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NOTE

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

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Subject: Setting up of an independent EU ethics body
– Guidance for further work

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1. On 16 September 2021, the European Parliament adopted a non-legislative resolution proposing the setting up of an independent EU ethics body, through an interinstitutional agreement between the Parliament and the Commission, open to all EU institutions and advisory bodies¹.
2. On 18 February 2022, the Commission responded to the Parliament's resolution².

¹ P9_TA(2021)0396 – Strengthening transparency and integrity in the EU institutions by setting up an independent EU ethics body – (A9-0260/2021 – Rapporteur: Daniel Freund, Committee on Constitutional Affairs, PE663.273), European Parliament resolution of 16 September 2021 on strengthening transparency and integrity in the EU institutions by setting up an independent EU ethics body (2020/2133(INI)).

² Procedure file: 2020/2133(INI) | Legislative Observatory | European Parliament (europa.eu)

3. On 18 March 2022, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen sent a letter to the Council Presidency, addressed to President Emmanuel Macron, together with the Commission's response to the Parliament's resolution³.
4. In the letter, President von der Leyen requests the views of the institutions on their taking part in interinstitutional discussions on a possible agreement to establish the body.
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to:
 - hold an initial exchange of views further to the Commission's letter responding to the European Parliament's initiative, on the basis of the Presidency's scoping paper for the direction of work (including questions) annexed to this note;
 - decide on the next steps to be taken regarding the matter.

³ 7701/22.

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