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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. Cion doc.:	12308/17 - COM(481) final
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council of 22 October 2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations *- Approval for a mandate for the negotiations with the European Parliament*

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission submitted the above proposal to the European Parliament and the Council on 13 September 2017[1]. It is based on Articles 224 and 294 TFEU (ordinary legislative procedure).

2. The Commission proposal aims at amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with a view to strengthening the European dimension of European political parties and increasing transparency while guaranteeing the proper use of European funds. Concretely, the objective is to have the new rules applicable to the 2019 financial year in view of the upcoming European elections. As a consequence, the new provisions should enter into force by 30 June 2018, the date of the call for applications for registration of the European political parties and foundations.

[1] 12308/17

3. The European Parliament[2] adopted its report at committee level on 21 November 2017 and the decision to enter into negotiations was confirmed by the plenary on 30 November 2017.

4. The European Economic and Social Committee adopted its opinion on 7 December 2017. The Court of Auditors adopted its opinion on the 18 January 2018. The Committee of the Regions informed the institutions that it would not issue an opinion.

II. STATE OF PLAY

5. In the Council, the General Affairs Group (GAG) carried out the technical examination of the proposal on 29 September, 13 October, 10 and 23 November, and 1 December 2017.[3] The Presidency suggestions for redrafting were discussed on 8 December, 12 January, and 2 and 16 February 2018. It also examined the European Parliament amendments[4].

6. On 16 February 2018, the Presidency compromise text received a broad support from delegations in the General Affairs Group (GAG). The Presidency compromise text reflecting the outcome of the examination at the Working Party level is presented in the ADD 1 to this document.

7. The Presidency compromise text contains a new text proposed by The Netherlands concerning the obligation of the Commission to pay particular attention in the evaluation report to the implications for small European political parties (rows19 and 58). The Presidency compromise text also includes the text proposed by the Commission in respect of the technical issues concerning the financial regulation raised by Poland (rows 24, 25, 26).

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2 The responsible committee in the European Parliament is the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO); Mr WIELAND (EPP, DE) and Ms BRESSO (S&D, IT) have been designated as co-rapporteurs.

3 12308/17 WK 11597/2017 INIT, REV1 and REV2.

4 WK 1029 2018 INIT and REV1.

III. CONCLUSION

9. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited

- to agree to the text as set out in the ADD 1 to this document, and
- to give a mandate to the Presidency to enter into informal trilogues with the representatives of the European Parliament and the Commission on the basis of that text with a view to reaching, if possible, a pre-negotiated first reading agreement.