



Brussels, 10 May 2021
(OR. en)

8337/21

LIMITE

**CORLX 246
CFSP/PESC 440
CSDP/PSDC 238
EUCAP MALI 7
EUCAP SAHEL 6
COAFR 116
CONUN 69
CSC 183**

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Council Decision to authorise the High Representative to open negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania in order to conclude an Agreement on the status in Mauritania of the Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell (RACC), of other elements of the European Union CSDP mission in Mali (EUCAP Sahel Mali) and of elements of the European Union CSDP mission in Niger (EUCAP Sahel Niger)

1. On 22 May 2019, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2019/832¹, which notably provides that EUCAP Sahel Niger may carry out activities as necessary in the G5 Sahel countries, including Mauritania, by temporary deployments of teams from Niger to contribute to the regionalisation of CSDP action in the Sahel.
2. An agreement with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on the status in Mauritania of the Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell (RACC), of other elements of EUCAP Sahel Mali and of elements of EUCAP Sahel Niger would therefore be necessary.

¹ OJ L 137, 23.5.2019, p. 64.

3. On 24 April 2021, the High Representative submitted to the Council a recommendation for a Council Decision to authorise the High Representative to open negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania pursuant to Article 37 TEU and Article 218 (3) TFEU, for an agreement on the status in Mauritania of the Regional Advisory and Coordination Cell (RACC), of other elements of EUCAP Sahel Mali and of elements of EUCAP Sahel Niger, on the basis of the SOMA in force for EUCAP Sahel Mali in Mali. (document 8335/21).
4. On 10 May 2021, the Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party (RELEX) reached agreement (through written consultation) on the draft Council Decision authorising the opening of the negotiations.
5. In accordance with Article 218(10) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the European Parliament will be informed of the Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania with a view to concluding the above-mentioned Agreement.
6. COREPER is therefore invited to:
 - confirm the agreement on the text of the draft Council Decision;
 - recommend that the Council adopt the Council Decision² authorising the opening of the negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania as set out, after finalisation of the text by the legal/linguistic experts, in document 8336/21;
 - decide, if no formal Council meetings take place before 21 May 2021, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision 2020/430, that the Council use the written procedure for the adoption of the Council Decision.

² In view of its nature, this Decision will not be published in the Official Journal (cf. Art. 17(2)(b) of the Council's Rules of Procedure).