



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 22 November 2012

16102/12

**Interinstitutional File:
2012/0308 (NLE)**

**WTO 354
SERVICES 70
COEST 389
OC 636**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : Trade Policy Committee
to : Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion prop. : 16101/12 WTO 353 SERVICES 69 COEST 388

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 Republic of Tajikistan to the World Trade Organization

COMMON GUIDELINES
Consultation deadline: 27.11.2012

1. The Commission submitted on 9 November 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 Republic of Tajikistan to the World Trade Organization.
2. Following the discussion in the TPC (Deputies) on 16 November 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 16103/12 WTO 355 SERVICES 71 COEST 390 OC 637;
 - 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 agree to enter in its minutes 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 Republic of Tajikistan 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 Republic of Tajikistan.

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.
