



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 12 July 2012**

**12517/12**

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**Interinstitutional File:  
2011/0328 (NLE)**

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**WTO 263  
SERVICES 58  
COEST 251  
OC 415**

**"I/A" ITEM NOTE**

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from : General Secretariat of the Council  
to : Permanent Representatives Committee/ Council

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No. Cion prop. : 16812/11 WTO 421 SERVICES 128 COEST 423

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Subject : 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 Government of the Russian Federation regarding the preservation of commitments on trade in services contained in the current EU-Russia Partnership and Co-operation Agreement

**COMMON GUIDELINES**

**Consultation deadline: 17.7.2012**

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1. On 10 November 2011, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, and provisional application of, the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation regarding the preservation of commitments on trade in services contained in the current EU-Russia Partnership and Co-operation Agreement<sup>1</sup>, together with a proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 16809/11 WTO 418 SERVICES 125 COEST 420

<sup>2</sup> 16812/11 WTO 421 SERVICES 128 COEST 423

2. The Council on 14 December 2011 adopted the Decision on the signing of the Agreement<sup>3</sup>. The Agreement was signed in the form of an exchange of letters on 16 December 2011.
3. In accordance with Article 218(6)(a)(v) of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, the Council decided on 14 December 2011 to forward the draft decision on conclusion as contained in document 16815/11 WTO 423 SERVICES 130 COEST 425 (text finalised by the Legal Linguistic experts) as well as the text of the Agreement as contained in document 16816/11 WTO 424 SERVICES 131 COEST 426 (text finalised by the Legal Linguistic experts) to the European Parliament for its consent, with a view to preparing for the conclusion of the Agreement.
4. On 4 July 2012, the European Parliament gave its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement and instructed its President to forward its position to the Council and the Commission<sup>4</sup>.
5. The Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement was examined by the Trade Policy Committee at its meeting on 6 July 2012 and was subsequently endorsed.
6. Consequently, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to suggest that the Council, under part "A" of the agenda of a forthcoming meeting, adopts the draft Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement as set out in doc. 16815/11 WTO 423 SERVICES 130 COEST 425 (text finalised by the Legal Linguistic experts).

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<sup>3</sup> OJ L 57 of 29.2.2012, p.43.

<sup>4</sup> See doc. P7\_TA-PROV(2012)0284