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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion doc.: 15412/15 WTO 290 AGRI 680 UD 256 CHINE 28 + ADD 1

Subject: Draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the People's Republic of China pursuant to Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedule of the Republic of Croatia in the course of its accession to the European Union
- Adoption

1. On 16 December 2015, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the signing¹ of the above-mentioned Agreement as well as a proposal for a Council Decision on its conclusion².

¹ Doc. 15411/15 WTO 289 AGRI 679 UD 255 CHINE 27 + ADD 1.

² Doc. 15412/15 WTO 290 AGRI 680 UD 256 CHINE 28 + ADD 1.

2. The Council Decision on the signing of the Agreement was adopted by the Council on 12 February 2016³. At the same time and in accordance with Article 218(6)(a)(v) TFEU, the Council decided to forward the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement, as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts and set out in documents 15561/15 and 15562/15, to the European Parliament for its consent, with a view to preparing for the future conclusion of the Agreement.
3. The Agreement with the People's Republic of China was signed on 19 April 2016.
4. The European Parliament provided its consent to the conclusion of the Agreement on 13 September 2016.
5. The draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement was endorsed by the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) on 30 September 2016.
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, the draft Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement, as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts and set out in documents 15561/15 and 15562/15.

³ Published in OJ L 45, 20.2.2016, p. 12.