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#### 'I' ITEM NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)

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Subject: EU-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Dialogue on Human Rights - Terms of Reference

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1. On 16 May 2019, the Middle East/Gulf Working Party approved the Draft Terms of reference for the Establishment of Human Rights Dialogue between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the European External Action Service (WK 6113/19).
2. On 21 January 2021, the EEAS announced to the Middle East/Gulf Working Party that an agreement had been reached with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the Draft Terms of Reference.
3. At its meeting on 2 February 2021, the PSC endorsed the Draft Terms of reference for the Establishment of Human Rights Dialogue between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the European External Action Service, as set out in document 5635/21.
4. The Terms of Reference do not, nor are intended to, create any legal obligations on either side under domestic or international law.

5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to:

- recommend that the Council authorise the signing of the Terms of Reference for the Establishment of Human Rights Dialogue between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the European External Action Service as set out in 5635/21;
  - 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 use the written procedure to authorise the signing of the Terms of Reference for the Establishment of Human Rights Dialogue between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the European External Action Service as set out in 5635/21.
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