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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on the Environment Working Party on Statistics

Subject:	EEA - Czech Presidency Flash note
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Delegations will find attached the Czech Presidency Flash note dedicated to the EEA legislative proposal, in view of the upcoming Working Party on Statistics scheduled on 9 December 2022.

Presidency Flash

Prague, 2 December 2022

Meeting of the Council Working Party on Statistics, 9 December 2022, Brussels

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the sixth and last meeting of the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS) under the Czech Presidency, which will take place on Friday 9 December in Brussels (Justus Lipsius Building). The meeting will start at 10:00 and it will be chaired by the President of the Czech Statistical Office, Mr Marek Rojíček. Since this will be the last meeting under our Presidency, we would like to invite all delegates to take part in a family photo session.

The whole meeting will be dedicated to the **Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 691/2011 as regards introducing new environmental economic accounts modules**. The Presidency intends to discuss the revised consolidated compromise text of this proposal part-by-part (main text, Annex VII, Annex VIII and Annex IX) and point out what are the changes compared to the previous versions of the text. Delegations will receive this text in advance and they will be invited to share their views at the meeting.

There were several points on the agenda at the last meeting. Outstanding problems regarding the draft compromise texts of Annexes VIII and IX were resolved. The Presidency also presented a draft compromise text for Annex VII for forest accounts. Most changes suggested by the Presidency were welcomed by the Member States. However, two major issues remain. The first one concerns *“other wooded land”* and whether this characteristic should be reported on a voluntary basis or whether reporting on it should be, as per the Commission proposal, compulsory. The second issue relates to the definition of *“forest (not) available for wood supply”*. Some countries requested to change the text in order to keep only legal restrictions and delete environmental, economic and social restrictions. The Presidency drafted a simple questionnaire to enable the Member States to express their views on the above-mentioned issues. We are extremely grateful to all delegations who sent their responses to us, especially given the relatively short timeframe. The results will be presented at the upcoming CWPS meeting.

The second compromise text for the recitals and articles was also discussed at the last meeting. Some Member States raised their concerns regarding the use of delegated acts. The Presidency suggested resolving this issue at a separate virtual meeting that took place on Thursday 1 December. Interested Member States participated in this meeting together with representatives of the General Secretariat of the Council and Council Legal Service. Following the meeting, the Presidency will submit a compromise wording for Article 3. Based on the outcome of the discussion, we will propose a way forward for this file at the upcoming CWPS meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to meeting you in Brussels.

The Czech Presidency Team in Statistics