



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
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Subject: Draft Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Maritime Spatial Planning [First reading]
- *General approach*

1. On 12 March 2013, the European Commission submitted a proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management. The proposed Directive aims at promoting the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources.

2. The Economic and Social Committee has delivered its Opinion on 18 September 2013.¹
3. The Committee of the Regions has delivered its Opinion on 9 October 2013.²
4. The European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism has approved a report containing a number of amendments to the proposal on 5 November 2013. The plenary vote on the amendments is currently scheduled for 10 December 2013.
5. The discussions in the Friends of the Presidency Group on Integrated Maritime Policy started in March 2013 under the Irish Presidency and continued under the Lithuanian Presidency. After the meeting of the Group on 25 November, the Presidency considers that there exists a sufficient degree of consensus around the latest Presidency compromise proposal, as set out in document **16979/13**, for the latter to be submitted to the Council with a view to adopting the Council's general approach.
6. Against this background, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to suggest that the Council:
 - Agrees on the general approach as set out in document **16979/13**;
 - Invites the Presidency to start negotiations with the European Parliament as soon as possible.

¹ Opinion Number CES 3176/2013

² Opinion Number CDR 3766/2013