COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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ADDENDUM TO THE "I/A" ITEM NOTE

from :	General Secretariat of the Council
to :	COREPER / COUNCIL
Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION fixing the period for the eighth election of representatives to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage = Statement **COMMON GUIDELINES** **Consultation deadline: 7.6.2013**

Statement by the Republic of Bulgaria

The Republic of Bulgaria declares that the Decision fixing the period for the eighth election of representatives to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage is without prejudice to future decisions on the subject. The Republic of Bulgaria notes that:
- the overall turnout in the elections to the European Parliament has fallen steadily from 63% in 1979 to 43% in 2009;
- the turnout in the two European elections, which were held in Bulgaria (2007 and 2009), was significantly lower than the average for the EU-27;
- the 24th of May is a National holiday in Bulgaria (Day of Bulgarian Enlightenment and Culture and of Slavonic Alphabet).

The Republic of Bulgaria would like to highlight that holding elections for European Parliament on 25 May 2014 would negatively affect the turnout in Bulgaria.

In order to foster the voter turnout in European elections and to create favorable voting conditions for all European citizens, future periods concerning the election of the representatives of the European Parliament should be determined in a way that better reflects Member states' national calendars.