



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 6 July 2012

12233/12

**Interinstitutional File:
2011/0322 (NLE)**

**WTO 254
COEST 239**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : Trade Policy Committee

to : Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion prop. : 16771/11 WTO 404 SERVICES 118 FDI 36 COEST 406

Subject : Draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement

- Revised request by the Council for the consent of the European Parliament
- Draft letter to the Chairman of INTA

1. The Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the Union, and provisional application of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement, as contained in doc. 16760/11 WTO 401 COEST 404 (text finalised by the legal/linguistic experts) and 16776/11 WTO 407 COEST 410 + COR 1+ COR 2 (text finalised by the legal/linguistic experts), was adopted by the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) on 14 December 2011.

The Agreement was signed on 16 December 2011, subject to its conclusion at a later date.

2. With a view to preparing for conclusion of the Agreement, on 14 December 2011, the Council decided to forward the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement, as contained in doc. 16775/11 WTO 406 COEST 409 (text finalised by the legal/linguistic experts) as well as the text of the Agreement as contained in doc. 16776/11 WTO 407 COEST 410 + COR 1+ COR 2 (text finalised by the legal/linguistic experts) to the European Parliament for its consent.

3. Following a letter from the Chairman of INTA, Professor Moreira, dated 4 June 2012, sent to the Minister for Trade and Investment of Denmark and to the Trade Commissioner concerning the provisions which confer implementing powers, included in some Council Decisions to conclude international trade agreements, on 6 July 2012, the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) re-examined the text of the draft Council Decision on the conclusion, and endorsed the revised draft Council Decision on the conclusion as set out in doc. 16775/1/11 REV 1 WTO 406 COEST 409 (text finalised by the legal/linguistic experts). The Trade Policy Committee also endorsed the Presidency suggestion to send a letter to the Chairman of INTA, Professor Moreira.

4. It is therefore suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee invite the Council to:

- forward the revised version of the draft Council Decision on the conclusion as contained in doc. 16775/1/11 REV 1 WTO 406 COEST 409 (text finalised by the legal/linguistic experts) as well as the text of the Agreement as contained in doc. 16776/11 WTO 407 COEST 410 + COR 1+ COR 2 (text finalised by the legal/linguistic experts) to the European Parliament for its consent,
- send to the Chairman of INTA, Professor Moreira the letter set out in Annex.

Draft letter to the INTA Chairman

Subject: **Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement**

- Modification of draft Council Decision on the conclusion
(doc. 16775/1/11 REV 1 WTO 406 COEST 409)

Dear Professor Moreira,

Further to the reply of Minister Pia Olsen Dyhr of 19 June 2012 to your letter dated 4 June 2012, the Cyprus Presidency would like to inform you that the Council decided on 10 July 2012 to forward to the European Parliament a revised formal consent request containing a modified draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the above-mentioned Agreement and Protocol (doc. 16775/1/11 REV 1 WTO 406 COEST 409).

The Council takes note of the Commission intention, as confirmed in Commissioner De Gucht letter of 18 June to Professor Moreira, to prepare a legislative proposal which would take over provisions of Articles 3 and 4 of the Commission proposal for a *Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Russian Federation relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement* (doc. 16771/11). Without prejudice to the final Council position and political agreement on that proposal, the Cyprus Presidency would like to inform you about the readiness of the Council to consider favourably such proposal and to work expeditiously towards its adoption at the earliest possible date.

Yours Sincerely,
[Name and signature]

Professor Vital Moreira, M.E.P., Chairman of INTA Committee
European Parliament
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