV-PI Delegates were informed of the Commission's intention to negotiate and sign, on behalf of the EU, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a Forest Partnership with Honduras, in line with the arrangements for non-binding instruments.
2. Given that forests are essential to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in light of the EU's responsibility, as a global player, to help protect and restore forests worldwide, the Commission developed a concept of Forest Partnerships aiming to reinforce the policy dialogue and cooperation on forests with partner countries in a holistic and integrated manner.
3. On 6 November 2023, CODEV-PI Delegates were informed that the negotiations were concluded in good faith and in full alignment with EU and Honduras forest objectives and expressed support for the signature of the MoU.

4. The Forest Partnership will strengthen political and policy dialogue on forests with Honduras while enhancing EU leadership in the international forest agenda as well as contributing to global challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss. The action is at the heart of the Global Gateway Strategy, through which the EU is supporting sustainable investments around the world.
 5. The MoU is expected to be signed during the UNFCCC COP28 that will take place in Dubai from 30 November to 12 December 2023. A high-level event will be hosted at the EU Pavilion on 2 December 2023, with the presence of Commission President von der Leyen. Honduras has informally indicated willingness to have President Castro sign the MoU.
 6. Against that background, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to suggest to the Council to authorise the Commission to sign the above-mentioned Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the EU.
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