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LIMITE

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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Outcome of discussions on working methods - List of preparatory bodies <i>Approval</i>

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In June 2019 the European Council approved a new strategic agenda for 2019-2024 wherein it is stated that "*each institution should revisit its working methods and reflect on the best way to fulfil its role under the Treaties.*"
2. This launched a reflection process at the level of Coreper in the second half of 2019.
3. As regards Council preparatory bodies, in September 2019, Coreper tasked the Antici and Mertens groups to come up with an assessment and possible proposals for review. On this basis, an issues paper regarding Council preparatory bodies was to be presented by the Presidency. The outcome of these discussions was discussed in Coreper on 18 December 2019.

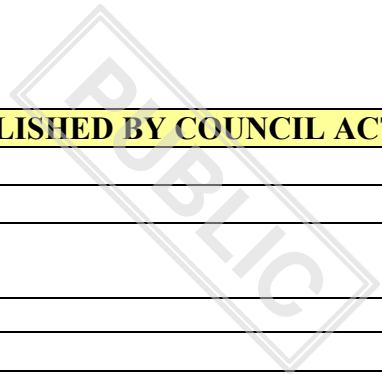
4. In July 2020, Coreper at its informal session agreed on the criteria to be applied to the list of Council preparatory bodies and tasked the GSC to come up with a technical analysis on that basis.
5. Those criteria were:
 - i. Delete groups which have not held at least one meeting per semester in the last 2 years (not counting the first semester of 2020 due to the exceptional circumstances) unless there is an objective need for their existence in light of upcoming or recurrent workload;
 - ii. Merge groups which in practice have considerable overlaps in membership (i.e. the same delegates for a large number of Member States);
 - iii. Merge groups which have overlaps in their mandates;
 - iv. Merge groups which appear to be overly specialised compared to the average of groups;
 - v. Delete ad-hoc groups or FoP groups which have exhausted their mandate or which can be integrated into regular groups;
 - vi. Delete groups which do not produce operational outcomes but serve mainly for reflection, and turn these into informal networks;
 - vii. Horizontal approach to merge all high-level formats with the working parties.
6. This technical analysis was presented by the GSC in the Antici group in December 2020.
7. Building on the work done by the previous Presidencies, the above-mentioned technical analysis and extensive consultations, the Presidency has prepared a list of the preparatory bodies, as set out in Annex to this note.

II. CONCLUSION

8. It is suggested that after the list is approved by Coreper, work should start without delay on the mandates of new working groups and, if necessary, on other measures to implement changes triggered by the approval of this list.
9. The Presidency suggests that the list should be applied as from 1 July 2021.
10. In light of above, Coreper is invited to:
 - 1) approve, in accordance with Article 19(3) of the Council Rules of Procedure, the list of the preparatory bodies, as set out in Annex to this note;
 - 2) task the Antici/Mertens groups to coordinate the establishment of mandates of new working groups and other necessary measures referred to in point 8.

Suggestions for review of the list of preparatory bodies

COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED BY THE TREATIES	
A.1	Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) - Part II - Part I
A.2	Economic and Financial Committee
A.3	Employment Committee (EMCO)
A.4	Trade Policy Committee (TPC) - Full Members - Deputies - Experts Services and Investment - Generalised System of Preferences
A.5	Political and Security Committee (PSC)
A.6	Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security (COSI)
A.7	Social Protection Committee (SPC)



COMMITTEES AND GROUPS ESTABLISHED BY COUNCIL ACT	
A.8	Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA)
A.9	European Union Military Committee (EUMC)
A.9a	Military Committee Working Group (EUMCWG) - Headline Goal Task Force (HTF)
A.10	Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CivCom)
A.11	Economic Policy Committee
A.12	Financial Services Committee
A.13	Security Committee - Information Assurance (AQUA Reference Group, Implementation Tempest Task Force) - Security Accreditation Board (SAB)
A.20	Working Party on the United Kingdom

