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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)
Subject:	Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans (first reading) - Adoption of the legislative act

1. On 9 November 2023, the Commission submitted its proposal¹, based on Articles 212 and 322(1) TFEU, to the Council.
2. The European Court of Auditors delivered its opinion on 30 January 2024².
3. The European Economic and Social Committee will adopt its opinion at its plenary on 24-25 April 2024.
4. In accordance with the provisions of the Joint Declaration on practical arrangements for the codecision procedure³, informal contacts were undertaken between the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission with the aim of reaching agreement at first reading.

¹ 15182/23 + ADD 1.

² 6353/24.

³ OJ C 145, 30.6.2007, p. 5.

5. On 8 April 2024, the Permanent Representatives Committee endorsed the agreement reached in trilogues⁴ and authorised the Chair to send a letter to the Chairs of the Committees on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and Budgets (BUDG) stating that should the European Parliament adopt its position at first reading in the form set out in that letter, subject to revision by the legal linguists of both institutions, the Council would approve the European Parliament's position and the act shall be adopted in the wording which corresponds to the European Parliament's position.
6. The European Parliament will adopt its position at first reading on the Commission proposal at its plenary on 22-25 April 2024.
7. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to:
- agree that should the European Parliament adopt its position at first reading in the form set out in the letter to the Chairs of the AFET and BUDG Committees, as revised by the legal linguists of both institutions in PE-CONS 80/24⁵, the Council would be invited to approve the European Parliament's position and the joint statement as set out in the Addendum 1 to this note, as an "A" item at a forthcoming meeting, with Lithuania and the Netherlands abstaining;
 - decide to publish the statement set out in Addendum 1 in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
8. The statements for the minutes of the Council meeting are set out in the Addendum 1 and 2 to this note.
9. If the Council approves the European Parliament's position, the act shall be adopted in the wording which corresponds to the European Parliament's position.

After being signed by the President of the European Parliament and the President of the Council, the legislative act will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

⁴ 8477/24.

⁵ Available in due time.