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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
No. Cion doc.:	8322/23
Subject:	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 1313/2013/EU on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism <i>- General Approach</i>

BACKGROUND

1. On 14 April 2014, the Commission submitted a proposal to the Council and to the European Parliament for a Decision amending Decision No 1313/2013 on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism.¹
2. The proposed Decision is limited (1 article) and aims to extend the deadline until which the Commission can provide financing to ensure the rapid availability of firefighting planes and helicopters to support MS in fighting forest fires.

¹ 8322/23.

3. Under these transitional provisions ('rescEU transition') aerial firefighting capacities (planes and helicopters) can be leased in the short term to cover capacity gaps until the permanent aerial fleet is procured and has become operational. The transitional provisions are currently set to expire on 31 December 2024 but, due to delays in the production of the permanent amphibious planes, the proposal contains an extension of this period until 31 December 2027 (end of the current MFF).

WORK IN THE COUNCIL

4. The Commission presented the proposal to the Working Party on Civil Protection (PROCIV) on 19 April 2023. A call for written comments was launched and a first exchange of views on the proposal took place at the PROCIV meeting on 10 May 2023. At that meeting, intervening delegations welcomed the proposal.
5. As delegations expressed preference for a speedy adoption of the legal act, no amendments were suggested as a result of the deliberations. In particular, delegations noted the urgency and importance of the proposed modification, to ensure rapid availability of national aerial firefighting capacities also beyond the 2024 wildfire season, especially in the light of the increasing wildfire risk in the Union and the wildfires becoming more frequent and intense due to rising temperatures and prolonged periods of drought.
6. Following a Presidency discussion paper outlining this approach, the proposal was again discussed at the PROCIV meeting on 24 May 2023, where delegations agreed to support the Commission's proposal without amendments.
7. Delegations also agreed on the inclusion of a Council statement to accompany the General Approach and confirmed their agreement on the draft text – set out in the addendum to this document - after an informal written consultation on 9 June 2023.

CONCLUSION

8. In view of this, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend that the Council:

- reach a general approach on the text of the proposed Decision as submitted by the Commission and set out in document 8322/23, which will serve as a mandate for negotiations with the European Parliament in the framework of the ordinary legislative procedure (Art. 294 TFEU);
 - enters the Council statement set out in the addendum to this document into the minutes of the Council meeting.
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