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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Working Party on General Affairs

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Subject: Proposal for a Directive on Transparency of Interest Representation on behalf of Third Countries
- Proposal from the Irish delegation

Delegations will find in Annex a proposal from the Irish delegation on Implementation Bodies Established under the Good Friday Agreement.

Drafting Proposal by Ireland - Proposal for a Directive establishing harmonised requirements in the internal market on transparency of interest representation carried out on behalf of third countries

Ireland proposes to add to the end of Recital 5 the following highlighted text which we may seek to amend before the final draft Council Common Position is agreed, following bilateral discussion with the Commission. We are also open to placing the proposal elsewhere in the text.

Recital 5. Member States' measures regulating transparency of interest representation activities are very divergent, in particular concerning the record-keeping and registration requirements which apply to entities carrying out interest representation. Some Member States have established mandatory registers aiming, in particular, at ensuring transparency. Others have established voluntary registers, whereas some Member States have no registers for interest representation. There are also considerable variations regarding the granularity of the information provided for transparency purposes, including the type of information required, for instance about the interests represented or about the client. In some Member States information about interest representation must be updated on a regular basis whereas in others the information must be updated every time there is a change in the scope of the interest representation activity carried out. *In Ireland, North South Implementation Bodies established under the Good Friday Agreement to enhance cooperation on the island of Ireland are not subject to national lobbying legislation. While North South Implementation Bodies are funded by Ireland and from Northern Ireland, and have a clear operational remit, they remain clearly accountable to the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) and the Northern Ireland Assembly. In like manner these bodies will not be subject to the requirements of this directive.*

ENDS