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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

Subject: Commission's intention to join, on behalf of the EU, the Ministerial Statement of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution
- Authorisation to sign a Non-Binding Agreement (NBI)

1. On 14 November 2022, the EU joined the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution (HAC), launched by Norway and Rwanda in August 2022, in support of the intergovernmental negotiations mandated by resolution 5/14 of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) on an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution. Negotiations take place in an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, which held its first session from 28 November to 2 December 2023 (INC-1).
2. For the second session of the Negotiating Committee, which will take place from 29 May to 2 June 2023 in Paris (INC-2), the HAC intends to issue a Joint Ministerial Statement confirming its ambition to achieve an effective and comprehensive international legally binding instrument.

3. On 28 March 2023, the Council approved, in the framework of the procedure for Non-binding Instruments (NBI), the intention of the Commission, set out in document ST 6881/23, to open discussions on joining the Ministerial Statement on behalf of the EU.
4. On 25 April 2023, the Commission submitted to the Council, as second step in the NBI procedure, a concept note with the ministerial statement as finalised by Norway and Rwanda. This note was circulated as document ST 8439/23. HAC members can now align to the statement or opt-out by 5 May 2023.
5. On 26 April 2023, the Working Party on the Environment examined the above-mentioned Commission note and the Ministerial Statement included therein and agreed to the intention of the Commission to join the Ministerial Statement on behalf of the EU.
6. Consequently, and subject to confirmation by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Council is invited to approve the intention of the Commission to join, on behalf of the EU, the Ministerial Statement of the HAC included in document ST 8439/23 + ADD 1.
