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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
No. Cion doc.:	9898/18 + ADD 1
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) No 912/2010, (EU) No 1285/2013, (EU) No 377/2014 and Decision 541/2014/EU - Optional consultation of the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions ¹

1. On 6 June 2018, the Commission submitted to the Council proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the space programme of the Union and the European Union Agency for the Space Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) No 912/2010, (EU) No 1285/2013, (EU) No 377/2014 and Decision 541/2014/EU.

¹ The sole purpose of this note is to decide on the consultation of another institution/body and not on the substance.

2. The proposal for a Regulation is part of the follow-up to the EU Space Strategy and will consolidate all existing and new space activities under a single programme. It seeks to provide the Union with a space budget for the period 2021-2027. The programme aims to provide high-quality and up-to-date space-related data, information and services; maximise the socio-economic benefits, including by promoting the widest possible use of the data, information and services; enhance the security of the EU and its Member States as well as the EU's freedom of action and its strategic autonomy; promote the EU's role in the international arena. The four components of the programme are Galileo and EGNOS, Copernicus, SSA and Govsatcom.
3. The present proposal, which is based on Article 189(2) of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, does not require the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee nor that of the Committee of Regions. However, given the scope of the proposed Regulation, the Commission's proposal to consult the two Committees is considered appropriate.
4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to decide, in accordance with Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to consult the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the above proposal and to request them to give their opinion as soon as possible.
