



**COUNCIL OF THE
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 21 September 2012

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ADDENDUM TO THE "I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat of the Council
to : COREPER / COUNCIL

No. Cion prop.: 14969/10 WTO 346 COMER 176 ASIE 62 CODEC 1042 UD 277

Subject : Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
introducing emergency autonomous trade preferences for Pakistan (**first reading**)
- Adoption of the legislative act (**LA + S**)
=Statement

COMMON GUIDELINES

Consultation deadline: 2.10.2012

Statement by Sweden

Sweden welcomes the adoption of a regulation on autonomous trade preferences for Pakistan. Trade is a vital driving force for growth and development, and has benefits for all parties. However, remembering that this particular regulation is the end-product of the European Council's decision on 16 September 2010, to ease trade as an emergency response for recovery after the devastating floods in Pakistan that year, Sweden regrets that the adoption of the regulation comes late, is limited in scope, and will endure, de facto, only a short period of time. Given the EU's commitment to use trade as a tool for development and economic recovery, the Council will revert to the matter of autonomous trade preferences for Pakistan before the end of 2013. Sweden remains committed to Pakistan's eligibility to GSP+ in 2014 provided it meets the necessary criteria.