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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	7364/21 + ADD 1 - COM(2021) 136 final
Subject:	Council Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, in relation to matters falling within its competence, amendments to the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)
	- Adoption

1. On 24 March 2021, the Commission submitted to the Council a recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate amendments to the Bern Convention, including an Annex containing draft negotiating directives.
2. The members of the Working Party on International Environment Issues (WPIEI) and of the Working Party on the Environment (WPE) examined the recommendation at informal videoconferences held on 19 April 2021 and on 22 April 2021, respectively. Based on discussions held at these meetings, the Presidency prepared a draft Council Decision which was revised following a subsequent call for comments. After an informal silence procedure that ended on 17 May 2021, the WPE agreed to the revised draft Council Decision.

3. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend to the Council to:
- a) adopt, by qualified majority with all the Member States voting in favour, the draft Council Decision set out in document 8931/21 (text finalised by the Jurist-Linguists) together with the negotiating directives set out in its Addendum, as an "A" item on the agenda of one of its forthcoming sessions;
 - b) decide not to publish the Council Decision in the Official Journal.
4. The European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU. The Decision and negotiating directives will be sent to the EP.
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