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European Union

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RECH 83
COMPET 147
IND 48
MI 131
EDUC 69
TELECOM 86
ENER 61
ENV 117
REGIO 32
AGRI 107
TRANS 110
SAN 103
CADREFIN 111
IA 30**

'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (first reading) - Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons = Statements

Statements by the Commission

Statement on Art. 5

The Commission takes note of the compromise reached by the co-legislators on the wording of Article 5. In the Commission's understanding the specific programme on defence research mentioned in Article 1 paragraph 2 point c) is limited only to the research actions under the future European Defence Fund while the development actions are considered outside the scope of this Regulation.

Statement on human rights on Art. 16.1.d

The Commission fully subscribes to the respect of human rights as laid down in Article 21 Treaty on the European Union and its 2nd sub-para “The Union shall seek to develop relations and build partnerships with third countries, and international, regional or global organisations which share the principles referred to in the first subparagraph.” However, the Commission regrets the inclusion of the “respect of human rights” in the set of criteria for third countries to fulfil in order to be eligible for association to the Programme under Article 16 paragraph 1 point d)(1) d. No other EU programme for the future Multiannual Financial Framework saw the need to include such an explicit reference, while there is no question that the EU is seeking to pursue a consistent approach in its external relations with third countries as far as Human Rights protection is concerned across all its instruments and policy areas, and which should guide the Commission in the implementation of this provision.

Statement on International Cooperation

The Commission takes note of the Council’s unilateral declaration, which it will duly consider, consistently with the Treaty, the jurisprudence of the EU Court of Justice, and the principle of institutional balance, when it consults the special committee under article 218(4) TFEU.
