



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 12 July 2012

12518/12

**Interinstitutional File:
2011/0332 (NLE)**

**WTO 264
COEST 252
UD 209
OC 416**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

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

No. Cion prop. : 16824/11 WTO 428 COEST 430 UD 307

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 Russian Federation regarding the introduction or increase by the Russian Federation of export duties on raw materials

COMMON GUIDELINES

Consultation deadline: 17.7.2012

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 Russian Federation regarding the introduction or increase by the Russian Federation of export duties on raw materials¹, together with a proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement².
2. The Council on 14 December 2011 adopted the Decision on the signing of the Agreement³. The Agreement was signed in the form of an exchange of letters on 16 December 2011.

¹ 16821/11 WTO 425 COEST 427 UD 304

² 16824/11 WTO 428 COEST 430 UD 307

³ OJ L 57 of 29.2.2012, p.52.

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 16827/11 WTO 430 COEST 432 UD 309 + REV 1 (lt) (text finalised by the Legal Linguistic experts) as well as the text of the Agreement as contained in document 16828/11 WTO 431 COEST 433 UD 310 + REV 1 (lt) (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 Commission⁴.
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. 16828/11 WTO 431 COEST 433 UD 310 + REV 1 (lt) (text finalised by the Legal Linguistic experts).

⁴ See doc. P7_TA-PROV(2012)0286