GROUPS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH COREPER	
A.14	Antici Group
A.15	Mertens Group
A.16	Friends of the Presidency Group
COUNSELLORS/ATTACHES	
A.18	Counsellors/Attachés

GENERAL AFFAIRS	
B.1	Working Party on General Affairs
B.3	Working Group on Asylum and Migration
B.4	Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG)
B.5	Working Party on Structural Measures and Outermost Regions
B.7	Working Party on Atomic Questions
B.8	Working Party on Statistics
B.9	Working Party on Information
B.14	Working Party on the Court of Justice
B.15	Working Party on the Staff Regulations
B.17	Ad hoc Working Party on the follow-up to the Council conclusions on Cyprus of 26 April 2004
B.19	Working Party on Enlargement and Countries Negotiating Accession to the EU
B.23	Horizontal Working Party on Cyber Issues (Cyber)
B.24	Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030)
B.26	Horizontal Working Party on Enhancing Resilience and Countering Hybrid Threats
B.27	Working Party on Maritime Issues - Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) - EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS	
C.1	Working Party of Foreign Relations Counsellors (RELEX) - Sanctions
C.2	Working Party on Public International Law - International Criminal Court
C.3	Working Party on the Law of the Sea
C.4	United Nations Working Party (CONUN)
C.5	Working Party on Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe(OSCE) and the Council of Europe (COSCE)
C.6	Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM)
C.7	Working Party on Transatlantic Relations (COTRA)
C.9	Working Party on Eastern Europe and Central Asia (COEST)
C.10	Working Party on European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
C.11	Working Party on the Western Balkans Region (COWEB)
C.12	Ad hoc Working Party on the Middle East Peace Process (COMEPP)
C.13	Middle East/Gulf Working Party (MOG)
C.14	Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party (MAMA)
C.15	Africa Working Party (COAFR)
C.16	African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Working Party
C.17	Asia-Oceania Working Party (COASI)
C.18	Working Party on Latin America and the Caribbean (COLAC)
C.19	Working Party on Terrorism (international aspects) (COTER)
C.20	Working Party on Non-Proliferation and Arms Control - Non-proliferation and disarmament - Conventional arms exports
C.23	Working Party on Dual-Use Goods
C.25	Politico-Military Group (PMG)



C.27	Working Party on Trade Questions
C.30	Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV)
C.32	Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)
C.33	Working Party on Commodities (PROBA)
C.34	Working Party on Consular Affairs (COCON)
C.36	Nicolaidis Group
C.38	Working Party on restrictive measures to combat terrorism (COMET)

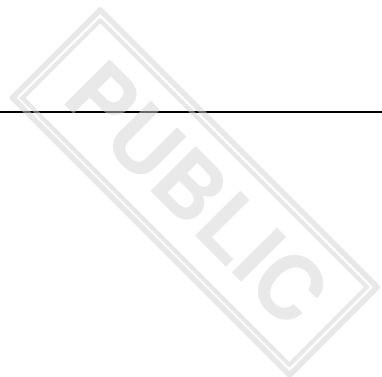
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS	
D.1	Working Party on Own Resources
D.2	Working Party of Financial Counsellors
D.3	Working Party on Financial Services and the Banking Union - Financial Services - Banking Union
D.4	Working Party on Tax Questions - High Level - Indirect Taxation - Direct Taxation
D.5	Code of Conduct Group (Business Taxation) - Subgroup (external issues) - Subgroup (internal issues)
D.7	Budget Committee
D.8	Working Party on Combating Fraud
D.11	Export Credits Group
D.15	Working Party on Customs - Directors General of Customs

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS	
E.1	Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA)
E.2	Working Party on Integration, Migration and Expulsion ¹
E.3	Visa Working Party
E.4	Asylum Working Party*
E.6	Working Party on Frontiers*
E.7	Working Party on Civil Law Matters
E.12	Working Party on Terrorism
E.14	Working Party on Cooperation in Criminal Matters
E.21	Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV)
E.22	Working Party on Fundamental Rights, Citizens' Rights and Free Movement of Persons (FREMP)
E.23	Working Party on Data Protection
E.25	Coordinating Committee in the area of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters (CATS)
E.26	Law Enforcement Working Party - Police - Customs
E.27	Working Party for Schengen Matters
E.30	Working Party on JHA Information Exchange
E.31	Working Party on e-Justice

¹ These groups should allow relevant expertise, also outside the home affairs filiere (e.g. external relations), to be associated to their work.

