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WTO 44

**"I/A" ITEM NOTE**

From:	Trade Policy Committee
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	ST 6025/15 WTO 40 + ADD1 + ADD2
Subject:	Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization - Request by the Council for the consent of the European Parliament

1. On 6 February 2015, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization.
2. At its meetings on 25 February and 6 March 2015, the Trade Policy Committee (Deputies) discussed and subsequently endorsed the above-mentioned Commission proposal. The Committee also agreed the text of the following draft Joint Council and Commission statement, and suggested that Coreper invite the Council to enter it into its minutes at the moment of the adoption of the Council Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol:

***Joint Council and Commission statement on article 11(3) of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation***

*"The Council and the Commission recall that article 11(3) simply confirms the balance of rights and obligations with regard to WTO rules applicable to traffic in transit and related existing national transport regulations and bilateral and multilateral arrangements.*

*The Council and the Commission consider that this article does not affect the situation with respect to existing or future national regulations or bilateral or multilateral transport arrangements including traffic permit requirement systems."*

3. In accordance with Article 218(6)(a)(v) TFEU, the Council should first decide on the transmission of the draft decision to the European Parliament in order to obtain its consent.
  4. In the light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore invited to recommend that the Council decide, as an "A" item, to forward the draft Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization and the said Protocol, as finalised by the Legal Linguistic experts and set out in documents 6040/15, 6041/15 and 6043/15, to the European Parliament for its consent.
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