



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 26 November 2012

16770/12

**Interinstitutional File:
2011/0322 (NLE)**

**WTO 385
COEST 407
OC 682**

“I/A” ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Permanent Representatives Committee (part 2) / Council
No. Cion prop.: 16771/11 WTO 404 SERVICES 118 FDI 36 COEST 406

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 relating to the administration of tariff-rate quotas applying to exports of wood from the Russian Federation to the European Union and the Protocol between the European Union and the Government of the Russian Federation on technical modalities pursuant to that Agreement
- Decision on the conclusion
COMMON GUIDELINES
Consultation deadline: 04.12.2012

1. The Commission submitted to the Council on 10 November 2011 a proposal for Council Decision on the signing of the above-mentioned Agreement¹, as well as a proposal for a Council Decision on its conclusion².

¹ Doc. 16758/11 WTO 399 SERVICES 115 FDI 33 COEST 402.

² Doc. 16771/11 WTO 404 SERVICES 118 FDI 36 COEST 406.

2. The Council Decision on the signing of the Agreement was adopted by the Council on 14 December 2011¹. At the same time and in accordance with Article 218(6)(a)(v) TFEU, the Council decided to forward draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement, as finalised by the legal/linguistic experts and set out in documents 16775/1/11 REV 1 and 16776/ + COR 1 + COR 2, to the European Parliament for its consent, with a view to preparing for the future conclusion of the Agreement.
3. Following the adoption of the Council Decision, the Agreement was signed on 16 December 2011 with the Russian Federation.
4. The European Parliament provided its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement on 21 November 2012.
5. The draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement was endorsed by the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) on 23 November 2012.
6. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to recommend that the Council adopts, as an "A" item on the agenda of one of its forthcoming meetings, draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement, as finalised by legal/linguistic experts and set out in documents 16775/1/11 REV 1 and 16776/11 + COR 1 + COR 2.

¹ Published in OJ L 57, 29.2.2012, p. 1.