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INFORMATION NOTE

From: Commission
To: Council
Subject: Commission proposal on autonomous trade measures for Ukraine

Delegations will find in ANNEX a document submitted by the Commission to be presented under "Any other business" at the Foreign Affairs/Trade Council at its session on 11 November 2016.

Information note

Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the introduction of temporary autonomous trade measures for Ukraine supplementing the trade concessions available under the Association Agreement, COM(2016) 631 final 2016/0308 (COD)

Under AOB at the FAC Trade Council on 11 November, the Commission would like to inform about its proposal on Autonomous Trade Measures for Ukraine, adopted on 29 September 2016.

The proposed Regulation for autonomous trade measures (ATMs) aims to improve access for Ukraine to the EU market for some industrial products (fertilisers, footwear, aluminium and consumer electronics) as well as and agricultural products (maize, wheat, barley, oats, natural honey, processed tomato, grape juice) and on top of what is already available under the DCFTA of the Association Agreement with Ukraine.

In view of the difficult economic situation and the economic reform efforts undertaken by Ukraine, and in order to support the development of closer economic relations with the European Union, the proposal aims at increasing the trade flows concerning the import of certain agricultural products and to grant concessions in the form of autonomous trade measures in selected industrial products in line with the acceleration of the elimination of customs duties on trade between the European Union and Ukraine. Normal safeguard procedures apply.

The Commission has carefully prepared the proposal that takes into account the sensitivities in Member States (notably in the agricultural sector) caused by the trade restrictions imposed by Russia (e.g. the embargo on exports of food exports to Russia, a suspension of the Commonwealth of Independent States Free Trade Agreement concessions as well as transit restrictions of Ukrainian exports to central Asia).

The autonomous trade measures, once adopted by the Parliament and the Council would be granted during 3 years and in the form of zero-tariff quotas for certain agricultural products in addition to the preferential tariff-rate quotas set out in the Agreement, and the partial or full removal of import duties on several industrial products.
