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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: Working Party on Enlargement and Countries Negotiating Accession to the EU

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft reply to the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland to the Presidency of the Council

1. At its meeting on 17 April 2015, the Working Party on Enlargement and Countries Negotiating Accession to the EU, on the basis of a proposal by the Presidency, agreed on the text of a letter to be sent by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Latvia, in his capacity as President of the EU Council, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland. This letter would respond to the letter which has been sent by the Icelandic Minister for Foreign Affairs on 12 March 2015 (see 7226/15).
2. It is therefore suggested to the Council, subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives Committee, to agree to the sending of the letter which appears in Annex.

Letter to be sent to Mr Gunnar B. Sveinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland

Dear Gunnar,

Thank you for the letter of 12 March 2015 in which you set out to clarify the policy of the Icelandic government on the EU accession negotiations.

We have carefully considered the letter and we take note of your government's position.

In the light of your letter we will consider certain further practical adjustments to the EU Council working procedures.

We would like to confirm the importance that the EU attaches to relations with Iceland which continues to be an important partner for the EU through its participation in the European Economic Area agreement, its membership of the Schengen area as well as through co-operation on Arctic matters.

Yours sincerely,

Edgars Rinkēvičs
Minister for Foreign Affairs for Latvia
President of the EU Council