Council of the European Union

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
Subject:	Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken, on behalf of the European Union, in the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the scheduling of substances under the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971

1. The United Nations (UN) Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 ('the Conventions') are the main international drug control treaties, together with the UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.

2. States parties to the Conventions are required to ensure that the mandatory control measures are applied to the substances listed in the Schedules annexed to the Conventions. The purpose of this listing is to control and limit the use of these drugs according to a classification of their therapeutic value, risk of abuse and health dangers, and to minimise the diversion of precursor chemicals to illegal drug manufacturers.

3. Decisions to change the scope of control of substances are taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), through decisions to make certain changes to the Schedules of the Conventions, on the basis of recommendations by the World Health Organisation.

4. At its sixty-fifth session from 14 to 18 March 2022 in Vienna, the CND is to adopt decisions on the scheduling of substances under the Conventions.

5. On 16 December 2021, the Commission presented a proposal for a Council decision on the position to be expressed, on behalf of the European Union, at the 65th CND session on the scheduling of three psychoactive substances under the Conventions (ST 15195/21 + ADD 1).

6. The Commission proposal was analysed at the meetings of the Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG) on 13 January and 2 February 2022. The revised version of the proposal, as set out in ST 5110/1/22 REV 1, was endorsed by the HDG on 2 February 2022.

7. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend to the Council that it adopt, as an 'A' item at one of its forthcoming sessions, the draft Council Decision, as set out in ST 5629/22, on the position to be taken, on behalf of the European Union, at the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the scheduling of three psychoactive substances under the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and under the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971.