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COVER NOTE

From:	Czesław Adam SIEKIERSKI, Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (EP)
date of receipt:	2 August 2016
To:	Ivan LANCARIC, Chair of the Trade Policy Committee (Full Members)
Subject:	Request for transmission of directives for the negotiation of a bilateral Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area as part of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement with Tunisia

Delegations will find attached a letter from the AGRI Committee of the European Parliament requesting transmission of the directives for the negotiation of a bilateral Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area as part of the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement with Tunisia.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
THE CHAIR

Mr. Ivan Lancaric
Chair of the Trade Policy Committee (Full Members)
of the Council of the European Union
Director General
Directorate of Foreign Trade Policy and European Affairs
Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic
175 rue de la Loi
1048 Bruxelles

D 314734 01.08.2016

Ref.: IPOL-COM-AGRI D(2016)36073

Dear Chair,

On behalf of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) of the European Parliament, I would like to formally invite the Council to grant access for the Members of this Committee to the mandate for the negotiation of a deep and comprehensive free trade agreement with Tunisia which it is about to adopt after the summer recess. I also express my full support for the similar demand already introduced by the Committee on International Trade (INTA).

The AGRI Committee has debated on the state of trade relations with Tunisia on various occasions, most recently when it adopted its opinion to the INTA report on the introduction of emergency autonomous trade measures for the Republic of Tunisia (Draftsperson: Clara Eugenia Aguilera García). As these trade negotiations with Tunisia will include in large parts agricultural matters, many of them considered to be very sensitive for a number of agricultural sectors in the European Union in general, and in its Southern Member States in particular, the AGRI Committee considers it is its right to be fully informed about the content of this mandate before negotiations actually start. More generally, we are of the view that all trade negotiating mandates involving a significant agricultural component should be made immediately available to the Members of the AGRI Committee as a matter of principle.

Finally yet importantly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a lot of success during the Slovak presidency.

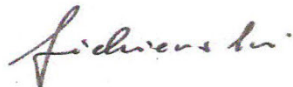
SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL DU
CONSEIL DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE
SGE16/07954
Reçu le 02-08-2016
DEST. PRINC. M. SCHIAVO
DEST. COPISTES M. CLOOS
M. BOIXAREU

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Your country has taken up this responsibility at a particularly challenging time for the European Union both internally and in the area of international trade relations.

I am looking forward to your positive reply.

Yours sincerely,



Czesław Adam SIEKIERSKI

copy:

Ms. Lubica Nejezchlebova
Chair of the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) of the Council of the EU
Head of Trade Policy Unit
Counsellor
Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU

Mr. Jan Strbka
Counsellor
Trade Policy Unit
Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the EU