AGRICULTURE/FISHERIES

F.3	Working Party on Horizontal Agricultural Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">- High Level- Agriculture and Environment- Rural Development- Outermost Regions and Aegean Islands- Promotion of Agricultural Products- Organic Farming- Geographical Indications and Designations of Origin- Certificates of Specific Character
F.5	Working Party on Genetic Resources and Innovation in Agriculture <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Seeds, Propagating and Planting materials- Plant Breeders' Rights- Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)
F.8	Working Party on Agricultural Products
F.12	Working Party on Wines and Alcohol
F.15	Working Party on Financial Agricultural Questions (AGRIFIN)
F.16	Working Party on Forestry
F.19	Working Party on Plants and Plant Health Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chief Plant Health Officers- Protection and Inspection- Propagating and Planting Materials- Roosendaal Group- International Plant Protection Convention / Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (IPPC/CPM) Affairs- Harmful Organisms- Pesticides/Plant Protection Products



F.21	Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions - Chief Veterinary Officers - Public Health - Animal Health - Animal Welfare and Husbandry - Potsdam Group - Feedingstuffs
F.22	Working Party on International Food and Agricultural Questions - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) - Codex Alimentarius
F.25	Working Party on Fisheries Policy - Directors General
F.27	Working Party on Food and Food Systems - Pesticide Residues

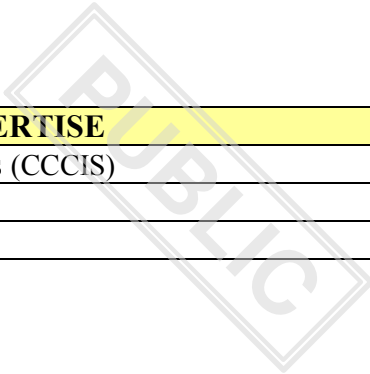
COMPETITIVENESS (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	
G.1	Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth - High Level - Internal Market - Industry - Tourism - Public Procurement - Better Regulation
G.3	Working Party on Intellectual Property - Copyright
G.4	Working Party on Company Law
G.7	Working Party on Technical Harmonisation - Motor Vehicles - Construction Products - Dangerous substances-Chemicals
G.12	Working Party on Competition
G.13	Working Party on Research - Atomic Questions
G.21	European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC)
G.22	Working Party on Space
G.23	Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information

TRANSPORT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ENERGY	
H.1	Working Party on Land Transport
H.2	Working Party on Shipping
H.3	Working Party on Aviation
H.4	Working Party on Transport - Intermodal Questions and Networks
H.5	Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society
H.6	Working Party on Postal Services
H.7	Working Party on Energy

EMPLOYMENT/SOCIAL POLICY HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS	
I.1	Working Party on Social Questions (SQWP)
I.2	Working Party on Public Health - High Level
I.4	Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices

ENVIRONMENT	
J.1	Working Party on the Environment
J.2	Working Party on International Environment Issues

EDUCATION/YOUTH/CULTURE/SPORT	
K.1	Education Committee
K.2	Youth Working Party
K.3	Cultural Affairs Committee
K.4	Audiovisual and Media Working Party
K.5	Working Party on Sport



TECHNICAL EXPERTISE	
L.1	Coordination Committee for Communication and Information Systems (CCCIS)
L.2	Working Party on Codification of Legislation
L.3	Working Party of Legal/Linguistic Experts
