



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Explanatory note on the use of QMV in the accession process -Request by the German and Slovenian delegations

Delegations will find in ANNEX an explanatory note submitted by the German and Slovenian delegations on the use of QMV in the accession process. This topic will be included as an 'Any other business' item on the agenda of the General Affairs Council meeting on 29 January 2024.

AOB on qualified majority voting in the accession process

- 1. Enlargement of the European Union is a geostrategic imperative and the EU's strongest instrument for stabilization. Both the EU and the future Member States must get prepared for enlargement.*
- 2. The Revised Enlargement Methodology endorsed by the Council in March 2020 contains concrete proposals to strengthen the accession process by making it more predictable, credible and dynamic, and subject to stronger political governance based on objective criteria.*
- 3. In this context and in line with the pertinent European Council conclusions, Germany and Slovenia propose to explore the possibilities of empowering the Council to decide by qualified majority with regard to certain (technical) interim steps of the enlargement process such as the opening of negotiating clusters incl. Opening Benchmark Assessment Reports, OBARs).*