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European Union

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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council

No. prev. doc.: 16399/14 UD 271 AGRI 815 ENFOCUSTOM 167 CODEC 2546
No. Cion doc.: 17110/13 UD 325 AGRI 798 ENFOCUTOMS 184 CODEC 2787

Subject: REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EC) No 515/97 of 13 March 1997 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and cooperation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs and agricultural matters -
Debriefing on the outcome of the informal trilogue and analysis of the final compromise text with a view to agreement (first reading)
- Adoption of the political agreement with a view to an early second reading agreement with the European Parliament

1. On 26 November 2013, the Commission submitted to the Council the above proposal, based on Article 33 and 325 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and aiming at improving the functioning of the antifraud system in the customs field.
2. On 15 April 2014, the European Parliament voted these 53 amendments, adopting the Parliament's position at first reading¹.

¹ 8658/14 CODEC 1023 UD 112 AGRI 294 ENFOCUSTOMS 46 PE 250.

3. The Working Party on Customs Union examined the proposal at various meetings during the Greek and Italian Presidencies, and at its meeting on 9 September 2014 reached a large agreement on the Presidency compromise text as laid down in doc. 13179/14, with AT and DE voting against and ES abstaining.
4. On 23 September 2014, the Permanent Representatives Committee confirmed the agreement reached within the Working Party and granted a mandate for initiating trilogue meetings with the European Parliament.
5. A number technical meetings and two trilogue meetings took place between the European Parliament, the Commission and the Italian Presidency, paving the way for a conclusive third trilogue meeting on 18 December 2014². The compromise reached on that occasion was endorsed by the Permanent Representatives Committee.
6. Subsequently, on 7 April 2015, the Chair of the Committee on the Internal market and Consumer Protection sent a letter to the President of Coreper stating that the European Parliament would approve the Council's position without amendments at its second reading.
7. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee could, as an item without discussion, and with AT and DE voting against and ES abstaining, invite the Council to:
 - approve the political agreement as set out in doc. 7565/1/15 REV 1 , and
 - agree that the political agreement will be subject to legal-linguists' revision before the formal adoption by the Council of its position at first reading.

² A number of outstanding technical issues were subsequently addressed in January 2015 by the Latvian Presidency.