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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Authorisation to the Commission to engage in negotiations on the draft Declaration on a High-Ambition Coalition for a Quiet Ocean during the third UN Ocean Conference (Nice, 9–13 June 2025) - Authorisation to negotiate a Non-Binding Instrument

1. Delegations will find attached a Note from the Commission on its intention to engage in negotiations on a draft Declaration launching a High-Ambition Coalition for a Quiet Ocean to be adopted by the third UN Ocean Conference, which is scheduled to take place from 9 to 13 June 2025 in Nice.
2. The intention is to launch this coalition through the signature of the declaration promoting ambitious and practical solutions that will restore a quieter ocean. The coalition will help raise the profile of the issue of underwater noise from shipping and its importance to the health of the oceans.

3. The declaration is a non-binding instrument that contains political commitments, in accordance with the arrangements for non-binding instruments agreed by the Council, the Commission and the EEAS in December 2017¹.
4. The Commission's Note² was transmitted to the Council on 8 April 2025. This note constitutes the first step of the procedure foreseen in the above arrangements and was agreed at the working party level following a written consultation concluded on 28 April 2025.
5. The Commission will inform the Working Party on Maritime Issues – Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) on the advancement of the negotiations and will revert to the Council at the end of the negotiation process to seek authorisation for endorsing the declaration on behalf of the EU, provided it is in line with the EU position.
6. In this context, Member States wish to recall their consistent position on the issue of competence for underwater noise as set out at the latest occasion in paragraph 6 of Council document 13991/21. However, Member States have agreed to coordinate their position on a voluntary basis on this important issue.
7. Against this background, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend that the Council, as an A item at one of its forthcoming meetings, authorises the Commission to engage in the negotiations on the draft Declaration to be adopted by the third UN Ocean Conference, which will take place in Nice (9-13 June 2025).

¹ 15367/17

² 8066/25