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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Approval of the Council to open negotiations between the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) on a Joint Innovation Agenda
- Authorisation to negotiate a non-binding instrument

1. On 4 March 2022, the Commission informed the Research Working Party of its intention to enter into negotiations on behalf of the Union on a non-binding instrument on a Joint Innovation Agenda between the EU and the African Union (AU), with a view to its adoption at the EU-AU ministerial meeting on research and innovation scheduled for early 2023¹.
2. The development of a Joint Innovation Agenda between the EU and the AU stems from the Council conclusions of 28 September 2021 on the Global Approach to Research and Innovation and aims to support the building of research capacities and the translation of research output into socio-economic and environmental benefits.
3. It is understood that the Commission will revert to the Council at the end of the negotiations to seek the Council's authorisation for the signature of the high-level agreement on behalf of the EU.

¹ 6642/22.

4. In the light of the foregoing, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to suggest that the Council authorise the Commission to negotiate the Joint Innovation Agenda between the EU and the AU.
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