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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
No. prev. doc.:	5004/21 + ADD 1
Subject:	Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Council Decisions 2003/17/EC and 2005/834/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections and the equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties of agricultural plant species carried out in the United Kingdom <i>- Approval of the Commission proposal text</i>

1. On 23 December 2020, the European Commission submitted to the European Parliament and to the Council the above proposal which aims at recognising the equivalence of field inspections and of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties of agricultural plant species carried out in the United Kingdom. The proposal is based on Article 43(2) TFEU. The ordinary legislative procedure is applicable.
2. The European Parliament decided to use the urgent procedure and is expected to adopt the proposal without amendments at its plenary session on 8 March 2021.
3. On 8 January 2021, the Council decided to consult the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), in accordance with the provisions of Article 43(2) TFEU. The EESC adopted an opinion on the proposal at its plenary session of 27 January 2021.

4. The Working Party on Agricultural Questions (Seeds and Propagating Material) reached an agreement on the text of the proposed Decision through an informal silence procedure¹, with no objections or amendments from any delegations.

 5. In the light of the above and with a view to reaching a first reading agreement with the European Parliament, the Committee of Permanent Representatives (Part 1) is invited to confirm the agreement reached by the Working Party on the text of the proposed Decision without amendments, as set out in 5004/21 + ADD 1.
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¹ WK 252/2021