Council of the European Union

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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Any other business item Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION on the election of the Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, repealing Council Decision 76/787/ECSC, EEC, Euratom and the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage annexed to that Decision ('Electoral Act') – Information note from the French delegation

In preparation for the Council meeting (General Affairs) on 30 May 2023, delegations will find attached an information note from the French delegation.

ANNEX

GAC meeting on 30 May 2023 – Any other business item from France

Review of the European Electoral Act

On 3 May 2022, the European Parliament presented an initiative to review the Act concerning the election of the representatives of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage ('Electoral Act').

The Swedish Presidency of the Council sent the Member States a questionnaire inviting them to put forward, by 15 May 2023 at the latest, a position on or suggested amendments to each article and paragraph of the text proposed by the European Parliament.

The French authorities welcome the Swedish Presidency's initiative, which should enable detailed work to be undertaken on the proposals in the Parliament's text.

Following the initial discussion at the General Affairs Council meeting on 18 October 2022, we consider that the Council should play its role as legislator to the full in this special procedure and proactively make proposals, so that the new Electoral Act can, if possible, be brought into law for the upcoming 2024 elections.

With this in mind, we request the inclusion of an 'Any other business' item at the General Affairs Council meeting on 30 May 2023, under which we will present our thoughts on the subject.