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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2) / Council
No. prev. doc.:	5554/18
Subject:	Draft Council implementing Decision setting out a recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2016 evaluation of **France** on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of **return**

1. Following the Council's adoption of Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 establishing an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis, a team of experts from the Member States and the Commission carried out an evaluation of the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of return by France in 2016.

2. In accordance with that Regulation, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation designed to address the deficiencies identified in the course of that evaluation and ensure that France applies all Schengen rules related to return correctly and effectively.

3. The Working Party for Schengen Matters (Evaluation), including the Mixed Committee partners Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, approved the proposal for the Council Implementing Decision setting out a Recommendation on 24 January 2018.

4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore asked to recommend that the Council adopt the draft Council Implementing Decision, as set out in 5554/18, as an 'A' item at a forthcoming meeting.