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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
Subject:	Union declaration on Chagos Archipelago/British Indian Ocean Territory - Council approval of Union declaration - Decision to publish in the Official Journal

1. Article 774 of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement¹ between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part, defines the territorial scope of the Agreement.
2. Paragraph 4 of Article 774 of the Agreement, lists the overseas territories having special relations with the United Kingdom which the Agreement does not apply to.
3. On 6 May 2021, the Working Party on the United Kingdom discussed the matter, in particular in relation to the British Indian Ocean Territory (ST 8459 2021 INIT). Member States agreed with the wording of the Union declaration as set out in Annex, to be transmitted to the United Kingdom by the Commission on behalf of the Union.

¹ (OJ L 149, 30.04.2021, p. 10–2539).

4. In light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
- confirm its agreement on the text of the Union declaration set out in the Annex to this Note;
 - recommend that the Council approves the Union declaration set out in the Annex to this Note;
 - decide to publish the Union Declaration set out in the Annex in the Official Journal of the European Union.
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Union declaration on Chagos Archipelago/British Indian Ocean Territory

The European Union declares that the reference to the British Indian Ocean Territory in paragraph 4 of Article 774 of the Agreement is to be interpreted and implemented in full respect of applicable international law.
