



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 11 June 2014

**Interinstitutional File:
2014/0125 (NLE)**

**9088/1/14
REV 1**

**WTO 147
SERVICES 31
COASI 50**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : Trade Policy Committee
to : Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion prop. : 9087/14 WTO 146 SERVICES 30 COASI 49

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

1. On 15 April 2014 the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision establishing the position to be taken by the European Union within the General Council of the World Trade Organization on the accession of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the WTO.
2. On 6 June 2014 the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) endorsed the Commission's proposal. All delegations also agreed that a Decision by the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council would 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 to adopt, as an "A" item at a forthcoming meeting, the above-mentioned Council Decision, as finalised by the legal linguistic experts and as set out in document 9089/14 WTO 148 SERVICES 32 COASI 51;
 - the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council to adopt the Decision, as set out in Annex I to this note;
 - the Council to agree to enter in its minutes the statements by the Commission, Ireland and the United Kingdom, as set out in Annex II to this note.

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 General Council of the World Trade Organization on the accession of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is to approve the accession.

Done at Brussels,

For the Representatives of the
Governments of the Member States
The President

Statement of the Commission with regard to the decisions on the WTO accession of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

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

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(s) only bind Ireland as part of the Union where it has notified its wish to participate in the above Decision(s) 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.

Statement by the United Kingdom

The provisions relating to the temporary presence of natural persons for business purposes included in the above Decision only bind the United Kingdom 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 the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of Freedom, Security and Justice.