Council of the European Union

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2021) 112 final
Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken by the European Union in the International Tropical Timber Council on the extension of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006

1. On 10 March 2021, the Commission submitted a draft proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the International Tropical Timber Council on the extension of the International Tropical Timber Agreement 2006 (ITTA), as set out in ST 6977/2021. The International Tropical Timber Council will take a decision on the extension of the ITTA either at its 57th Session to be held in November 2021 or intersessionally.

2. In line with suggestions of the Council Legal Service, the Presidency proposed amendments to the text, contained in WK 3690/2021. The members of the Working Party on Commodities discussed the amended proposal during an informal videoconference meeting on 17 March 2021 and agreed to it via written consultation on 24 March 2021. It was established at the level of the working party that Member States, in their capacity as parties to the ITTA, also supported the extension of the ITTA for an initial period of five years.

3. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to agree to the extension of the ITTA for an initial period of five years, approve the text of the above-mentioned Council Decision, as set out in document ST 7261/2021 after finalisation by the legal/linguistic experts, and to forward it to the Council for adoption.