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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From:	ACP Working Party
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the West African States, ECOWAS and the UEMOA, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part - Adoption

Statement by Portugal regarding the provisional application of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the West African States, ECOWAS and the UEMOA, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part, for the Council minutes

In accordance with the principle of the distribution of competences between the European Union and its Member States, as defined by the Treaties, the Council Decision authorising the provisional application of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the West African States, ECOWAS and the UEMOA, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part, shall not affect the autonomy of decision of Portugal on issues within its national competence, whose decision to be bound by the Agreement depends on the conclusion of the internal ratification procedures, in accordance with its constitutional principles and rules.