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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Programme for the Friends of Presidency Group on “Improving the functioning of the EU”

In the light of the COREPER mandate establishing the Friends of Presidency Group on “Improving the functioning of the EU”, the Italian Presidency is planning to organize four meetings of the Group:

- 1st Meeting : “Horizontal issues and the role of national parliaments” (25 September 2014);
- 2nd Meeting : “The Council of the European Union in the framework of relations with other Institutions” (October 2014, *tbc*);
- 3rd Meeting : “The Council of the European Union” (November 2014, *tbc*);
- 4th Meeting : “Other and pending issues” (December 2014, *tbc*).

The Presidency will distribute in advance of each session a questionnaire to guide the debate.

Written comments from Member States will be welcomed before the meetings in order to facilitate discussions.

As stated in the “the Strategic Agenda for the Union in times of change” endorsed by the Member States Leaders on June 2014: “it is the right time to set out what we want the Union to focus on and how we want it to function”.

The Presidency has therefore the ambition to hold a wide debate on the functioning of the EU within the existing legal framework of the Union and without any pre-determined results, at the same time focusing on identifying practical measures which could be proposed for adoption in the short-term, provided they enjoy wide support.

