



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 5 December 2012

17298/12

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat
To: Council

No. prev. doc.: 16887/12 UD 310 AELE 85 CODEC 2827

No. Cion prop.: 13265/12 UD 221 AELE 61 + COR 1

Subject: Amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an action programme for customs in the European Union for the period 2014-2020 (Customs 2020) and repealing Decision N°624/2007/EC - Partial general approach of the Council

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 29 August 2012, the Commission transmitted to the Council the above amended proposal which aims at establishing an action programme providing support for the cooperation between customs authorities and with other stakeholders, through human networking, competency building and IT capacity building. This programme is the successor of the Customs 2013 programme which ends on 31 December 2013.

II. STATE OF PLAY

2. The proposal was examined by the Working Party on Customs Union at its meetings on 25 September, 2 and 16 October and 19 November 2012. On the basis of the examinations and comments by delegations, the Cyprus Presidency prepared a compromise text and a draft statement to be entered in the minutes of the Council, as set out in docs. 17005/12 and 17298/12 ADD 1.

3. In addition, the Presidency, in view of alleviating concerns expressed by UK, suggested that a statement by the Commission and the Council be entered in the minutes of the Council. This statement, which is reproduced in doc. 17298/12 ADD 2, reads as follows:

" This Regulation cannot be interpreted as including or conferring any powers or obligations which fall under Title V of Part III of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union."

4. At its meeting on 4 December 2012, the Permanent Representative Committee agreed on the Presidency compromise text, together with the two above draft statements. The UK delegation indicated that it was maintaining a parliamentary scrutiny reservation, which will most likely be lifted ahead of the Council meeting on 10 December 2012.

III. CONCLUSION

5. **The (Competitiveness) Council is invited to adopt at its meeting on 10 December 2012 a partial general approach, as set out in doc. 17005/12, and to enter the two statements in doc. 17298/12 ADD 1 and ADD 2 into its minutes.**

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