Council of the European Union

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft COUNCIL DIRECTIVE on standards for equality bodies in the field of equal treatment between persons irrespective of their racial or ethnic origin, equal treatment in matters of employment and occupation between persons irrespective of their religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, equal treatment between women and men in matters of social security and in the access to and supply of goods and services, and amending Directives 2000/43/EC and 2004/113/EC - Adoption of the legislative act = Statement

Delegations will find attached a statement by the Austrian delegation in relation to the abovementioned proposal.

STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA

Austria fully supports the objectives of the proposed Directives to strengthen the protection against discrimination and to improve the support for victims of discrimination.

Austria emphasizes that the proposed Directives set minimum standards for equality bodies.

Austria already has a well-functioning best-practice system in the field of equal treatment and anti-discrimination that has proven its worth for decades. In order to preserve effective and long-established national structures, there should be flexibility in implementing these Directives. Effective institutions and efficient mechanisms shall continue to exist within this new framework.