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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council  
Subject: Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on a Border Regions' instrument for development and growth (BRIDGEforEU) **(first reading)**  
- Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons

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1. On 29 May 2018 the Commission submitted its proposal<sup>1</sup>, based on Article 175 TFEU, to the Council and on 12 December 2023 an amended proposal<sup>2</sup>.
2. The Committee of the Regions delivered its opinion on the initial proposal on 5 December 2012<sup>3</sup> and on the amended proposal on 17 April 2024<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 9555/18.

<sup>2</sup> 16805/23.

<sup>3</sup> OJ C 86, 07.3.2019, p. 165.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C, C/2024/3672, 26.6.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/3672/oj>.

3. The European Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion on the initial proposal on 19 September 2018<sup>5</sup> and on the amended proposal on 24 April 2024<sup>6</sup>.
4. The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading on the initial proposal on 14 February 2019<sup>7</sup> and its position at first reading on the amended proposal on 14 September 2023<sup>8</sup>.
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee confirmed on 20 December 2024 the provisional agreement reached by the co-legislators on the above Regulation<sup>9</sup>, after informal contacts had taken place between the Council and the European Parliament.
6. On 5 February 2025, the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development (REGI) confirmed the provisional agreement and its Chair subsequently sent a letter to the Chair of the Permanent Representatives Committee stating that the European Parliament should, at its second reading, approve the Council's position at first reading (following a legal-linguistic revision) without amendments<sup>10</sup>.
7. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore asked to suggest that the Council adopt its position at first reading, as set out in 17102/24, and the statement of reasons, as set out in 17102/24 ADD 1, as an 'A' item at a forthcoming meeting, with Czechia abstaining.
8. The statements for the minutes of the Council meeting are set out in the Addendum to this note.

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<sup>5</sup> OJ C 440, 06.12.2018, p. 124.

<sup>6</sup> OJ C, C/2024/4060, 12.7.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2024/4060/oj>.

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0118\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0118_EN.html).

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0327\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0327_EN.html).

<sup>9</sup> 16772/24.

<sup>10</sup> 6445/25.