



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 9 October 2012

14172/12

**Interinstitutional File:
2012/0255 (NLE)**

**WTO 310
SERVICES 64
COASI 165
OC 521**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : Trade Policy Committee

to : Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion prop. : 14170/12 WTO 309 SERVICES 63 COASI 164

Subject : Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the European Union position within the General Council of the World Trade Organization on the accession of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the World Trade Organization

COMMON GUIDELINES

Consultation deadline: 10.10.2012

1. The Commission submitted on 24 September 2012 to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision establishing the European Union position within the General Council of the World Trade Organization on the accession of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the World Trade Organization.
2. Following the discussion in the TPC (Deputies) on 28 September 2012, all delegations agreed that a Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council would also be adopted by common accord at the same time. The Commission considered that such Decision was not necessary.

3. It is therefore suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee invite:
- the Council, as an "A" item at a forthcoming meeting, to adopt the above-mentioned Decision, as finalised by the Legal Linguistic Experts and as set out in document 14173/12 WTO 311 SERVICES 65 COASI 166 OC 522;
 - the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council to adopt the Decision, which is set out in Annex I to this note;
 - the Council to decide the inscription in its minutes of the statements by the Commission, the United Kingdom and Ireland, as set out in Annex II.
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Decision by the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council:

The position to be taken by the Member States within the General Council of the World Trade Organization on the accession of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is to approve the accession.

Statement by the Commission

The Commission welcomes the adoption of the Council Decision establishing the EU position in favour of the accession of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the WTO. The Commission notes that it is proposed that a Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council be adopted on this accession by common accord as regards the position of the Member States in the WTO. The Commission notes that it would have been possible to adopt an EU decision which would have rendered such a separate decision unnecessary.

Statement by the United Kingdom

The provisions relating to the temporary presence of natural persons for business purposes included in the above Decision only bind the United Kingdom as part of the Union where it has notified its wish to participate in the above Decision in accordance with Protocol No.21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Statement by Ireland

The provisions relating to the temporary presence of natural persons for business purposes included in the above Decision only bind Ireland as part of the Union where it has notified its wish to participate in the above Decision in accordance with Protocol No.21 on the position of Ireland and the United Kingdom in respect of the area of Freedom, Security and Justice. Ireland will ensure that the temporary presence of natural persons for business purposes is allowed in accordance with those provisions.