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PROBA 22
RELEX 1065
AGRI 677
WTO 362
DEVGEN 281
ACP 182

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	14548/16 - COM(2016) 712 final
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on EU accession to the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) - Agreement by the Council - Request for the consent of the European Parliament

1. The accession of the European Union to the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) has been under discussion in the Council since 2004, with the Council having adopted conclusions requesting the Commission to consider EU membership on a number of occasions¹.
2. On 23 September 2013, the Council adopted a decision authorising the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the Union, accession to the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)². Since then, the Commission conducted formal negotiations with ICAC and regularly debriefed the Working Party on Commodities on their progress.

¹ docs. 8972/04, 9986/08 and 9648/10.

² doc. 13406/13.

3. On 15 November 2016, the Commission submitted a proposal for a Council Decision on EU accession to the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC)³. The Working Party on Commodities discussed the Commission proposal and reached agreement on the text on 12 December 2016.
4. In light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
 - confirm the agreement reached by the Working Party on Commodities;
 - suggest that the Council:
 - a) agree on the draft Council Decision on EU accession to the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) as set out in document 15540/16 as finalised by the legal/linguistic experts;
 - b) decide to forward the draft Council Decision to the European Parliament for consent.

³ doc. 14548/16.