



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 15 February 2013

6489/13

**Interinstitutional File:
2012/0167 (NLE)**

**WTO 37
AGRI 90
UD 41
USA 5
OC 69**

“I/A” ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Permanent Representatives Committee (part 2) / Council

No. Cion prop.: 12140/12 WTO 248 AGRI 479 UD 196 USA 16

Subject: Proposal for a Council Decision concluding an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the United States of America pursuant to Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedules of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania in the course of their accession to the European Union

- Decision on the conclusion

COMMON GUIDELINES

Consultation deadline: 19.2.2013

1. The Commission submitted to the Council on 29 June 2012 a proposal for Council Decision on the signing of the above-mentioned Agreement¹, as well as a proposal for a Council Decision on its conclusion².

¹ Doc. 12139/12 WTO 247 AGRI 478 UD 195 USA 15.

² Doc. 12140/12 WTO 248 AGRI 479 UD 196 USA 16.

2. The Council Decision on the signing of the Agreement was adopted by the Council on 24 September 2012¹. At the same time and in accordance with Article 218(6)(a)(v) TFEU, the Council decided to forward draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement, as finalised by the legal/linguistic experts and set out in documents 12213/12 and 12214/12, to the European Parliament for its consent, with a view to preparing for the future conclusion of the Agreement.
3. Following the adoption of the Council Decision, the Agreement was signed on 7 December 2012 with the United States of America.
4. The European Parliament provided its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement on 6 February 2013.
5. The draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement was endorsed by the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) on 15 February 2013.
6. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to recommend that the Council adopts, as an "A" item on the agenda of one of its forthcoming meetings, draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement, as finalised by legal/linguistic experts and set out in documents 12213/12 and 12214/12.

¹ Published in OJ L 287, 18.10.2012, p. 2.