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LIMITE

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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. prev. doc.:	5117/21
Subject:	Commission's intention to establish a "Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency" (GACERE) on behalf of the EU at the First segment of the Fifth meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (22-23 February 2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Authorisation to launch the Alliance- Decision to use the written procedure

1. On 30 June 2020, the Commission submitted to the Council an Information Note ¹ setting out its intention to establish a "Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency. Towards Just Transitions" as a non-binding instrument containing political commitments ², and seeking the approval of the Council to enter into negotiations on this project.
2. The Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency is meant to identify knowledge and governance gaps in advancing a global circular economy and take forward partnership initiatives, including with major economies.
3. On 21 September 2020, the Council approved the request of the Commission to enter into negotiations on such a Global Alliance.

¹ Included in doc. 9232/20.

² Based on the Arrangements for Non-Binding Instruments agreed by the Council, the Commission and the EEAS in December 2017 (doc. 15367/17).

4. On 8 January 2021, the Commission submitted to the Council a Concept Note on the Alliance for endorsement ³, informing the Council of its intention to launch the Alliance in the margins of the first segment of the fifth meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.1, Nairobi, 22-23 February 2021 (online meeting)).
5. On 14 January 2021, the Commission presented its Concept Note to the Working Party on International Environment Issues (WPIEI) (Global). No delegations voiced opposition to the Note and the intention of the Commission to launch the Alliance during UNEA-5.1. Subsequently, the Concept Note was subject to an informal silence procedure, addressed to the Working Party on the Environment (WPE) and WPIEI (Global). This informal silence procedure expired on 19 January 2021 without being broken.
6. The Commission has informed delegations that at date, Chile, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Norway, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have expressed their interest in joining the Alliance. Further countries/organisations might voice interest before the launch of the Global Alliance, which should take place on 22 February 2021 in a lunchtime side event of UNEA.5.1.
7. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited:
 - to approve the launch of the "Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) with the subtitle "Towards Just Transitions", as described in document 5117/21, on 22 February 2021 in the margins of the first segment of the fifth meeting of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.1);
 - to decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision 2020/430, that the Council uses the written procedure for the authorisation to launch the above mentioned Global Alliance.

³ Included in doc. 5117/21.