



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 24 January 2013

5580/13

**Interinstitutional File:
2012/0326 (NLE)**

**AELE 7
CH 4
AGRILEG 9
VETER 5
AGRI 29**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat

to : Coreper / Council

No. Cion prop. : 16934/12 - COM(2012) 696 final

Subject : Proposal for a Council Decision on the position on Decision No 1/2013 of the Joint Veterinary Committee set up by the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products regarding the amendment of Appendices 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 10 to Annex 11 to the Agreement

- *Adoption*

1. On 28 November 2012, the Commission submitted to the Council the above mentioned proposal.
2. The aim of the proposal is to determine the EU position for amending the Annex 11 of the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on trade in agricultural products ("veterinary agreement"). The proposal acknowledges an equivalency of Swiss legislation with certain recent changes in the EU legislation concerning animal by-products and protection of animals at the time of slaughter, subject to special conditions. It also introduces a number of technical updates to the Agreement.

3. The proposal was examined by the Working Party of Agricultural Counsellors / Attachés on 7 December 2012¹ and by the Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers on 19 December 2012 and it found approval by all delegations at Working Party level.

Due to the late submission of the proposal, its adoption by the Council and the subsequent signature of the agreement before the end of 2012 was not possible. Following the advice of the Council Legal Service, the Working Party agreed that the text should be slightly revised to take into account the need for the retroactive application of the agreement as from 1.1.2013.

4. In view of the above, COREPER (1st Part) is invited
- to confirm its approval of the draft Decision set out in document 16724/12², and
 - to request the Council to adopt by unanimity the above mentioned Decision as set out in document 16724/12.

¹ This was followed by an information point at the Working Party on European Free Trade Association (EFTA) at its meeting of 24 January 2013.

² The final document which has undergone the legal linguistic revision. The main changes introduced during this revision are related to the retroactive application of the agreement (see Recital (4) of the draft Council Decision and Recital (7) and Article 3 of the draft Decision of the Joint Veterinary Committee as set out in document 16724/12).