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**Interinstitutional Files:**

2017/0135 (NLE)  
2017/0137 (NLE)

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WTO 158  
AGRI 378  
UD 177  
COASI 88

**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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

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No. Cion doc.: 10655/17 WTO 142 AGRI 353 UD 165 COASI 76 + ADD 1  
10656/17 WTO 143 AGRI 354 UD 166 COASI 77 + ADD 1

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Subject: Draft COUNCIL DECISION on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and New Zealand 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

and

Draft COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and New Zealand 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

- Request for the consent of the European Parliament

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1. On 22 June 2017, the Commission submitted to the Council:
  - a) a proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and New Zealand 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 (doc. 10655/17 + ADD 1); and

- b) a proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and New Zealand 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 (doc. 10656/17 + ADD 1).
2. The proposals were examined and endorsed by the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) at its meeting on 30 June 2017.
  3. 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 Decision on the signing of the said Agreement, as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts and set out in documents 10669/17 WTO 144 AGRI 356 UD 167 COASI 78 and 10672/17 WTO 146 AGRI 358 UD 169 COASI 80.
  4. Furthermore, with a view to preparing for the future conclusion of the said Agreement, the Permanent Representatives' Committee is also invited to recommend that the Council decides, as an "A" item at the same meeting, to forward the draft Decision on the conclusion of the said Agreement, as finalised by the legal-linguistic experts and set out in documents 10670/17 WTO 145 AGRI 357 UD 168 COASI 79 and 10672/17 WTO 146 AGRI 358 UD 169 COASI 80, to the European Parliament for its consent.