



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 14 November 2013
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15306/13

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**WTO 263
SERVICES 61
COMEM 238**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From: Trade Policy Committee
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.: 15305/13 WTO 262 SERVICES 60 COMEM 237

Subject: Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the position to be taken by the European Union within the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization on the accession of the Republic of Yemen to the WTO

1. The Commission submitted on 24 October 2013 to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision establishing the position to be taken by the European Union within the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization on the accession of the Republic of Yemen to the WTO.
2. Following the discussion in the TPC (Deputies) on 30 October and 8 November 2013, all delegations agreed that a Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council would also be adopted by common accord at the same time. The Commission considered that such Decision was not necessary.

3. It is therefore suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee invite:
- the Council, as an "A" item at a forthcoming meeting, to adopt the above-mentioned Decision, as finalised by the Legal Linguistic Experts and as set out in document 15307/13 WTO 264 SERVICES 62 COMEM 239;
 - the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council to adopt the Decision, which is set out in Annex I to this note;
 - the Council to agree to enter in its minutes the statements by the Commission and Ireland, as set out in Annex II.

Decision by the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States

meeting within the Council:

The position to be taken by the Member States within the WTO Ministerial Conference on the accession of the Republic of Yemen is to approve the accession.

Statement by the Commission

The Commission welcomes the adoption of the Council Decision establishing the EU position in favour of the accession of the Republic of Yemen.

The Commission notes that it is proposed that a Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council be adopted on this accession by common accord as regards the position of the Member States in the WTO. The Commission notes that it would have been possible to adopt an EU decision which would have rendered such a separate decision unnecessary.

Statement by Ireland

The provisions relating to the temporary presence of natural persons for business purposes included in the above Decision only bind Ireland as part of the Union where it has notified its wish to participate in the above Decision in accordance with Protocol No.21 on the position of Ireland and the United Kingdom in respect of the area of Freedom, Security and Justice. Ireland will ensure that the temporary presence of natural persons for business purposes is allowed in accordance with those provisions.
