

Council of the European Union General Secretariat

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CONSULTATION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Maritime Issues - Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP)
Subject:	Note from the Commission on its intention to engage in negotiations on the draft Declaration to be adopted by the third UN Ocean Conference (Nice, 9-13 June 2025) - informal silence procedure

Delegations' attention is drawn to the publication, in ST 6496/25, of the note from the Commission on its intention to engage in negotiations on the draft outcome Declaration to be adopted by the third UN Ocean Conference (Nice, 9-13 June 2025).

The outcome Declaration of the third UN Ocean Conference is considered to be a Non-Binding Instrument that contains political commitments, in accordance with the 'Arrangements for Non- Binding Instruments'("NBIs"). According to the Arrangements, sufficient time must be allowed for the Council to assess whether there is an interest of the Union to enter into the NBI. Subject to Council's approval, the Commission will enter into discussions on the NBI. Subsequently, once the NBI reaches its final stage, the Commission must forward to the Council the draft non-binding instrument and should indicate the status of negotiation of the text and the intended date and occasion of adoption. Where the Council is satisfied with the text, it will authorise its signing on behalf on the EU. In order to allow further proceedings on the text, **an informal silence procedure** is hereby launched until **Wednesday 12 March at 18h00** (Brussels time). If no comments from delegations are received until then, it will be assumed that the Working Party on Maritime issues - Integrated Maritime Policy has accepted the text. It will then be inscribed, as an I/A item, to Coreper and Council for approval.

